

TRACING HIS STEPS

July 2022 Newsletter

What's going on at IHS



IHS volunteers for June Half-Day Camp

Every summer we hold multiple events for students to have fun and learn new skills during the summer break. We conduct athletic camps, enrichment programs, and day camps each year. **This year marks our second summer of day-camps at the new Agape Campsite.**

The goal of the IHS summer camps is to minister to students with the gospel of Jesus Christ in a fun and loving environment. At these camps, students are exposed to exciting new activities like horseback riding, fishing, archery, and more. **We have already seen how the day-camps positively impact youth, and IHS could not have done it without our amazing volunteers!** Each of our volunteers has unique gifts and skills which allow them to contribute to the success of IHS ministries. But more notably, our volunteers have a love for Christ and a desire to serve His kingdom.

Our volunteers were kept busy during the half-day camp. One priority was to provide youth with a safe environment so they could enjoy the activities and receive the gospel presentation from long-time IHS friend, Edie Evans. **While the students had fun with the**

various activities throughout the day, they were also very receptive to the gospel presentation.

The camps greatly impacted the needs of youth through mentorship opportunities. **Mr. Harris, an IHS parent and supporter, directed the fishing station at the day-camp.** Mr. Harris said that fishing positively impacted the students because it taught



Edie Evans sharing the gospel at the half-day camp



Camp participants enjoying day-camp

them a lesson in patience and discipline. He said, "I was able to see the students learn about both of those". Mr. Harris explained how fishing relates to scripture and how we must be patient when waiting upon the Lord. After practice and patience, the students caught fish and enjoyed the process.

Another volunteer, August Taylor, has been involved with IHS for several years because of his godson and niece. His wife who is a nurse also volunteered her time by providing first aid care. Mr. Taylor said, "I want to teach them correctly and give them the best experience I could possibly give them."

Present to capture every moment, IHS photographer, Christa Adams volunteered her time and skills to photograph the day. When asked about her involvement with IHS she said, "I'm involved [with IHS] because I love what they're doing." **Christa has been involved with IHS for the past three years. She shared, "I love how they invest in kids to be successful in the future."** The day-camps impact youth by allowing them to build relationships with each other, try new things, and connect with mentors. **Christa said "Fun experiences and discovering new things enable them to dream."** Christa's photos capture moments of pure joy and illustrate how God is working in the lives of these children. "I'm supposed to bring how God sees people into photograph form," she said, "My goal is to capture what God is doing at the moment."

Special Time of Fellowship

After the half-day camp was concluded, IHS friends from 5 local churches came together for a time of fellowship and vision casting for the city of Canton. It was a productive time discussing how to better serve the youth and adults in our city. **Rev. Bacon said, "It has always been my desire to bring local churches together to plan and work together. Cross-cultural, cross-racial, and cross-denominational relationships are essential to impacting the community and representing Jesus well."** IHS continues to encourage God's people to work together. Seeing the Lord's people come together, despite differences in culture, race, class, and gender was such a beautiful image of Christ's love and a reflection of the Kingdom. **If there were to be one word to describe the day, it would be love.** It was love for God and for each other that brought Christians together to serve and love the community.

Community Prayer Walk

While the day-camp was going on, a few IHS volunteers conducted a community prayer walk in a Canton neighborhood. Our aim was to share God's love and light through relationships and prayer. Our volunteers split up into four groups and went door to door giving gospel presentations and praying with residents. George Henderson, a long-time IHS friend and board member, attended the prayer walk and shared his experience. He explained how everyone was receptive to hearing the gospel and being prayed with. His group met a Hispanic family and only the wife spoke English. They were able to communicate with her and her husband. "She was very excited and grateful for the prayer," he said, "I could see God in that, letting us be able to communicate with them." **The gospel has no language barrier!**

IHS SPECIAL NEEDS

- 1) A S.P.A.S.E. Program Coordinator to develop, manage, coordinate, and oversee the Afterschool S.P.A.S.E. Program, Saturday Morning Reading, and Summer Enrichment Program.
- 2) Three (3) highly motivated, Christ-loving part-time paid interns (2 - Educational and 1 - Sports Ministry)
- 3) A good used truck and gator to be used on the main campus and campsite.

IMPORTANT DATES

Mark your calendar for the IHS Vision Dinner on Thursday, December 1, 2022, at Broadmoor Baptist in Madison, MS at 6:30 pm.

Garden Snapshot

The organic teaching garden on our main campus has produced delicious blueberries and a variety of home-grown vegetables! Every summer when our harvest season is ready, we hire local high school and college students to come work in the garden. Our goal is to offer them summer employment and encourage them to cultivate a strong work ethic they can carry with them for the rest of their lives. These young workers are Ian Harris, Javion Smith, Toymonzae Simmons, Jaquavian Ratliff, and Thomasavian Simmons. **Ian is a longtime participant of IHS and a graduate of the SPASE program and is in his second year at a local community college and received his certification in coding. This is his second year working with us in the Garden. Javion is a young man in the community who is in between high school and his next step in life. He is being encouraged by IHS staff and mentored as he**

determines his next step. **Toymonzae has been involved for the last several years in the sports ministry.** IHS had the privilege of serving his older brothers as well in the sports ministry. He is currently in 11th grade and he is a very intelligent young man with a promising future.

Jaquavian is in 10th grade and an excellent student. He is interested in serving with IHS as a tutor in the fall. **Thomasavian is an upcoming freshman at Belhaven University, where he intends to run track.** He is a very talented individual with the potential to reach great heights. These are all well-rounded young men and we are privileged to be able to serve and encouraged them. Please pray for them as they continue to trust God and His plan for their lives.



Ian Harris



Jaquavian Ratliff



Toymonzae Simmons



Javion Smith



Thomasavian Simmons

SPECIAL PRAYER

- ◆ For the Robinson and IHS Family as we grieve the death of Montravious Robinson, who was murdered on July 22, 2022. He was a longtime participant in the IHS S.P.A.S.E. Program and Sports Ministry.
- ◆ For the Bailey, Brown, and Field families in the lost of loved ones; continued prayers for Annie Allen and her family in the lost of her father; for Jerry Clark's ongoing health concerns.
- ◆ For continued growth of IHS ministries.
- ◆ For greater evangelism and discipleship in the Canton community.