

R O B I N S O N S '

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HAPPY
EASTER!

MARCH 2024



Scott, Brian, Bruce – Bible Conference retreat

LOOKING BACK – Here are a few highlights as I look back in my calendar to the beginning of 2024:

- Our first winter in our new office. We had some snow days and Kyle used our donated snow blower to clear the parking lot a few times. We bought a used plow blade to mount on our Simplicity tractor, but was missing a part (lifting handle) that the folks at Agway are still waiting for. The plow will be a useful tool next winter, Lord willing.
- In early February, I was back on campus at Lancaster Bible College for several days during Missions Conference. So much has changed at LBC in the 42 YEARS since I was a student there ('81-'82 school year!). But it's neat to be a missionary rep to share with current students about ways they can serve in God's Kingdom with HVMI.
- Something new this winter – a camp staff orientation weekend, March 1-3. I didn't do any teaching at it, but it was a good opportunity to train some folks who chose this weekend instead of the one right before Day Camp starts. And the added benefit that we could train some new staffers that were volunteering to be Companions and Support Staffers at our March Bible Conference retreat (more about that below).
- Something new for Day Camp – OPEN HOUSE events here at our office for prospective campers and their families to attend. Instead of visiting new camper prospects in their homes before camp (as has been our practice), we're asking them to visit an OPEN HOUSE for an hour. Prospective campers get a tour of the property, meet some camp leadership who are then familiar faces when they come to camp, and our team can get questions answered that often took phone calls or emails to do. We're able to interact and determine which of our camper groups is a good fit for each new camper. We've had three so far after one got snowed out. We hope to do one more to meet the last of the new prospects.

MARCH 22-24 BIBLE CONFERENCE RETREAT – We enjoyed a wonderful weekend with 14 of our BC-1 and BC-2 guests. We were sad that four other guests couldn't come at the last minute due to four of our staff volunteers getting sick and not being able to serve. This was our fourth retreat since Covid – all similar in size. We welcomed one new guest to the group and were missing two veterans who are now in Heaven (one "graduated" during last year's retreat and one in January). We had lots of fellowship, food and fun! Tim shared three chapels on the theme of "A Winning Mindset." Kyle shared a Saturday morning special feature time on writing a personal doctrinal statement. Chris and Kyle had fun activities centered on Olympics and sports. There were also five elective times that each guest enjoyed. Two of my longest attending campers/guests were coming so I volunteered to be Companion for both. Bruce (age 61) – I was his Counselor when I started in 1977 (he started in 1975!). I was his Companion at our '21 and '22 retreats and he missed last year's due to an injury. It was great to see him again – down from Rochester, NY! Scott (52) started as a camper in 1979 and I was his first Counselor. This was his first retreat at Traber Center and he was glad he came – from Shamokin, PA. We hadn't seen him since summer 2019. We were able to livestream the three chapel times via Facebook LIVE again this year. Feel free to check out recordings on the HVMI Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/handivangelism> - scroll back to those March dates to view them). **Thank the Lord for each guest and each volunteer staffer who made the weekend possible. AND – thank the Lord for His protection. We heard news Monday morning that there was a small fire at Traber Center – 18 hours after our guests had all headed home. Pray for our friends at Camp Sankanac as repairs are planned and made and schedules adjusted as a result of the fire.**

DAY CAMP 2024 – Looking at my calendar, I see Day Camp staff orientation (May 31-June 2) starts in NINE WEEKS! We're so thankful that we'll be back on our own property – a big 30' x 60' tent behind the office will be our main activity space. We'll also use the clubhouse room and porch and outside bathrooms and enjoy the new basketball court for lots of activities. We'll have some spaces inside the office available, too. We have 105 campers working on applications (or they've already been submitted). We're expanding to NINE three-day sessions this summer. We still are processing applications from veteran staffers and a few prospective staffers. **We're praying for the Lord to lead a few more staffers to us!** Check out our website for staff information (<https://www.hvmi.org/gohc>) – if you're interested in serving even for just a session or two, you can start the application process with a link at the bottom of that webpage. Once again we're seeking folks to serve in other ways, too: **HOST HOMES** for some staff members who don't live locally; friends to provide **SUPPER MEALS** on Day Camp days for our staff team; people to provide **SUPPLY NEEDS** (from our Amazon wish list) and to donate to help with our **FINANCIAL NEEDS** (we aren't charging a camp fee for campers; trusting the Lord to provide for our camp expenses, staff salaries, tent rental, etc.). We're recruiting **PRAYER PARTNERS** to pray for a camper by name during his/her three days at camp. If you would like to be a Prayer Partner (or have interest in other needs), please email me (brobinson@hvmi.org). **Please pray for God to provide just the staff members we need. Pray for lots of preparations happening as we shift gears from the retreat weekend to summer plans – prospective staff interviews being conducted, camper applications being processing, Bible lessons being written and visualized, electives and activities being planned, programming supplies being inventoried and readied.** There are several "facility-type" projects to complete – a new ramp and wrap-around walkway on our clubhouse building, a new wooden four-place swing frame, completing a new firepit and making some benches around it, and getting some more paved pathways done so we can have a walking loop around various parts of the property. Can't wait to see it all done and being used!!!

Thanks so much for your love, prayers, encouragement and support. Trust your Easter celebration will be or was wonderful!

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