

Increase

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



A Front Row Seat at the H*VMI Office!

By Kyle Robinson, Executive Director

Teddy has never been one to sit in the front row at Bible club. He is so kind and gentle and responds well to high fives, smiles and a pat on the back. He struggles with loud noises, commotion and crowds. At H*VMI Bible clubs, for the past three years he's attended, he has done so, from the back row...the far back row. H*VMI staff and volunteers have tried navigating him to a seat more central or forward. We've rearranged chairs at the church where Bible club was being held, walked in with him and tried to pick seats together. Not much worked. That being said, the Holy Spirit does not require front row seating in order to work in our hearts and minds. We could easily see that in Teddy.

In Teddy's first year of clubs with us, one might think he wasn't catching any of the lessons. He would frequently hold his ears when questions were asked of him, and he spent parts of the club laying on his chair rather than sitting in it. It was my privilege on most Bible club nights to sit with him and engage with the lesson components in the moments he would accept my efforts.

On the last night of Bible club that year, we did an activity that reviewed all the lessons from the previous seven clubs. They were represented by strips of colored paper with the lesson phrases and verses printed on them. Teddy repeated each one and glued them to the paper with delight. It was clear to all that God had been working in Teddy's heart.

We continued to see Teddy and his family. His parents engaged with our PIP Support Group for parents of children with disabilities. Teddy came to Day Camp and continued attending Bible club. He still found ways to move to the back of the crowd, often finding a quiet game to play on the sidelines, rather than being in the mix. We are always willing to adapt to help him

succeed, but we hoped in our hearts that he would participate fully along with the other clubbers. Stay tuned!

As you may know, the first building at the H*VMI Headquarters has been completed! We have our new office, and we're all moved in as of the middle of September. We held an open house in October and we've held Bible clubs, Bible studies and support groups at the new Headquarters since being here.

The goal of the leadership of H*VMI can be summed up in a word, STEWARDSHIP. We wish to be good stewards of our finances by prioritizing paying for the office building and total property excavation. We also desire to be good stewards of what we have already been given which is our office building on the H*VMI property. We want to use this building to maximize our ministry effectiveness as we look forward to completing the other buildings on the site. One way we are meeting that goal is by holding Bible clubs at the new office, including a Bible club for Teddy's group.



This picture is Teddy and me sitting in the FRONT ROW of the first Explorer Guys' Bible Club at the H*VMI Office. The room was set up with participants like Teddy in mind.

Carpet circles were on the floor for those who don't like chairs. Rocking chairs were there for those who needed that movement to be attentive. Teddy came in with his mom to the club. She passed us his bag and asked that we try to have him wear his glasses, which he doesn't prefer to do. (Neither do I.) And this is Teddy and me, halfway through club, smiling and loving the time worshipping Jesus and learning more about Him. Praise the Lord!

God is here with us, Friends. He is blessing our steps and allowing us to see what He is doing in our midst. Teddy is just one example of His amazing provision. PRAISE the Lord with us for all He is doing and is going to do. H*VMI will continue to strive to be excellent stewards of what God provides as we serve families affected by disability and grief, and train others to do the same.

Thank You!

By Kyle Robinson, Executive Director

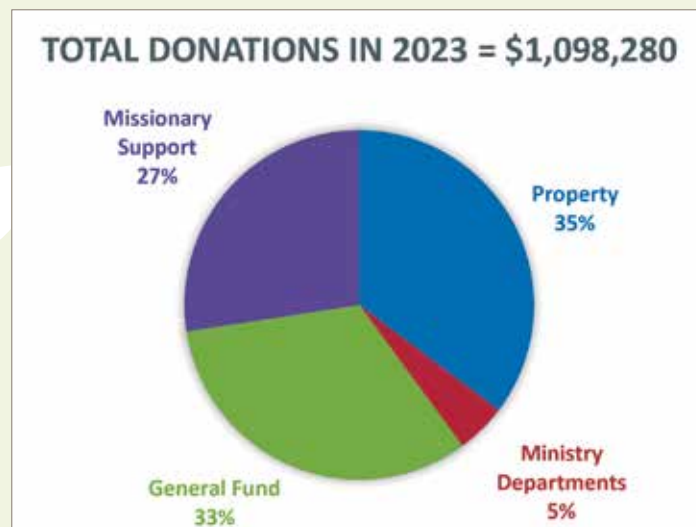
H*VMI's 50th year of serving people facing life's challenges has come to a close. I am writing to express my gratitude. As this ministry's second Executive Director, it has been my privilege to continue the tradition of **relying on the Lord** in all things and to see Him provide.

