

Increase

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



C-O-N-N-E-C-T-I-O-N-S

by Kyle Robinson, Executive Director

A farmer in Ohio needed his pole barn moved. Not a little shed, like many of us have in our backyards. A large barn, probably the length of a basketball court. Typically, the answer might be to knock down the current barn and build another barn in the new location. Or maybe, for the frugal farmer, take it down piece by piece and rebuild it. Well, this farmer went about it in a different way. He had a couple hundred friends over who lined up around the walls of the barn. Together, they lifted, easily sharing the weight of the large pole barn. They walked it across the property and set it in its new location. The move took less than 10 minutes. The farmer used his connections to bring people together to do this seemingly impossible task.

H*VMI relies on connections in most all parts of our ministry. When is the last time you saw an H*VMI commercial? Yet, somehow, we never lack for people to serve at or participate in our programs. People talk and share, making connections with others in similar circumstances, sharing the help God provided them through H*VMI's outreach. Through the COVID related changes, we were able to hold Bible clubs and groups ONLY because of connections God made. For example, we are holding multiple smaller group clubs at brand new locations we had never used before. God used HIS people to provide those spaces for us.

H*VMI is in the midst of the largest project in our history, building a home of our own. A place where we can minister



to people facing life's challenges, unencumbered by other's schedules, rental fees, accessibility issues and other changes out of our control. We have been eagerly anticipating having a permanent Ministry Center for years! We purchased the land, with your help, in 2016. We have designed the buildings, engineered the site and have been chipping away at the necessary approvals since 2017. We have relied on connections since Day One of this Ministry Center Project. We have depended on the people God has sent our way

to accomplish nearly every goal to this point. The Architect we used was a connection from an H*VMI missionary's church. The Engineer we hired was a connection from our Architect. Our Legal Counsel representing us through the bulk of these approvals has been on our board for many years. Our Project Manager connected with us when we looked into the possibility of using the church he attends for our training seminars. He is also the newest member of the H*VMI Board. Through the Zoning and Conditional Use approval processes, many local H*VMI supporters came to the meetings to share about H*VMI's impact on their family. We connected with some of these friends and they connected with others.

As we anticipate receiving our Land Development Plan approval and enter the next phase of the project, we need your connections: We will be excavating, building, framing, plumbing, wiring, dry walling, painting and many other things before our job is complete. If you own a business that does

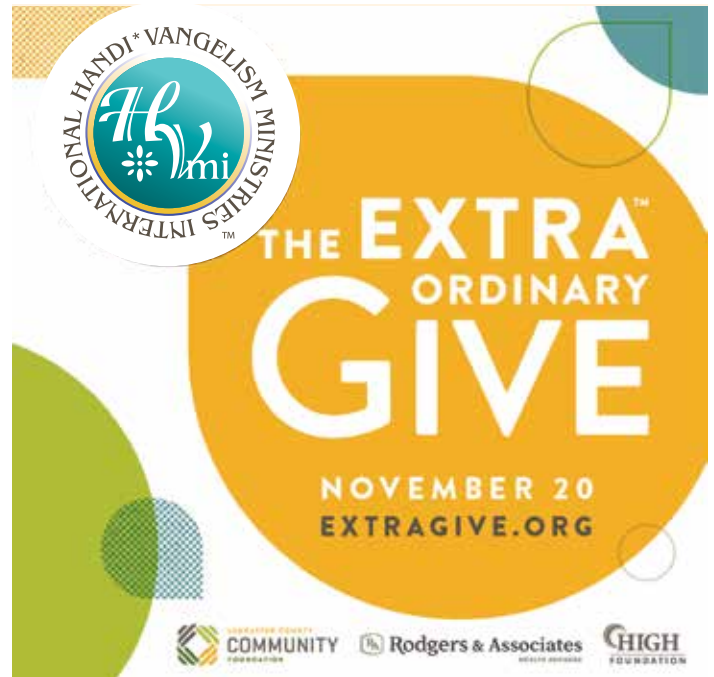
Continued on page 2

these types of work, or if you know a business owner in one of these work fields who may be interested in helping, please make the CONNECTION. If your church group likes work projects—CONNECT with us! If you, yourself, know how to swing a hammer or handle a paint brush—CONNECT with us!

