



Increase

SPRING
2019

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

Confidently Incompetent

by Kyle Robinson, Executive Director



I coined this phrase in the months prior to my official transition into the position of Executive Director. The meaning of this phrase may appear to be obvious. However, I'd like to delve a little further into the thought process behind these seemingly self-deprecating two words. Most of us have memorized *Proverbs 3:5-6* - "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." This verse is one we can say in our sleep, but if we take the words to heart, we see the "confidently incompetent" phrase come to light. Trust fully in the Lord. Do not lean on your own understanding. God's ways are higher than ours, and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55). God simply says, "Child, rely on Me. I know everything. In everything you do, look to Me and I will direct you." Too often we try to think our own way out of problems. That is "me to a T." I want to barrel through an issue without stopping to ask for directions. Our Founder and friend, Tim Sheetz, is always a great example of what I *should* be doing: stopping first to PRAY! I'm getting better at applying that great practice. Simply recognizing that, without God, we are helpless to start any and all aspects of our day. Part of relying fully on God is also recognizing that we are completely useless on our own.

This perspective was crystalized during my first trip as Executive Director to Ghana, West Africa over Christmas this year. My sister, Jessica, and I went to serve at the Christmas Deaf Camp. I have immense respect for our Ghanaian born and raised H*VMI Ghana leadership, Larry and Philip. Their commitment to the ministry is

unquestionable. They love the Lord and desire to do anything and everything to serve Him. My goal for the trip, in addition to working hard for the Lord and breaking a sweat every day, was to encourage our Ghanaian ministry staff. As I embrace my perspective of confidence and incompetence, I must admit something about this amazing foreign ministry: *I could move to Ghana, live there for 20 years, and not be half as*

"Part of relying fully on God is also recognizing that we are completely useless on our own."

effective as the Ghanaian people who grew up in the culture and know the people. Does that mean my trip was a waste? Absolutely not! You will read about some of the incredible things God did later in this newsletter.

As co-laborers in Christ, we are told to build up one another. That does not mean proving that you can do what your co-laborers can do. It does mean supporting them and helping where you can. It does mean lifting them up in prayer and loving them as Christ would. It does mean relying on God. It does mean trusting in Him... and allowing HIM to direct our paths!



Christmas Deaf Camp 2018—GHANA

Snapshots from Echoing Hills Village

While we were working at Deaf Camp, we also interacted with Echoing Hills Village (EHV) residents. People of different ages, physical or intellectual ability levels live at EHV all year round. The local government relies on our H*VMI Ghana team to support kids who have been displaced or need housing for a variety of reasons. God has blessed the program, and the support they give is a true display of God's intent for His people.

From Jessica: Vicentia came to live at EHV about two weeks before our arrival. Prior to her living here, she accidentally took a wrong bus from school and ended up far from home. When she started asking people where she was, they took her to the police station. The police took her to EHV for temporary placement. They contacted her parents who came and took her home. When she got home, she began saving up money so she could have bus fare to return to EHV. She told the staff that she was experiencing physical abuse in her home, and her mother had threatened her not to tell. Vicentia, now a resident of EHV, is beginning to trust and grow with the people around her. It is awesome to know her story and to watch Christ redeem her. I think it is so amazing that she chose to come to EHV of her own volition because she felt safe, loved and part of a family. Such a beautiful representation of the Body of Christ!



From Kyle: Qua-Chee (we'll call him "Q") has a severe intellectual disability. He LOVES to get into trouble. But, he always has a smile on his face. Jessie and I took a liking to him, and we focused our free time efforts on interacting positively with him. We rewarded the positive things we saw with a hug or by holding hands. Other



EHV residents were bothered by Q's antics, and rightly so. He often stole food or drinks. The entirety of our time in Ghana I think we saw him sit still ONCE! Often, he would come into the hut where I taught my morning lesson, sit for a minute, and then run out. Sit for a minute, then run. Very distracting! Until the day I taught on Heaven. Q came in and sat down. He sat, still and content, during our 30 minute worship time.



