



Increase

SPRING
2012

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

It's Not About Change.....

By Tim Sheetz, Executive Director

Abraham Kuyper stated, "In the total expanse of human life there is not a single square inch of which the Christ, Who alone is sovereign, does not declare... 'That is Mine.'"

As you know, we live in a constantly **changing** world. It's difficult to find stability in a very unstable society. That's

why we need a strong trust in our caring, sovereign, **unchanging** God. He loves His people and assures us that He has a plan for each one and will equip each one to accomplish that plan. When we depend on Him, Believers can face any **change**—any challenge—that may come into our lives. We can have great confidence that whatever God directs or permits to enter the life of His child ultimately leads him/her to fulfill His perfect plan.

We can trust what God is doing—**changes** He may make in the direction we're going—even if we may not understand His plan at the moment. Case in point: as

you know, from reading the last two issues of *Increase*, we thought that God had sent the one of His choosing to be the next Executive Director of H*VMI. As time went



on it became increasingly clear that this was not His plan. The departure of that dearly loved individual was very difficult for all involved and questions plagued our minds for quite some time. However, after a period of several months, peace prevailed! We have learned, since the beginning of H*VMI, that His plans are not always ours (in fact they're immeasurably better) and that we can trust Him for whatever

comes. We've experienced God's faithfulness to us in the past and don't doubt it for the future.

We now look with great anticipation to who He has in mind for the position of Executive Director, as well as other positions in H*VMI that need to be filled. The bottom line is: God is ALWAYS in loving control of every circumstance. "That is Mine," He says.

Alan Redpath writes: "There is nothing, no circumstance, no trouble, no testing that can ever touch me until first of all, it has come past God and past Christ, right through to me. If it has come that far, it has to come with great purpose."

So, it's not about how our plans may **change**. It's all about Him. All of our joys, sorrows, challenges, disappointments...are all about the **unchanging** One. **"Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him."** *Psalms 37:7a.*

"We can have great confidence that whatever God directs or permits to enter the life of His child ultimately leads him/her to fulfill His perfect plan."



Website Reminder

New to our H*VMI website is a blog from Member Care called Care Corner. You can access it by clicking on Care Corner in the side bar menu or type in www.hvmi.org/blog/care-corner.

We also want to remind you that there are opportunities to serve at H*VMI. Just click on "Opportunities to Serve" on the side bar menu or type in www.hvmi.org/opportunities.html.

H*VMI Board Creates Transition Committee

by Doug Bennett, H*VMI Board Member, Transition Committee Chair

This past fall, Board President, Dr. Rich McCarrell, appointed a transition committee comprised of Board members Janna Fravel, Matt Smith and Doug Bennett. The charge given to the transition committee was that of formulating the process of finding and transitioning the next Executive Director of H*VMI.

At the outset, the committee members know that the challenge of finding a successor to H*VMI founders, Tim and Kathy Sheetz, is going to be a difficult task. It was immediately recognized that the search and transition is a process that will need to be supported with much prayer. This will be a process that will need God's clear direction for wisdom and guidance.

The committee explored several approaches to the search process. The process that was decided on and approved by the full Board is actually a pretty conventional approach. Qualifications, a job description and other pertinent information pertaining to applications for the Executive Director's position will be posted on several websites as well as in placement offices in several of the Christian colleges and universities in the southeast region of Pennsylvania. The application will also be posted on the H*VMI website.

Applications that will be forthcoming will then go to an expanded review committee that will include Tim Sheetz, Dr. Rich McCarrell, Brian Robinson and the original three members of the transition committee. Prospective candidates selected from the pool of applicants by the review committee will be interviewed and brought to the home office in Ephrata to meet the missionary staff of H*VMI. The person chosen to be the next Executive Director of H*VMI will be selected from that final pool of applicants and transitioned into the position in an appropriate amount of time, which will be determined.

An exciting aspect of this process also includes transitioning Tim and Kathy into a new role with H*VMI. The details of their roles have yet to be completely worked out and a new title has not been fully agreed upon for Tim. However, the title "Ambassador at Large" might offer some idea of what Tim and the Board have in mind. Who would, undoubtedly, be the best person to represent H*VMI, bringing the ministry to more churches, groups, and individuals than the man



who has so faithfully and masterfully served as Executive Director for 39 years, Tim Sheetz?

