

IHS FIRST HALF-DAY SUMMER CAMPS



The sign read "Welcome Campers". On June 5th and 12th, In His Steps Ministries held its first summer day camp activities at the new Agape Campsite. We praise the Lord for such a successful and historic event! The Lord worked through many people to make these events possible. Fifty (50) children and youth came to the IHS day camps as a reprieve from city life and a chance to spend time outside. But most importantly, this was a chance for children to get away from the distractions of electronics and normal life to enjoy fishing, archery, field games, and horseback riding. **Every youth had an incredible experience.** For most, this was their first time fishing and shooting bows and arrows. The campsite provided a unique environment where children can be immersed in nature and try fun new activities. The primary objectives for the two-day camps were demonstrating and proclaiming love to every camper and ensuring that the camp was a fun and safe place.

It was wonderful to see a diverse group of campers and volunteers come together in fellowship and love each other. The campers ranged from ages 9-15 and were separated into three groups: grasshoppers (9-11), fireflies (12-13), and bumblebees (14-15).

Mr. George Henderson, IHS board member, said that *"Kids are carrying lifetime experiences back into their*

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community making them witnesses to other kids." Mr. Henderson explained how he also saw an immediate change in some children who were timid when they first arrived at the camp but grew more confident as the day progressed.

Christ was the center of the two day camps. At the beginning of each session, a volunteer shared a devotional with the campers. Mr. August Taylor, who helped with fishing said, "The camp provided children with opportunities to come closer to Christ and experience new things." The gospel was presented using the

Wordless Book, an evangelistic tool for children using colors. To children made bracelets with colored beads paralleling the gospel message. **Rev. Bacon emphasized God's love, our sinfulness, and Christ's provisions for salvation through His death, burial, and resurrection. What an awesome opportunity. Thirty-two (32) campers responded to the presentation of the gospel, and we will be following up with them as they grow in their new faith in Jesus.**

We praise the Lord for great success and we are excited to see what comes next. Please pray for and partner with us as we develop the Agape Campsite.

DEDICATION CEREMONY



paid off. At the ceremony, we witnessed the shredding of the note as a moment to thank the Lord for his continued blessings.

Rev. Bacon reminded everyone that God is indeed the source of all IHS provisions and blessings. He stated "God did it and He is doing it again."

The main scripture emphasized was Joshua 24:13, which states, "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."

As God provided this beautiful piece of land for ministry purposes, we trust Him to provide the people and financial resources to complete the campsite and training center. We are excited to see how God will continue to work and use this ministry to impact lives for years ahead.

Once again, we thank all of our supporters and partners from near and far who helped make this event memorable. But more importantly, we thank the Lord for His provisions and for orchestrating everything to get us to this point. We are trusting God for His continued blessings.

On May 27, 2021, the dedication service for the new IHS Agape Campsite and Training Center for Relational Health was held. On this beautiful morning, IHS supporters and volunteers gathered both in-person and virtually to celebrate God's faithful provision. The purpose of this ceremony was to celebrate what God has done and thank him for his blessings. He faithfully provided the land to purchase in 2019, and in 2021 the property was completely

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- ◆ Thank God for His ongoing provisions and protection of IHS ministries.
- ◆ Thank God for 32 campers who responded to the invitation to receive Christ.
- ◆ Pray for God's wisdom on ministry and campsite development.
- ◆ Pray for IHS friends with health concerns (Jerry, Irene, Johnnie and Dorothy).
- ◆ Pray for two new ministry initiatives (community outreach and healthy relations initiatives).

SUMMER ENRICHMENT



With the school year coming to a close, that doesn't mean that learning stops. At In His Steps ministries we have an annual summer enrichment program which aims to help students in our S.P.A.S.E. program to receive the help they need. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, many school districts, including the Canton School District, went virtual during the last school year. By going virtual, students faced different challenges that affected their learning experience. **This summer enrichment program exists to equip students with the help and resources they need to succeed.**

This year the program is four weeks long for 20 4th and 5th graders and is broken down into two week sessions. **The program began with giving diagnostics tests to see how prepared they were for the next school year. From there, the curriculum will be adjusted to fit the students' needs.** The first session was from June 7th-18th, and the second session will be July 12th-23rd. During the program, students will receive tutoring material in English language arts and math by Jasmine Thompson and Stephanie Wales. Ms. Thompson said that "Kids need to read books." This is one of the best ways to encourage students to learn. Both teachers are certified and work at local public schools as well as the IHS afterschool S.P.A.S.E. program during the school year.

Also, volunteers come in and lead kids in fun activities like arts and crafts. During the first session, Ms. Tashmina Turner (from Mississippi Family Consumer Science Extension) taught students sewing. The students have daily recreational/P.E. time, which gives them the opportunity to be active and play outside. The staff believes it's important to reach kids and engage them through a holistic strategy.

Recommended article on prayer, "9 Prayers for Returning Back to Normal after COVID," by Cally Logan at <https://www.crosswalk.com/author/cally-logan/>.