

# Increase

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



## CAPITALIZING *on the* PRESENT EXCITED *and Impatient* for the *FUTURE*

by Kyle Robinson, Executive Director

For a long time the Board and Staff of H\*VMI have been praying that we would receive all our approvals and be able to build on our property, thinking that without buildings, pool, pavilion and playground, God could not use the land He gave us in 2017. However, especially because of the challenges of the last year, we have followed God’s lead and did some thinking “outside the box.” As a result, we have been able to hold all kinds of amazing programs to minister to those we serve—on our property!

\*In summer 2020, God worked through our no-personal contact radio-broadcasted Lessons on the Lawn (our monthly drive-in Bible clubs) to bring a longtime camper to Salvation. \*Last summer, and this one, we held our annual Disability Ministries Picnic on the property. \*Last fall we had a very well attended Chicken BBQ Event with live music, games, tours and good fellowship. \*This summer a mother brought her son from out of state so he could attend Handi\*Camp’s Day Camp under a tent on the property. This camper’s story was similar to many of the 64 other campers who attended: he had not had social interactions and she had not spent a day apart from her son in 15 months. Mom also shared that her son hadn’t been sleeping well due to the lack of a schedule and activity. Not only did she, as a mother and primary caregiver, get three days “off” in Lancaster County, but her son enjoyed camp to the max, and each night back at the hotel, he slept soundly! \*At the end of July this summer, we held an Annual Community Yard Sale—a wonderful ministry outreach. So many bargain hunters heard about H\*VMI and were ministered to as they shopped.

We are praying for God to provide the approvals we need so we can build. However, buildings are just one tool God can use to reach people. What we’ve seen in the past months is that people are being reached—on our property! God is at work.

In a recent meeting with the H\*VMI staff, we all acknowledged to each other that we were eagerly awaiting the time when we could put shovels in the ground and begin building the H\*VMI Ministry Center. We know this will mean a wonderful

“We continue to follow the Lord, sticking to His plan and working hard toward what we believe to be His will for H\*VMI.”

expansion of ministry: a place where we can be even more effective as we reach out to individuals, families and churches with the message of salvation; a place for increased practical support for families affected by disability, those in grief and churches desiring to better serve their congregations. In the meeting, after acknowledging that the Bible contained examples of righteous anger, we concluded that there is likely a way that we can be righteously impatient! Jesus was angry—without sin—when he drove the money-changers from the temple. Can we be impatient in a righteous way? I often find myself impatient for the Lord’s return, especially when I see the pain and hurt in the lives of those we serve. However, I believe that as long as I continue to trust in the Lord’s

perfect timing, I’m not sinning in my impatience. I do not believe that MY timing is better than HIS. We continue to follow the Lord, sticking to His plan and working hard toward what we believe to be His will for H\*VMI.

As you’ve read in recent H\*VMI publications, we continue to work on H\*VMI’s Land Development Plan. At the request of Akron Borough, we revised parts of our Land Development Plan and have recently submitted the Plan to be reviewed by their engineers. Although the Borough has raised some questions, particularly with regard to storm water management, we are confident that the Plan has been formulated in conformity with applicable laws and regulations. We hope to have the revised Plan approved as presented. We continue to seek the necessary permits from both PennDot and the PA DEP

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and to resolve a few collateral issues which require resolution before construction can begin.

We were hopeful to have this revised plan approved in August, but communications from Akron Borough Officials indicated that this wouldn't be possible. In the same timeframe, we heard from our excavator that there are industry-wide hiring challenges and supply/demand issues because of COVID. The excavator let us know that, likely, even if we were able to get approvals from the Borough in the month of August, he couldn't get the supplies he needed to begin our project at that time. For these reasons, after discussion with the H\*VMI Board Chairman and the Property Committee, we decided to allow an extension to the Borough, until November, for approval of our Land Development Plan. We will continue to strive towards full Plan approval and be praying for God's perfect timing.

