

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

By Tim Sheetz, Executive Director

As I get older (ahem!) I think sometimes about the legacy I want to leave my family. They certainly know that it won't be one that includes financial fortune.

Do you think about the kind of legacy you'll leave your family and friends? How will they assess your life, say 5-10 years from now? What are the principles you are instilling in the minds of your loved ones by the life you live? I love Steve Green's song, *"May All Who Come Behind Us Find Us Faithful."* That would be a very good legacy.

I think there are Biblical guidelines to help us in the process of defining what our legacy should be. Let's think about four Biblical characters and the legacy they left us.

David—in Psalm 34:2, ***"My soul thirsts for God."***

David, about whom it is written, was "a man after God's own heart." He had a deep desire for God—like quenching the thirst in a parched throat. He woke up with thoughts about God each morning and meditated on His Word throughout the day. Then he thanked God at the end of each day for all God had shown him and done for him, no matter how difficult the day was. David leaves us this legacy—***My soul thirsts for God.***

Then there's Joseph—the man whose world was turned upside down by abuse, betrayal, hurtful accusations, false imprisonment and having an incredible change of occupation and location. Joseph learned and applied the grace of God to himself and then transferred it on to his brothers. Instead of retribution, which everyone would have thought appropriate, Joseph forgave and restored. He chose to see God, instead of his circumstances. Joseph said to his brothers in Genesis 50:20, ***"...God meant it for good..."***

Moving to the New Testament, think of Mary—after trusting her very being to God, she exclaimed, ***"I am the Lord's bondservant."*** To Mary, her body, her relationships, her self esteem, her future—all—belonged to the Lord. Whatever her Lord asked of her, Mary would do. She was His bondservant, and everyone in her life—and all of us today—know it. ***I am the Lord's bondservant.***

Paul said in Philippians 3:10, ***"That I may know Him."*** For Paul, it wasn't just a matter of worshipping God. What drove Paul was having a strong desire to know God intimately. He sought God's holy nature, His righteousness and His compassion for the people He created. The best part of Paul's life was the time he spent listening and responding to the heart of God. Paul's legacy—***That I may know Him.***

The best legacy we can leave others emanates from living out this truth in our lives: ***Christ died for my sins.*** If we keep this thought before us, all other legacies, including those mentioned above, will always fall into the proper place.

Please notice that all the statements in bold have 5 words. That was done on purpose so we can easily remember them. We can count them on the fingers of one hand. As you and I embrace these legacies and incorporate them into our lives, we'll never have to be concerned about what "those who come behind us" will remember about us.

And, one final thought about legacies. Here are five more words: ***Life's challenges meet Christ's compassion.*** For forty years, H*VMI has been working to leave this legacy. By God's grace, we will continue. Please pray for us to live that out so this ministry will bring great glory to God and be a blessing to others.



Leaving a Legacy

Forty and Forward—Reminiscing...

“For the LORD your God has blessed you in all that you have done; He has known your wanderings through this great wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you; you have not lacked a thing.”

Deuteronomy 2:7 NAS

Hold On To Your Hat! We’re going to FLY through a few highlights of H*VMI’s 40 years...

1973 Handi*Vangelism begins with an annual budget of \$7000!
1974 First Handi*Camp; First God’s Special Children’s Sunday school class
1975 H*V Sunday school ministry begins at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, PA
1980 First Disability Training in Bible Colleges and Universities
1981 BASIS ministry for bereaved parents begins
1983 **H*V Celebrates Our Tenth Anniversary!**
1989 Published “*Stars of Promise*” devotional booklet for bereaved parents
1990 Parents In Progress (PIP) Support Group for parents of children with disabilities begins
1991 Disability and grief training opportunities in Romania
1992 Published “*Keeper of the Stars...*,” sequel to “*Stars of Promise*”
1992 H*V heads up the accessibility program for the Philadelphia Billy Graham Crusade
1993 Disability and grief training opportunities in Russia
1993 **H*V Celebrates Our Twentieth Anniversary!**
1994 Disability and grief training opportunities in England, Malaysia, Italy, England
1995 H*V Ghana begins
1998 **H*V Celebrates Our Twenty-Fifth Anniversary!**
1999 Handi*Camp in Ukraine
2000 Kids in Grief ministry begins under BASIS
2001 Handi*Camp in Canada
2001 Disability and grief training opportunities in China
2002 Minds Renewed ministry begins
2003 **H*V Celebrates Our Thirtieth Anniversary!**
2003 Disability and grief training opportunities in India with representatives attending from Egypt, Myanmar, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh
2004 H*V becomes an independent mission agency, H*VMI
2004 REST Ministries joins H*VMI
2007 “*Restored – Seeing Me Through God’s Eyes*” is published by REST Ministries
2008 **H*VMI Celebrates Our Thirty-Fifth Anniversary!**
2009 First H*VMI Winter Seminar Series
2009 H*VMI joins the Facebook/Twitter/blog community
2010 First National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding

2013 – H*VMI Celebrates Our 40th Anniversary!

Today, along with seven Board members, H*VMI has thirty-five full and part time staff in the United States and in Ghana, West Africa overseeing several unique compassion ministries. Our volunteers number in the dozens. Camp staff ranges between 60-75 each summer. We’re thankful to the Lord for hundreds of people, including all of you, who encourage, pray for and financially support the various H*VMI ministries and our individual missionaries.

Our current annual budget is \$1,063,734.

Through these 40 years:

- ☞ We have provided hundreds of disability training programs in churches, conferences, Bible colleges and seminaries.
- ☞ We have been privileged to minister to 681 different campers.
- ☞ More than 200 individuals with disabilities have opportunity each month to grow in the Lord through twelve different Bible club programs.
- ☞ We have been privileged to minister to approximately 950 parents facing the loss of a child.
- ☞ Ghana camps for the Deaf each December and for people who are blind each April minister to upwards of 600 people. Currently, there are 23 children living at our orphanage. In our training facility, 37 residents are learning skills in carpentry, dressmaking, auto mechanics, metal works, hair braiding and many more trades. Approximately 15 people with disabilities attend our Sunday street meetings for people with disabilities.
- ☞ Approximately 20 people who have experienced abuse, addictions and/or imprisonment are served monthly in our prison ministry and our tutoring program. We’ve had opportunity to present workshops on abuse and restoration in Brazil, Canada, Jamaica, The Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Poland, Wales, England, Scotland and North Ireland.



Handi*Camp #40!!!

By Tara Kelley, Director, Disability Ministries

"But may all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; may those who long for Your saving help always say, 'The LORD is great!'" Psalm 70:4

For forty years now, God has shown His great faithfulness to the campers, guests and staff of Handi*Camp. Anyone who has been involved in camp knows—the memories last forever! The laughter, the learning, the friendships, the challenges and the tears all point to the working of our Lord Who desires so very much to be involved in our lives personally. This summer was no exception. He worked in countless ways, big and small, seen and unseen. Please join with us in **praising** Him for:

"Until Another Summer Rolls Around"

*Another trip around the sun,
Another summer full of fun.*

*Learning, growing, praising, walking and wheeling side by side
On diverging paths with a common destination...HEAVEN.*

*Heads held high, yet willing to bow.
Your will be done, use for Your purpose.
You the why, we the how.*

*Love thy neighbors, thy bunkmates and thy companions.
Eat, sleep, laugh and be with them until they become family.
Make memories, take pictures and make marks on their lives.
Keep in touch.*

*Let the love of Jesus dwarf the distance between you
Until another summer rolls around.*



*By Nikki Stout,
Bible Conference 2 Guest*

- The 85 summer staff members who served with us. Two of them were literally last minute additions to fill critical, unexpected "holes" as a female counselor and a female counselor supervisor. God worked out many details to allow them to be at camp when needed.
- Bringing us through a year of many transitions in the camp leadership team. Prayers were answered as God gave incredible unity, wisdom and direction to the camp planning team.
- The fact that we didn't float away! Even though it rained a lot (*H*C tradition has it, that when we have a new Program Director, we have more than your average rainfall! That tradition held true!*) 148 campers and Bible Conference guests enjoyed a variety of activities and had the opportunity to grow in their relationship with the Lord through planned and unplanned teachable moments.
- The twelve new campers who joined us—and the one we believe accepted the Lord as Savior!

continued on page 4

More than 2400 seniors hear God's Word each month through our church services, Bible studies, closed circuit TV programs and the one-on-one visits our missionaries make.