Then came the lesson—a crucial one that would end with a salvation presentation and prayer. My Twi interpreter, Ernest, passionately translated the lesson Truths so the children could understand. It took almost an hour. At the end, I asked if any of them felt they weren't saved and wanted to be. Several hands were raised. And still—there sat Q! He does not have clear speech, nor did he raise his hand, but God kept him in that place to hear the full salvation message. Praise the Lord! Only He can save. Only He can change a heart. My prayer is that Q's heart was softened that day, and someday we will see him in Heaven!

"By the Numbers"

Each summer, at the end of Handi*Camp in the States, Brian Robinson gathers a "By the Numbers" report for all to see. "By the Numbers" is a good way to show how the Ghana Deaf Camp went this Christmas too!

- 285 total participants
- 205 people at the home or surrounding areas
- 70 people came in from outside Deaf Schools
- 10 children, two to eight years old
- 155 first-time campers
- **88 people in total accepted the Lord at camp!**
- **25 of the people who committed their lives to Christ were Muslims**
- 8 teaching times with groups of Deaf campers and hearing children who were also a part of camp
- 1 meeting with the H*VMI Ghana Board of Directors to encourage and to learn more about the ministry's needs
- 25-30 daily clinic patients (One of Jessica's primary responsibilities was to serve as a Clinic Nurse.)
- 750 people attended the annual Christmas party with singing, a dance competition, and a BIG game of musical chairs
- 5-6 hours of travel time for some campers to come to camp from distant schools for the Deaf

His Perfect Plan

By Jessica Robinson, H*VMI Volunteer



Jessica and Patience, who sewed a dress and shirt from fabric that was gifted to Jessica.

Where do I even begin? God did amazing things in the two weeks that we were in Ghana. There were lives committed to Christ. There were new friendships formed. There were injuries and healing. There were stories and future plans being laid out. And God was at the center of it all. I remarked to Kyle, "It just felt like camp." Now, I know what you're thinking, "It is camp!" And you're right.

A week of camp primarily for the Deaf is a different program than we have in America, but not a completely foreign concept. What I mean when I say it just felt like camp is that Kyle and I were able to fit right in. If I'm being vulnerable, I think I went into this week with a mindset that we were going over to help and to do this great work. Truth is, this camp happens year after year without the two American siblings who came this year. So, when we started camp and it flowed just as it would have in America; when it felt like the work Kyle and I have done together for years; then I realized how excited I was. God has worked out His perfect plan for camp in Ghana without us in the past, but this year, we were privileged to be in it. We were excited to be broken people who are a part of His perfect plan.



Meeting Deborah, a Compassion child I have supported for the past four years, was a truly amazing experience I won't soon forget. I specifically chose a child in Ghana with the hope of one day meeting her. December 19th, 2018 was the day! Soon after we started breakfast, we saw Deborah, her mother, her local pastor and the Compassion host outside. I was so excited and nervous. This girl I had supported, seen pictures of and exchanged letters with, was right outside. I did not know what to expect of the day, but I was just so delighted to meet her and her mother. After we initially met and exchanged pleasantries, we went to a botanical garden with a playground. It was then that I saw what I couldn't have ever seen in a photo or read in a letter—a beautiful, spunky girl who loved to laugh and have

fun and play...hard. We jumped on the trampoline until we couldn't breathe, and I needed a break. As we were finishing up and Debbie was readying to move on to the next activity, I was attempting to clean my feet from sand before putting my shoes on. Unsuccessfully. I had attempted to dust them off, but the sand was not budging. I was itching to play soccer with Debbie and started to just slip my sandy feet into my sneakers and call it a day, but Debbie had other plans. She took the water bottle from which she had been drinking and began to pour it on my foot to clean it. After all the sand was removed, she gave me the cloth she had been using. She used it to dry my feet before I slipped them into my sneakers. I could barely get through this encounter without crying. This beautiful girl who I just started to get to know is washing my feet. I was coming to her country to serve people just like her, and she was offering to wash my feet. What an amazing and humbling experience; and a true representation of Jesus.



Kyle and friend, Samuel, who taught him how to open a coconut with a machete.



