

# TRACING HIS STEPS

Newsletter December 2022

# TRACKING FORMER IHS STUDENTS - SEE THEM NOW



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This year In His Steps hosted the 28th annual Vision Dinner celebrating all that the Lord has done throughout the year and beyond. The Vision Dinner was held on December 1, 2022 at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison, MS. Throughout the evening, both current and former S.P.A.S.E. students and sports ministry participants were highlighted.

The current S.P.A.S.E. students did an incredible job performing their

special recitals. The S.P.A.S.E. boys performed a rap song on the books of the Bible and the girls performed a praise dance. Both groups of students recited poems and Bible verses that they worked hard to memorize. We are so proud of all the students and the hard work they put into rehearsals prior to the dinner.

A slideshow presentation was presented about former S.P.A.S.E. students and sports

program participants and where they are today. Mrs. Bacon highlighted some IHS alumni who have accomplished much in their respective educations and careers. Among them were Damien Lewis, Shelby Taylor, Breanna Horn, Maya Nicholson, Brian Griffin, Montravious Reed, Sebron Carter, Mario Smith, and Marcus Robbins. Marcus Robbins, an IHS alumnus, and his mother were at the Vision Dinner. Marcus graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in Biological

Science. He is now pursuing his first year of medical school at UMMC. "IHS pointed me towards Jesus Christ, and for that reason, I am now living my life for the Lord." he shared.

The needs among our children and youth are so very great. Yet, God has strategically place In His Steps in Canton, MS as a part of the solution. Rejoice with us for the success of this group of IHS alumni. If God did it once, He will do it again.

Would you help us reach more youth and parents in Canton. When God is in it, nothing is impossible.

Moving forward, the future of IHS is growing into more opportunities to reach local youth with unique experiences. The development of the IHS Campsite will allow local youth to experience the joys of outdoor activities and camping. As we reflect on the Lord's faithfulness, we eagerly

look forward to what the next 28 years will hold. Rev. Bacon shared that IHS is a result of the Lord's provision. We are confident that the Lord will provide for the new opportunities we are facing.

We would also like to thank everyone who attended the Vision Dinner and those who make IHS possible. Each of our supporters is a gift from the Lord a testament to the unity we all have through Christ Jesus. If you choose to partner with IHS, please visit our website www.inhissteps.org.



Montravious Reed Tougaloo College Graduate, BS & Masters Counselor, Parole Board of North Carolina



Shelby Taylor JSU Graduate, BS Degree Deputy Clerk, City of Ridgeland, MS



Brian Griffin Hinds Community Graduate, Welder Ingalls Shipyard



Sebron Carter Tougaloo Graduate BS in Health & Recreation Head Basketball Coach, Porter Middle School



Marcus Robbins MS State Graduate Biological Science First year PHD Program at UMMC



Breanna Horn JSU Graduate BS & Masters Math Teacher, Nichols Middle School



Mario Smith USM Graduate Police Academy Atlanta, GA

Damien Lewis

LSU Graduate

BS in Sports Administration

#68 NFL Guard, Seattle Seahawks

# PROVIDING HIGH IMPACT MINISTRY IN CANTON, MS





2021 & 2022 Day Camp Participants. Help us to expand IHS Campsite into a fully functioning camp.

Over the last 28 years, In His Steps has provided numerous specialized ministries including the S.P.A.S.E. program, compassionate services, sports ministries, family service, and ministry to incarcerated youth IHS most recent ministry endeavor is our camping ministry. For two years, we have offered day-camps for the children of Canton, MS. The Agape Campsite has become a location for local youth and families to have a fun, safe environment to grow in their faith, build healthy relationships and enjoy day camp activities in 2021 and 2022.

We are thrilled to announce through God's providence, we have officially started the campsite development. Recently, the Lord provided for IHS by sending Ken Primos, a professional developer. Ken is a IHS supporter and long-time friend. Under Ken's leadership, plans are already underway for the reconstruction of the badly damaged lake in the spring of 2023 and construction of cabins, summer as ball is prejected.

of 2023. Also, a dining hall is projected for 2024.

Ken's responsibilities include site planning, budget management, environmental regulation, city zoning and permitting, building location, design, and construction. We are projecting a two-year timeline to complete the infrastructure goals including cabins and a dining hall/meeting room.

Rev. Bacon, Executive Director, shared, "This is a big undertaking but as God has provided in the past I'm confident that he will provide for this campsite development. When God gives the vision, He will make arrangements for the provisions."

The development of the Campsite will allow IHS to further its impact on the community. IHS board member Curt

Johnson, shared, "When we started 28 years ago we had no idea the doors God would open. We saw a need in Canton and now it's much bigger than we envisioned." As the needs in Canton evolve and change, IHS must also evolve in order to meet those needs. IHS has been strategically placed in Canton to help face the new challenges. The Agape Campsite is already a place where individuals and families can experience Christ's love and have their lives changed for eternity. Mr. Johnson shared, "We are here to respond to the Lord's calling and our dream is that the ministry will continue to serve the community way beyond our lifetimes."

We thank our loyal partners for their continued support throughout this process. In order for this campsite to become a reality there is a need for much prayer, people, and financial resources. While the Lord has been faithful these past 28 years, we look forward to seeing all that he will accomplish for His Kingdom in the future. As with our past developments, our eyes are on the Lord. II Chronicles 20:12 states, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." Please visit our website at inhissteps.org to learn more about how you can get involved!

#### PRAISE REPORT

- ◆ Two of IHS mothers and children were recently homeless, but through the generosity of God's people, both families have moved into apartments. Also, furniture is being donated. God is good!
- Eight youth and one mother received Christ through IHS ministries in 2022.
- An unexpected \$25,000 gift was sent to IHS for campsite development and operational expenses.
- God led professional developer, Ken Primos to IHS to oversee the campsite development.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- ◆ Pray for GROWTH and PROVISIONS for IHS ministries.
- ◆ Pray for GREATER EXPANSION of IHS ministries in surrounding neighborhoods and among young men.
- ◆ Pray for DEVELOPMENT of IHS Christian Agape Campsite and Training Center.
- ◆ Pray for God's SUSTAIN-ING GRACE, PROTEC-TION, and GUIDANCE for IHS staff, board, and families.
- ♦ Pray for many TRANS-FORMED LIVES through IHS.

### AREAS WHERE HELP IS NEEDED

#### **CAMPSITE NEEDS:**

Campsite Renovations	\$15,750
Initial Campsite Development Cost (Revised)	\$308,919
3–Cabins	\$330,000
TOTAL	\$654,669

### **MAIN CAMPUS NEEDS:**

Parking Lot & Driveway Repairs	\$16,000
6-Additional Staff for 2023	\$76,100
Annual Sponsorship of a S.P.A.S.E. Students	\$2,714
TOTAL	\$94,814

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." Corrie Ten Boom

"I have learned that faith means trusting in advance what will only make sense in reverse." Philip Yancey

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD ..." Jeremiah 17:7 KJV