



Sidewalk Funday School

A Children's Church

NEWSLETTER • JANUARY 2020



SPRING



SUMMER



FALL



WINTER

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2019

Another year has passed, providing Sidewalk Funday School (SFS) more opportunities to grow and advance the Kingdom of Heaven in Jacksonville. Through 2019, SFS continued strengthening its relationships with children and parents in our six locations. Spring and summer were packed with community engagement, from bussing families to the Passion Play to VBS and youth camp. In fall, we started a new school year with backpack giveaways and then in winter we sent the kids off into the "most wonderful time of the year" with our annual Happy Birthday Jesus Party.

As we look to 2020, we are excited to take steps in maintaining those relationships as the children grow into a new season of life through middle and high school. This past year has been full of blessings, and we begin 2020 with hope and reliance on God in seeing the continued success of the ministry. Now, we invite you to step into the year in remembrance.

SIDEWALK FUNDAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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THROUGH THE SEASONS OF 2019

SPRING

Spring was a busy season! On top of our weekly lessons and fun, we were able to have an Easter celebration at every site. We also bussed three sites to the Passion Play, which led 8-year-old-Zoryiah to trust Christ for salvation upon returning to Desert Winds that evening!

Batson-Cook graciously sponsored again our second annual business and community awareness event. We were joined by guest speakers **Officer Sharmonique McDaniel**, a member of JSO "adopted" by our Plametto Glen site, as well as **City Council President Aaron Bowman**. If you know of any business leaders who may be interested, please invite them to join us on May 15th at our 3rd annual BBQ!



(Top Left) **Officer McDaniel** speaking at our BBQ (Bottom left) **Angie Mills** on-site at Valencia Way (Right) **Zoryiah** trusting Christ after Passion Play

SUMMER

We were able to once again bus our kids to **First Baptist Church** to participate in VBS. We were blessed when FBC selected our ministry to be the mission focus for offerings brought by the children during VBS week!

For the second year, **Fruit Cove Baptist** sent their youth group as apart of "Mission Jax" to add more games, variety and excitement to Valencia Way!

We also had the privilege of sending eight teens from SFS to youth camp with FBC. Camp's theme was "Transplant" and was based on Ezekiel 36:26, The kids had daily lessons in the morning and evening chapel services. Two of our middle school students gave their hearts to Jesus during camp and we praise God for this! We are so thankful for all that God did in the lives of these students during this week at camp and we are so thankful to the generous individuals who provided camp scholarships. [A youth camp highlight video can be found on our website under the 'Videos' tab.](#)



(Top) SFS kids enjoy VBS (Bottom Left) high schoolers at youth camp (Bottom Right) SFS kids and Mission Jax on-site at Valencia Way

FALL

After an exciting summer, fall brought us back to the heart of what we do...being with the kids in their community weekly. We introduced the topics of obedience, fruits of the Spirit, and wisdom. In the following weeks, the kids dug deep and discovered the connection between being obedient when it's difficult and how doing so blossoms the fruits of the Spirit, and eventually leads to wisdom and understanding of the Word.

We were able to kick off our fall semester by distributing backpacks sponsored by **Faye Rambo's Sunday school class**. Around 60 backpacks were provided for our kids at Calloway Cove!



(Top) Backpack distribution at Calloway Cove
(Bottom) Funday School on-site



WINTER

As fall turned into winter, we saw the return of our annual Happy Birthday Jesus Party! This winter, 163 young children, 54 teenagers, and 33 parents attended our Happy Birthday Jesus party. This means 250 members of the Jacksonville community were able to hear the story of the birth of Jesus and experience His love through the generosity and care of SFS staff and volunteers! Twelve children were counseled with six of those trusting Christ as their Lord and Savior! The angels rejoice and we rejoice along with them!

For the second year we had a separate 'party' exclusive to the teenagers. One of our missions for the coming year is to generate and maintain more engagement with the older children. The party was a great way to begin fostering this connection before the return of our sites in February.

