

Increase

"So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." 1 Corinthians 3:7



Celebrating 50 Years

1973-2023

By Kyle Robinson, Executive Director

Foundational Values

H*VMI is celebrating our 50th anniversary this year, 1973 to 2023. Some may know, especially if you've celebrated a 50th wedding anniversary yourself, that gold is the typical gift for this particular milestone year. I'm sure we've all heard touching stories of people losing wedding or engagement rings and discovering them decades later through a strange set of circumstances. In one tale I read, the couple pulled up a carrot from the garden, and there was the ring. It had been mistakenly tossed out into the garden with the kitchen scraps for compost more than three decades previously! In the end, these stories often show a picture of the ring, all cleaned up and as brilliant as the day it was made. The outside of the ring might look VERY different when discovered, but the gold was still intact. It hadn't changed a bit, still holding precious value.

Through H*VMI's 50-year journey, things on the outside may have changed, but our core values have remained the same from 1973 to today. God has led us each step of the way. Much has happened over 50 years. For the first 31 we were under another ministry's umbrella. Then we became independent in 2004, establishing our own Board of Directors. Soon after, God placed the need for our own Ministry Center on the hearts of the Board Members. Two original H*VMI Board Members continue to actively serve and many other former Members remain closely connected to the ministry. Tim Sheetz served faithfully as the Executive Director for 45 years. Since 2018 I have had the privilege of serving in that role, striving to continue to follow the Lord as Tim did.

When H*VMI began 50 years ago, **Disability Ministry** was the focus. It seemed that awareness and training for churches was God's entire plan. He soon revealed additional opportunities. Handi*Camp began, touching thousands of lives through H*VMI's own programs and through other camps we trained

in the States and abroad. More change—Bible clubs were started in communities and residential facilities as a follow up for Handi*Campers. Eventually others with disabilities were included. Then, being aware that parents of children with disabilities needed support and encouragement, the PIP Support Group was "born!"

The ministry of **BASIS** began in 1981 with five bereaved mothers. Since then, BASIS has grown to include seven support groups in various states, serving hundreds of families. The BASIS team continues to reach out to new families as we become aware of their needs.

The **Training & Equipping** Ministry of H*VMI has grown through the years as well. Many churches have reached out to us requesting H*VMI's written curriculum as well as schedule in-person training.

The H*VMI Family has also seen changes. Several new missionary and staff families have joined the ranks. Each one brings a new set of gifts and skills to the table, continually growing and improving the outreach of H*VMI.

With all this change over 50 years, it would be easy to wonder what has remained the same. Many of our outreaches have stood the test of time and continue to be offered in similar fashion as from the beginning, but in different locations. Even though some of the "Whats" and "Wheres" of certain ministry programs have changed through the years, the "Why" of H*VMI has stayed constant. Our core values encompass the "Why" of H*VMI. The values with which the ministry was founded are the same values that H*VMI holds today. Although society has ebbed and flowed, some might say with increasing voracity lately, H*VMI has held dearly to the Solid ROCK, Jesus Christ, and His Word. Later in this issue of the Increase

Continued on page 2

"H*VMI has held dearly to the Solid ROCK, Jesus Christ, and His Word."

Newsletter you'll read more about H*VMI's Values from our Founder, Tim Sheetz. You'll also read about a conflict of values where H*VMI set aside the financial implications and held true to our Biblical values. You'll read the exciting news about how God blessed as a result.

I don't want anyone to read these words and think that H*VMI is saying this for our own sake. Without the Lord's guidance and strength, this ministry would never have been founded, let alone continue to grow and serve for 50 years. We credit the Lord 100% for His sustaining us through many years of tough decisions, sometimes needing to navigate extremely difficult situations. It is His guidance that has protected us from failure and disaster. God, alone, gives us the strength to follow Him. Without Him, we have no Truth or Hope to share.

Update on Property Construction Progress

For 50 years H*VMI has held to our Foundational Values but we've not had our own "foundation." In our 50th anniversary year of ministry, it has been thrilling to see something we have prayed over for many, many years coming to fruition right before our eyes! As we prepare for the concrete foundations to be poured for our office and other buildings, I am increasingly burdened that we hold fast to the Word of God and the mission of spreading the Gospel. H*VMI is eager to complete this physical foundation from where we will be able to share the Truth of the Gospel for years to come.

