

Tracing His Steps

2021 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

13 RECEIVED CHRIST AT IHS CAMP

On October 2, 2021, we held our third half-day camp since dedicating the new IHS Campsite and Agape Center for Relational Health. Thirty-five (35) children attended the fall camp ranging from 9-15 years old. Activities included horseback riding, pumpkin carving, fishing, and outdoor games. **We praise the Lord for this latest camp because 13 children indicated that they wanted to receive Christ as their Savior!**

The main theme and scripture of the day was Matthew 5:16, *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* We encouraged students to let their lives shine for Christ. Rev. Bacon led an evangelistic devotional using a pumpkin. As he carved the pumpkin, he explained how the seeds and goo inside represent our burden of sin. We are all affected by sin according to Romans 3:23, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". But the promise of hope and God's love is found in the life, death, and resurrection of His blameless Son, Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:1-4) He shared Romans 10:9, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." When the pumpkin was carved, it represented the new life which allows light to shine. In the same way, after accepting Jesus Christ as Savior, His light shines through us for all to see.

Both local youth and their parents have been anticipating a Christian camp. They are excited about new opportunities to have fun in a safe, Christ-centered environment. There are not many recreational activities in Canton, so this camp will provide new upcoming opportunities. For many parents, a local Christian campsite like this is an answer to prayer.

Thanks to our supporters, these children can have safe and fun activities while being in a Christ-centered environment. **We trust God to provide us with the financial resources needed to develop the campsite and land.**



Youth praying to receive Christ



Jasper presenting the
Pumpkin Patch Gospel

God has more for In His Steps. He is leading this ministry to new heights, including the development of the Agape Christian Camp, the Agape Training Center for Relational Health, and Next Level Ministry for young adult men and fathers of our IHS students.

HELP US FULFILL GOD'S CALL ON IHS. Together we have! Together we can! Together we will! Thank you.

PRAYER WALK

On October 23, IHS sponsored a neighborhood prayer walk at the Northgate Subdivision. The subdivision sits between the IHS main campus (3528 N. Liberty) and the Agape Campsite (3574 N. Liberty). We are so thankful to the Lord for this community being so near to us. **Rev. Bacon and a group of seven individuals, including four pastors walked through the neighborhood with the intention of praying for and with the residents.** IHS staff prepared "survival kits", which were filled with gospel tracks for both adults and children, a Christian bookmark, two gospel bracelets, and an IHS keyring flashlight to remind people of the light of Christ.

There are 50 homes in the nearby neighborhood and 35 of them answered the door. The residents were encouraged to reach out to IHS or any of the pastors should they have any questions or need anything. **The Prayer Team prayed for Christ's victory other each home and for each other as they went out to share Christ's love.** The team handed out gospel bracelets to children riding their bikes or playing outside and encouraged them to pray each time they noticed the bracelet. Most people were receptive to prayer.

As Christians, our local communities and cities are where we are called to be witnesses of Christ (Acts 1:8). We are grateful to everyone who supported the prayer walk and to the residents of Northgate for being so welcoming and receptive. Join IHS as we continue to pray for our neighbors and encourage one another to walk in Christ's victory.



Prayer Walk team members with local youth



George Henderson (IHS Board Member)
presenting scripture bracelet

IMPACTING YOUTH THROUGH SPORTS MINISTRY



Christin Howard (kneeling front right) discipling through sports ministry

The Lord has been working through our sports ministry. As covid changed the way we do ministry, we've had to adapt and create new ways to reach local students and athletes. Christin Howard, IHS Sports Ministry Director, has been hard at work leading virtual devotionals and mentoring over zoom sessions. **As the pandemic has dwindled, we have been able to slowly have some in-person events.**

Christin Howard is currently working with 9th Grade Academy, Canton High School, Nichols Middle School and Porter Middle School providing in-person training and mentoring. Christin also conducts leadership training for the basketball and football teams.

The discipleship and leadership program that Christin leads is centered around biblical principles. The goal is to strengthen students to become leaders while maintaining a Christ-like attitude. Christin emphasizes the virtues of self-control and confidence. In order to lead others, you must be able to lead yourself well. While Christin leads the bible studies, he encourages the students to lead devotions themselves sometimes.

Mentoring includes understanding their lifestyle outside of school, what their goals are and preparing them to meet their goals. He emphasizes how to behave in public settings and how to conduct themselves with a Christian attitude. Christin also teaches practical life skills like tying a tie, changing a tire, and public speaking. The goal is to give these kids as many opportunities as possible to grow in their walk with the Lord and develop those necessary life skills.

We are grateful for everything the Lord has done through Christin and the sports ministry. **Building relationships with students and local athletes is a way to minister and encourage them.** We have seen the fruits of his labor as many students have dedicated their lives to Christ and experienced God's blessings.

PARTNERSHIP WITH JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF MADISON, MS

Community partnerships are very important to In His Steps Ministries sustainability. For the last six years, the Junior Auxiliary of Madison, MS has provided volunteers to assist IHS with onsite projects. This year they were assigned the task of decorating the IHS Agape Training Center. Thank you Junior Auxiliary, for your festive and decorative touch and for serving with us.

IHS extends an invitation to like-minded churches, civic and business volunteers to come and partner with us. **Together we can achieve more.** If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, contact Carolyn Bacon at cbacon@inhissteps.org or 601-859-5708. It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).



Carolyn Bacon and Junior Auxiliary of Madison, MS decorating the IHS Agape Training Center

PARTICIPATE WITH US!

PRAY

- ◆ Thank God for His continued and bountiful blessings on this ministry, staff, board, IHS children, and IHS families.
- ◆ Thank God for providing continued clarity of His vision for IHS over the last 26 years.
- ◆ Pray for God's guidance in developing the IHS Christian Camp and Agape Training Center and Next Level Ministry for young adult men.
- ◆ Pray that many adult men and fathers will receive Christ as Savior.
- ◆ Pray for spiritual growth for the 13 youth who accepted Christ at IHS day camp.
- ◆ Pray for additional workers needed at IHS (one full-time and two part-time workers).
- ◆ Pray for God's continued blessings on newlyweds, Christin and Verlencia Howard.
- ◆ Pray for IHS S.P.A.S.E Program students (Trayden, Clifton, Jaylen, Elijah, Mercedes, Ricky, JaMarkayla, Jaeden, Celyria, Bryson, Ahzorion, Michael, Demondric, Kamijah, Tylan, Alisia, LaJaylen, Vargas, and Kaylee).

- ◆ Pray for God's wisdom and guidance for sports ministry director, Christin Howard.
- ◆ Pray for expansion and development of IHS existing ministries IHS new initiatives.

PRESENT

- ◆ **Share IHS** with your church, family, friends, employer, co-workers, civic group, or others who align with our mission.

PARTNER

- ◆ Join IHS as a volunteer or financial donor to help with existing ministries and planned campsite development. **Assist with immediate planning and financial needs of Phase 1 of camp development and infrastructure** (additional water and sewer line, topographical study, major pond renovations, 4 electronic/automatic gates, construction of 3 cabins with heating and cooling, 3 split units for the IHS training center, additional to patio and renovation on IHS training center, custodian, and construction of driveway).

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

by Samuel F. Pugh

Oh, God, when I have food **help me to remember** the hungry; when I have work, **help me to remember** the jobless; when I have a warm home, **help me to remember** the homeless; when I am without pain, **help me to remember** those who suffer; and remembering, help me to destroy my complacency and bestir my compassion. **Make me concerned enough to help, by word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted.**

"...Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

1 John 3:18