I look at this picture of the Amish men moving the barn (link to video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOpjHm6WzVg>) and I think, how did that farmer get 250 people there to help him? Did he send out an email or post on social media? If you're familiar with the Amish, you'll know that's not likely. The need was likely shared at a gathering, church or when people saw each other during the week. A personal connection, lots of personal connections, brought about this amazing result. So if, as you read this, you think of people who you think could help H*VMI, I would challenge you to make a personal connection with them. Hold off on pressing "send" and go talk to them or pick up the phone and have a conversation about H*VMI. Share the impact H*VMI has had on your life and ask if they would be willing to connect with us, even just to explore possibilities.

As H*VMI has been moving through this project, I have always thought and said that money is going to be the least challenging aspect of this process. This has proven to be absolutely true! We have spent over four years designing, praying, engineering, praying, applying, praying, meeting, praying, negotiating, re-negotiating and praying some more! We only spent about six months of that four-and-a-half-year period on fundraising. God provided the money to purchase the property outright! Then, He provided more funds to be able to pay for the professional work that has been done since then. And, we even have some startup money for when construction begins. Soon we will be launching Part Two of that fundraising effort to fund the construction of the H*VMI Ministry Center. We will humbly ask you to invest in the future ministry of H*VMI. *I ask you*, now, to be praying about how you might be able to partner with us. Could it be by making a connection? Could it be by giving a donation? Could it be both? Many hands made the moving of the farmer's barn an easy task. We are so grateful for the many connections we have had through the years, and we are excited to see how God will use His people to bring His Ministry Center project to completion.

Editor's note: See enclosed response form, to connect with us as we continue developing the H*VMI Ministry Center.



WHAT A BLESSING!

By Brian Robinson, H*VMI Office Manager

H*VMI had another EXTRAORDINARY day on November 20, 2020—thanks to 218 Extraordinary Givers! Designations to H*VMI in the 24-hour Extraordinary Give day event totaled \$47,175.83. With many of our donors choosing to cover the cost of the transaction fee, the amount *we received is \$46,764.00 PLUS \$600.00 in prizes PLUS our portion of the stretch pool funds provided by GIVE sponsors for a grand total of \$50,310.33.*

Prizes: \$500 Midnight Madness Prize—H*VMI came in 2nd place of 20 organizations to get to 50 unique donors. Thanks to all who stayed up Thursday night to donate right after midnight. **\$100 Magic Minute**—We won this prize, too; SEVEN of our donors made a donation during that 11:20 A.M. minute.

Larger every year: Even in a pandemic year, total giving to all organizations had another significant increase.

2020: \$13,439,850 30,360 donors 522 organizations

2019: \$10,980,220 29,993 donors 521 organizations

*Thanks so much again to everyone who donated to help bolster H*VMI's General Fund going into a new year of ministry.*



H*VMI CALENDAR 2021

Hoping that things will improve in 2021, here are upcoming ministry events that need your prayers. (Several Bible clubs and studies are still closed to us because of COVID restrictions at the facilities where they are held. These are shown in red.)