In late October 2022, H*VMI had a Groundbreaking Celebration. We gave updates, praised the Lord and sang together in the bright sunshine on our property. Due to some time-consuming red tape in November, we didn't get machines on the property until December. However, through the month of December there was a flurry of activity! Entrances were dug in, silt socks laid down and the excavators were out marking the site for excavation. Prayers for weather, available building material and other needs were lifted up to the Lord daily as H*VMI worked with contractors to accomplish project goals. Our Step One, following the initial excavation, is construction of the H*VMI Office Building. It contains space enough for



FILLING THE SILT SOCKS ALL OVER THE PROPERTY

our current office staff plus room for growth; and areas to host small ministry outreaches such as Bible clubs, support groups and training. Vacating our current office will free up tens of thousands of dollars in rental expenses annually. We look forward to moving into our new office ASAP!

When we pray over this building project, God often brings examples from His Word to mind. One of these is 1 Chronicles 29 when the temple was built in the time of David. Going back to the idea of gold again: In that time, the people were contributing to the temple building project by giving gold, silver and precious stones. God used His people's personal and sacrificial giving to provide the necessary materials to build His temple. H*VMI sent out our first fundraising mailer in December 2022. If you've seen it, you know we weren't asking for your gold! Nevertheless, the response has been "golden," and H*VMI has been so blessed by the outpouring of support. We are 100% confident in God's provision, but we do not want to assume that it will be on our timeline. If you haven't already been thinking and praying about this, I would ask you to please consider if God may be leading you to donate on a monthly basis or to give a one-time gift to assist H*VMI with this project. We have waited patiently for Him since He first laid the Ministry Center on the hearts of the H*VMI Board. He has always provided exactly what we need, when we needed it. Please continue to PRAY for H*VMI as we pursue the completion of this project and its funding. PRAISE for the opportunity to trust God anew each day, and PRAISE Him for all He has done.



DELIVERY OF THE FIRST EXCAVATOR TO THE PROPERTY



EASTERN SIDE OF THE SITE

BASIS Moving Forward

Dan Steinman, Director of BASIS



My name is Dan Steinman. I was born and raised in Lancaster County and worked in a local retirement community for seventeen years. I have been with H*VMI for the last two and a half years, ministering in several H*VMI programs, but, more specifically in the BASIS Ministry. Tim Sheetz, Founder of H*VMI and Interim BASIS Director, handed over the leadership of BASIS to me in October 2022. As part of my ministry with BASIS, I facilitate two BASIS Support Groups and encourage the leadership of other groups; connect with bereaved parents by phone and email; and meet with pastors, ministeriums and community groups to learn of different needs in the areas they serve and inform them of the grief programs BASIS offers. The main purpose of BASIS is to come alongside parents who have experienced the loss of a child. We're always looking for opportunities to start new BASIS groups wherever the need is evident.

I've learned so much as I've been part of the BASIS Team. One thing stands out to me. It's that everyone has a story. Shortly, we will be rolling out a podcast that will focus on bereaved parents and their stories. In the podcast episodes, they will share their feelings and emotions about their personal grief journey. We're doing this because, often, bereaved parents may not understand the feelings they're experiencing; or they may be hesitant to attend a support group. The podcast provides the opportunity for them to realize they're not alone in their feelings, and it provides support from their own comfortable, personal setting. The podcasts will also provide opportunity for bereaved parents, who, after some time has passed, want to be able to help others who hurt as they do.

I would also like to continue to promote one of H*VMI's Seminars, *Journey Through Grief*. The information presented in this seminar is very valuable and can help people who are

experiencing grief because of a variety of loss situations. As I meet with pastors, I ask them to pray about hosting this seminar not only for their own church, but for their surrounding community. Recently, we met a couple, both pastors, who are interested in the grief seminar for themselves and also so they can share the information with other pastors from their home in a country in West Africa. They are bereaved parents themselves. When asked how they grieved their son's death, who died back home, they shared that their grief has been complicated because they really do not know the truth about his death. In their home country there is much civil unrest, and lives are lost, surrounded by

confusion and mystery. They also stated that their people really do not know how to grieve. This couple indicated they would also like to learn more about our Bible clubs and camps for people with disabilities. I'm grateful H*VMI has training to offer in these areas, as well as in the area of grief.