We have monthly support groups for bereaved parents, parents of children with a disability and for people who are challenged by mental health issues. About 45 people attend these groups each month.

In addition to many ministry brochures, flyers and information packets, H*VMI's periodicals go to the homes of more than 7000 people and include the general ministry newsletter called *Increase*, *Renew* newsletter for bereaved parents, *Heart-to-Heart* newsletter for parents of children with a disability and *REST & Review* for people who are interested in or touched by H*VMI's REST Ministries.

***To God Be The Glory. Great Things
He Has Done!***

Forty and Forward – Looking Ahead

“Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:12 NAS

We Have Updated Our Mission and Vision Statements



We haven't altered our mission or vision — simply streamlined the wording.

Our New 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.

Our New 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.

*continued from page 3, Handi*Camp #40*

- Many children's VBS groups that collected offerings to provide scholarships for campers.
- The many church groups that collected supplies.
- His protection over everyone—even when two of our staff members lost their brakes on a winding road just minutes after leaving camp to return home.
- A man who fixed the broken wheelchair lift on our older camp van at no charge to us.
- No ambulance or 911 calls... the whole summer!
- Our campers being used by Him as we completed missions' projects to help raise money for ministry in other countries.
- The encouragement of praying friends—those who prayed for the staff and those who were one-on-one prayer partners for each of our campers. And, for those who called to say, “God laid you on our hearts—how can we pray?”
- Restoring a dear friend and Board supervisor of Handi*Camp to us after some very difficult health challenges.
- Churches that helped us by bringing meals on weekends to feed our staff.
- The faithful volunteers who came to camp clean up day – sweeping, scrubbing, moving, raking.....
- Being able to finish week 5 despite losing electricity in the Dining Hall (yes, it happened again this year!).

- Being able to have week 6, even though we opened a day late as electricity was finally restored just a couple of hours before guests were to arrive.
- The campers and guests who have already been calling to ask, “What day do I go to camp in 2014?” Their enthusiasm reminds us what this ministry is all about!

Indeed He has blessed! As the camp team now evaluates this past summer and begins planning for 2014, please pray for us. Please continue praying for His clear direction and provision as we cautiously move forward, investigating the possibility of someday having our own camp facility. As you join with us in remembering the past and anticipating the future, let us continually praise Him as it is written in Isaiah 44:23 — ***“Shout for joy, O heavens, for the Lord has done it!”***



Disability Ministries—Something “New!”

By Tara Kelley, Director, Disability Ministries



*(Editor's Note: H*VMI is rearranging our four ministry programs that involve disabilities into one department with four parts called, Disability Ministries. Tara Kelley will be the Director of the "new" Disability Ministries Department.)*

The Disability Ministries Department of H*VMI provides programs, resources and support for people with disabilities and their families. We also seek to equip the church to include people with disabilities as growing and serving members of the Body of Christ.

The "outreach" part of Disability Ministries provides **Discipleship** opportunities for people with disabilities to grow in their knowledge of and relationship with the Lord. We currently have 12 different Bible clubs, Bible studies and/or visitation programs for those living in the community or in hospitals, rehab centers or residential facilities. To supplement the on-site ministries or for those too distant from meeting locations, our Discipleship staff offers in-home one-on-one visitation, provides correspondence Bible Lessons, sends out weekly email devotionals and is readily available to provide encouragement or a listening ear through phone calls.

During the summer, H*VMI offers **Handi*Camp**, a carefully planned, overnight camping experience uniquely designed to meet the physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual needs of people with disabilities. At Handi*Camp,

campers discover a new environment with new people, ideal for making new friends. Campers are cared for in a safe, Christian environment by trained staff members. The schedule, activities and Bible classes are adapted so everyone is able to participate! And, introduction to God's plan of salvation and encouragement for Believers to grow closer to Him are two key areas of spiritual emphasis.

Our support of those affected by disability also extends to the family. **PIP, Parents in Progress**, provides support group opportunities designed to be safe places for parents to share the very real challenges, concerns and joys of raising a child with a disability. Parents are able to connect with each other, sharing helpful resources and walking alongside those who are "new" to the world of disability. In addition to monthly support groups, there are special events like the annual all-family picnic, a newsletter entitled *Heart-to-Heart* and resources for those interested in beginning their own support group.

