



# Increase

FALL  
2012

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

**A**s a young child I remember seeing that sign at most railroad crossings. It made a lot of sense then and still remains vital especially with today's high speed trains. That sign really gets me to thinking about an application to the H\*VMI ministry and to life, in general, in the "fast lane."

How often we seem to rush into things only to have regrets later. Sometimes we feel pressured to make a decision or solve a problem that, handled too quickly, might end up more complicated than we ever imagined. I believe the Bible gives some great advice for us concerning this. It's sort of a Biblical approach to the saying, "take a deep breath" or, "count to ten."

STOP seems to be the hardest. But Isaiah 40:31 says, *"Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength..."* In other words, we need to take time to dwell in the presence of the Lord.

As His creation, He knows us intimately, is very aware of our needs and is able to provide direction for us in amazing ways as we wait on Him. Next, we need to take time to LOOK into His Word. The Psalms provide peace and other passages offer direction



(Proverbs 3:5, 6 for a start!). Finally, LISTEN. Psalm 46:10 reminds us to *"be still and know that I am God..."* After we STOP and LOOK, we need to be quiet before the Lord. Remove any distractions and LISTEN to Him speak comfort and guidance to your soul.

As we're going through the challenges life throws our way, don't panic. Rather STOP, LOOK and LISTEN. It's the only way to stay "on track."



*By Tim Sheetz, Executive Director*

## We have a serious financial need—can you help?

Please **pray** and please **give**, if you are able, to help us with these needs:



1) As of June 30th, the H\*VMI Administrative account is running behind \$54,000. This account funds, among other items: rentals for office space out of which we handle the affairs of all ten H\*VMI ministries and all our missionaries; paper and printing supplies (letterhead,

brochures, envelopes, bank checks, donor receipts, newsletters, etc); postage; purchases and maintenance of computers, printers, copiers, laminators, folding machine and other office equipment; salaries for staff we absolutely cannot function without—secretaries, our accountant and

his assistant, our graphic artist, our webmaster, our IT personnel...

Basically, if the Administrative account of H\*VMI does not "make it," no ministry of H\*VMI can "make it!" because the Administrative account is the financial foundation for all of H\*VMI.

2) The June 30th storm and subsequent move for the last week of Handi\*Camp (see Handi\*Camp 2012 –#39 article) has cost us an additional \$6000 which was not planned for or anticipated in our camp budget. We need to recover those monies.

Please use the enclosed coupon or visit our website to donate online, as God leads you. *Thank you so much.*

# Leadership needs in H\*VMI

by Nathanael Manthey, Director of Mobilization



God's Word and our past experience tell us that God is a Provider. The name Jehovah-Jireh means the LORD will provide. The literal meaning of the word is

"The LORD Who Sees," and the deeper meaning is that the Lord will see to it. He knows our needs and will see to it that they are met in His timing and by His provision. Currently we are trusting our Lord to fill some vital roles in H\*VMI. We've been here before and seen Him answer our prayers and provide just the right person at just the right time.

We have some major needs in Handi\*Vangelism Ministries International for missionary staff. All personnel positions are pivotal. The positions of Director of Development, Handi\*Camp Nurse Manager and Director of Disability Training are currently vacant. Our Executive Director is ready to assume God's next role for him in H\*VMI, so we are searching for a replacement for him. And the Directors of BASIS and REST Ministries are retiring in the near future. Clearly these are vital roles within Handi\*Vangelism Ministries International and we are asking God to fill them with His chosen people.

So please pray for us; let us know if you know of anyone who has a heart for a ministry like H\*VMI and then rejoice with us when we see Him provide. If you have an opening at your church for me to visit and share about camp or any of the other H\*VMI ministries and opportunities, contact me at [nmanthey@hvmi.org](mailto:nmanthey@hvmi.org).



## Website

There are many ways you can stay up to date with H\*VMI ministry events, know how to pray for us and even make donations directly, all through our website. Visit us often at [www.hvmi.org](http://www.hvmi.org).