As we serve people and teach God's Word, we know that **relying on Him** means recognizing that He alone has the power to save. He alone is our hope and salvation. Although we have the responsibility to go and tell (Mark 16:15), we have no power to affect the souls of those we serve. In that, we must fully **rely on God**.

As we look at this ministry's finances and make financial decisions, our recognition of God's sovereignty and power remains the same. Although it is our responsibility to handle money wisely and honorably (2 Corinthians 8:21), we have no power to control who gives to this ministry and how much is received. Unlike a for-profit or a fee driven ministry, more than 95% of H*VMI's funds come from donations. We are **completely reliant** on God for His provision.

In this day and age, God doesn't often act in openly miraculous ways. He hasn't opened up the sky above the new Ministry Center Property and poured buckets of cash on our front lawn. He has, however, done something even more spectacular. He has allowed many hundreds of you to be blessed through your generosity toward His work at H*VMI. It has been your stewardship and giving to H*VMI that allows us to serve. It is your support that led a parent, who lost a child, to feel accepted and loved in a support group. It is your generosity that allows parents to listen to their child with a disability recite the Bible verse memorized at Handi*Camp. Your contributions to H*VMI translate to more people knowing the Truth from God's Word.

I trust that, as you read the articles in this issue of *Increase*, you will be blessed and amazed at where God has brought us and what He is doing in this ministry, as we **rely on Him** and as He provides through you!



Praise for the New H*VMI Headquarters

The First Building Completed—Our Office.



DRIVEWAY VIEW OF BUILDING



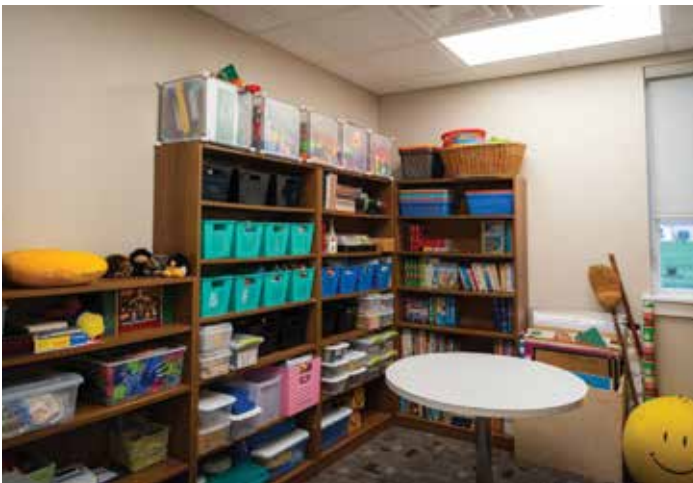
SIDE VIEW OF BUILDING



RECEPTION AREA



CUBICLES



TEACHER PREP ROOM



BIBLE CLUB HELD IN THE OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM

Visit our website at humi.org to stay up to date on the ministries of H*VMI.

Please continue to PRAY for H*VMI as we pursue funding to complete our Ministry Center.

God Growing BASIS

By Dan Steinman, BASIS Director

As I sit thinking about what I should share with you about the ways God is growing the BASIS ministry, I have opposite emotions going on in my mind. One is sadness. The other is gratitude. I will explain as I tell you what has been happening over the last year in BASIS.

