

New Song News



BROWN COUNTY, INDIANA • FALL/WINTER 2021

A FREE PUBLICATION OF NEW SONG MISSION

Mom Sees New Song in Action!

Moms who choose to enroll their sons and daughters at New Song are courageous. They overcome several barriers that stand in the way of enrollment to seize a unique, life-changing opportunity for their kids!

"After the summer camp at New Song, my kids came home and told me they wanted to go to school there," said Candice, who has had three kids with the ministry for 15 months now. "I was a little skeptical at first. But I've been learning to trust people. When I talked with you guys, I thought 'this might be a really good experience for them.'"

New Song Board Member Kay Reddick has a close, mentoring relationship with Candice and other moms through Sweet Water Ministries, which is a division of Family Hope of Indianapolis and a close ministry partner of New Song's. "The moms I work with deeply love their kids and want the best for them," said Kay. "But some of them just haven't had good role



Candice helps her son Tavion in class at New Song

models, while others are trying to dig themselves out of some difficult decisions they made as young women in their teens and early twenties."

Recently Candice visited the New Song campus to spend "a day in the life of" her kids on campus. She was able to attend school with her sons and daughter, help them during classes, eat dinner in the girls' home, participate in Together Tuesday activities in the evening with everyone on campus, spend the night, and have breakfast in the boys' home. "That was really great," she said. "I was impressed by all of the attention they got. You guys' patience is very, very great."

"I didn't know it was going to be as deep as it is," shared Candice. "I think the personal time they are getting in school and in the homes has made a real difference in them. When I got their first report cards back, I was like 'Whose kids are these?'"

In most cases, parents enroll their children because they want them to be more successful in school and have a better learning environment. Parents also realize that their kids



Nasia cooks dinner for her mom on campus

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From *the Heart*

A message from the Director

“PLEASE, Mr. Bob! PLEASE!” Few words warm my heart more than the passionate pleas of our two youngest New Song boys when I tell them I’m too tired to read them a chapter of their bedtime story book. The series we are currently reading is called Clubhouse Mysteries, and Tavion (10) and Jaylen (7) always seem to win me over no matter how weary I may be.



Many of you know that Lisa and I have been houseparents for the last 20 months, first with girls and now with the boys. Two of the boys in our home are with us for a second school year, for which we praise the Lord. One thing Lisa and I have come to better realize over this time is that houseparenting can be completely

exhausting! Houseparents are mentors, tutors, disciplers, activity directors, meal planners, cooks, and much, much more as we serve in a parental role with the children in our care.

We are so thankful for Jesus, as it’s only through fresh encounters with Him that we have enough strength for each day.

Jesus said *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”* We’ve found those words of our Lord to ring so true on a very personal level, especially these last couple of years.

I want to share a word of humble gratitude from deep within my heart to you as a New Song supporter. With all of the daily responsibilities involved in houseparenting and the administrative duties Lisa and I carry, it is such a blessing that New Song’s finances continue to be strong. It’s a great relief that we’ve not had to be overly concerned about meeting the ministry’s monthly budget, and we have you to thank for this. Your compassion for the vulnerable kids we care for and the sacrificial gifts you give have a far greater impact than you’d imagine.



Bob Schloss
Founder/Executive Director

Your continued support would be highly valued. Perhaps after reading this newsletter update, some of you might feel led to become monthly Children’s Scholarship Fund supporters. That would be such an amazing blessing as it would strengthen our financial capacity to care for more kids on campus.

Please continue praying for the ministry, and for Lisa and me as well as our fellow houseparents, Dave and Laurie Hix. Pray that we will have fresh encounters with the Lord Jesus Christ that give us strength, inspiration, and wisdom. Through your prayers, I trust that God will continue giving the energy needed to read “just one more” bedtime story!

Robert P. Schloss, JD
Founder/Executive Director

continued from front

would benefit from having additional parental figures in their lives and experiencing a more stable and peaceful environment. The moms also appreciate the Christian values of New Song staff members, as well as the social and emotional growth opportunities that exist for their kids.

By God’s grace, New Song’s Summer Adventure Camps have become another major factor that encourages parents to enroll their children. As Candice mentioned, after attending the camps her kids *wanted* to come to New Song!

Enrollment can be a very difficult decision for moms. But they love their kids so much that they break through the wall of emotions and overcome other obstacles to enroll their kids so that they can succeed in school and in life. We’re so glad Candice was able to see first-hand what a great decision she made by enrolling her children!