The committee is asking for prayer support from the extended H*VMI family and those who so faithfully support the ministry. May the familiar verses of Proverbs 3:5 and 6 be our guide through this transition time. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."*

Updates will be forthcoming in accordance with progress in the months ahead. Questions may be directed to the Committee Chair, Doug Bennett at dougiben@comcast.net.



Financial Update!

God did an amazing thing in this oh-so-tough economy! He graciously enabled H*VMI to end the year 2011 IN THE BLACK! What a miracle! What a blessing! We do praise Him and thank so many of you who helped us to accomplish this.

Now—2012 seems to be another story. We are most definitely falling behind our projected budget because donations in January and February are waaaay down.

We'd be so thankful if you'd pray about the financial need we're currently experiencing and, if He so leads as you pray, we'll be thrilled to receive the gift He lays on your heart for this ministry. Our promise is ALWAYS to use it to bless Him and to bless the lives of people in the ten areas of this compassion ministry.

Volunteers For Jesus

Volunteers are unpaid not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless!!!

H*VMI's "army" of volunteers outnumbers our missionaries and ministry staff! We couldn't possibly conduct the programs of H*VMI without them. We thank the Lord for each one. Among the MANY ways they serve—they volunteer as receptionists; assist with Bible clubs and Bible studies for people with disabilities or in prison; facilitate and host PIP and BASIS support groups; serve as cooks, photographers, etc. at Handi*Camp; provide encouragement through correspondence and visitations. There's something for everyone to do! If you would like to become a volunteer with H*VMI, please contact: Tara Kelley at tkelley@hvmi.org. She'll be more than delighted to "plug you in."

In this issue of *Increase*, please meet four people who volunteer with our Correspondence Bible Lesson



Marion Burrowes: "What a blessing to be an encourager and prayer partner to those who wish to 'grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord' through Mailbox Bible studies. This is an excellent way to present the challenge of God's Word to help overcome the pressures of everyday life. I do enjoy doing it even tho' I have had little response except for Rose. Rose is quite faithful. Jill answers when her mother can help her."



Karen Ryan: "This is my 4th year as a volunteer for Mailbox Bible Club with H*VMI. Originally, I was asked to help by a very special Christian friend. I accepted with much reservation. I have been blessed to have two of my original students with me for all four years. We exchange cards and letters on a regular basis. I never expected the excitement I would feel when their response arrives back in my mailbox so quickly! I love being part of the Bible Club by mail! This program has enriched and blessed my life more than I ever expected!"

program. Before you hear from them, listen to what Tara Kelley, Director of H*VMI's Discipleship Ministries, which oversees this program, has to say:

"Physically unable to attend a local church or Bible study. A curiosity as to what 'Christianity' is all about. A simple desire to learn more about God and His Word.

"These are just a few of the various reasons our campers and Bible Conference guests sign up for Correspondence Bible lessons each year. Our faithful team of volunteers assists the fulltime H*VMI staff in mailing and correcting lessons. The personalized attention our volunteers provide through emails or letters of encouragement blesses both student and family. God's Truth is being shared in so many ways...and below are just a few of the people who make that happen!"



Janice Hill: "I haven't always heard back from everyone over the year, but I actually have become friends with some over the computer. What a neat thing. I have heard so many stories of the guests and campers (from her daughters who worked at camp) that I wanted to get to know them also. Working with the Bible Correspondence courses has helped me to become friends through email and Facebook and to get to know some of the wonderful people personally. It is truly an honor and privilege to help in some small way."



Lorraine Boker: "It is a privilege to participate in sending Bible lessons to our friends at H*VMI. As soon as I saw the need for volunteers, I felt God's nudging to do this. I am excited to get the lessons back, mark them and send an encouraging word. I have only had two people who have continued in the lessons but I have been truly blessed through this small ministry."