[Our thanks to Fouad for making a wonderful highlight video of the party, which can be found on our website under the 'Videos' tab.](#)

Making Disciples: fulfilling the Great Commission in the City of Jacksonville

In Matthew 28:19, God calls for His people to go out and make disciples among all nations. For many that means traveling abroad as missionaries, reaching people through music, or even ministering through a specific workforce such as professional sports. For Sidewalk Funday School, our mission field is locally based. We are focused on planting the seed of the Gospel, trusting the Spirit to bring that seed to fruition, making disciples and watching that grow into Fruits of the Spirit within the children. In times past, we have highlighted some of our Sites and Site leaders. This time, we wanted to highlight a special young lady who started out as an attendee at SFS. She has participated in some of our expansion of ministries such as attending camp and has now moved into a leadership position. Some of you may have heard her at our last Ministry Awareness and Missionary Appreciation Dinner. Jaylen Byrd offers some insight on her journey with Sidewalk Funday School



The 'Butterflies' with Ms. Doreice and Site Leader Julie Scott



Ms. Doreice and Jaylen

Q&A With Jaylen Byrd

Sidewalk Funday School (SFS): How long have you attended Sidewalk Funday School?

Jaylen (J): I have attended Funday School for five years now.

SFS: What was your first impression of SFS?

J: My first impression was that it was the same old "church thing". Just something to come to and learn about God and receive treats.

SFS: So what drew you in to continue coming, and eventually help lead with SFS?

J: What has drawn me to continue is the fact that Ms. Doreice has pushed me towards God more which has influenced my yearning for God. Ms. Doreice has been a major influence for me with Christ. I wanted to learn more about God and she's the one who guided me.



Jaylen leading on-site at Valencia Way

Q&A Continued

SFS: What is something that you have learned about yourself through SFS? What is something you have learned about other people?

J: Somethings I have learned about myself through SFS is that I do not have to have all the answers and that is okay. I'm not expected to know everything, I'm supposed to lean on God and not my own understanding. I'm not going through everything by myself. It's never about me but about God's people. I have learned that dealing with people takes more control and patience. Dealing with others means you have to also deal with their emotions, their beliefs, and honestly you have to know how to balance that.

SFS: Talk a little bit about your experience at summer camp and how it impacted you this past year.

J: During the summer camp that I went to we were discussing the topic of a new heart. We talked about how everybody is born with a wicked, sinful nature and that the only way to change is through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. The first step is to realize that you are a sinner, need to repent, and that you want to change. Change doesn't happen immediately; it takes time and patience but eventually you will grow to a level with God that you will enjoy.

"I have had the privilege of seeing God blossom her [Jaylen] in her love for Jesus and also a thirst to know Him more and more."

-Doreice Denson (Jaylen's mentor)

Come serve with us!

If you are interested in serving on-site with Sidewalk Funday School, please visit our website (www.sidewalkfundayschool.com). Under the 'Serve with us' tab, you will find site times and locations, site leader contact information, and how to take the next steps with a background check. We hope to see new faces serving alongside us this year!

If you haven't already, please find us and give us a 'like' and a follow on social media.



@sidewalkfundayschool



Sidewalk Funday School (@1funday)



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, KIMBERLY HANSEN

I was recently at Student Leadership University (SLU) with my daughter where they taught that people will buy into your Why long before your What. So, **What's our Why?** We want to shine **Light** into darkness. We want to see children and teens in challenging circumstances have **Hope**. No child has control over the environment into which they are born. For the kids we serve, statistics bear out that if left without interference almost all will walk in the steps of what they see lived out in front of them. We want to introduce them to **Jesus** and to let a relationship with Him so radically interfere with their trajectory that they are Transformed and made disciples for His Glory!

Many of the children we have developed relationships with over the years have now grown into teenagers. As the children age and move away from the formal ministry, they still are involved by coming out to see us and talking to us while we are on-site. We remain burdened about how to keep these kids on a continued walk with Christ and provide them opportunity to rise above their circumstances. As they advance through their teen years, we want to continue to disciple them as well as be a connection for them to opportunities, to apprenticeships and to workforce development programs. Yet It is our weekly work at and in these communities that drive SFS's efforts. To that end, please pray the teens engage as we implement new curriculum with teen-relevant content on-site this Spring. **Please pray as we pursue our ultimate Why - to aid these teens in finding God's purpose for their lives and to help them grow into leaders and productive citizens of Jacksonville.**

We remain Faithful to our mission; **Love Jesus. Love Children. Share the Gospel.** Sidewalk Funday School continues to serve weekly each of our six locations during the school year. We have two vehicles outfitted for ministry and if we had more willing missionaries—we could double our number of sites to 12 locations! My personal invitation is to please come one time and check us out for yourself. Come with a heart to seek Him and I promise you'll find God is already at work! **Will you help us achieve our Why?**