Please check our website or call for more details on the following.

hvmi.org • 717.859.4777

MONTHLY

1st Tuesdays	Inglis House Bible Study ; Lebanon PA BASIS Support Group
1st Thursdays	Lancaster County Bible Club Group 1; Harrington, DE BASIS Support Group
2nd Mondays	H*VMI Family Day; Lancaster PIP Support Group
2nd Tuesdays	Paradise and Lavelle PA BASIS Support Groups; Lancaster County Bible Club Group 2
2nd Thursdays	Lancaster County Bible Study
3rd Mondays	Sunny Crest Bible Club ; Quarryville Grief Support Group ; Lancaster County Bible Club Group 3
3rd Tuesdays	Inglis House Visitation ; Pediatric speciality Care Bible Club ; Aldan and Akron PA BASIS Support Groups
3rd Wednesdays	Maple Farm Nursing Home Bible Study
3rd Thursdays	Elwyn Bible Club ; Lancaster County Bible Club Group 4
4th Mondays	NJ PIP Support Group/Bible Club (begins March 2021)

SAVE THESE DATES

March 26–28	Bible Conference Retreat , Traber Center, Spring City PA
April 17	South Jersey Area Ministry Luncheon , The Grove, Pittsgrove Township NJ
May 1	BASIS Breakfast , Yoder's, New Holland PA
May 25–July 2	Handi*Camp Orientation and Camp , Camp Innabah, Spring City PA
August 7	Disability Ministries Picnic , Akron PA
August 21	BASIS Picnic , Akron PA
September 14	H*VMI Annual Charity Golf Outing , Quarryville PA
October 2	Chicken BBQ and Fall Fun Family Event , Akron PA
October 29	Lancaster County Area Ministry Luncheon , Shady Maple, East Earl PA
November 13	North Jersey Area Ministry Luncheon , River View Banquet Center, Berkeley Heights NJ

and

Lots of meetings with Akron Borough and Akron and Lancaster County Planning Commissions, and in-house discussion, to help move us toward our HOPEFUL date for groundbreaking at the H*VMI Property—March 2021!

CONNECTIONS PART 2

*Kathy Sheetz, H*VMI Lead Ministry Secretary; Editor, INCREASE*

How many times do you meet someone who knows someone you know? How many times do you find yourself saying, “It’s a small world!” (Walt Disney was right after all.)

Your mother told you that you should always “behave” because, surely, at some point, you’ll be bumping into someone, sometime, somewhere who knows someone who knows you! Huh? Did you follow that? We are all **CONNECTED**. It’s always a special occurrence, especially within the Christian community, when connections are made. I discovered an interesting connection when my husband, Tim, and I represented H*VMI on a team of Disability Ministry Trainers that Joni Eareckson Tada had organized for an outreach in Romania. As I was eating dinner at the table of my host family in Bucharest, I noticed the t-shirt the teenage son was wearing. It said, “Echelon Mall, Voorhees NJ.” At that time in our life, we lived just down the road from that mall. I asked the teen where he got that shirt. He told me it was probably from a clothing bank at their church. It was a neat **CONNECTION** for me on my first trip out of the States, especially since I was a little homesick.

Discovering **CONNECTIONS** are usually a very pleasant surprise.

There are some neat **CONNECTIONS** in the H*VMI Ministry. We often find ourselves asking someone, “How did you hear about us?” Here are a few God ordained **H*VMI CONNECTIONS**.

A bereaved mom called our office needing to talk. “How did you hear about us?,” we asked during that initial lengthy conversation. It seems that Dr. Kathy Koch, Founder and President of CELEBRATE KIDS, INC., recommended that this mom get in touch with us. About *30 years ago*, our H*VMI staff had opportunity to sit under Dr. Koch’s teaching. She remembered through all these years that we had a ministry to parents who lost a child and gave contact information to this hurting mom. She is now involved in one of our BASIS Support Groups.

Dr. Bud and Bonnie M, missionaries on furlough from Papua New Guinea, were attending a missions’ conference in South Jersey. Tim and I were also participating in that conference. Dr. Bud wrote, “Once we heard of the work there at H*VMI from the Sheetzs, our hearts were touched.” Following the conference, Dr. Bud and Bonnie returned to PNG to resume their own vital ministry, Dr. Bud using his medical skills and Bonnie developing a library ministry. They also began faithfully supporting H*VMI with their prayers and donations. Meanwhile, some years earlier, Evan H served as a counselor at Handi*Camp for several summers. Now married, he and his wife recently completed training to serve as missionaries in Papua New Guinea. We asked Evan if he knew of Dr. Bud. Evan wrote, “Yes, we know Dr. Bud. He has been a huge help walking us through all the medical details required of us and our son to move to PNG!”

