

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

In His Steps Ministries, Inc.

Newsletter September 2019

HISTORY OF IHS SPORTS MINISTRY

As In His Steps celebrate 25 years of ministry in Canton, we look back on how the Lord has guided us through the years. His plan for the sports ministry began years before the ministry's start in 1994, when Rev. Bacon was a student (1979-1982) at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois and began to see the value in sharing the gospel through sports. When he returned to Mississippi in 1985, he started the local sports ministry by getting involved with the school athletic programs and follow-

"I've seen so many kids come through In His Steps' programs. Rev. Bacon and IHS has done more for the kids in this town than any single person."

Coach Brown, former head football coach and Athletic Director, 28 years of coaching experience

ing the **RED** plan--developing Relationships that led to Evangelism and Discipleship. When the Bacons founded In His Steps in 1994, Sports Ministry was one of the initial focus points of the ministry, and they were able to build on the experiences the Lord had already allowed them to have years prior to the start of In His Steps.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

We have been blessed to have so many amazing partnerships across the state of Mississippi and all over the country that have enabled us to grow our Sports Ministry over the years. One of those partnerships that has been an inspi-

"We've seen change in the athletes who get involved at In His Steps. Working with In His Steps will change your life."

Coach Evans, head men's basketball at Canton High School

"The mentorship provided through In His Steps helps these kids to think before they act and learn how to be role models to the ones coming after them."

Coach Word, head women's basketball coach and current Athletic Director at Canton High School

ration to In His Steps is with Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), a connection that was fostered through longtime friend, Bill Buckley, the director of FCA for Mississippi. Reverend Bacon and Bill Buckley met at an FCA event in the 90's through an introduction by the state director at the time. The two men hit it off immediately, and Bill remembers, "We came to know each other and value each other and saw a lot of ways we could connect our ministries. Jasper is a compelling person, and his vision for this ministry was compelling." The relationships that were formed through FCA eventually helped In His Steps' own sports ministry develop further as the Bacons saw a greater need for sports outreach that wasn't being met in the community. Over the years, Bill Buckley has had the joy of seeing In His Steps expand, specifically in Sports Ministry.

FIRST SPORTS DIRECTOR

In 2013 the first Sports Ministry Director, Joshua Jackson was hired.



Joshua Jackson (center) first IHS Sports Ministry Director 2013-2015

A student-athlete from Belhaven University, Joshua Jackson came on staff at In His Steps with a burning desire to use sports to reach kids for Christ and a burden to see the needs of the community reached. While here, he evangelized and mentored a huge number of community youth. IHS is forever grateful for the solid foundation that was laid by Joshua Jackson.

CURRENT SPORTS DIRECTOR

Our current Sports Ministry Director, Christin Howard, came on the staff in 2016, after playing point guard at



Christin Howard (center) current IHS Sports Ministry Director

Mississippi College. Like Joshua Jackson, Christin has a strong understanding of the dynamic between Christianity and sports from his time as student-athlete at a Christian university. It was also clear when Christin began that he had a passion for serving, evangelizing and mentoring the youth. His plans for the growth of the Sports Ministry reflects the plans God has had for In His Steps all along--impacting the lives of those around us by sharing the gospel clearly with love. **The impact of Sports Ministry on the Canton community has reached all levels, from elementary age kids to high school and college athletes.**

If you would like more information on how you or your organization can partner with In His Steps to help further the work being done through Sports Ministry, email us at jbacon@inhissteps.org.

"I think the whole approach of the coaches and In His Steps working together has enabled God to grow our kids spiritually."

Coach Bolton, head football coach and assistant Athletic Director, 20 years of coaching experience

IHS "BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH"

On September 14, 2019, In His Steps gathered with the Canton community to celebrate the start of the new school year with a "Back-to-School Bash"! The students enjoyed the warm Saturday morning by splashing around in the blow up water slide, competing in blow up bubble soccer, cooling down in the video game truck, and having their faces painted with butterflies, stars, and hearts.



