



Step by Step

A Ministry Update and Prayer Letter from Tara Kelley
December 2023—February 2024



Celebrate

As H*VMI's 50th Anniversary Year draws to a close, and as Christmas approaches, we have much to CELEBRATE! 2023 has been a year of excitement, change, challenge and growth. Yet in each situation, we have seen the Lord at work through His care and provision. Please join in the celebration, with thanks and praise to Him for all He has done!

Celebrate God's TRUTH!

We celebrate each glimpse God gives us into His work in the heart of those we serve. In our Bible clubs this year, our topic is *FAITH - IT ALL ADDS UP*, from 2 Peter 1. So far we have learned what FAITH is; and then "added" GOODNESS, KNOWLEDGE and SELF-CONTROL. In our KNOWLEDGE lesson, we taught that God's Word, the Bible, is the source of all Truth. As we add KNOWLEDGE, we need to check the new things we hear against God's Word, just as the Bereans checked what the apostle Paul was teaching them. If what we hear "matches" God's Word, then we get a "green light" to go ahead and believe it. If it does not match, then we get a "red light" and we need to stop! A few weeks after the ADD KNOWLEDGE club, I received an email from a parent of one of our youngest participants. The parent shared that they were watching a movie about Moses. When the movie showed Moses killing the Egyptian, this little boy sprung up and said, "Wait!" He apparently ran upstairs only to return with his Bible asking to "check it!" He and his dad found the passage and checked to make sure the facts lined up. He then used his Bible to follow along with the rest of the movie. His sister, also a Bible clubber, said he was being like a Berean! CELEBRATE the ways God is helping these young ones to understand the importance of God's Word; and helping them gain skills of discernment as they grow up in a world moving farther and farther away from Truth.



Celebrate God's CARE!

How can you care and offer Hope to the people we serve, even if you never meet them? Through your prayers and support of this ministry. Since I began serving in 1992 (*YES... some of you were not even born yet*), you have read updates and prayed accordingly. You have written notes or called with words of encouragement. You have given sacrificially through financial support. In turn, I have been able to be your hands, feet and heart of care to the people God sends our way. THANK YOU! May God provide for *you* in the days ahead, and may we *all* CELEBRATE His wonderful care for us!

LORD, YOU ALONE ARE EVERYTHING I NEED. YOU MAKE MY LIFE SECURE. PSALM 16:5

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Financial gifts in support of Tara's ministry may be sent to the office address above, designated for Account #369. *Thank you!*

Celebrate God's PROVISION!

We have moved! In my last letter to you I shared that it was "moving month." That moving date now feels like *months* ago... and it was! We are incredibly blessed to be settling into our new ministry center office. Little things are HUGE when you have never before had your own office. Little things like: an organized teacher workroom so Bible club supplies are easily accessible; being able to set up for Bible club well in advance because *most* groups are able to be held in our training room; a whole lot of floor space (*pictured below right*) to spread out and prep for ministry programs; cutting my commute time by nearly 20 minutes, which is especially nice on very late ministry nights; ground level entry making it *so* easy for the people we serve to come to programs - rather than having to navigate through an office complex and up an elevator to find us; windows that open for fresh air; decorating for our first Christmas, including icicle lights along our roof (*pictured below left*) and a tree under which we could put treats for our Bible clubbers; and being able to look out and see the beautiful property God gave us... while dreaming of the day when the entire project will be complete. CELEBRATE with us God's provision for all we have thus far, and please PRAY for God's continued provision in order to finish paying what we owe on the office and excavation so we can begin on the multi-purpose and cabin buildings.



Celebrate God's BLESSINGS!

Or should I say Blessings of Hope?!? Most people who know me know I enjoy "treasure hunting." Whether it is a Yard Sale, Rummage Sale, Thrift Store... or visiting a local outreach called Blessings of Hope, I love to search for the unique ways God provides. Our ministry uses a *wide* array of supplies: from pump soap refills - to food thickener - to computer cables - to cookies and candy - to Velcro and stuffed animals. As anyone who has recently been shopping realizes, those things are ever-increasing in price. So... enter "treasure hunting." Part of my time off is enjoyably spent traveling the back roads of Lancaster County, seeing the *beautiful* scenery, and finding God's provision in surprising ways, saving us quite a bit of money. Blessings of Hope, a food distribution center (*pictured above middle*), allows us to shop for ministry needs, paying just 31¢ per pound. That price goes a long way in food needed for camp and other ministry events! One of their volunteers even offers to be on the lookout for things we need, and at her expense, purchases them and donates them to H*VMI. At a local church rummage sale, I found a room *filled* with books, craft and VBS items, and other teaching materials. The volunteers helped as I gathered supplies we will use at camp and in Bible clubs... all for just a small donation to help *their* ministry. Many times I

have set out to yard-sale with a very specific list of things we needed: new Candy Land game, Bible puzzles and storage bins. And, at the end of the day, I would come home with exactly what was needed! How fun to watch God provide in specific and unique ways. May we *all* CELEBRATE His blessings and notice the "little things" He does to remind us He sees and knows just what we need!



Thank you for joining me in the celebration of God's work in the ministry of H*VMI. May you enjoy a Christmas blessed as you CELEBRATE the Reason we serve... JESUS!

With His love,
Jana

Please pray!

December:

- 4: Explorer Ladies' Bible Club
- 5: Explorer Guys' Bible Club
- 11: Lancaster PIP Support Group
- 14: Disability Training - Perkasie, PA
- 19: BASIS Support Group
- 21: JOY Group Bible Club

January:

- 8: Lancaster PIP Support Group
- 16: BASIS Support Group
- 18: JOY Group Bible Club

February:

- 5: Explorer Ladies' Bible Club
- 6: Explorer Guys' Bible Club
- 12: Lancaster PIP Support Group
- 15: JOY Group Bible Club
- 20: BASIS Support Group
- 25: Missions Conference - Brooklawn, NJ