As much as we all, would LOVE to see us building right now, or six months ago, we are, at this moment, squarely in the center of what God's will is for the ministry. It may seem to you, and to us, at times, that we are taking the long way to our goal and that around each corner is a delay. The Israelites must have felt the same way when they left Egypt, headed to the Promised Land. Their way was long and full of challenges. But, the way they took was God's way and He protected and provided throughout the journey. As we are nearing the end of our journey, having come through many obstacles, we want to look back and recognize how God has paved the way for us, protecting and providing at each step. Unlike the Israelites who doubted God, even as He was providing for them, we'll continue to move forward confidently, without doubts, assured that God is able to carry us fully into the land He provided for us.



**Chicken BARBEQUE**  
Family Fun Event

**Saturday, October 2, 2021**  
11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.  
Cost: \$10.00

*Chicken available until sold out—No Reservations Required*

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

**Delicious Chicken BBQ Dinner • Live Music • Fun Activities**  
*An opportunity to support the ministries of H\*VMI.*

10 YEARS!  
**THE EXTRA ORDINARY GIVE™**



**NOVEMBER 19, 2021**

**Mark Your Calendar NOW!**

*By Brian Robinson, H\*VMI Office Manager*

**Extraordinary Give** is Lancaster County's Largest Day of Giving and H\*VMI's largest fundraiser for our General Ministry Fund. In EIGHT years of GIVE involvement, we've received a total of \$373,435.43 in donations, stretch pool and prizes. What a wonderful blessing! *Thanks, ministry friends, for supporting us in this giving event each year.*

Please prayerfully consider how you can help H\*VMI in 2021! For 24-hours only (midnight to midnight), visit **ExtraGive.org** to make an online credit card donation designated to H\*VMI (\$10 minimum). Your gift will be stretched by a percentage of the \$500,000+ stretch pool provided by event sponsors. ANYONE can give—you don't have to live in Lancaster County.

More details will be available in October about cash prizes that H\*VMI donors can help us potentially win, and ways to encourage friends to join our growing list of Extraordinary Givers. This information will be emailed to all past Extraordinary Give donors and to others through our email lists. If you receive a hard copy of **Increase** by mail and would like to receive this additional information, please email me at [brobinson@hvmi.org](mailto:brobinson@hvmi.org) so I can be sure you are added to that email list.

Thanks again for your prayers and support for H\*VMI. We are so blessed by, our many, many friends who pray and give.

# CHANGE

By Tim Sheetz, H\*VMI Founder/Ministry Ambassador

When it's hot and humid – or cold and snowy, we like to hear that there's going to be a CHANGE in the weather! (Side note: I've always said I'd rather be a weather POSTcaster than a FOREcaster. Then, I'd be 100% right all the time!)

A CHANGE from my norm of always rooting for the home team in any sporting event is that I like to see the “underdog” win.

“Keep the CHANGE!” Many people said that at our recent H\*VMI Yard Sale. It was a blessing to hear it. The CHANGE went into the donation bucket designated for building on the H\*VMI Property!

I'm writing lightly about CHANGE above. However, when there's an abrupt, maybe devastating, CHANGE in life, there's most definitely nothing lighthearted about it. Unemployment. Divorce. A child dies. A baby is born with a disability. Serious health issues. These are life-CHANGING events that can turn our world “upside down.” A loss of ANY kind changes life. Initially, the change may seem for the worse. Eventually, by God's grace and with some earnest work on our part, any change can bring good into our lives.

In His Word, God provides encouragement and hope to His children facing a challenging CHANGE. I urge you to look up the following verses\*, just a very few of so many similar thoughts throughout the Bible. Read each passage slowly, carefully, thoughtfully. Look at each individual word. Even the word, “the,” is rich with meaning. Meditate on what God is saying to you. His Holy Spirit, the Comforter, is ready and waiting to give you peace, encouragement and

hope in the midst of the most difficult CHANGE you may be experiencing.

- \*Psalm 23
- \*Isaiah 26:3-4
- \*Hebrews 13:56
- \*Romans 8:38-39
- \*Hebrews 13:8

One last suggestion, look at the words in this familiar and wonderful hymn based on 1 Peter 5:7. Maybe even sing it or listen to it on YouTube. Find hope that the CHANGELESS ONE cares about the CHANGES in your life; is present with you to help you through them; and is able to use them for your good and His glory.