# Minds Renewed

by Cathi Myers, Director of Minds Renewed



We will be co-sponsoring our fourth annual program with No Longer Alone Ministries for *The National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding*.

## Mental Health Treatment: Putting the Pieces Together



**When:** Tuesday, October 2, 2012  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Calvary Church  
The Fellowship Hall, Room 303  
1051 Landis Valley Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601

**Presenter:** Harold Kraybill, MD, Psychiatrist

Mental illness has many facets similar to the pieces of a puzzle. Each occurrence is unique. Environmental, spiritual, emotional and biochemical aspects need to be considered in treatment. We will look at these aspects and how they interact.

This year's speaker, Dr Harold Kraybill, has worked for many years in the psychiatric field, including working at both Philhaven and Wernersville State Hospital in PA. He is gifted in presenting information about psychiatry in an understandable, practical manner. He is extremely dedicated to his work and engages clients and their families in the recovery from mental illness. Dr. Kraybill presently serves on the Board of Directors of No Longer Alone Ministries.

There will also be a time of prayer for mental illness recovery and understanding. The event is free. A love offering will be taken.

### For More Information:

Please contact Cathi Myers at 717.859.4777.

# 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](mailto:tkelley@hvmi.org). She'll be more than delighted to "plug you in."

In this issue of *Increase*, you'll enjoy meeting Linda Yeaney. Linda has volunteered at Handi\*Camp for ten years—teaching Bible, leading our "Yak and Chat" Elective and documenting each week in pictures, preparing a "CD Scrapbook" for each camper to take home.

## *"What is your 'comfort zone'?"*



Linda Yeaney

Sometimes God takes us out of our 'comfort zone' in order to give us a special blessing.

I really believe my story began over 30 years ago. It's always interesting to see how God orchestrates our lives even when we are not aware of it. Patti Nell, one of the H\*VMI missionaries, came to the school district in Corry, PA where I was a physical

education teacher. At that time, a mutual Christian friend was getting small groups of young people together. There was also a great active Christian Singles group in our area. Patti and I got involved in those groups.

"After Patti left Corry to work in missions, we sporadically kept in touch. When she became involved with Handi\*Camp, she encouraged me to help, but I really didn't see where I could fit in. Eventually, I went into school counseling and, although I could now better see the need for this kind of program, I still didn't think I could fit into that world.

"The first time I went to Handi\*Camp, it was with a friend for a one day visit. It was great but still kind of scary to me. The following year I went for a week and the next year for two weeks. Every year since then I always look forward to the end of the school year so I can be at camp to help with teaching Bible lessons and taking tons of pictures.

"God continued to unfold His plan for me. Several years after getting involved with Handi\*Camp, I was moved to a school that had special needs classrooms. They wanted someone to go into these classrooms to reinforce social behaviors. Well, guess who had been 'God trained' to

be an advocate and educator for those children? Yes, the answer was 'ME!' I really enjoyed my time at that school.

## *"God is good – No, God is Great!"*

I have been going to camp for about 10 years now. Some years Satan works really hard at giving me trials and reasons not to come. This year was one of those years. When I finally gave my concerns to God I became peaceful with the decision to attend. What a blessing it was to be there once again.

"Moral of the story: Let God take you out of your comfort zone because He has so many blessings for you when you are willing to go. As it says in the Bible, 'We are blessed to be a blessing to others.' I have been given many more blessed moments and new people in my life than I can begin to count."

## Twilight Senior Ministries

by Bill and Deb Carson, Directors of Twilight Senior Ministries



**S**uffering, in its many forms, is one of the things we deal with daily among the elderly. One of our dear ones, who has successfully beaten cancer two times before, has recently been diagnosed with melanoma, rectal cancer and lung cancer. She loves the Lord and is trusting Him to see her through, but is overwhelmed just with the logistics of getting to doctors and treatments, with dealing with all the financial issues, with having no one with her during this process, as well as with being in constant unrelenting pain. The God of All Comfort is doing His job well in her, and we praise Him that she knows where she will be eternally, if this physical battle is lost. Pray for compassion and wisdom for those coming alongside this one, and others who are suffering.