Since God calls all Believers to reach all people with the Gospel, H*VMI not only conducts programs, but also seeks to equip others for doing the work of the ministry. Our **Disability Training** team is able to provide training and resources for congregations wishing to establish or strengthen ministries to people with disabilities. Workshops and seminars on a variety of subjects are readily available, or we are able to prepare specialized training to meet a specific need. Our existing programs serve as "training grounds" for internships, short term mission opportunities and hands-on experiences for those interested in disability ministry. H*VMI seeks to partner with colleges, seminaries and other mission organizations so that future Christian workers are aware of and prepared to meet the needs of people with disabilities wherever they are called to serve.

Fifth Annual National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding

By Cathi Myers, Director, Minds Renewed Ministry

"Spirituality and The Journey of Mental Health" is the title for our fifth annual program for the National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding. We will again co-sponsor the event with No Longer Alone Ministries (NLAM). Along with having a time of prayer, Dr. Bob Justice, who is a respected psychologist as well as an ordained minister, will make a presentation regarding our titled theme. Please visit www.hvmi.org or call 717-859-4777 for more information.

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Calvary Church

in Lancaster, PA



Welcome, Steve Gentino. God's Man—God's Timing

*(Editor's note: After five outstanding years of service as H*VMI's Accountant and then CFO, Don Barto felt it was time to retire. We knew that the search for his replacement would be a challenge. Don has "big shoes" to fill—both in his skills and his heart for this ministry. In His time, God brought Steve Gentino to the H*VMI ministry. It didn't take long for Don or the rest of us at the H*VMI office to realize – Steve is definitely God's man to follow Don. With thanks to the Lord for Don's ministry and His timing in bringing Steve to us, we are happy to introduce Steve Gentino.)*



I am grateful for the opportunity to join the H*VMI family. I'm familiar with compassion ministry having worked for Water Street Ministries (in Lancaster, PA) for 10 years. I'm still getting my feet wet here in the accounting office, but am fortunate to be able to follow along behind Don Barto who kept the books in quite good order as I see.

My walk with the Lord didn't start until my early twenties, although I now see God's Hand on my life even when I was not acknowledging Him. I grew up in a family without a church-going tradition or where faith was discussed and encouraged. My life was filled with sports and pleasure-seeking through my college years. Although I was interested in spiritual things, it was in the direction of meditation and Far Eastern religion.

Immediately after college I took a trip with a school friend to Europe, and we eventually found ourselves in Morocco, the northwestern-most country in Africa. Camping on a small beach and disillusioned with the life I was living, I happened to borrow a modern-language New Testament. I had rarely read the Bible up until that point.

Reading through the Gospels brought me to faith. I believed what I was reading was an accurate account of events in the life of Christ. The words of Jesus had the ring of truth and were backed up by powerful demonstrations from Jesus. My first thoughts as I remember were, "God is alive," and "This is a reason to love others." Pretty basic insights, but a start to a life that would be changed forever.

I made it back to the US, and visited a college friend in the Washington DC area who was a great help in my early growth as a Christian. I met my Linda at a church we had both started attending at about the same time. We got married, raised three children in College Park, Maryland and attended Wallace Presbyterian Church. We moved to Lancaster County in 1997 (Linda was born in Lancaster County and we had visited her parents frequently). We currently attend Westminster Presbyterian Church, and have 3 grown children and 5 grandchildren.

I had gotten out of fulltime accounting after my time with Water Street and was taking somewhat of a sabbatical from accounting by doing clock-making with a little accounting on the side. An email was forwarded to me about the need at H*VMI for an accountant, so I looked into it. The Lord seemed to confirm that this would be a good fit for both H*VMI and for me, and sure enough, Tim and Kathy thought so as well.

I look forward to learning more about H*VMI's ministry of compassion and meeting the folks who make it happen. I am blessed to be a part of things here.



We Need a New Home

Pray with us, please, as we continue to look into the possibility of purchasing a property that would fulfill H*VMI ministry needs for offices, camp, retreats, seminars... It will be a miracle for us to acquire this—but a no bigger miracle than what we have seen Him do through His faithful Hand on this ministry for the past 40 years!!