By Brian Robinson, Administrative Director

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30

These words became our Handi*Camp theme verse last spring—after lots of thought and discussion and even voting by our camp planning team. We challenged our campers to memorize this verse as we sang it and taught it each week. They’re great words to live by, aren’t they? We’re glad to feature that first five-word phrase in the design on this summer’s camp shirts. Who are we to love? The LORD! Let me use those four letters to update and challenge you about Handi*Camp 2012 (our 39th summer season—and, yes, we’re already thinking about big #40 just a year away!)

Handi*Camp 2012 Schedule

May 22: full-time staff move-in day
Camp Sankanac, Spring City PA (near Pottstown)

May 23-27: five-day staff orientation to get thoroughly prepared for the six weeks of camp

May 28-June 1, June 4-8: two PA sessions

June 9: move day to Malaga Camp, Newfield NJ (near Vineland)

June 11-16, June 18-22, June 25-29, July 1-6 : four NJ sessions

July 7: saying our goodbyes and heading home

Leadership

We’re in the midst of several leadership transitions in Handi*Camp.

Camp Director: Chuck Gregory resigned from H*VMI back in September for family reasons after two years as Director. Tim Sheetz is stepping in as interim Director for 2012 and we’ve been praying about and seeking a new Director for the future. Through some recent discussions among our camp planning team, the LORD led us to an answer to this need—right in our existing staff. Tara Kelley, veteran H*VMI missionary and current camp Program Director, will transition into the Camp Director role this fall after camp. Thank the LORD for His clear direction.

Program Director: New missionary, Kyle Robinson (yes, my son!), will assist Tara in programming this summer (and be our new lifeguard—after he completes his certification in March!). He’ll then become Program Director this fall.

Nurse Manager: Jodie Amey served in this important role for 13 years before retiring at the end of 2011. (FYI —husband Mark Amey continues to serve in H*VMI’s Discipleship Ministries and as an Assistant Camp Director.) Minds Renewed Director, Cathi Myers, volunteered to be our interim N. M. for 2012 and we continue to pray for an RN to join our H*VMI family as our next long-term Nurse Manager. **This is a vital need!** Ask the LORD to lead someone to us soon! Please spread the word to nurses you know. Someone knows a nurse who would be a great addition to our Handi*Camp team. Contact me at brobinson@hvmi.org for further information about this or any of our summer staff positions—or to refer names for us to contact.

Organize

Lots of plans and preparations need our careful attention, organization and help from the LORD to accomplish.

Staff recruitment: Counselors, Bible Teachers, Assistant Nurses, Service Staffers, volunteer Cooks are important people needed to make camp run smoothly. Help us find these folks!

Camper registration process: Many forms are mailed to campers and guests. They are then processed when they are returned so that very important information can be made available to doctors, nurses, counselors, teachers, programmers and cooks.

Teaching materials: Chapel lessons, Bible class materials, songs, devotional pages, PowerPoint visuals—many hours are spent preparing these and more to communicate God’s Word in relevant and appropriate ways to each group of campers and guests.

Programming: Themes, activities, electives, special guests, field trips—all the parts that make camp so much fun and very special for each participant. Lots to organize!

Other important areas: menu planning, health care details, new camper screening and many more. Ask the LORD to give us all wisdom and good time management as we work.

Requests

PRAYER requests, of course—so many things to pray for in the weeks ahead:

- Adequate staffing
- Full weekly registrations
- Finances
- Preparations - attention to all the details
- The summer schedule
- For the LORD to provide all we need for a great summer

Would you volunteer to be a Prayer Partner and pray specifically for one of our campers or guests during his/her session of camp? If so, sign up on the enclosed reply coupon or email Tammy at tarrowsmith@hvmi.org to let her know. After April 1, use her new email address—tabrown@hvmi.org (she’s marrying new H*VMI missionary Tom Brown on March 24 – YEAH, Tammy and Tom!). Tammy will send you info about your camper in May. Thanks for volunteering to be a Prayer Partner!

Donate

There are material and financial needs that you can help meet to make Handi*Camp operate “in the black” in 2012.

