

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

In His Steps Ministries, Inc.

Newsletter July 2019

"I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant. Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!" Joshua 24:13-14

"After 25 years, we know we're in the middle of God's will," Reverend Bacon says as he leans back in his chair, thinking back over how God has moved in the lives impacted by In His Steps. **Over the years, Reverend Bacon has been asked several times how In His Steps managed to survive when so many other organizations seemed to decline; every time he has answered simply and honestly—"God did it."**

As we're looking forward to celebrating our 25th year anniversary, In His Steps is focusing on **Joshua 24:13-14 as its theme verse this year.** "So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant. Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithful-

GOD DID IT!

- *Proclaimed the gospel to hundreds of youth and many have received Christ.*
- *God provided \$2,305,047 for capital expense (multipurpose building, ball fields, open air pavilion and organic teaching garden). All debt free.*
- *Guided at-risk youth to complete high school and college.*
- *Helped Christians serve together across racial, social-economic and denominational lines for over 25 years.*



ness." In this passage, the Israelites have just made it to Canaan, their promised land flowing with milk and honey. It had been a long and difficult trek, and it would have been easy for the people to sit down in the nicely built homes and already cultivated land and pat themselves on the back for the work they had done to get there. **But the Lord knew that if they were to thrive in this new season of life, they would need to be reminded of Who had brought them through the wilderness, so He brought them to their knees in humble worship so that they could continue fearing the Lord who had provided for all of their needs and serve Him faithfully.** In a similar way, **IHS remembers who has brought it this far.**

TESTIMONIES FROM FRIENDS

"My wife, Deb, and I have supported In His Steps over the years and watched this Gospel centered, result oriented ministry work in many lives. Not only has In His Steps provided a safe and loving place for at risk children, it has also provided a vivid Christian witness for every person it touches. Whether through the Sports Ministry, the Garden Ministry, the Saturday Morning Reading Program, or the multiple mission groups that return year after year, In His Steps lifts all lives up and points them toward Jesus Christ. Jasper and Carolyn Bacon are two of the most effective leaders I have ever known. The Lord is definitely using them to fill a need in our community and point to HIS Glory."

-Ken Primos Jr., Flora, MS

"We have witnessed how the ministry of In His Steps has made all the difference. Its emphasis on the love of Jesus, learning valuable life lessons through athletics, and its emphasis on education has enabled promising young kids to reach their potential. Jesus promises the 'abundant life', to his people in John 10:10. In His Steps provides the path to get there. We are excited about In His Steps' vision for the

future, as we celebrate twenty five years of God's faithfulness. We are confident in God's favor in raising up new leaders to continue this important work.'

-Jamie Fellowes, Wheaton, IL

"I believe in the Lord's leading, and there's no question the Lord put this plan for the ministry in Jasper's heart. Our faith was tested a lot in those early years, and from a human standpoint it didn't make sense. There were a lot of financial hurdles to jump through, but the Lord blessed in his timing when we stepped out in faith"

-Tom Milam, Ridgeland, MS

"For the past 25 years, Jasper and Carolyn Bacon through In His Steps Ministries have been serving the youth of Canton and the surrounding communities. Since 2008, Crossway Church, located in Orange County, California, has been blessed to participate as a ministry partner. As a ministry partner, we have been blessed to support the Bacons with prayer and financial support in addition to sending teams to help with the annual basketball camp and

tutoring programs. Through our partnership with IHS, our members are able to join hands with the Bacons in their work to further God's kingdom"

-Michael Engelbrecht, Irvine, CA

"I have supported and encouraged the work of Jasper and Carolyn Bacon over the last 25 years. God is truly using In His Steps Ministries to make a difference in the lives of many. Anybody can talk about the problems facing our community but I know that Jasper and Carolyn are committed through In His Steps ministries to make a difference."

-Dolphus Weary, Richland, MS

Without question, Jasper was led by God to establish In His Steps Ministries. What started as a prison ministry to juveniles has expanded to an educational afterschool program, a Saturday morning reading program, a sports ministry, and many other areas to help at-risk boys and girls come to know Jesus and to disciple them in the Christian walk. I have been pleased to support Jasper and Carolyn in their ministry over the past 25 years, and firmly believe that God is performing a great work in them."

-Richard C. Roberts III, Madison, MS

GOD DID IT!



Football Camp

IHS SPORTS CAMPS

In His Steps' sports camps have grown this year as we've seen more campers and volunteers at all four camps! We kicked off the summer with 30 kids attending our football camp, and 45 kids at our soccer camp. Belhaven players and coaches came to help with soccer, and the campers loved



Basketball Camp

getting to know them and learning how to play the sport. In July we introduced a new camp, baseball, with 33 campers learning how to pitch, bat, and field groundballs from local players and volunteers. Our final camp was basketball, where we served 90 kids. The camp was hosted by Crossway Community Church, Irvine, CA. In addition to the 30 Crossway church members, we also had 12 community volunteers come help. Central to each camp was daily devotions, where the gospel was presented and encouragement to grow in Christian character. Please pray that God's will be done in each camper's life.



Baseball Camp



Soccer Camp

UPDATE ON NEW PROPERTY

Since the purchase of In His Steps' Campground and Training Center, (3574 N. Liberty Street, Canton, MS) in April 2019, the Lord has continued to prove His faithfulness in seeing His vision for Canton come to pass! This summer, two of our mission groups tirelessly put in effort to help us further along the restoration process of the Auxiliary Campus. Grace Community Church spent their afternoons at the campus, deep cleaning windows, scrubbing floors, and opening up rooms that had fallen into disuse in the main house. Their hard work allowed In His Steps to move forward with the restoration process. The Orthodox Congregational Church of Lanesville from Gloucester, Massachusetts came later in the summer, bringing with them a contractor and a lot of ready and willing hands. In addition to other work done at IHS new site, they restored two porches on some of the additional buildings on the grounds, replaced rafters and beams, reinforced the

railing on the south deck of the house, added permanent seating on the north deck. Because of their willingness and expertise, In His Steps now has significantly less repairs to do to the property before it is in use.

We are overwhelmingly grateful for those who continue to support us in prayer and funding, and we give all praise to the Father as He continues to work in the lives of everyone who has contributed.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD NEW PROPERTY

Purchase Price	\$335,000
California Supporter	\$7,000
Illinois Supporter	\$1,000
Indiana Supporter	\$70

REMAINING BALANCE \$326,930

25th Year Celebration
In His Steps Ministries
ANNUAL VISION DINNER
December 5, 2019, 6:30 PM
Place: Broadmoor Baptist Church
Madison, MS

THANKSGIVING

- ◆ Thank God for the IHS ministries that He raised up and used in the lives of thousands over the last 25 years.
- ◆ Thank God for granting favor with churches, Canton School Administrators, City and State officials and business owners.
- ◆ Thank God for the hundreds of youth and parents who have accepted Christ.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ◇ Pray for God's provision of 1) Next generation of leadership for IHS, 2) Salary for Jasmine Thompson (new S.P.A.S.E. Program Coordinator), Savannah Moore (marketing and communication assistant), 3) Funding for payoff and development of IHS new campground and training site.
- ◇ Pray that God will use IHS to reach and disciple men and their families (especially from the Saw Mill Community).
- ◇ Pray for the strengthening of IHS outreach and compassionate services.
- ◇ Pray for God's blessings on the S.P.A.S.E. Program of 20 new 2nd and 3rd grade students.