



Heart Heart

A Newsletter for Parents of Children with Disabilities

"...that their hearts may be encouraged..." Colossians 2:2



Just as the spring flowers begin to puncture the surface and emerge to enjoy the sunshine and spread warmth, so too is the *Heart to Heart* Newsletter back with a new look for your encouragement after a brief hibernation!



Spring 2017

H*VMI Mission Plan

by Billie Jo Youmans

It is an audacious plan...a rescue mission fraught with tremendous peril. Typically, the troop leaders are inexperienced, enslaved captives. The first glimpses of the plan thrill the young soul and bring quivers of excitement. Those same thrills and quivers occur periodically throughout the mission—if life does not dull them too much.



sent by Him to show what love looks like. Knit together in the womb by the hands of the Father, filled with life by the breath of the Savior, babies embody—incarnate—the divine. All that is good rests in those tiny, vulnerable packages. Then, God reveals the courageous vulnerability of true love. He entrusts Himself—His love and His plans—to moms and dads captive to the broken-ness of a sin-scarred world. He trusts in the power of love; He trusts in Himself.

I imagine the first briefing sounds something like this:

"Precious one, your departure date is near; the move will be dramatic. Although great discomfort and dramatic change is just ahead, fear not! Your arrival will bring great joy to others—and hope for the future. Many need you desperately; they have forget what you know now. Do not let that happen to you. Remember my love and light; remind them of what they once knew. You will never be alone on this mission. I am with you; I will answer your questions and tell you the next step as long as you ask me. Remember me always. I love you."

Have you ever thought of your child's birth in that way? Have you thought of your own birth that way? We come to this earth for the purposes of the Father; we are to enter into the good works HE planned. The reality, though, is that life has a way of blinding us to the goodness of God. We make plans that He never intended; we choose purposes outside His design. We seek good and fret over its elusiveness—never realizing God only sends the best! Our fixation on good blinds us to the best. It darkens our understanding causing us to see blessings as curses. The mysterious plan of God continues unfolding in love.

It seems like a plan destined for failure—except it is the plan of our all-knowing, all-loving Father. The baby He knit together comes complete for the assignment given. He fully equips every Rescuer with the strengths and weaknesses needed. Our weaknesses—from a worldly view—are the containers for His glory. When we give our shortcomings back to Him, His light fills them with power for His purpose!

Families are Rescue Teams put together by God. Our babies are missionaries from God. We are missionaries from God. The spirit that gave life in the womb, gives life eternally. We are on mission together with our children to remind the world what love looks like.

Sending a helpless baby as a Rescuer is audacious—and effective! God knows innocence touches even hardened hearts—and He remains passionate for those hearts that life in a sin-filled world hardened. Divine love is courageous and relentless. It never gives up; it continually risks. Divine love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8). Know that your love as a family is rescuing the lost and dying. **Never give up!**

Every baby conceived is a love letter from God...a missionary



Contact us at
717.859.4777 or visit
hvmi.org for details.

Support Groups:

Join other parents of "children" (of any age) with disabilities for fellowship, sharing, prayer and encouragement from God's Word at our PIP (Parents in Progress) Support Group meetings:

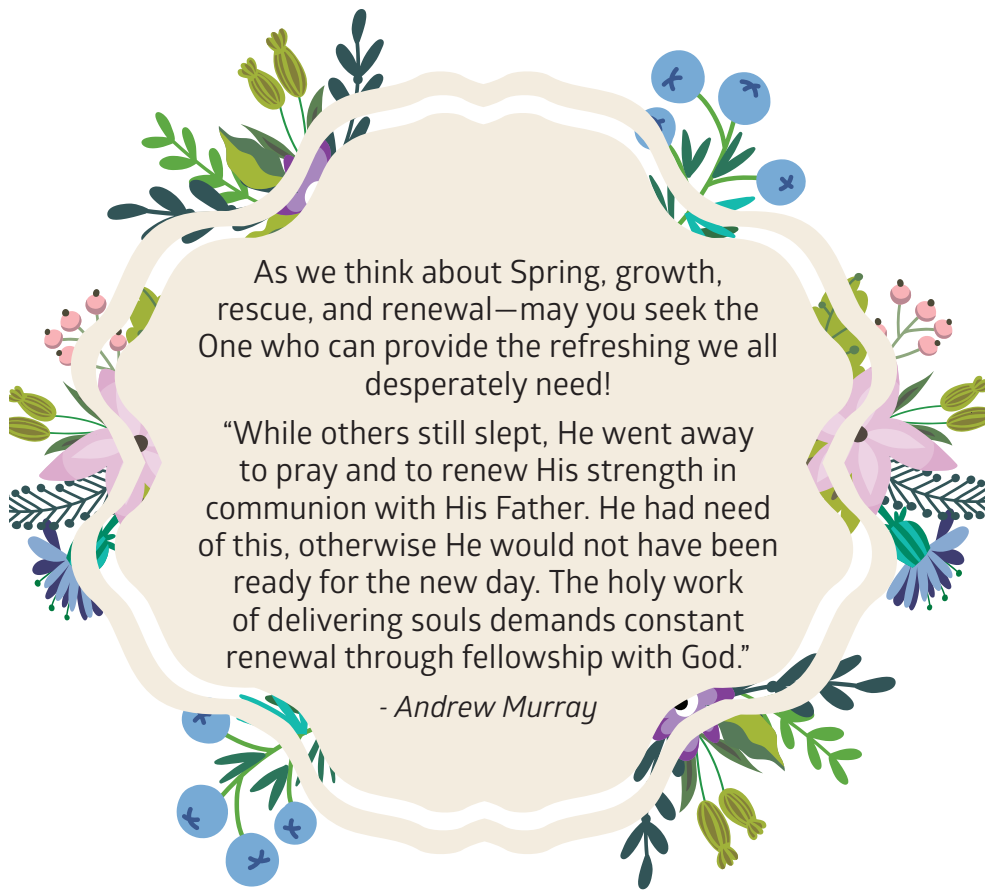
South Jersey

Collingswood, NJ 3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM (Sept.-May)

(Bible Club program available during meeting time for children, teens and adults with a disability.)

Lancaster County

Akron, PA 2nd Monday, 7:00 PM (Sept-May)



As we think about Spring, growth, rescue, and renewal—may you seek the One who can provide the refreshing we all desperately need!

“While others still slept, He went away to pray and to renew His strength in communion with His Father. He had need of this, otherwise He would not have been ready for the new day. The holy work of delivering souls demands constant renewal through fellowship with God.”

- Andrew Murray

Upcoming Events 2017

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| March 17-19 | Handi*Camp Mid-Winter Retreat , Spring City PA |
| March 31-April 1 | H*VMI Board of Directors' Meeting , Ephrata PA |
| April 22 | NJ Banquet Fundraiser , Voorhees NJ |
| May 6 | BASIS Breakfast , Aldan PA |
| May 24 | Handi*Camp Orientation |
| May 29 | Handi*Camp begins |
| September 19 | Golf Outing Fundraiser , Tanglewood Golf Course, Quarryville PA |
| October 12 | National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding , Lancaster PA |
| October 14 | PA Banquet Fundraiser , New Holland PA |

Resources

We are fearfully made!

Go to <http://vimeo.com/86925527> and listen to a reading of Psalm 139 in a way that is sure to bless.

Blog

Blog for Christian parents of children with disabilities, www.not-alone.org

Thank You!

THANK YOU to those who gave during the November 2016 Extraordinary Give event. Through your generosity, \$58,230 was given to support the ministries of H*VMI, including PIP.

Heart to Heart is produced by **Parents In Progress** a ministry under the leadership of



Parents In Progress

is a group designed just for parents of children with disabilities, offering resources to help them as they raise and nurture their children; and providing a “safe” environment of support and encouragement where they can freely discuss the issues unique to their families.

“PIP is the one place I can truly express my frustrations because I know everyone there understands and cares.”

You are welcome to contact **Heart to Heart** regarding articles, resources or information contained in this publication. We also welcome your thoughts, personal testimonies, articles, and resources that would be helpful or encouraging to other parents!

For more information, please contact Christine Whiting at:

H*VMI

PO Box 122

Akron PA 17501-0122

717.859.4777

Email: cwhiting@hvmi.org

Website: hvmi.org

Editor: Christine Whiting



Enhancing Trust