# Handi\*Camp 2012

*It was an amazing Handi\*Camp summer. There were abundant challenges and even more abundant blessings. Hear reactions from some of our 154 campers and their parents.*

## #39



**Matt's dad:** "Matt said the whole staff was great but that doesn't tell the half of it. He had a great companion at camp. The nurses were wonderful. The folks who prepared his food (who knew pureeing was a ministry?) were wonderful. We knew about Handi\*Camp from the outside but seeing it all happen was just amazing. The stories could take hours and you don't have time to read them." (Editor's note: Matt's parents assisted in the kitchen the week Matt was at Bible Conference, so they got some "inside scoop" about camp!!)



**Dana's mom:**  
"Just wanted to drop a line and let you know how much Dana enjoyed camp this year (as she always does)!"



Camp is the highlight of her life!!! She starts talking about it in January and begins then looking for Handi\*Camp mail. She tells everyone about camp. Her eyes sparkle and her smile is as beautiful and big as can be. I cannot thank each and every person involved enough. I am amazed at how many volunteers come to share their love and joy with our dear loved ones. Thank you again for true dedication, not to mention all the hidden work that needs to be completed prior to those weeks of camp."

**Stephen:** "Can't put into words how awesome camp was this year."





**Bruce:** "What a great week we had at Traber Center. It is truly amazing how the Lord provided a place for Bible Conference to take place on very

short notice. What a great job our wonderful camp staff did to make it all happen by moving everything and getting things underway only one day late. Thanks so much to everyone for a wonderful week at Bible Conference 2 again in 2012



**Elaine:** "I had lots of fun at camp. I can't wait for next year."



**B**ruce's comment gives a clue about *ONE* of the challenges this summer. On June 30th, the Saturday prior to Bible Conference 2, Malaga Camp suffered a severe storm with many downed trees and a power outage. Gratefully, there were no campers on site at that time. They were due to arrive the next day.

It's too much to tell the entire story in these few paragraphs, but, ***we ended up moving the last week of camp from Malaga to Traber Center***, adjacent to the Camp Sankanac property—back where we started on May 22nd! We moved about 50 people and their personal belongings, all the camp supplies (housekeeping, recreation, Bible, swimming, etc.) and our food for the week in 17 vehicles, including staff cars/vans, our two camp vans, a U-Haul truck and an SUV-drawn trailer. We arrived at Traber Center around 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 1st and were set up, ready to greet the

Bible Conference 2 guests by 2 p.m. on Monday, July 2nd, one day later than they were originally scheduled to arrive. With many adaptations to the program, we had "the week of our lives!!!"

***This was the perfect staff to accomplish such a mammoth task.*** The staff consisted of 13 H\*VMI fulltime staff, 66 summer staff, and 9 volunteer cooks, representing 11 states (PA, NJ, NY, OH, FL, MD, WV, NE, SC, CA, VA) and one foreign country (Ghana, West Africa). We were blessed to even include, among our summer staff, one of the H\*VMI Board members! He served as a counselor for two weeks!! Unity, flexibility, perseverance, dedication, a willingness to do whatever it takes would be ways to describe this 2012 Handi\*Camp staff throughout the entire six weeks of camp.

# Challenge To 2012 Handi\*Camp Staff

by Mary Jo Schnaithman

Editor's note: *Mary Jo Schnaithman is the mother of two sons. Vinnie was born with a disability. In 1998, at age 23, he went Home to be with the Lord. Mary Jo was invited to address the Handi\*Camp summer staff during their orientation as they prepared for this summer's camp ministry. Her comments challenge us all to recognize the VALUE of all people, especially as we are entering an era in our country where people with disabilities and the elderly are being increasingly de-valued.*

**“I**n March 2012, parents sued and were awarded \$2.9 million for the care of their Down Syndrome baby. The parents had argued that doctors had been ‘negligent’ in their pre-natal care. The parents said they would have terminated this pregnancy if they had not been assured their baby did not have Down Syndrome.