- ❖ I have attended many Ministerium meetings regularly in our area. At these meetings, I am able to share about H*VMI and BASIS and how we can come alongside people who have disabilities and special needs. I especially get to share about our BASIS parents who are walking through the valley of having experienced the death of a child. There are times at these meetings when someone will tell me they have never heard of this ministry. I believe it is valuable to be present as much as possible at these meetings so pastors and other church leaders know the importance of caring about hurting parents, listening to them and walking with them in their grief journey. We are privileged to reflect God and how HE cares for others, especially those who hurt.
- ❖ We have started some new BASIS Support Groups; and others will follow. A new group has begun in Mount Joy PA. A daytime BASIS Group has started at our new office. (I wanted to add a day group for those who do not like to drive at night.) A couple in South Carolina are eager to begin a group there sometime in this new year. The leaders of these groups have attended other BASIS Groups. And, because they know what it is like to have lost, to hurt, to cry, to have people pray with them and show them compassion and God's love, they desire to reach out to others.
- ❖ Podcasts are another way we are reaching out. Everyone has a story to tell. I always pray that God will help me, when I talk with bereaved parents, to know how to encourage them to share from their hearts and to tell listeners what has helped them, including the steps they took in their grief journey.



- ❖ Technology is wonderful and is changing all the time. We can now invite those who wish to be included in a BASIS meeting an opportunity to listen in on a support group by phone or computer. Our BASIS Staff is always ready to minister to bereaved parents. We are open to listening, talking and praying with those walking in grief, using every resource we can.

We can do nothing by ourselves. It's all of God. We ask Him for wisdom, grace and an open heart for all who have experienced the death of a child.



Contact BASIS at: PO Box 122, Akron PA 17501

Phone: 717.859.4777

Email: BASIS@hvmi.org

Website: hvmi.org

Blog: hvmi.org/grief-blog



Listen to our BASIS Podcasts!

Go to hvmi.org/hopeingrief or

Scan the QR code

on your phone.



Reaching the REACHABLE... A Preview of Handi*Camp 2024

By Tara Kelley, Director of Disability Ministries

A summer volunteer shared the following:

“As I sat there observing campers Monday morning, I found myself thinking, ‘What is happening here?’ ‘How are these campers going to get anything out of this week?’ God softened my heart. **I was reminded that it is only through the work of the Holy Spirit that any of us come to understand our need for Christ.** Through the week, I saw campers worship from the heart. I watched them learn and actually show responses of understanding that Jesus is King, Savior, and the One Who loves them. ... God alone can reach those who seem to be ‘unreachable.’ Glory to His Name!”

At H*VMI, we believe the “unreachable”—people with intellectual, physical or multiple disabilities—are, in actuality, **VERY REACHABLE!** As summer approaches, we are once again anticipating the ways God will work in the minds and hearts of the campers we serve. To do that, though, we need others who will come alongside and help make this program a reality. Please consider how you might be part of “reaching the reachable” at Handi*Camp 2024 by giving back from what God has given you:

- **BAKE:** Bake cookies for camper meals.
- **COOK:** Provide an evening meal for our summer staff after campers leave and before staff returns to host families.
- **GIVE:** Help underwrite the cost of camp. We do not charge for Day Camp 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 including tent rental, materials, and summer staff salaries—averaging approximately \$300 per camper.
- **HOST:** Provide a “home away from home” for a summer staff member for one or more weeks of camp.
- **PRAY:** Sign up to pray for a specific camper during his or her time at camp. You will receive prayer requests prior to camp; and a follow up note and picture after camp.
- **SERVE:** Young adults (16+) through adults in their 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s and older minister to campers as a volunteer or paid activity assistant, buddy/counselor, housekeeper, nurse or support staffer. Orientation training is provided/required. Contact us or visit: hvmi.org/gohc
- **SHOP:** Purchase supplies or organize a supply drive. Contact us or visit our website for a list: hvmi.org/wish-list

Want to help? See response form on last page .



