



## 20 YEARS OF WE WILL GO

by David Lancaster, Founder

The afterschool vans pulled up outside my office and students began to line up on the sidewalk. I watched as one of our afterschool educators organized them into a line and walked them into the building. Once inside, students dove into homework, Bible lessons, and reading sessions. This scene is a far cry from what I had envisioned twenty years ago when I said 'yes' to God's call.

I have often been asked the question, "Why did you take this path?" The truth is, there were probably other people who were more qualified, but we simply said 'yes.' My wife and I had the opportunity to go on an overseas mission trip years ago which exposed us to a world vastly different than our own. Suddenly, the routines of suburban life seemed mundane, and we yearned for life to be more meaningful. The change we experienced on that first trip was a piece of the puzzle that led us to moving to downtown Jackson, Mississippi.

John 10:10 says, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." As we immersed ourselves in serving those in need, the monotony of life began to fade. The mark of a full life to me was the people my life touched. What started as an engineer and a dental hygienist volunteering has grown into an organization that has helped thousands of people have a fuller life.

This past week, a grandmother picked up her grandson from our afterschool literacy program, and commented about how grateful she was for the impact she had witnessed in her grandson. Prior to We Will Go, her grandson did not know how to read and had no knowledge of the Bible. I could not have pictured helping a child learn to read when I moved my family from the suburbs all those years ago. I have been humbled that staff and volunteers have been motivated by my story. This journey has brought fullness to my life but also the lives of others, and that has meant the most to me.

Our journey has brought a series of unexpected lessons and blessings. Yet, amid adversity, we have witnessed the beauty of faith, hope, and love. The journey has also deepened our own faith and pushed us beyond our comfort zones, challenged our preconceptions, and forced us to rely on something greater than ourselves. In answering God's call, we found the fullness of life for which we were searching.



# THE ONE STUDENT

by Jonathan Lancaster, CFO

This summer, We Will Go had ninety-five children participate in our summer camp. Volunteers from all over the country came to Jackson, Mississippi to invest in the lives of children. Children had the opportunity to learn Bible lessons, swimming, reading, and art. We were blessed with an incredible staff of counselors, leaders, and kitchen staff that made the summer truly impactful for children.



Ninety-four of the ninety-five children that our team worked to get registered for summer camp showed up. What bothered our team, though, was the one absent child. Staff called all the phone numbers they had on file with no luck. After long days of camp, they drove to different local apartment complexes in the hope of finding the child. One day they stopped at an apartment complex where some children that attended summer camp lived. While playing with the children, they asked about the child that had not come to camp. The children said the child they were looking for lived in that apartment complex. The children ran up to the apartment and came out with the child and her mother.

Overwhelmed that she had been sought out, the child's mother revealed her phone had been cut off, she had to move to another apartment, and she was having car trouble. With no way to get her child to camp, our team picked up that child every morning for the remainder of the summer. It was at the heart of our staff to find the absent child. Isn't that a picture of the gospel? Our phones may get cut off, we may get kicked out of our apartments, and our cars may be broken down, but Christ sees and finds us. In a world where we feel alone, God sees us and cares about us.

When you volunteer or give of your resources, it is stories like this that you are making possible. Yes, you are giving to the ninety-five children, but you are also giving to the one missing child. We are grateful for each person that has invested time and resources towards the impact of individual families in our community. Continue to join us in being neighbors willing to engage our community with the love of Christ.



**WE ARE NEIGHBORS  
WILLING TO ENGAGE  
OUR COMMUNITY WITH  
THE LOVE OF CHRIST**



(601) 398-2410



[WEWILLGO.ORG](http://WEWILLGO.ORG)