## “Consider the following about babies with Down Syndrome:

- Of women who have prenatal testing, approximately 90% of those who discover their child has Down Syndrome choose to abort.
- Prenatal tests will soon detect Down Syndrome as early as the ninth week of pregnancy.
- We are already seeing a decline in the number of children with Down Syndrome being born.
- Women routinely report that doctors paint a negative, inaccurate picture of the quality of lives of children with Down Syndrome and their families.



“Are we as a society declaring a death sentence for those diagnosed with disability? Our culture sees fit to destroy these precious little ones, rather than disrupt comfortable life styles. Many people have this vision that life should be hassle free and pain free and they will try to convince us that our quality of life will suffer having a special needs child.

## “BUT—these are some of the BLESSINGS God gave to me by having a special needs child:

1. *Patience* beyond anything I could have ever imagined. Vinnie turned my life upside down, disrupted my plans and my sleep, tested my patience, and in spite of it all, never would I dream of giving up on my child.
2. *Understanding of the true meaning of love.* Love has no bounds, no rules or expectations.
3. *Unconditional acceptance* of others.
4. *Learning to not sweat the small stuff*, things that once would have mattered a great deal.
5. *Friends* I wouldn't have met, like those in parent support groups.
6. *Appreciation for the little things of life.* A simple smile brings me great pleasure.
7. *Learning to take one day at a time, trusting that God is in control.* Vinnie definitely helped me to draw closer to God.
8. *A medical and psychological education* without having to pay tuition! I knew more than any college student majoring in psychology could know and more than any psychiatrist thought he could know about my child. I lived it. I was a “professional” mom!!
9. *Learning to give more of myself* than I ever dreamed was possible to give.
10. *Learning that my child's normal was truly normal* and I didn't need to try to make him fit into our world to please everybody.
11. *A ministry I never anticipated.* Raising a child with special needs is a ministry in and of itself. What a testimony for others when they see how much we treasure our special needs children.
12. *Learning to ignore what others think* about what I should and shouldn't do for my child. Everyone thought they had the answers!
13. *Eyes in the back of my head.*
14. *Good God-given instincts.* They were sometimes more trustworthy than what doctors and teachers thought Vinnie should do.
15. *A sense of humor.* It became my survival tool. (I found humor when others were trying to figure out what in the world is up with this kid?!!)
16. Instead of always being the giver *I learned to be the receiver.*
17. *Acceptance of my shortfalls.* I learned that I don't need to be perfect.

18. ***A perfect child!*** God made my child perfect and I didn't need to change who he was.  
Psalm 139:14 assured me that no matter what the world might say about special needs children, they are fearfully and wonderfully made.
19. ***Enjoying the innocence of my child*** and discovering that it was okay to stop worrying and enjoy him just as God had created him.
20. ***Becoming a problem solver and a fighter.*** I learned to go against all odds to obtain for my child what he needed – such as an extended school year.
21. ***Flexibility*** because things never seemed to go as planned.
22. Learning that ***life is about what we can do, not about what we can't do.***
23. ***Dirty dishes are acceptable,*** but not caring for my child was not.
24. ***Forgiveness.*** Vinnie taught me how to forgive especially when people would make unkind remarks about him. People with special needs are the most forgiving people I know.
25. ***Material things mean nothing*** when compared to the love I received from my special child.
26. ***Contentment.*** He was content with who he was—never ashamed or embarrassed.
27. ***Evangelism!*** Vinnie could reach others with a simple gospel message: 'Do you love Jesus?' 'Let's give Jesus a hug.' 'Praise the Lord!' The words, 'Do you love Jesus?' and 'Let's give Jesus a hug.' are inscribed on his tombstone. We make it difficult, he made it simple. He freely spoke about Jesus no matter where he was. God says we are to be the light of the Lord. In his own little way Vinnie was a light for the Lord and brought glory to Him.