Melissa worked at Handi*Camp for **MANY** years. Now, she’s employed by Baron Insurance, Manheim PA. When her boss asked employees for suggestions for non-profits that the agency might contribute to, Melissa was happy to share about the ministry of H*VMI. We received a wonderful check from them toward the start-up costs of our recent “Lessons on the Lawn.” Fast forward several months – we received a donation from a man we didn’t know with “Baron Insurance” in the email address. What was the connection, we wondered?! We contacted Melissa. She said this man is actually her boss at Baron Insurance. Her boss told her that he and his wife had invited each of their kids to choose an organization to donate to this Christmas. Their ten year old son, Simon, remembering the gift sent previously to H*VMI, chose us! Simon loves camp and thought it would be really cool to give to Handi*Camp.

Focus on the Family is a global Christian ministry dedicated to helping families thrive. During H*VMI’s early days, Tim Sheetz felt God’s prompting to connect with FOF and offer H*VMI as a resource their ministry might use from time to time. Through the years, as people have contacted us from across the country, when asked the question, “How did you hear about us?,” the response has often been, “Focus on the Family gave us your contact information.” We’ve had opportunity to minister to many individuals and their families facing the challenges of disability or grief. In recent months, a heartbroken bereaved mom reached out to us from her home in the center of our country. It’s been our privilege to send her resources and to keep in touch by phone and email.

We received a donation over Christmas from a new donor in CA. It was designated to Disability Ministries. The last name and that designation caused us to wonder, is there a connection to one of our Bible clubbers here in PA with that last name? We asked this clubber if she had any family in CA. She wrote back and said, “YES” and wondered why we asked. When we shared about the donation we received, she replied with the following: “That is my brother.” She wrote further, “Since my parents and I do not really need anything for Christmas, my brother, instead of getting us something, is donating some money to some of the organizations that we want him to.”

Leadership at a local church desiring to be “intentional stewards” with the resources God had entrusted to them, asked their staff for recommendations of ministries the church might honor with a donation. Several H*VMI missionaries attend this church, and several of their church members are served by H*VMI’s camp and Bible club ministries, so H*VMI is known to the leadership there. H*VMI was one of the organizations selected. The pastor wrote us, “We believe in the work you are doing for the sake of the Gospel and trust this donation will help propel your ministry forward as you look to 2021. May the Lord continue to be honored and glorified through the vision of Handi*Vangelism.”

Let me end where I began – with a Romanian **CONNECTION**. While I was in Romania, I kept a journal. I admit that I was brutally honest as I wrote. Although it was a wonderful ministry opportunity and I loved every part of that, it was a challenge for me to be so far from home, especially missing our two daughters. I was homesick. I was finding my way around in a country that was struggling to get back on its feet following the years of harsh rule by the communist dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, who had been executed, along with his wife, a year before. I had no way of communicating with my husband who was ministering in another Romanian city while I was with the team in Bucharest. My writing reflected my struggles. When we got back to the States, we were able share our experiences at many churches, especially in the South Jersey area where we lived at the time. Many years later, H*VMI’s office and many programs were established in PA. A couple and their son began getting involved in some of those programs. The son, who had autism, had been adopted from—Romania. His mother told me that, prior to going to Romania to see about adopting from

there, she had read my journal. Bleak and honest as it was, she said God used it to help prepare her and her husband for their own experiences in Romania. “How in the world did you get hold of that journal?” I asked. She said that she had obtained a copy from her dad who’d heard us give our Romanian report at his South Jersey church. Knowing his daughter and son-in-law were thinking of adopting a child from Romania, this dad asked me for the journal and passed it along. The family continues to be very involved in H*VMI today, including the husband now serving on our Board of Directors.