Grief is one of the most difficult and least talked about subjects in our society today. People often don't know how

to communicate with those who have experienced loss, so they don't say anything. H*VMI is presently making great progress with construction of our permanent Ministry Center. I am looking forward to the day we can offer opportunities there that will help others in their grief journey, such as a couples' weekend retreat, a men's day or a women's day. I am also looking forward to providing seminars for those who wish to walk with others in their grief journey.

None of these things will happen by themselves. God will guide us and direct our paths. We look forward to all that's ahead of us because we know it's all in His Hands—and for His honor and glory.

“Grief is one of the most difficult and least talked about subjects in our society today.”



Visit **HVMI.ORG** for:

Blogs • Resources • Ministry Events & Dates • Missionary Information • Property Updates

Visit our **DONATE** page online to support H*VMI, the ministry of a designated missionary, or shop our Amazon Wishlist.



 **Like us on Facebook!** facebook.com/handivangelism

Evangelizing • Caring • Discipling • Training • Equipping



HANDi* CAMP

Just Keep



Handi*Camp has been **GROWING** by leaps and bounds since our “off” Covid year of 2020. The new Day Camp format seems to suit many families, and we remain hopeful that overnight camp will soon return with the completion of the new Ministry Center. Having added 50+ new campers in the last two years, we are yet again **GROWING** the number and types of programs being offered for 2023! Don’t miss out on all of the fun! Please be part of helping Handi*Camp continue to **GROW** and serve our incredible campers!

Give your time to **PRAY**. Sign up to pray for a specific camper during his or her time at camp. You will receive prayer requests for “your camper” prior to camp; and then a follow up note and picture after camp. OR, choose to **GIVE FINANCIALLY** to help underwrite the costs of camp. Handi*Camp does not charge for our Day Camp program since some families travel from out of town and need to pay for the expense of a hotel while their child is at camp. However, there are still significant costs involved in providing this program, including tent rental, materials, and summer staff salaries. Your gift helps make camp happen!

Reach out to our summer staff by being either a **HOST FAMILY** or by **PROVIDING A STAFF MEAL**. We are actively building on the property, but we do not yet have a building in which to house our out-of-town-staff. (Lord willing this is the last year for this challenge!) If you are in the Lancaster County area and are willing to provide a “home away from home” for a staff member for one or more weeks of camp, please let us know! We also need people who are willing to bring a dinner meal to camp for the staff one or more nights during camp.

Organize a camp **SUPPLY DRIVE**. Contact us for a list of items needed; send a Walmart gift card so we can do the shopping; or visit our Amazon wish list page at <https://rb.gy/ikok9r>.

Work with us! **Serve as a DAY CAMP BUDDY**: Young adults (18+) through “older” adults in their 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s ... serve as buddies/counselors for our campers, to provide care and help them participate in all activities of the Day Camp program. **Be part of our “EXTRA HANDS” STAFF**: Serve behind the scenes as part of our Housekeeping Staff; come alongside counselors as extra hands as they serve our campers; be a camp nurse; or help bring the fun to camp as an activities assistant! *All positions paid or volunteer. Orientation training is provided/required.*

Please use the “Response Form” in this edition of Increase to let us know how you would like to be part of helping Handi*Camp GROW in 2023!

Steps Growing!

By Tara Kelley, Director of Disability Ministries



H*VMI Values . . . Consistently Seeking to Serve Our Faithful God

by Tim Sheetz, Founder and Ministry Ambassador

It seems impossible that October 2023 will mark fifty years of seeing God begin, grow and use this ministry to have an impact in the lives of thousands of individuals and families, both for now and for eternity. Through these years, by His grace and in His strength, we have tried to be faithful in striving to “do” ministry, holding onto the VALUES we believe would bring honor and glory to Him. Those VALUES are listed in the sidebar of this article. We continue to adhere to all of them. All are based on Truth found in the Word of God, giving us confidence that this is the reason, above all others, He has been pleased to bless and develop H*VMI. This ministry is not of us—but all of Him. In **Mark 12:30** Jesus said, **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.”** This verse is the foundation for the VALUES of H*VMI. Let’s look at some of those VALUES and examples of the ways H*VMI has—and will continue to—pursue them.