CHILDREN’S
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Please visit
www.NewSongMission.org/Scholarship

The Growth Is Evident

Keshawn has a magnetic smile, and an enthusiastic personality to go along with it.

“His eyes light up when he’s catching frogs, and that big grin comes out every time he hits a 3-pointer over me on the basketball court,” shared Bob Schloss, New Song’s Executive Director and Keshawn’s house dad.

Keshawn first visited campus as a New Song camper in the summer of 2020. After the camp, he went home and told his mom, Candice, that he wanted to enroll at New Song full-time.



Before coming to New Song, school was rough for Keshawn in the Indianapolis Public School system, where he had attended K-3rd grade. The classrooms were often chaotic, with the teachers struggling just to maintain control.

“I was part of the problem,” Keshawn

said, regrettably. “I felt like New Song school could be different for me, like I’d have a new start.”

“We’re so thankful to be to be caring for Keshawn and his younger brother Tavion,” shared Lisa Schloss, New Song’s Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Keshawn’s house mom. “I’m so proud of them. They both have grown so much emotionally and in their social skills, and they are very successful at school here. Bob and I love them to death! I also feel very blessed to be friends with their mom, Candice. She loves her kids so much and she’d do anything to help them succeed.”

“I’m glad I’m at New Song,” said Keshawn. “I get a lot more help in school here, and my grades are way better.”

Keshawn has made steady progress in all areas of his life over the last 15 months at New Song. His growth is evident, and we are blessed to have him on campus with us.



Q & A with Keshawn

What’s your favorite thing to do outdoors?

Play 1 on 1 in basketball and look for frogs

What do you like to do in your home at New Song?

Build forts in the living room

What’s your favorite meal here?

Chicken fettuccine alfredo

What have you learned from the Bible?

That wisdom is a treasure

Who is your favorite person in history?

William Tyndale

What have you learned at New Song?

To be kind to people

What do you want to be when you grow up?

A pianist

Financial Update

By Board Chair, Ross Templeton

As we enter into fall, I am grateful to share that New Song completed a very strong fiscal year, which ended on June 30. This past year saw New Song grow significantly as we added a number of new children on campus, expanded our wonderful staff, and continued to invest in ministry operations. By God's grace, the excitement of these changes also inspired an increase in giving, helping us further solidify our financial position. This past year, New Song experienced:

- **A 31% increase in the amount of gifts**
- **A 67% increase in the number of gifts**
- **A 38% increase in our cash reserve**
- **Zero debt (the ministry has operated debt-free since its inception, praise God!)**

This increased giving has been very good for the health of New Song, especially in light of higher expenses related to the 35% growth in our student body over the prior year and an expanded summer camp program where we hosted 50 vulnerable boys and girls on campus! We praise God that the growth in giving outpaced the rise in expenses related to increased staffing, supplies, and materials.

Fiscal Year Average Monthly Income



New Song has not seen this level of financial strength since 2014, when we were in the height of our capital campaign to raise funds to build phase one of the campus! It's such an encouragement to see more individuals, families, and organizations supporting New Song. In fact, **over the past 3 years, we've added 25% more active supporters**, which has helped us to smooth out, stabilize, and strengthen our financial foundation. This growing support is a wonderful sign that New Song's ministry resonates with more and more people.

When you give to New Song, as my family does, please know that our Board of Directors takes very seriously its responsibility to manage ministry funds. We track our income and expenses monthly and conduct a careful financial analysis each quarter in effort to steward the ministry in a God-honoring way. This oversight helps board members to prudently focus New Song's resources on areas of the ministry that will have the greatest impact while keeping our expenses consistently under budget.

Thank you for your continued support of vulnerable children and the ministry of New Song Mission!

AN INVITATION!

As we celebrate God's provision and our supporters' generosity, we'd like to invite you to join us in this next chapter of New Song's growth and development. There are many ways to help! Please consider:

- **Praying regularly** that the Lord will continue to provide wisdom to our board and meet the needs of the children in our care!
- **Supporting our Scholarship Fund** through monthly gifts so that more children can be enrolled on campus!
- **Giving to meet Specific Needs**, such as helping to support our: 1.Educational Program 2.Houseparent Salaries 3.Campus Improvements 4.Summer Adventure Camps

New Song exists because of God's grace and the generosity of our many supporters. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in bringing hope to some of Indiana's most vulnerable children!