God is amazing in the way He makes **CONNECTIONS**, especially among His children. We thank Him for the **CONNECTIONS** and blessings He continues to pour out on this ministry through someone...who knows someone...who...

We thank Him for **CONNECTING us with **YOU!!!****



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



NEW: TEXT GIVING

hvmi.org/text-to-give for details.

Visit hvmi.org

KEEP UP WITH:

**Blogs • Resources • Ministry Events and Dates
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.



For more information about the ministry, contact us at:

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Website: hvmi.org



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Evangelizing • Caring • Discipling • Training • Equipping

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

By Tim Sheetz, H*VMI Founder and Ministry Ambassador

“Overwhelmed” most likely describes what all of us have been feeling over the past several months. Shutdowns, restrictions, fear, uncertainty. When it’s hard to see the “light at the end of the tunnel,” it raises some questions. “What am I going to do?” “Am I going to survive?” “Where and to whom can I go for help?”

King Jehoshaphat, in 2 Chronicles 20, probably had some similar questions. During his reign, he set out to do what was right in God’s sight. Then, he made an unwise decision that was not God-ordained. He realized the error of his ways and resolved to obey the Lord going forward (2 Chronicles 19:1-11). Shortly after he made this commitment, an enormous test confronted Jehoshaphat. It was an absolute nightmare to him. Several armies united to make war with him!

2 Chronicles 20: 3 tells us that he was afraid. (Aren’t we all, at times?!) However, Jehoshaphat had learned his lesson! So, this time, he “turned his attention to seek the Lord.” He called for a national time of prayer and fasting. The people responded that they, too, wanted to seek the Lord.

Note some things Jehoshaphat did in his prayer. (20:6-12)

- FIRST** He looked away from the terror at the door and turned his attention to the greatness and power of God. (20:6)
- SECOND** He reviewed what God had done to bring blessing in the past. (20:7-8)
- THIRD** He reassured himself that God cared for him, would hear his plea and act. (20:9)
- NEXT** He humbled himself before God, admitting that God had much greater wisdom than he, himself, had. (20:12) He said, “... we are powerless before this great multitude... coming against us; *nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You.*”

Following this prayer, in 2 Chronicles 20:14-19, we read that the Spirit of prophecy came upon Jahaziel, a Levite who was part of the congregation of pray-ers. Jahaziel encouraged the people to trust in God. He said, “Do not fear or be dismayed... for the battle is not yours but GOD’S.” (20:15) And Jehoshaphat encouraged them further, “Put your trust in the LORD your God, and you will be established... and succeed.” (20:20)

Dear Reader, perhaps you are feeling discouraged and overwhelmed by circumstances in your life – certainly, by things happening in the nation and the world! I encourage you to pray as Jehoshaphat prayed. The things that concern you may still be there; but, God is so much greater than those concerns. Tell Him, “God, I don’t know what to do, but my eyes are on You.” Then watch Him work, if not in the circumstance, most certainly in your own heart.

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

Visit our website and click on the GET INVOLVED tab.

CONNECTING THE DOTS

By Tara Kelley, H*VMI Director of Disability Ministries

Remember dot-to-dot puzzles? All the dots seemed so random—until you began connecting them together. Then, all of a sudden, a complete picture appeared before your eyes! It was wonderful! As we enter into this next camp season, the dots seem to be all over the place. As with much of ministry, we are uncertain what lies ahead, but we are looking to the Lord for His direction. We are actively planning for camp to happen if it is at all safe and possible to do so. We are also needing YOU, our ministry friends, to join us in helping to CONNECT some of our dots. Then, together, we can look forward to seeing the amazing picture GOD creates of Handi*Camp 2021!