## Does Jesus Care?

Frank Ellsworth Graeff, 1901

Joseph Lincoln Hall

The musical score for 'Does Jesus Care?' is presented in a standard format with a treble and bass clef. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 108. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes a main body of text and a refrain section.

1. Does Je - sus care when my heart is pained Too deep - ly for mirth or  
2. Does Je - sus care when my way is dark With a name - less dread and  
3. Does Je - sus care when I've tried and failed To re - sist some temp - ta - tion  
4. Does Je - sus care when I've said "good - bye" To the dear - est on earth to

song, As the bur - dens press, and the cares dis - tress And the way grows wear - y and  
fear? As the day - light fades in - to deep night shades, Does He care e - nough to be  
strong; When for my deep grief there is no re - lief, Though my tears flow all the night  
me, And my sad heart aches till it near - ly breaks, Is it aught to Him? Does He

*Refrain*  
long?  
near?  
long?  
see?  
Oh yes, He cares, I know He cares, His heart is touched with my grief; When the  
days are wear - y, the long nights drear - y, I know my Sav - ior cares.

Public Domain  
Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™



BASIS Breakfast



Support Groups

# H\*VMI SPRING and SUMMER 2021 in REVIEW



Making centerpieces for the South Jersey Ministry Luncheon and BASIS Breakfast.



Bible Conference Retreat



Lessons on the Lawn



South Jersey Ministry Luncheon



Yard Sale



BASIS Picnic



Disability Ministries Picnic





Rental tent—it's how we do Handi\*Camp on the H\*VMI Property—with no buildings!



Chapel



Cooling off with Water Games



Games



Preparing brown bag lunches for campers and staff in the Sheetz's kitchen



Puppets



Making S'mores

## Details From The Registration Office

By Brian Robinson, Assistant Handi\*Camp Director

Last year, we had to cancel Handi\*Camp, for the first time ever. But this summer, Handi\*Camp HAPPENED. It looked very different than any of the other 46 years since we began in 1974. It began with a combined Bible Conference Retreat, March 26-28, at Traber Center, with 14 guests attending. The theme was “Putting the Pieces Together.” Tim Sheetz’s three Chapel times and Mark Amey’s Bible classes were some of the pieces God used to teach us new things about Himself. Each volunteer staffer enabled our guests to be able to participate in many activities after months of isolation. What a wonderful time! We ALL needed it, and God used the worship, teaching, electives and group activities—TO THE MAX—in our lives.

In mid-April, our Camp Leadership Team—due to safety concerns—made the difficult decision to cancel the five weeks of overnight sessions we had originally planned. BUT—we quickly pivoted to begin planning five sessions of DAY CAMP, three days each week. These would be held at our Akron Ministry Center Property, June 7–July 7.

Emails were sent to each camper who had begun registering for camp to share the news about Day Camp. Here’s one of the early replies from a parent:

*“As you can imagine, L was heartbroken that there would be no overnight camp this summer. Thank you so much for the option of a Day Camp. I have booked an Airbnb in Ephrata where our family will stay so that L can attend Day Camp. She is excited to be able to see everyone! Thank you!!!!”*

Lots of work and planning took place over the next six weeks to get ready:

- Bluegill fish and minnows were stocked in our little pond (and campers caught fish!).
- Additional split-rail fencing was put in along some stream banks for the safety of campers.
- A wooden swing set frame was built and a special adult swing for people with disabilities was purchased.
- A 30’ x 60’ tent was rented to be our main activity, lunch and chapel space.
- An H\*VMI Board Member built a sturdy 5’ wide ramp for access to the former clubhouse room and covered porch.
- The clubhouse room was cleaned out, painted and a twin bed set up to be used for various camper needs. An air conditioner was donated to help keep this room cool. A small refrigerator was loaned to us for snacks, creamer...and fishing worms!!!
- Bible lessons on the theme of “Step by Step with Jesus” were written including camper books at three different levels.
- Activities and electives were planned; and each day’s schedule came together.
- Lunch meals were planned—brown bag lunches for each camper and staffer,



prepared daily in the Sheetz’s kitchen at their home next door to the property.