A Mountain Top Experience

By David Benshoof, New Song Board Member



As a young boy growing up, I attended a Christian summer camp, and on many occasions, I had a “Mountain Top Experience” sitting around the campfire and singing praise songs and worshipping the God of Creation.

Do you know that New Song Mission had a “Mountain Top Experience” through summer camps?

In the summer of 2020 when all the summer camps were closing due to COVID, God spoke in a mighty way to the leadership team of New Song. What God said did not make logical sense but...

--just like Moses got instruction from a burning bush, and

--just like Peter walked on water

...God was asking us to have faith in Him and to do something entirely new and “risky” during that trying time.

“So Moses thought, ‘I will go over and see this strange sight--why the bush does not burn up.’” Exodus 3:3

By faith and through prayer, the New Song leadership team yielded to God’s prompting, and we opened the Brown County campus in the midst of a pandemic and welcomed nearly 20 vulnerable children onto campus for week-long camping experiences.

God used the “New Song Adventure Camps” to glorify Himself as these children heard the life-changing message of the Gospel! He also showed us that He wants to use the summer camps as stepping-stones to full-time enrollment on campus!

Over the last two years 70 kids have attended the camps, with 10 of them becoming full-time students, experiencing the unconditional love and one-on-one education we provide at New Song. Clearly God had an extraordinary plan for the camps, far above and beyond our understanding.

Sometimes we must abandon our logic and pursue the logic of God in order to experience the wonderful, rich blessings He has in store for us! When God provides an opportunity to advance His kingdom, we must walk by faith into it!

Praise God for the “Mountain Top Experience” He is giving to our campers, and also to our ministry!





Equipping Children for Life

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New Song Mission is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry which is solely supported through the generosity of ministry friends—thanks for helping us equip children for life!

A “Rock Solid” Unit Study!

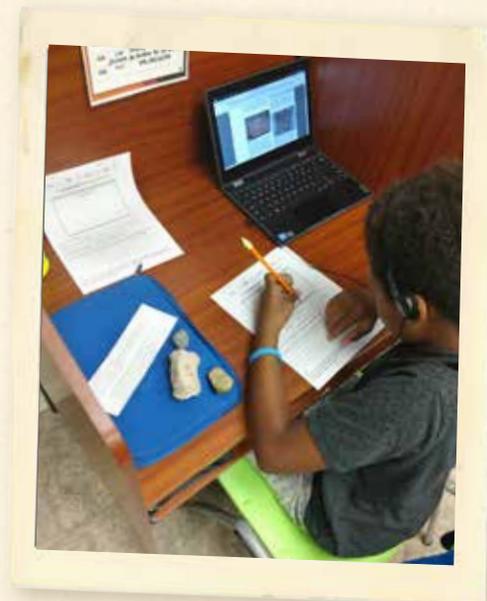
Why did New Song students spend a month studying rocks in Science class? Because God created the most amazing thing we call the Rock Cycle, and our lives would not be the same without it!

Through the study, students learned that our earth is made up of layers of rock which continuously supply our world with rocks and minerals needed for things like paving roads, building structures, jewelry, and even the graphite in our pencils! Students also learned how to identify the three main rock types: sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic. Our teaching staff was pleasantly surprised by the students’ strong interest in the topic.

Normally not too excited about homework, Keshawn (11) eagerly completed his weekend assignment by collecting five different looking rocks from various places in his neighborhood while on a home visit. When he brought them back to campus, he was very eager to identify them to his instructor. Each student categorized, labeled, and presented their collection, along with a rock cycle poster, for the review of their teacher, who was quite impressed.

To celebrate their accomplishments, students were delighted to make “rock candy” in their campus homes one evening, after which they enjoyed the sweetness of each crunchy bite! In addition, a unit study like this wouldn’t be complete without an educational field trip, so we loaded up the van and drove south to Blue Spring Caverns near Bedford, Indiana where the students took an interesting and informative guided boat ride in an underground cave on what’s been called “America’s longest navigable underground riverboat ride!”

We are so blessed to have the freedom to engage our students in hands-on educational experiences, while teaching Science and other classes in “rock solid” ways that honor the God of Creation!



Equipping children *for life,*
through the love of **Christ Jesus.**