

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

In His Steps Ministries, Inc.

Newsletter MAY 2019

"GOD PROVIDED IN 2002"

"FIRST SPASE PROGRAM DIRECTOR 2002"



Nadriene Jackson
SPASE Program
Director - 2002

At the beginning of In His Steps' SPASE program, the Lord provided Nadriene Jackson, a believer who was working as a speech teacher at Madison Central High School in Madison, MS. She found out about In His Steps through her mother-in-law, Gwen Jackson, a

longtime friend of the Bacons. After praying about it with her husband, Roderick Jackson, she decided to quit her job at the school and come to In His Steps to develop the newly envisioned program. **Nadriene's step of faith was God's provision for a director for the SPASE program. With her background in education, heart for serving children, and many talents, Nadriene proved to be perfect for the job.** Early on, the Lord revealed to both her and

Rev. Bacon that this was to be a holistic ministry, one that would meet every need of a child, and that it would be a long term program, following the student from second grade all the way to twelfth grade. **God then gave Nadriene the name for the program, SPASE, as well as the formatting the program would take. Standing for the spiritual, physical, academic, social, and emotional needs of a child.** The SPASE program allows kids to have a structured environment after school where they receive a snack, a short devotional, as well as instructional and tutoring time that reinforces what they learn at school.

As Nadriene said at the beginning of SPASE program, "this is a program that has definitely been ordained by God, and I can see His hand working in the lives of the children and their families each and every day." The SPASE program continues seventeen years later, as we have seen many children come through the doors at In His Steps and experience life change through Jesus Christ. Our desire then and now is to equip these children with all the necessary tools

for an effective and successful life, and to teach them to live in a way that will be pleasing to the Father and share these traits with their families and friends. Nadriene's husband, Roderick, also stated at the beginning of the program that SPASE would be focused on developing the ABC's of student growth: Autonomy, Belonging, and Competency, as all of these traits lead to healthier and happier lifestyles for children as they are growing into adulthood.

Because of the Lord's faithfulness and provisions, the IHS program has served and impacted countless children and youth. **In addition, over the last 17 years IHS has evolved into a Saturday morning reading program and 6-week summer enrichment program.** Many thanks to past SPASE program directors, Annie Whitehead and Lou Ella Cole-Allen for assistance in helping to build this program. We thank everyone who has contributed to the support of the SPASE program, whether financially or by volunteering.

God has a plan for every life, but He seems to have a distinct or unique call for some. There is a sense in which every child of God is in the ministry-he is to minister or serve. T. B. Maston

"CALLED INDIVIDUALS - A BLESSING TO IN HIS STEPS"

Annie Allen has been an integral part of In His Steps for the past seventeen years as the administrative assistant/bookkeeper who does it all. She came to work at the ministry in May of 2002, after working in Human Resources Department at Allstate Insurance Company. When asked about her first impression of In His Steps, she said with a smile, "God answered my prayers!"

When asked to put the mission of In His Steps in her own words, she said **"I think the mission of In His Steps is to be a beacon in this community, a way to say 'God is here, come'."** Because In His Steps immerses itself in the community of Canton, providing for a wide range of needs from clothing to food to helping with home repairs and education, Annie

saw seventeen years ago how this ministry would provide a guiding light to the community, a light that has only grown stronger today.

As she has seen incredible changes happen with this ministry, Annie also sees it growing more and more with the Phase 3 expansion of the campus as well as possibly bringing on more staff to further meet the needs of the community over the next five years. This growth will offer more opportunities for the students to enjoy a safe haven, a space to be themselves and learn about the love the Lord has for them. **To anyone thinking about volunteering with In His Steps, Annie said, "If you want to be blessed and see God at work in a child's life, just come sit with them, be with them, and volun-**

teer to just do what you can. A lot of the time it doesn't feel like a lot, but just your presence tells that child 'this person left their home or their job early to come and help me' and that makes all the difference." **We're thankful for Annie and the ways she has shown faithfulness to the Lord in her work through In His Steps, and pray that God will send other called individuals to serve with IHS.**



Annie Allen
IHS Administrative
Assistant/Bookkeeper

"God doesn't call the equipped but equips the called."

"Pray for the next generation of leadership."