C2H2

By Michelle Noble,
H*VMI missionary
with BASIS

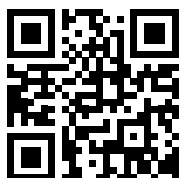
C2H2 stands for
Compassion,
Comfort, Healing and
Hope and is based on 2

Corinthians 1:3-7. C2H2 is a new ministry under BASIS that offers support for grieving children and teens. C2H2 offers individual family support, peer to peer group programming, as well as training on how to support grieving children and teens. It provides opportunities for expression through art, music, games and community. Children and teens often find it difficult to express how they are feeling, therefore providing opportunities that allow them to be creative can be very empowering.

I am honored to be on this path. My story has to do with a loss of my own. It was this loss that truly let me surrender everything to the Lord. I knew that if I was going to work alongside families who are going through heart wrenching circumstances, I would need more of Him. And so here I am pursuing what I believe God has called me to. It is my hope that through pain and loss and in ways only God can do that we become whole and more of who He has designed us to be. He makes all things new. He turns our darkest times into something He can use for His Glory. He is our Comforter. He is our Hope. It is an honor to see Him at work.



For more information on grieving children and teens visit hvmi.org/basis or email Michelle Noble at mnoble@hvmi.org.



Scan this barcode with your
smartphone to see what's new
on our website!



United Way Campaign

The Fall 2013 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.

The Donor Choice form for the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey includes 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

October 5

40th Anniversary Banquet, Yoder's, New Holland PA

October 8

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

October 19

LCCD Disability Ministry Conference Lancaster, PA

November 15-17

H*VMI Board/Staff Retreat

November 22

The Extra Ordinary Give—online donation to H*VMI

December 6-7

H*VMI Board of Directors Meeting

**For additional information on these events,
please visit our website or
call 717.859.4777.**

H*VMI and YOU! Ways We Might Serve YOU!

I would like someone to contact me concerning the following:

- ☐ **BASIS**
- ☐ **Disability Ministries**
- ☐ **International**
- ☐ **Minds Renewed**
- ☐ **REST Ministries**
- ☐ **Seminars**
- ☐ **Twilight Senior Ministries**
- ☐ **Short Term Missions Opportunities**
- ☐ **General**
- ☐ **Other**

Fill out the information below so we can contact you or send you more information.



Help us celebrate our 40th year!

We're celebrating 40 years of God's Grace to this ministry and the privilege of touching the lives of thousands of people. Will you celebrate with us?

- ☐ I will pray for God's direction as you move FORWARD.
- ☐ I will pray for God's provision of a new location for you.
- ☐ Please keep me updated.

☐ I wish to give a 40th anniversary gift to H*VMI as you move FORWARD...

☐ \$40.00 ☐ \$400.00 ☐ \$4000.00 ☐ Other \$ _____

Method of Payment

☐ Check (please make your check payable to H*VMI)

☐ Credit Card # : _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Signature: _____ Date: _____

☐ Please send me information about automatic withdrawal from my bank account (EFT).

☐ Please send me information about gifts of stock.

Please print information below and return in the enclosed envelope. Thank You!

▲ Name (Please Print) _____

▲ Street or PO Box _____

▲ City _____

▲ State _____

▲ Zip _____

▲ Phone # _____

▲ Email address _____

*Please complete this response form and return it 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!***

H*VMI • PO Box 122 • Akron, PA 17501-0122 • 717.859.4777 • hvmi.org



Executive Director:
Rev. Timothy D. Sheetz

MINISTRY DEPARTMENTS

BASIS

C2H2

*support for bereaved parents and
for grieving children and teens*

Disability Ministries

*Discipleship • Handi*Camp • PIP • Training*

*provides programs, resources and support for
people with disabilities and their families*

International

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

Minds Renewed

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

REST Ministries

Education/Training • Prison • Wings

*for those who have experienced abuse,
addictions, imprisonment*

Seminars

*providing training and resources in a
variety of ministry topics*

Twilight Senior Ministries

for those in nursing homes

Editor: Kathy Sheetz

Design: Claire Krout

*For more information
contact us at:*

**Handi*Vangelism
Ministries International™**

PO Box 122

Akron, PA 17501-0122

Phone: 717.859.4777

Email: info@hvmi.org

Website: hvmi.org