DOTS to CONNECT

FINDING SUMMER STAFF

Help us CONNECT with those who have a heart to serve the Lord and our campers. Summer staff receive a salary or may choose to volunteer. Positions vary in the level of engagement with people with disabilities. Positions are available for those as young as 16, but are also available for those through age 40, 50, 60, 70, ...! In several positions, "older" adults are preferred. We need: Activities Assistants, Assistant Nurses, Bible Teachers, Counselors, Housekeeping Staff, Lifeguards and Support Staff.

RECRUITING PRAYER PARTNERS

Would you or someone you know be willing to pray for one of our campers during his/her time at camp? We will CONNECT you with a specific camper and send you information, including special prayer requests, prior to camp. After camp you will receive a follow-up note and picture from your camper.

COLLECTING SUPPLIES

A wide variety of medical, personal care, housekeeping and activity supplies are needed. Organize a supply collection. CONNECT with other friends, families and small groups to join you in gathering supplies. Amazon or Walmart gift cards are welcomed OR, visit our Amazon gift registry (hvmi.org/collect-camp-supplies) to purchase and ship items directly to H*VMI.

FUNDING CAMPERSHIPS

Handi*Camp relies on camper fees and special gifts to fund the entirety of our camp program. However, it is our policy to accept campers regardless of their ability to pay. In order to keep camp running, we need CONNECTIONS with people who can help provide the financial needs of camp: full or partial camperships and/or special gifts to the general camp ministry. We have been experiencing a growing need for camperships in recent years; and anticipate the same this year. Any help you can give will certainly bless one of our campers! Special Note: Should camp need to be cancelled again for any reason, all financial donations designated for Handi*Camp will remain in the Handi*Camp account for use when camp is able to resume at a future date



I/We would like to CONNECT THE DOTS that create the finished picture of Handi*Camp 2021:

- I/we would like to CONNECT to camp with the name of a potential staff member.
- I/we would like to CONNECT to camp as a camper prayer partner.
- I/we would like to CONNECT to camp by collecting needed supplies. Please send a list!
- I/we would like to CONNECT to camp through a financial gift of \$ _____, enclosed. (Note: Full campership is \$690 for five-day, overnight camp session.)

Please PRINT your contact information below.

▲ 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 general ministry of H*VMI through a financial gift of: \$ _____ For: General Fund Property

Method of Payment: Credit Card Cash Check (Please make checks payable to H*VMI.)

Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: ____ / ____ CVV: _____ Visa MasterCard Discover AmExpress

Name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____

Thank you!





H*VMI is looking to CONNECT with:

SUBCONTRACTORS

Who are able to assist with our Property Project in the following areas, especially those who are able to bid at a lower price as a contribution to the ministry.

- Excavating
- Concrete work: foundations, floor slab and sidewalks
- Masonry
- Carpentry: framing, siding, windows and doors
- Roofing
- Plumbing: *licensed to work in Akron Borough necessary*
- Electrical
- HVAC

VOLUNTEERS

Skilled individuals willing to assist with the on site work. Volunteers or groups are needed for:

- Landscaping/grass seeding
- General clean-up
- Drywall finishing
- Finished carpentry/cabinetry
- Painting
- Flooring
- Wall finishes
- Final Cleaning
- Other: _____

If you or someone you know is adept in one of these categories, please make the CONNECTION using the form below.

Return response form to H*VMI. Questions? Contact Kyle Robinson at phone number below or email krobinson@hvmi.org

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I/We would like to CONNECT to H*VMI to assist with H*VMI's™ Property project:

- Subcontractor Volunteer

Area(s) where I/we would like to help: _____

Business Name (if applicable): _____

Business website (if applicable): _____

Contact name: _____

Contact phone: _____

Contact email: _____

Address: _____

If you are facilitating a connection with someone else, please include your name and phone number below:

Name: _____ Phone: _____