Martez Cobb
Christian artist & DJ

At the finale of the Back-to-School Bash, local Christian artist, Martez Cobb ministered to the 115 people in attendance by clearly presenting the gospel through several Christian rap songs and a message. He asked everyone under the basketball pavilion, "Who do you want to be on your team? God? Or Man?" and offered a call to action at the end of his message. Many of the parents and children were moved by the message, and at the end Martez asked if anyone wanted to surrender their lives to Christ. **Three of In His**

Steps' students raised their hands during this time indicating a desire to receive Christ, and we are celebrating this victory! We hope you will continue to pray for us as we seek to reach more youth with the gospel.

In His Steps would like to thank all of the volunteers and IHS partners who came and made the Back to School Bash such a success. We were grateful to have people from Broadmoor Baptist Church, Fellowship Bible Church, Belhaven University, and Mississippi College there to participate in fun filled and Christ honoring activities. **In His Steps could not do any of the work we do without the willing hearts of our volunteers and partners** to personally touch a child's life in whatever way they can. If you would like more information on how you can volunteer and support our upcoming events, please email us at cbacon@inhissteps.org!

PROGRESS ON THE IHS CAMPGROUND AND TRAINING SITE

Just as God lead IHS to purchase the new campground and training site, In His Steps is trusting God on the development of the site. **Moving forward, we are asking that you would become a part of God's provision by helping In His Steps meet some of our more immediate as well as long-term needs.** Some immediate needs include the a heavy duty weed-eater and gas blower, as well as finding labor and finances for repairs to the house and pond. **In His Steps is in need of an electrician, carpenter, and foundation repair expert to perform those needed repairs as soon as possible.** The more long-term needs are the continued payoff of the property (\$325,505), as well as the construction of three cabins capable of housing 10-15 people around the lake and vintage furniture that fits in the antebellum home on the grounds. In His Steps is so excited about the expan-

sion into Christian camping that this property will bring to the Canton youth and children, and we hope you will continue supporting and praying with us!

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD NEW PROPERTY

PURCHASE PRICE \$335,000

California Supporter	\$7,000
Illinois Supporter	\$1,875
Mississippi Supporter	\$350
Minnesota Supporter	\$200
Indiana Supporter	\$70

REMAINING BALANCE \$325,505

25 YEARS

CELEBRATION AND INVITATION

6:30 PM, December 5, 2019

Broadmoor Baptist Church

Venue 101 Room

1531 Highland Colony Parkway
Madison, MS 39130

PARENTS WORKSHOP

On September 14th, SPASE Director, Carolyn Bacon, and Coordinator, Jasmine Thompson, held a productive workshop and orientation session to provide some biblical principles to help guide the parents. They spoke on how to love, lead, and learn their child, emphasizing how important it is to show them that they are loved (Proverbs 12:18), to model biblical behavior for them (Philippians 4:8), and to know what encourages their children to be the best they can be (Psalm 139:14). Over the years, In His Steps has endeavored to be intentional with biblical instruction in all things, as we know the truth of the gospel changes lives for the better.

They also gave an overview of the SPASE Program and discussed expectations of the children participating in the program. Some of the expectation included having respect for each other and adults, gaining academic and spiritual growth, and striving to do their best. Expectations and responsibilities for the parents were also addressed, such as volunteering throughout the year and motivating their children. All the parents left the meeting encouraged and excited about the upcoming year with the SPASE program!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for His faithfulness over the last 25 years.
- Praise God for youth who received Christ.
- Pray for greater ministry impact on parents of children we serve.
- Pray for greater ministry impact in Saw Mill Quarters outreach, IHS students, and Canton High School athletes and coaches.
- Pray for Christin Howard's growth and development as IHS sports ministry director.
- Pray for the development and payoff of new property.
- Pray for salary donations for new S.P.A.S.E. Program Coordinator, Jasmine Thompson and Communication Assistant, Savannah Moore.
- Pray for God's provision for next generation of leadership for IHS.