Supplies: Once again, we have a list of supplies needed that families, Sunday school classes, women’s and church groups can donate such as: cleaning supplies, paper goods, trash bags, etc. to help keep our purchase costs down. We can send you a complete list of items. Just let us know your interest (email me at brobinson@hvmi.org).

Finances: We raised our camp fees about 5% this year due to anticipated increases in expenses. But even if every camper and guest paid the full camp or Bible Conference fee, we still have a “gap” that needs to be covered every year through financial donations to Handi*Camp. We’re so thankful that the LORD prompts many ministry friends, churches and parents of campers and guests to give generously towards this “gap” and to also give campership donations that help campers and guests who aren’t able to pay their full fees. Please prayerfully consider a donation to Handi*Camp this spring. Thanks so much for any help you can provide financially. Use the enclosed coupon to accompany your gift.

Be watching for our fall *Increase* report to see how the LORD answered and provided for another great summer of Handi*Camp. And thanks—in advance—for your referrals, prayers and gifts, as the LORD leads.

H*VMI Wish List

At the top of that list is our own camp property! We have never lost our vision to see that happen. We have our eyes on some sites that interest us but acquiring them would take much more money than H*VMI has access to...unless...God provides a miracle. Perhaps that miracle could come through you—or someone you know...someone who would like to partner with us to purchase and develop a property on which we could conduct Handi*Camp and year-round retreats for all areas of H*VMI ministries. If you are interested or know of someone we could contact to discuss this, you know how to reach us: website, phone, mail, email—even carrier pigeon!!! We’re willing, eager and just need direction for funding this number one item on our wish list.

Snapshots of H*VMI Ministries



Twilight Senior Ministries *by Bill and Deb Carson, Directors*

In recent months, we have dealt with many people who are at the end of their physical journeys here on earth. "I'm still here." "Don't leave me." "I'm afraid." These are silent messages often spoken through the eyes of those whose physical bodies are failing, leaving them feeling alone, unable to communicate, scared of the unknown and vulnerable. That's where the "rubber meets the road" in our ministry to those who are aging and dealing with its ravages. Holding a hand; making eye contact; speaking words of encouragement, assurance and affirmation; stroking a brow; singing favorite old hymns; reciting Scripture passages; listening with our hearts; laughing over past remembrances; and not being in a hurry to get away—these are all tools of those ministering through Twilight Senior Ministries. Skills are also honed in dealing with family members often struggling with sorrow, grief, frustration, guilt, what-ifs and many other emotions. They, too, need listening hearts, physical touch, assuring words and a ministering presence with them. We seek to allow Jesus to touch each one through us, and minister His grace.

Rest Ministries *by Cindy Harmon, Director*

According to the Department of Education, 7% of the adults in Chester County PA are illiterate. That means that in one of the wealthiest counties in America, 24,000 adults cannot read a Bible for themselves. The percentage of illiteracy is even higher in neighboring Lancaster County (more than double) and in Philadelphia County (triple). President Barack Obama said, "Education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity, it's a requirement." As the body of Christ we have a lot of work to do!

In 2000 REST Ministries began their Wings tutor/mentor program to address the adult literacy need in Coatesville. With the help of donors, REST purchased the Project Light reading software and installed it at the REST office. This software enables anyone who is able to turn on a computer and click a mouse to help someone learn to read. The software was created by Christians and includes Bible passages as well as secular stories to read with every lesson. Easy-read Bibles were also purchased for the students. With these tools, the tutor becomes a discipler as well as a mentor! In the last REST Newsletter, a plea went out for more Wings volunteers. Praise God that four women responded to the call! They will be trained soon and paired with an adult student from the Wing's waiting list.

Over the last twelve years REST Ministries has enrolled about 85 students in the Wings program. Jonisha Martin is our most recent graduate. She earned her literacy certificate on January 26, 2012 and is furthering her studies with the goal of college courses in the future. We are very proud of Jonisha and all her hard work! Thank you for those who made it possible with your donation of money or time.

If you would like to contribute to or volunteer for the REST Wings program, contact Cindy Harmon at 610-384-4081, ext.3#.