Handi*Camp 2024 Schedule

Location:

H*VMI Ministry Center Property,
3261 Rothsville Road, Akron PA 17501

Staff Orientation

March 1–3 or May 31–June 2

(attendance at ONE of these weekends is required for ALL staff)

June 3–5: Challenger Session 1

June 6–8: Challenger Session 2

June 10–12: Challenger Session 3

June 17–19: Explorer Gals

June 20–22: Explorer Guys

June 24–26: Voyagers

July 1–3: Adventurers

July 4–6: Seekers & Discoverers

July 8–10: Conquerors & YABC

Our Programs

For campers whose diagnosis is a PHYSICAL disability and who are at or near age level academically:

Seekers: Children who have completed Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Discoverers: Youth who are in middle or high school.

Young Adult Bible Conference (YABC): Young adults who have the potential to be in college, careers and/or independent living situations. (ages 20s and 30s)

For campers whose diagnosis includes an INTELLECTUAL disability:

Adventurers: Children who have completed Kindergarten through age 12. (mild or moderate level)

Voyagers: Youth and young adults ages 12-21. (mild or moderate level)

Explorers: Youth and young adults ages 12+ who benefit from additional support for learning, communication and/or behavior. (all levels)

Challengers: Adults ages 21+. (mild or moderate level)

Conquerors: Young adults ages 21+ who are at or near their peer level socially and emotionally. (mild level)

H*VMI's South Jersey Luncheon *Is On The Move*

Come and See!



Please join us.

God is doing so many amazing things in and through the H*VMI Ministry. **"COME and you will SEE!"** as Jesus said in **John 1:39**. It was His gracious invitation to His disciples so they would discover many things; but they needed to COME AND SEE!

Since its beginning, H*VMI's mission has been to create awareness and equip the local church to be able to minister to people who have special challenges in their lives. What better place, then, to invite people to COME so they can SEE what God is doing through H*VMI than—to a local church!

So, we asked, and, Easton Bible Church is permitting us to have our Annual South Jersey Luncheon at their facility this year.

This invitation is for YOU—and for ALL our dear ministry partners and friends from the entire South Jersey/Philadelphia area.

April 13, 2024

11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

(Doors open at 10:45 a.m.)



Easton Bible Church, 2407 Fostertown Road, Hainesport NJ

Program – Ministry Updates from our Executive Director and other H*VMI Missionary Staff, including progress on the H*VMI Property; Video Presentation of God at Work through H*VMI.

A delicious lunch will be provided. As always, the lunch is free, with an opportunity provided to make a donation to H*VMI as God leads and provides for you to do so.

Registration required by April 5, 2024 in one of the following ways.

Online at hvmi.org

Mail the response form on the last page, to H*VMI *(be sure to complete your contact information)*

Call 717.859.4777

Serve Christ • Serve Others • Serve With H*VMI!

Visit our website and click on the GET INVOLVED tab.

Visit HVMI.ORG for:

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

A Fragrant Aroma

By Tim Sheetz, H*VMI Ministry Founder and Ambassador

I have been extremely blessed by the ways people have supported this ministry sacrificially over the years, all fifty of them, now behind us! There are so many times tears of joy and gratitude have been shed here at H*VMI, with the ways God has provided for this, His Kingdom work. He has been faithful to us, just as He promises to be in **Philippians 4:19**. He has provided for us through His people who become co-laborers with us by: volunteering at various H*VMI ministries and events; encouraging us with phone calls and notes; providing financial support; and praying! We are keenly aware of the sacrificial quality of gifts we receive. We are always inspired to be the best stewards we can possibly be of all gifts to H*VMI! We are blessed. We are grateful. We believe **GOD IS HONORED AND GLORIFIED**.

The Apostle and Missionary, Paul, in his letter to the Philippian Church called the gifts those dear people gave to Paul's ministry: ***"a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God."*** **Philippians 4:18**

Generally speaking, "a fragrant aroma" provides peace, calm, joy, even encouragement to all who partake of the essence of the aroma. Think about a delightful-smelling candle. Now think about gifts you share with this ministry, as God provides and leads, having the same outcome.