GOD PROVIDED IN 2019



Future IHS Camp Ground & Training Center

In September of 2018, the board members of In His Steps and the Bacons began a formal discussion about the possibility of a dormitory for weekend and summer camping opportunities for the children and youth of Canton. In His Steps explored plans for building a dormitory, but realized the price was far too high, approximately two million dollars. The general consensus was that such an investment would not be feasible. So with a lot of discouragement, the plan was put on hold and the ministry's attention was called back to its existing work.

Only a month later though, as Rev. Bacon was driving to the high school to help with

the mentoring and sports ministry program there, he noticed a piece of land for sale (3574 N. Liberty Street, Canton, MS) only 2/10 of a mile away from IHS's existing campus. Looking into it further, he saw that the land was 19.5 acres with an antebellum home, with a six-acre pond on the property. Feeling the Lord's prompting, Rev. Bacon prayed over it for the next month, not telling anyone about what he had seen. Finally, he asked an IHS staff person to contact the realtor about the property. The initial price was over \$460,000, but within a week of contacting the realtor, the price dropped to \$399,000. It seemed like the Lord was beginning to move in big ways for In His Steps.

As the Bacons continued to pray alongside In His Steps' board members and other IHS friends about purchasing the property, they began to dream about the possibilities the land would offer the ministry. They envisioned cabins built around the lake which will fulfill the vision the Lord had given them years earlier. The home on the grounds will be restored and used as a training center, housing for long term interns, and a venue for other activities.

After much prayer and deliberation with the board members and supporters of In His Steps, the ministry decided to move forward with the purchase of the land and home. The Lord continued in His faithfulness as the closing price came out to \$335,000 on April 24th, 2019, which is significantly less than the \$2 million proposed to build one dormitory on the In His Steps campus. Moving forward with the land, we are praying and trusting that God will provide:

- *Labor and finances for the repairs needed to the house and pond.*
- *Construction cost to build three cabins near the pond.*
- *Continued financial support to pay off the land.*

We thank all of you so much for your constant support of this ministry. Please continue praying with us as we walk in faith in this new development of In His Steps!

Phase 3 Development is the fulfillment of the vision that God gave Rev. Bacon in 1979. God's timing is perfect with Phase 1 and 2 completed and debt free. This site will provide weekend and summer camping opportunities for local youth and families. In addition, leadership training will be offered for long-term interns and church leadership. Pray for God continued direction and provisions.

SAVE THE DATE

In His Steps is excited to announce its 25th year anniversary! The ministry will be celebrating the Lord's provision through the years with a dinner on December 5th, 2019. We are asking all of our friends far and near to join with us in celebrating this momentous occasion! Please RSVP as soon as possible to aallen@inhissteps.org.

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAISE GOD FOR: 1) the faithful support from friends, 2) sustaining, directing, impacting lives through IHS.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: 1) God's direction in starting a new 2nd grade SPASE class, 2) greater ministry impact in Saw Mill Quarters, youth detention centers, sports ministry and family services, 3) next generation of IHS leadership, 4) wisdom and protection for IHS staff, board and volunteers.

NEW 2ND GRADE SPASE CLASS STARTING SEPTEMBER 2019

This upcoming September, In His Steps is bringing in a new group of second graders to go through the SPASE program! Our current group of SPASE students will be entering the eleventh grade and participating in extracurricular and after school activities, giving In His Steps the time needed to usher in a new group of students. What an amazing opportunity!

As program director, Carolyn Bacon said, "The opportunity presented itself and the Lord made it clear that it was time to bring in a new group. It also gives the older kids a chance to give back to their community." The eleventh grade SPASE students will be helping out with the younger kids through our after school tutoring program. We will also have teachers, Khrysten Glass and Jasmine Thompson, assisting with the after school tutoring program, offering the new students the time and attention they need. Moving forward with the program,

Carolyn notes, "our desire is to learn from the mistakes of the past groups to grow this program even more." Over the years, In His Steps has learned to be versatile in their methods and that every child is unique and requires personalized attention, both important lessons that have made the program stronger as it's developed.

As Brian Griffin, a SPASE graduate stated, "IHS pushed me to be great, even when I didn't see greatness in me, they saw that I could be better than what I was in the past." To view Brian's testimony, you can go to this link <https://vimeo.com/334690776>. The new students must present either academic or social challenges and are chosen through referrals IHS receives from the Canton Public School District, as well as students who have been a part of our Saturday morning reading program. The SPASE program will continue in its goal, to help students live out Jeremiah 29:11 and learn how to become self-sufficient in the path the Lord has laid out for them.