Minds Renewed *by Cathi Myers, Director*

Minds Renewed strives to assist people to obtain optimal health (Interwoven Health) and address mental health issues. Monthly, Minds Renewed presents one formal support group and one informal coffee hour for people addressing mental illness personally or with a loved one. The members of the support group have expressed their appreciation for the variety of meetings as they support and encourage each other. One member recently wrote: "I really enjoy this class. It helps me a

lot to trust in God and abide in Him because I struggle a lot with that."

Minds Renewed is also available to help churches by presenting seminars and assisting them in starting support groups. Recently at a church in Chambersburg PA, Minds Renewed presented the seminar: "Exploring the Dimensions of Overall Health (Interwoven Health), Mental Health and Mental Illness."

Please contact Minds Renewed if we can assist you in any way.

Discipleship Ministries *by Tara Kelley, Director*

Hundreds of miles on the road... hundreds of lives hearing His Truth each month through the Discipleship Ministries (DM). DM team members and volunteers visit 12 different on-site ministry locations to share God's Word with people who have disabilities, medical or mental health challenges. Through teaching God's Word, fellowship with other Believers... and often times just having fun... our friends continue to grow in the knowledge of Who He is and in His love for them. At a recent Bible club, students were asked to complete the sentence: "God, You are _____." I waited for a response from a new student but she couldn't give one. She had no idea about "who God is" nor did she know of His saving grace. Often I hear the words, "I never knew that," about Bible concepts most of us think of as "basics." Right here in the United States, there are still—and, ever increasingly more—young people growing up with little if any "church background." And, many of those to whom we minister, those with physical and/or intellectual disabilities, do not have the opportunity to attend church and learn through methods adapted to meet their needs. Please pray as H*VMI has the wonderful opportunity and responsibility to take His Word to those who have yet to hear!



BASIS *by Judy Blore, Director*

On April 14th we are looking forward to our annual BASIS Breakfast. It is a Saturday morning when bereaved parents from all over the region (and even beyond) get together to listen and to eat. We serve incredibly marvelous breakfast food, prepared by Sandy Robinson and friends.

Sandy is the wife of Brian who is an H*VMI missionary, Handi*Camp Administrative Director. The Robinsons have also lost 2 babies, so Sandy's heart is "with" our parents. The speaker, always a bereaved parent, will speak honestly about her grief, yet hopefully about how God has met her in her need. We know this will bless the hearts of the audience. In addition to the planned parts of the event, it is wonderful to see the fellowship around the table between bereaved parents who had not known one another until this morning. It's so like God to bring together people whose experiences are similar so that II Corinthians 1 happens before our very eyes: one comforts another with the comfort God has given him or her.

Disability Training

From January through December 2011, H*VMI had the privilege of presenting training series or individual workshops in seven churches, Bible colleges, conferences and Christian schools with the outcome that people received disability awareness training, guidance, resources, support and encouragement.



GHANA *by Tim Sheetz, Executive Director*

Recently, I returned from an amazing trip to visit H*VMI's ministry in Ghana. As with other times I've visited the ministry there, I returned blessed and in awe about the things God is doing through people there who have so little in the way of resources. The heart of the H*VMI Ghana staff is so enormous for the Lord and for people who are disabled and hurting. Please come with me in your mind as I attempt to capsule what I experienced on this trip:

I visited schools for people who are blind and the Deaf. What a thrill to hear them "sing their hearts out" in praise to the Lord. I visited the home that H*VMI oversees where children, born to street women with disabilities, reside. At this home, through the tenderness of the people who are caring for them, the children receive housing, an education and the opportunity to learn about a God who loves them unconditionally. They're also taught that God's love extends to their mothers who continue to live and beg on the streets.

I stayed on the property of Echoing Hills Village where 30 people with disabilities live and are taught a skill to help them eventually live on their own. They also see first hand, through their H*VMI caregivers, that there is a God Who loves them with an everlasting love.

