



# Handi\*Vangelism Ministries International™

*A Ministry of Compassion since 1973*

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September 20, 2022

Kyle T. Robinson  
*Executive Director*

Dear Supporters and Friends of H\*VMI,

Timothy D. Sheetz  
*Founder and  
Ministry Ambassador*

## THANK YOU!

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Handi\*Vangelism Ministries International (H\*VMI) Board of Directors and Staff pertaining to the Lancaster County ExtraGive annual giving event. As you might know H\*VMI has been involved in the ExtraGive event for 9 years now. H\*VMI has certainly benefitted from the GIVE and has felt the impact of its publicity, giving platform, prizes and the stretch pool. We have been extremely blessed by your generosity to H\*VMI on this unique giving day. The funds received through the GIVE have helped drive our general fund and ministry operations each year. Although the various organizations who participate in the ExtraGive are very different in their core, they share an overall goal to serve Lancaster County well and improve the lives of those who live here.

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## PROGRAM AREAS

DISABILITY

GRIEF

TRAINING & EQUIPPING

## CONFLICTING VALUES

Unfortunately, the Lancaster County Community Foundation (LCCF) and the ExtraGive have had an apparent shift in focus from finding what unifies us to focusing on what divides us. The charitable focus is now being outshined by a focus on social justice issues. This has been made clear to H\*VMI through recent policy changes at the LCCF and as evidenced by several articles in the Lancaster News Paper (LNP), letters to the editor and emails from the GIVE. You may have also received an email recently from the ExtraGive in response to the concerns they've heard from faith-based organizations. The ExtraGive letter seemed to imply that organizations choosing not to participate or choosing not to post an anti-discrimination statement was to be seen by the public as a "lack of transparency." The letter also stated that the GIVE hoped that the organizations that participated were "grounded in their values."

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## 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.

It is precisely due to the fact that H\*VMI is firmly grounded in our values that we are choosing not to participate in the ExtraGive this year. As a Christian Organization, we have a doctrinal statement which is posted on our website that clearly states our beliefs, derived from the Bible, on various issues of faith and behavior. Although society may change their views on various norms and behaviors, the Bible remains the same, true, inerrant Word of God. The reason H\*VMI is choosing to cease participation in the GIVE is due to the incompatibility of the Biblical values that H\*VMI holds dear and the values now being promoted by ExtraGive and LCCF. Specifically, the values in both LCCF's **Anti-Hate Policy** and **Non-Discrimination and Grievance Policies** related to gender identity and sexual orientation. These are issues of behavior that the Bible is very clear on and issues where H\*VMI's Biblically-based beliefs conflict with LCCF's policy. H\*VMI does not incite or engage in, violence, dehumanization, intimidation, harassment, threats, or defamation targeting individuals based on any of their human characteristics, including gender or sexual orientation. However, LCCF's **Anti-Hate Policy** states that activities that involve "misinformation" about gender identity and sexual orientation are considered hateful. H\*VMI simply cannot engage with an organization when its policies identify our ministry's Biblically-based beliefs and the expression of those beliefs as hateful. We wish that, as the email from the ExtraGive stated, we could have "harmony over divisiveness." That is what we are called to do in the Bible. H\*VMI is not seeking to be divisive and we are not leaving the ExtraGive with malice or prejudice. This is not a quick reaction to a letter or issue but rather a carefully made decision. We must hold to our Biblical values as a Christian Organization.

717.859.4777

info@hvmi.org

hvmi.org

H\*VMI™

PO Box 122

Akron, PA 17501-0122

## SERVING ALL IN LOVE

Christians are called to love all people, at H\*VMI we do just that. H\*VMI will joyfully and enthusiastically share the compassion of Jesus Christ and His Gospel through our various programs without discrimination toward any human characteristic. Jesus lived, served and dined with people that the “religious scholars” of His day scorned. However, Jesus also spoke plainly about right and wrong, Heaven and Hell. His love is truth, the saving truth of the Gospel that He spoke freely wherever He went. This was the ultimate act of non-discrimination – to care enough for all people, no matter if they align with your values or your lifestyle, to tell the truth in love.

At H\*VMI we seek to share the Gospel with everyone who comes through our doors. However, while doing so, it is important, paramount even, that we have staff who are like-minded individuals who share our faith, convictions and values. That is why, we hope, that you’ve been blessed by each H\*VMI staff member you’ve encountered! Sadly, this kind of hiring practice and even the simple acknowledgement that the Bible has things to say about our activities on this earth, is now being viewed as hateful behavior by LCCF and as violence, extremism and bigotry by those quoted in LNP articles and those posting their opinions on social media speaking on the issue.

H\*VMI is not perfect, nor is anyone who serves here, but we strive to be like Jesus for that is what Scripture teaches us. We do desire transparency. As stated above, H\*VMI’s doctrinal statement is posted on our website. We strive for harmony and seek to love and serve as Christ did while He was here on earth. We will not speak negatively about the ExtraGive or LCCF. We are simply identifying that the values of LCCF and those of H\*VMI are no longer compatible and therefore, we cannot in good conscience participate in the ExtraGive event.

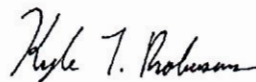
We are 100% confident in God’s provision for H\*VMI through His church and His people. We believe God provided for us before the ExtraGive; in recent years, in part, through the ExtraGive; and in the future He will provide without the ExtraGive. If you had planned to donate to H\*VMI through the ExtraGive this year and wish to make that donation, please feel free to do so through our website’s giving page ([hvmi.org](http://hvmi.org)).

If you have any questions or concerns about this please contact H\*VMI’s Executive Director, Kyle Robinson. [krobinson@hvmi.org](mailto:krobinson@hvmi.org) – 717.859.4777 Ext. 112.

Sincerely,



Douglas J. Bennett  
Board Chairman



Kyle T. Robinson  
Executive Director