H*VMI Is God-Centered, Bible-Based, Prayer-Based.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the most important part of who we are, as individuals on the Board and Staff of H*VMI and as a ministry. We are convinced that a vital relationship with Him can breathe Hope into every one of life’s challenges.

1. H*VMI is committed to making God, the Bible and prayer foundational as we reach out to individuals, teach lessons and offer ministry events.
2. With every ministry decision, event, project or program, we first seek His direction.
3. The Board looks into God’s Word and prays together before every Board meeting to seek God’s mind and unity with one another.
4. The staff prays together every weekday at noon, bringing daily ministry programs and events before the Father.
5. Curriculum needs to be written and activities need to be organized for camp, Bible clubs and training seminars. Plans need to be made for ministry luncheons, barbecues and other activities. Before we begin making any plans, we pray together for direction, for creativity, for accuracy, for no compromise or watering-down of God’s Word—and, most of all, for God to be honored in each event.
6. We keep our prayer requests fresh and timely, sending out a weekly prayer sheet in-house that includes ministry and personal requests from Board and Staff members.
7. When an urgent prayer request arises during H*VMI office hours, or reaches us through a phone call, text or email, the staff immediately stops whatever they are doing at their desks and gather to pray together about that matter.
8. *RENEW*, our quarterly newsletter for bereaved parents is set up to provide an actual prayer guide for those receiving it. It provides an organized opportunity to prayerfully cover difficult days for bereaved parents—their child’s birthday and the anniversary of the child’s death.
9. In every support group, we share Scripture that addresses specific needs that might be on the hearts of each person in attendance, whether the group is for parents of children with a disability or bereaved parents. We pray for each other and for needs of those who were not able to make that meeting. We have been so keenly aware through all the 50 years of H*VMI, that, without God’s Hand on this ministry, we could never have the helpful and hopeful impact we desire to have. So we stay fully committed, as individuals and as a ministry, to be **God-Centered**, making certain that **His Word** and **Prayer** are foundational to all we do.

H*VMI Is Committed To Servant-Leadership, Excellence, Financial Responsibility.

Servant-Leadership

One of the bulwarks of **Servant-Leadership** is humility. By God’s grace, humility has been a very prevalent characteristic within the H*VMI Family through the years. We have an “Organizational Chart,” indicating the overall plan for leadership and team membership. That’s needed to run any organization smoothly and efficiently. But, nowhere, in all these years, among Board or staff, has there been evidence of someone exploiting a leadership role. To the contrary, unity, respect and looking for ways to serve one another and *with* one another is the norm—for Board, Executive Director, Ministry Department Directors and every missionary and staff. Compassionate servants’ hearts are the motivation!

Excellence

Excellence is reflected in H*VMI programs, lessons, printed materials, training... that’s not OUR assessment. It’s comments from parents, support group members, seminar evaluations...

- Our camper and Bible club parents tell us, *“You present lessons in a way my child truly understands. You aren’t just entertaining—you are teaching the Bible and my child is ‘getting it!’”*
- Churches have sent staff to observe our Lesson on the Lawn (drive-in Bible club) to see how it can be implemented in their programs.
- Many download H*VMI Bible lessons from our website.
- A seminar attendee wrote on his evaluation, *“You helped us to know how to do what we thought was impossible to do.”*
- A BASIS Support Group Member said, *“This group saved my life.”*

H*VMI'S VALUES

God-Centered
Holy Spirit-Controlled
Bible-Based
Prayer-Based
Servant-Leadership
Integrity
Excellence
Teachability
Culturally-Appropriate
Ministry Multiplication
Financially Responsible
Cooperation

Financial Responsibility

In every aspect of H*VMI finances, we have many systems in place to ensure **Financial Responsibility** and accountability. Most significantly, H*VMI is a member of the Evangelical Center for Financial Accountability (ECFA). ECFA notes on their website that the basis for establishing ECFA and their Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship™ to which members must adhere is stated clearly by the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 8:21 (NIV): "For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men."

Throughout H*VMI's history, we have been very attentive to honor the ministry designation our financial donors express when sending in their donation. If a gift is given to Handi*Camp, that's where it's used. Likewise, donations to BASIS go to BASIS, donations to Disability Ministry go there, donations to the H*VMI Property Fund go there... You get the idea! We respect our financial donors as ministry co-laborers. We are pleased to observe what God has placed in their hearts and what they have conveyed to us about where their gifts are to be used in the ministry of H*VMI.