- Staff Orientation was conducted June 5-6 at the property and in our Ephrata office – a good opportunity to prepare ourselves and our staffers for this new ministry.

Some staffers had started the application process before the decision to have Day Camp. We were glad to see that some could still come to be part of our team. A total of 29 summer staffers served with 11 H\*VMI staffers to make camp a reality. A call went out to local ministry friends to provide housing for staffers coming from out of the area. Ten individuals and couples provided homes for one to five sessions for staffers. Other local friends signed up to bring a supper meal for staffers at the end of each camp day— another wonderful provision!

We had 65 campers registered for one of our five sessions of Day Camp—15 of them (from PA, NJ, NY, ME) stayed in area motels with other family members; 2 others (from NY and DE) stayed with local ministry friends; 7 are residents of area group homes; the rest live locally and commuted from their homes. Twenty campers were first-timers.

Day Camp gave us the opportunity to extend invitations to some whose disabilities prevented them from attending overnight camp. It was great to see these campers enjoying their camp days.

We lowered our age to have a Kids’ Session the final week—12 out of these 13 campers were first-timers! One local family who is Russian has two boys with Down Syndrome (ages 8 and 9). We invited their sister (age 6) to attend as well. All three have come to Bible Club in the past. Two weeks before this session, a family contacted us from Easton, PA about their daughter attending. Dad is from the US and

was a missionary in Russia. He recently returned home to pastor a small church. Mom is Russian. She and their daughter arrived in PA in early June. They contacted us about camp and we were able to accept their daughter to attend. The two Russian moms connected by phone and then face-to-face each day as they dropped off their kids. It was so neat of the Lord to allow Day Camp to bring these families together.



We had some HOT days at camp—many in the 90s! But the breezes under the tent and on the clubhouse porch were pleasant and we added fans to help keep the air moving. We shifted some electives and activities so we could stay under the tent and added some water games to help everyone cool off—like—baseball using badminton racquets to hit wet sponge balls! We drank lots of water. We used wet towels to cool down. In all 5 weeks, there was just one partial day of rain. Everyone continued to enjoy activities while staying dry under our tent. We had an arrangement to use a local church for rainy days. We never had to use it!

Wednesday, July 7, was our final day of camp. We had invited all who helped make Handi\*Camp Day Camp a great success to join us at Yoder’s Restaurant in New Holland for a time to celebrate. These included H\*VMI fulltime staff, summer staffers and others who provided housing, helped prepare bag lunches or prepared staff evening suppers. Forty-six people attended. We enjoyed good food and then had a time to share testimonies about the impact of



Handi\*Camp Day Camp over the previous five weeks. What a great way to end our summer program—thanking the Lord for all HE did in the lives of precious people through this ministry.

## Turning “I CAN’Ts” into “I CANS”

*By Dawn Gattuso, Handi\*Camp 2021 Support Staff Member*



Through the five weeks of Handi\*Camp Day Camp this summer, I was blessed to see God very much at work through the program. During Week 5, I was especially blessed to see what God was

doing in the life of a nine-year-old boy who had many medical and physical challenges. He had spent more than 200 days in the hospital this past year and a half.

At first, he was reluctant to participate in some of the activities. When it was time for the camp kickball game, he was not sure he was going to be able to play from his wheelchair. After much coaxing and after explaining the adaptations to the game, he agreed to try. Soon he was grinning from ear to ear, everyone cheering him on as he was pushed around the bases to home plate. He was hesitant to play volleyball, but with the lower net and lighter ball, he found out he could play and was even coming up with strategies for the game! Whether it was moving to music, playing in an improvised sand box, going on a nature hike, shooting off rockets or fishing (he even caught a fish), his enthusiasm was replacing his reluctance and his “I CAN’TS” were turning into “I CANS.” It was so special to see him able to just do what nine year old boys like to do and having fun doing it! His father said that he was having a great time and loved camp. His father also said how the staff was so dedicated and the program so well run.