***"I'd do it all over again.*** Being Vinnie's Mom is truly a privilege and the highest honor that God could give to me. He trusted me enough to give Vinnie to me, and that I will always treasure. Most of all I find peace knowing that Vinnie is now with Jesus and one day I look forward to walking hand-in-hand with him to meet our best friend, Jesus.



"Handi\*Camp staff, while working with the campers this week remember to count it all joy to be able to spend time with them. Take time to listen and allow them to be themselves. Look in their eyes and you will see the beauty of who God made them to be. Remember they have more in common with us than we think. They are special in God's sight, so they should be special to all of us as well. Remember, you are God's ambassadors. Some of them may not be Believers. This is your opportunity to share the Gospel with them. Some of them may be in very tough living conditions. Show them sincere compassion, just as Christ shows to us. Don't look at them the way the world does. How you treat the campers this week will speak volumes about who you are. I fell in love with my husband the day we were at a volley ball game and a girl came in a wheelchair. He immediately walked over to her, knelt down, looked in her eyes and said, 'Judy how are you doing today?' As they say the rest is history.

"May God grow you in a special way while you are at camp. ***And He will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help Me.'*** (Matthew 25:45 NLT)"

## Member Care

By Deb Clark

**H**\*VMI's Member Care Department exists to encourage and exhort our H\*VMI missionaries and ministry staff through various avenues of care. Included are SERVANT Orientation for new incoming missionaries/ministry staff, the annual H\*VMI Family Retreat in November, notes of encouragement, prayer, providing counseling resources, listening and giving input at ministry meetings and connecting through phone calls, emails, cards and a blog on



our H\*VMI website called Care Corner. At Care Corner the emphasis is on being a source of encouragement, offering challenges from God's Word and educating on issues that affect our everyday lives and ministries to others. You can stay informed about new posts for Care Corner by clicking on the side bar (<http://www.hvmi.org/blog/care-corner>) that says Subscribe to Receive E-mail Notifications of New Posts.



Community Partner

The Fall 2012 United Way Campaigns are kicking off in most areas at this time. You may be looking for a way to be sure your United Way donation goes toward a program that you wholeheartedly support. If your local United Way allows Donor Option (or Donor Choice), you can decide where your gift goes. H\*VMI's Handi\*Camp,

BASIS and REST Ministries programs have been approved by several United Way offices to receive Donor Option designations. We are very thankful for these additional gifts toward our camping program for children, teens and adults with physical and/or intellectual disabilities; our bereaved parents' support ministry; and our ministry to people who are abused, hurting or imprisoned!

If you would like to designate all or part of your United Way donation this fall, simply list either Handi\*Camp (Handi\*Vangelism), BASIS (Handi\*Vangelism) or REST Ministries (Handi\*Vangelism) as the Donor Option agency on your designation form. Be sure to include our office address (PO Box 122, Akron, PA 17501-0122) so your United Way office can contact us.

Donor Choice forms for the United Way of Southeastern PA (greater Philadelphia area) include a space for an agency code number. Handi\*Camp's code number is 1113. The code number for BASIS is 7659. REST Ministries' code number is 12000. Thank you for prayerfully considering one of these H\*VMI programs as part of your United Way donation.



## 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

**August 13-17 SERVANT Orientation** (training new H\*VMI missionaries)

**August 17 BASIS Picnic**, National Park, NJ (for bereaved parents)

**August 18 PIP Picnic**, Akron, PA (for families of a child with a disability)

**September 10 Monthly Bible Clubs, Support Groups resume**

**September 24 H\*VMI Annual Golf Outing**, Centerton, NJ

**October 2 National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding**, Lancaster, PA

**October 11-12 Board of Directors' Meeting**

**October 13 BASIS Service** - "Remembering with Hope," East Earl, PA

**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**  
Yoder's, New Holland, 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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