



Long-term Bible Training with Great Returns



Ms. Thompson teaching students the names of God

A crucial part of In His Steps' after school SPASE program is the daily devotional. Every day after the students arrive from school, the 22 second and third graders spend intentional time with the Lord with a devotional and journaling, led by program director, Jasmine Thompson. Every day, the students gather together to hear from the Word of God and have a time of guided prayer journaling. **This month Ms. Jasmine has taught the SPASE students the names of God and their meanings. We have been blessed to see our students grow in understanding of the God who loves them, and we continue to pray that each of them will choose to enter into a personal, saving relationship with Him.**

In addition to the students' daily devotion, our robotics instructor, Cameron

Arcemont, has created a long-term Bible reading plan and challenge for the students. When he began teaching robotics to the second and third graders this year, he also brought Bibles and a challenge for the students to read--5 chapters a week, every week, with hopes to read through the entire Bible within 6 or 7 years. This reading plan also builds accountability with the students with weekly Bible quizzes and a simple reward system that helps motivate the students to read all five chapters.

When asked why he brought this program to In His Steps, he said, "spending time with God has changed my life, and I wish I had started when I was their age. I'm going to be with these kids for the next 8-9 years, so I knew this was a great opportunity to really build that relationship with the Lord early."

This reading plan is affecting more than just the kid's lives as well-- "Some of the parents have come to me and asked questions about the quizzes because they're helping their kids read and answer the quiz, and we get the opportunity to share the gospel with them when that happens. It's awesome." This time spent reading the Bible with their children also strengthens



Mr. Arcemont praying before Bible lesson

the relationships between parent and child, and creates a space for the love of God to enter the home.

While it can sometimes seem like there isn't much progress, Cameron notes that where the students started and where they are now in their understanding of the Bible is completely different, and the growth is obvious. Several of our students have asked deep, thought-provoking questions, and it's been our greatest pleasure to be able to answer them in a way that makes sense to these young minds.

Our second and third graders are critically thinking through the stories they're reading, and finding ways to apply them to their life. We hope you'll pray for growth in all of our students and that their hearts would soften daily towards the Savior who loves them dearly.

Students Enjoy Robotics and Art Classes



Robotics Class

With this year's SPASE program, we've had the added blessing of having two regular volunteers work with our students in robotics and art. **Cameron Arcemont and Sam Clarke come to In His Steps every Tuesday and Wednesday and teach the second**

and third graders about art forms and programming robots. Cameron has been a long-time supporter of In His Steps and has been volunteering his computer programming expertise with our after school program for four years. While he has been working with the older SPASE students for the past three years, he began teaching our new group of SPASE students this year, and they have loved every minute of building, programming, and racing their robots! Our art instructor, Sam Clark, is new to In His Steps but has become an invaluable asset to our SPASE program. Sam came to In His Steps and has enjoyed teaching our students about drawing, painting, and finding their own unique



Art Class

art style over the past few months. Because the SPASE program strives to meet the holistic need of every child, we're so thankful for Sam and Cameron lending their knowledge and passion to the SPASE program and teaching our students about beauty and tenacity through art and robotics.

COMPASSION STORE



Ms. McDaniel training at workshop for Compassion Store parents

In His Steps' guiding principle behind the Compassion Store is to offer an environment that fosters good stewardship, Biblical charity, and responsibility. In His Steps puts this into practice by recruiting groups from local churches to join together and purchase gifts for pre-approved families in Canton who have experienced financial hardship. The parents of the children are then able to come and purchase new gifts at a deeply discounted rate, instilling a sense of pride and maintaining their dignity. The Biblical basis for the Compassion Store can be found in God's laws on gleaning found in Leviticus 19:9-10.

One of our first time Compassion Store recipients was Jessie Handy who has been involved with In His Steps for the past 13 years. She said, "The Compassion Store was truly a blessing. My mom passed away last January, so the budget was thin this year from having to pay for funeral costs. The Compassion Store was God's way of providing for us."

Now that In His Steps has wrapped up the 2019 Compassion Store, we're looking forward to further serving the 78 children and their families who participated with two follow-up parent workshops in 2020 about finances and parenting skills. We hope that you'll rejoice with us over God providing for the families and continue praying with us over this ministry!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR:

- Restoration of entrance and culvert to new campground site.
- New property (trimming, pruning, transplanting and installing).
- Preparation for garden and softball and football fields.
- Landscaping and maintenance on fence line at main campus.
- Installation of additional fence line at main campus.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

- **\$127,712**—Given towards new IHS Campground (includes \$100,000 matching/pledge gift). **\$375,288 still needed.**
- **\$21,785**—Given towards new staff salaries. **\$38,714 still needed.**
- **\$17,822**—Given towards sponsorships of SPASE students. **Five (5) sponsorships needed.**

We bless the Lord for our past and pursue His will for the future.

Bro. Jasper Bacon

Psalm 103:1-5

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for His faithfulness in 2019.
- Pray for start-up ministries: 1) To girls at Hinds County Youth Detention Center, 2) Little league sports camp for Saw Mill youth, 3) Bible study for men in Saw Mill Quarters.
- Pray for families affected by the flooding here and across the country.
- Pray for God's sustaining grace on the families of Mike Tanner and Jerry Clark.
- Pray for God's wisdom and resources on the development of IHS Christian Campground.

IHS UPCOMING DATES:

- "Beyond the Walls" Business Luncheon, May 7, 2020
- Spring Work Day/Garden Prep, March 21 & 28, 2020 (other Saturdays will be available)
- Financial Workshop, March 19, 2020
- Football Camp, June 17-19, 2020
- Soccer Camp, June 24-26, 2020
- Baseball Camp, July 17-18, 2020
- Basketball Camp, July 27-31, 2020

SUCCESS STORY

Connell Moore first got connected to In His Steps through IHS former Sports Ministry Director, Joshua Jackson. Jackson was passionate about In His Steps reaching the community, so he formed a basketball team with local youth including Connell from the Saw Mill Quarters which is a "challenged community" just east of In His Steps. After participating in the sports ministry, Connell got a job in the IHS teaching garden and was placed in the IHS Earn & Save Program. This program allowed Connell to learn responsibility in his work ethic and accountability with his money. It was through this program that Connell became an integral part of In His Steps, serving with the summer sports programs and working in the garden regularly. His faith with the Lord grew during this time, and when he graduated high school, Connell knew he wanted to do something big with his life, something that would glorify God first. Connell decided after high school to enroll in an out of state institution with several programs that he was interested in. Due to unforeseen and tragic circumstances Connell had to withdraw when led to emotional trauma.

After one year, Connell enrolled again in school, but this time at Hinds Community College, just a few miles down the road from his hometown of Canton. While he began in remedial classes, he worked hard in all of his studies, and his second year at Hinds he was moved to the Honors College. As a first generation college student, Connell was excelling in everything he did.

Now, Connell has been placed on the President's list for the Fall 2019 semester at Hinds for maintaining a 4.0 GPA for the entire semester, and we couldn't be more proud of him! He will graduate in December 2020 with an Associate's degree and dual certification in welding and pipe laying. Connell's story shows us that when God begins something, He will faithfully sustain until the end. As Rev. Bacon says, "I've seen God's thumbprint on Connell's life through all of it"