The nearby refugee camp always rips at my heart. 30,000 displaced people of all ages live in filth and squalor there. But, in the midst of the broken down shacks, dirt and open sewers, there is a small room which overflows every Sunday

continued on page 8

with 100 children who come to hear the lesson prepared by the H*VMI Ghana team. On this Sunday, they listened so attentively as I was the one who had the privilege to present the Gospel message. I was told later that 50 of the 100 who come to this meeting on a regular basis have invited Jesus into their lives. I could see in the eyes and actions of the H*VMI missionaries and volunteers who were there with me that each has Jesus' heart of compassion. It's that compassion that takes them to this very difficult site every Sunday afternoon.

The H*VMI Ghana ministry family works hard and long hours, certainly not for fame or money, but with a holy fervor to honor God and to reach out to the "forgotten fields" in their country. As with all of the other times I've visited Ghana, I left with tears in my eyes. It's always so difficult to say "good-bye;" but I left thankful for the opportunity to, once again, see God at work there; thankful for our incredible co-workers in Ghana; and challenged, as God once again spoke to me concerning the depth of my own commitment to His calling on my life.

Thanks for taking this little mini trip with me. Perhaps in the future, you would like to go along in person and be blessed and challenged as I always am.



H*VMI Calendar

Please pray for these events. Check our website or call us for details/registration information for events you'd like to attend:

2012

- March 10 H*VMI Winter Seminar Series**
"Living With a Sovereign God in a Sour World" – Ephrata, PA
- March 16-18 Handi*Camp Mid-Winter Retreat**
- April 14 H*VMI Winter Seminar Series**
"Support Group Dynamics" – Ephrata, PA
- April 14 BASIS Breakfast** – Aldan, PA (for bereaved parents)
- April 20-21 H*VMI Yard Sale Fundraiser** – Akron, PA
- April 26-27 H*VMI Board of Directors' Meeting**
- May 23-July 7 Handi*Camp Staff Orientation** – camp & Bible Conference
- August 13-17 Servant Orientation** (Training new H*VMI missionaries)
- August 18 PIP Picnic** – Akron, PA (for families of a child with a disability)
- July 21 Barnstormers' Baseball Game Fundraiser** – Lancaster, PA
- September 24 H*VMI Annual Golf Outing**
- October 13 H*VMI Banquet** – "How Sweet the Sound"
Shady Maple Banquet Center, East Earl, Lancaster County, PA

2013

- April 20 H*VMI 40th Anniversary Banquet**
Masso's Catering, Williamstown, NJ
- October 5 H*VMI 40th Anniversary Banquet**
Shady Maple Banquet Center, East Earl, Lancaster County, PA



Executive Director:
Rev. Timothy D. Sheetz

MINISTRY DEPARTMENTS

BASIS

for bereaved parents and families

Disability Training

supporting the church in disability ministry

Discipleship Ministries

year-round opportunities for people with disabilities; people who are hospitalized; or people who live in residential facilities

Handi*Camp

camping and Bible Conference opportunities for people with disabilities

International

*H*VMI Ghana ministries; and other training ministries*

Minds Renewed

helping people obtain optimal health (Interwoven Health) addressing mental health issues

PIP

for parents of individuals with disabilities

REST Ministries

for those who have experienced abuse, addictions, imprisonment

Seminars

providing training and resources in a variety of ministry related topics

Twilight Senior Ministries

for those in nursing homes

Editor: Kathy Sheetz

Design: Claire Krout

For more information contact us at:

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I'd like to help Handi*Campers to... "Love the Lord with all their hearts"

- Here's my \$ _____ gift to help keep Handi*Camp affordable to camper families and to help Handi*Camp meet its budget.
- Sign me up as a Prayer Partner for a camper or guest.
- Here's my \$ _____ gift for: _____
missionary / ministry / special project / general ministry

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- Check (*please make your check payable to H*VMI*)
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*Please complete this response form and return in the enclosed envelope. If including a financial gift, please make your check payable to: **Handi*Vangelism Ministries International**.
(For IRS compliance, do NOT write ministry information or account numbers on subject line of check.)*

I'd prefer to receive future issues of Increase via email. (*Please fill out your information on the form above.*)

*All financial gifts are tax-deductible. **Thank You!***

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