Following the large group chapel time, there was a small group Bible time to review the Bible lesson just taught. We were talking about walking with Jesus, “Step by Step”—the theme for camp this summer. As I engaged the children in discussing following Jesus step by step, I noticed this little boy shrug his shoulders. I realized he wasn’t understanding. I made it clear to him that to follow Jesus step by step meant to learn about Him and what He wants us to do. He is with us, helping us through the hard times and helping us with whatever we need to do each day. I explained that he didn’t need to be able to physically walk to follow Jesus step by step. He needed to trust that Jesus would help him and believe that He is always with him. He nodded his head and gave me a knowing smile, and I knew he understood.

The next day, as we continued to discuss the lesson, we talked about Heaven—how Jesus is there and we will see Him face to face if we trust in Him to take away our sins. I said there wouldn’t be any more need for wheelchairs or trachs or breathing treatments. I said that there aren’t any doctors or hospitals in Heaven because no one is sick or in pain. I said that someday we will have brand new bodies that are strong and healthy. His eyes met mine. He smiled at me and gave me a “thumbs up.” I knew he more than just understood—he believed.

His father was wheeling him to the car after the final program on the last day of camp. I said goodbye to them and remarked that I hoped we would see them again. The father answered, “We’ll be back.” The camper was waving his arms in excitement and called back to me, “Friday—Lesson on the Lawn—we’ll be there. Don’t forget.”

I think that nine year old’s experience at camp sums up what camp was for all the campers this summer—an opportunity to turn their “I CAN’TS” into “I CANS,” and giving them hope for the future as they learn to follow their Guide, Jesus, step by step.



# Handi\*Vangelism Ministries International™

*A Ministry of Compassion since 1973*

Executive Director: Kyle Robinson

## 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.

## H\*VMI Program Areas



### DISABILITY

- Discipleship—for people with disabilities of all ages living in rehab centers, residential facilities, nursing homes or the community
- Handi\*Camp—for children, youth and adults with physical and/or intellectual disabilities
- PIP—for parents of children with disabilities



### GRIEF

- BASIS—for bereaved parents and their families
- for people grieving over many types of losses such as the loss of a spouse, parent, sibling and other significant people; divorce; employment; health



### TRAINING & EQUIPPING

- for **Individuals**, the **Church** and the **Community**, locally and around the world, in areas such as disability; grief; mental health; abuse; divorce

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Missionary Information • Property Updates**

Make a donation online for H\*VMI or for the ministry of a designated missionary. Shop by going through links on our site and H\*VMI will get a percentage from your purchases. Look for the **AmazonSmile**, **eBay** and **iGive** links.



### NEW: TEXT GIVING

For details go to: [hvmi.org/text-to-give](http://hvmi.org/text-to-give)

**Give now at: [hvmi.org/donate](http://hvmi.org/donate), or  
by scanning this QR code with your phone.**



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Increase Editor: Kathy Sheetz    Graphic Design: Claire Krout

## For more information about the ministry and or any events, contact us at:

**H\*VMI** · PO Box 122 · Akron PA · 17501-0122 · 717.859.4777 · [hvmi.org](http://hvmi.org)

Email: [info@hvmi.org](mailto:info@hvmi.org)

## Coming! Coming! Coming! Not To Be Missed Opportunities

**September/October** **Support Groups (BASIS and PIP) and Bible Clubs resume**—visit our website or call the office for dates, locations, times

**September 14** **Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser**, Tanglewood Manor Golf Club, Quarryville PA

**October 2** **Chicken BBQ and Family Fun Event**, H\*VMI Ministry Property, Akron PA

**October 8-9** **H\*VMI Yard Sale**, Akron PA

**October 29** **Lancaster Area Ministry Luncheon**, Shady Maple, East Earl PA

**November 13** **North Jersey Area Ministry Luncheon**, River View Banquet Center, Berkeley Heights NJ

**November 19** **ExtraOrdinary Give**