This past August, Now I Play Along Too was privileged to put on our 3rd annual Summer Music Camp at Source of Light. This year’s team consisted of two singer-songwriters—Brent Shuttleworth out of Nashville, TN and Kristopher James from Bradenton, FL—as well as elementary music teacher, Keli Burke.

Each day started with a “morning rally” which consisted of various praise songs in the worship center. Our theme song this year was “We Are” by Kari Jobe. Listening to the kids belt these words over the course of the week was a highlight for everyone who helped with the camp:

“We are the light of the world
We are the city on the hill
We are the light of the world
and we gotta let our light shine”

From there the kids would get dismissed to their instrument classes where they would learn either strings, brass, guitar, percussion or general music for many of the younger kids.

Though most of their formal music training takes place in the classroom during the morning, we’ve learned to carve out more of a casual jam time in the afternoons. Accompanied with crafts and group games, each Now I Play Along Too artist would also teach...
their original songs, to which the kids would strum along on guitar, hold down the rhythm on a cajon and/or sing along in beautiful harmony.

We capped off the week with our traditional pizza party and sunset jam on the roof before saying our goodbyes. While it’s so amazing to see how much the kids have grown musically since our first trip in June of 2014, the real gift lies in the relationships formed. As Kristopher James said so perfectly to recap the week: “Music may be the method, but love is the means.”

For more information about the Source of Light Center and to learn about the child sponsorship program:
Visit SourceOfLightHaiti.org or contact Staci Calkin at haitichildsponsorship@bgav.org.

For more information about the Source of Light Center, contact:
Craig Waddell
Partnership Coordinator, Mission Development
Baptist General Association of Virginia
800.255.2428, ext. 7263
craig.waddell@bgav.org

Bradley Rhodes leads worship at the SOL Center.
During summer camp, students learned to play instruments such as the trumpet.