Amazingly, AMAZINGLY, the term, "fragrant aroma" was also used by Paul in **Ephesians 5:2** to describe—think about this (!)—**Jesus offering Himself to His Heavenly Father**. Paul writes, ***"And walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma."***

The sacrificial gift Jesus made of Himself to God in our behalf is a "fragrant aroma." It provides, to all who will believe, the peace, calm, joy and encouragement—and let's add hope—having Him with us here on earth produces. And, that's not all—the greatest is yet to be. We can look forward to living forever with Him.


I'm overwhelmed to think of it! YOUR gifts, even my gifts given to help further His Kingdom, are described in the Bible in the same way that JESUS' gift to humanity is described. Yes! YOUR gift to this ministry, in whatever form or size it is, lends peace, calm, joy and encouragement—and hope—to so many who are in great need of these blessings. As the "aroma" of your gifts is dispersed by H*VMI, it affects so many lives—individuals and families who are challenged by disability and grief. We hear it often, "Camp is the highlight of my child's year." "This support group has saved my life." "I'm thrilled to



see my child responding to what is shared at Bible club when all I hear from his school teachers is 'He just can't grasp what we're teaching.'" At H*VMI, WE are blessed to hear incredible results of the fragrant aroma YOUR gift emits.

Paul goes on to say in **Philippians 4:19**, ***"And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."*** How like God that the aroma you are dispersing to the individuals to whom H*VMI ministers drifts back to you and God supplies the needs of the GIVER, as well as the RECIPIENT.

Thank you for allowing God to use you in the past to provide for this ministry. Thank you for being open to how He will use you in the days ahead to grow H*VMI into an even more effective outreach to people who need that "fragrant aroma."



Support H*VMI by...EATING!

For our friends in the Lancaster County Area who enjoy eating, the **PARK CITY DINER** (884 Plaza Boulevard, Lancaster) and **KNIGHT AND DAY DINER** (3140 Lititz Pike, Lititz) have a program that donates 10% of your bill (dine in or takeout) to a local non-profit. **H*VMI is on the list to receive such donations.** How? ***During checkout, simply let the cashier know you would like to donate 10% of your sale through their "SOS Program" to Handi*Vangelism Ministries International.*** There is no additional cost to you. Please share this with others you know... and, **THANK YOU for EATING!**


H*VMI Upcoming Ministry Events

Fellowship and Fun

Visit hvmi.org/upcoming-events or call our office at 717.859.4777 for details or to RSVP.

March 22-24	Bible Conference Guest and Young Adult Retreat , Traber Center at Camp Sankanac, Spring City PA
April 13	South Jersey Ministry Luncheon , Easton Bible Church, Hainesport NJ
April 27	BASIS Breakfast , Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland PA
June 3–July 10	Handi*Camp Day Camp Sessions , H*VMI Ministry Center Property, Akron PA
August 3	Annual All Family PIP Picnic , H*VMI Ministry Center Property, Akron PA
August 24	BASIS Picnic, Roland Park , Akron PA

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

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





H*VMI South Jersey Luncheon

YES! I/We would like to attend the 2024 H*VMI South Jersey Luncheon:

Number attending: _____

Name(s): _____

For additional names, please include on separate sheet for registration purposes.

Special Needs

Gluten Free Meal Pureed Meal Sign Language Interpreter

Unfortunately, I/we are unable to attend but want to help the ministry of H*VMI through a:

One-time financial gift of: \$ _____ .

Recurring monthly gift of: \$ _____ .

For: General Fund Property

I would like my church to be a possible host site for future South Jersey Luncheons.

Handi*Camp 2024

I/we want to be part of "Reaching the Reachable" at **Handi*Camp 2024**.

Please accept this gift of: \$ _____

I would like to help Handi*Camp. Please send details about:

Baking Praying Cooking
 Serving Hosting Shopping

Contact information and method of giving.

My check payable to H*VMI is enclosed.

Please bill my credit card: Visa MasterCard Discover AmEx

Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: ____ / ____ Security code: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

Make your gift securely online at: hvmi.org/donate

Text GIVE to: 717.210.4759

Scan this QR code with your phone.



▲ Name

▲ Street or PO Box

▲ City

▲ State

▲ Zip

▲ Phone #

▲ Email address

(Required for credit card donations.)



Thank you!