The VALUES of this ministry should also be personal VALUES, not only for those associated with H*VMI, but for all Believers in Jesus Christ. In our world, VALUES are changing and sadly, becoming as anti-God and anti-Biblical as we could never have imagined. Those who have put their faith and trust in Jesus as Savior need also to be certain that they are bowing before Him as Lord, with VALUES that honor Him to show for it. *Colossians 3:17 "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."*



In Lieu of EXTRAGIVE

By Brian Robinson, Office Manager

Many friends of H*VMI donated to our ministry through Extraordinary GIVE each November from 2013-2021. It was a very successful fundraising event for over 500 local organizations. As plans for ExtraGIVE 2022 started, H*VMI along with other faith-based non-profits (Christian schools, missions, etc.) pushed the pause button due to changes the sponsoring organization, Lancaster County Community Foundation (LCCF), made in the application process for continued involvement. Organizations began dropping out and communicating their decisions by emails and letters to their supporters. The H*VMI Board of Directors voted in mid-September that our ministry would not participate in ExtraGIVE 2022 and we communicated that by email to donors and others who receive emailed updates from us. We're sorry if this is the first time some of you are hearing about it.

Kyle Robinson, H*VMI Executive Director, included this in the email notification: *"We believe that the values of the ExtraGive sponsoring organization, LCCF, have shifted toward values that conflict with the Bible. Therefore, H*VMI, among many other local faith-based non-profits, have chosen not to participate in this event."* We included two PDF letters in that email: (1) a letter from LCCF to past GIVE donors and (2) a letter from Kyle explaining our decision not to participate. These were posted on our website's events page all Fall and are now included as part of our ONLINE GIVING page (<https://www.hvmi.org/onlinegiving>) if you would like to see them. Over 60 other organizations chose not to participate this year.

H*VMI encouraged interested supporters to make a donation "in lieu of ExtraGIVE," and we were so blessed to see that many did! Many gave through our website, and others sent gifts in the mail. We also received encouraging replies to H*VMI's email affirming our decision. To date, we've received \$53,713 designated "in lieu of"—just surpassing 2021's total of \$52,456 in ExtraGIVE donations (without prizes or stretch pool dollars). The "in lieu of" donation designation continues as an option on our online giving page or through mail-in gifts. Thanks SO MUCH to all who gave throughout the Fall through year end. As we've said in past years, we have EXTRAORDINARY GIVERS!



Handi*Vangelism Ministries International™

A Ministry of Compassion since 1973

Mission Statement

H*VMI exists to share the compassion of Christ by walking alongside individuals facing life's challenges and equipping others to do the same.

Vision Statement

H*VMI provides support, programs, resources and training so the people we serve may be included as growing and serving members of the Body of Christ.

Please continue to PRAY for H*VMI as we pursue the completion of our Ministry Center and its funding.



EXCAVATOR ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE SITE



WESTERN ENTRANCE DRIVE WAY



I/We would like to be a part of helping H*VMI's Ministry **GROW** in 2023!

I/We would like to help HandiCamp by:

- being a **PRAYER PARTNER** for a camper.
- being a **HOST FAMILY**.
- bringing a **STAFF MEAL**.
- organizing a **SUPPLY DRIVE**.
- being part of your **SUMMER STAFF**.
- making a **DONATION** to support the **Handi*Camp** ministry through a gift of: \$ _____.

▲ Name _____

▲ Street or PO Box _____

▲ City _____ ▲ State _____ ▲ Zip _____

▲ Phone # _____ ▲ Email address _____

- This is updated contact information.
- I prefer to receive H*VMI mailings by email.

I/we would like to help the ministry of H*VMI through a:

- One-time financial gift of: \$ _____.
- Recurring monthly gift of: \$ _____.

For: General Fund Property

Method of Payment

- Make your gift securely online at: hvmi.org/donate
- Text **GIVE** to: **717.210.4759**
- Scan this QR code with your phone.
- My check payable to H*VMI is enclosed.
- Please bill my credit card: *(We except these cards: Visa, MasterCard, Discover, AmEx.)*



Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: ____ / ____ Security code: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____

Thank you!