Kyle and Jessica in the Christmas outfits given by Larry and Victoria Lamina.





Handi*Camp 2019 is ComING!

19 interestING ways you might be willing to be part of Handi*Camp 2019!

(in completely random order!) By Tara Kelley, Director of Disability Ministries

19 **Sharing**
Tell EVERYONE – friends, family, your church, your small group, your neighbor, the manager of your local Walmart... that Handi*Camp is coming! Share the schedule and the needs with them. Perhaps God will lay it on their hearts to be involved in some way as well!

18 **Shopping**
Handi*Camp has a "supply list" registry on Amazon.com: <http://a.co/5UjMlnv>. Purchase supplies for camp and have them sent directly to our office in time for camp (by mid-May). Shop our list through **Amazon Smile** and choose **"HandiVangelism Ministries"** as a non-profit benefitting agency and we will not only be blessed by the supplies you send, but Amazon will also donate back to us a percentage of the purchase price!

17 **Collecting**
For non-online shoppers, we have lists of items you or your church can collect. These donations help keep costs down. Great for those who like to shop!

16 **Marketing**
Send us a gift card to Wal-Mart, Target, Weis, Giant or ShopRite so we can purchase food and programming supplies needed throughout our camp weeks.

15 **Cleaning**
Handy with a broom? Got Lysol? Good at fixing what's broken? GREAT! Come or organize a church group to come to a camp clean-up day: WEDNESDAY, May 22 (Camp Sankanac in PA) OR Saturday, June 8 (Malaga Camp in NJ).

14 **Counseling**
Be a direct caregiver (ages 18-adult) by ministering to the spiritual and physical needs of people with disabilities. No experience necessary, just a heart to learn and serve. Training is provided.

13 **Serving**
Be part of our Service Staff (ages 16 – adult) and help with housekeeping, serving meals and assisting other staff members by making camp a wonderful and safe experience for all who attend!



12 **Scrubbing**
Don't mind dish-pan hands? Adults are needed as dish-washers (NJ weeks), serving in this vital, behind-the-scenes job, to keep camp running well.

11 **Teaching**
Bible teachers are needed each week to lead small group Bible classes. Curriculum is provided. Experience teaching individuals with special needs is preferred.

10 **Playing**
Creative? Enjoy having fun and helping others have fun? Join our program staff as a Program Assistant. Lifeguards are also needed for all camp weeks!

9 **Chopping**
Able to follow directions? Enjoy baking? Able to chop many vegetables without losing a finger? Consider being a kitchen assistant (*adults needed during our NJ weeks*). Kitchen Assistants serve under the direction of a Lead Cook.

8 **Nursing**
Calling all RNs or LPNs with at least one year post-grad experience. Use your skills to minister to our campers as part of the health care team!

7 **Cooking**
On weekends, our summer staff is present at camp, but our cooks are not! We need individuals and/or churches to volunteer to supply/drop off a meal to Malaga Camp (NJ) during one of our weekend slots.

6 **Praying**
Commit to praying for a camper by name during his or her time at camp. We will match you with a camper and send you specific prayer requests. Following camp, you will receive a special note and an update about the week!

5 **Giving**
Handi*Camp tries to keep fees reasonable for those who want to attend, but that leaves a "gap" in our budget. We also never turn participants away due to their inability to pay. Full or partial camperships (\$650.00/week) are needed for those with a specific financial need; as well as additional donations to fill the "gap" and meet program expenses. Partner with us by sending a one-time gift OR, becoming a monthly or quarterly supporter of Handi*Camp.



4 **Referring**
Send us the name of a prospective camper—a child, teen or adult with a disability who might be interested in applying to come to camp this summer.

3 **Loading**
We need a few strong hands on deck to help us LOAD our U-Haul at our office in Ephrata, PA the morning of May 21 to go to camp. And, we need a few strong hands on deck to help us UNLOAD our U-Haul when we arrive at Camp Sankanac the afternoon of May 21.

2 **Encouraging**
It is easy, in serving non-stop for seven weeks, for our staff to become weary from well-doing. Would you consider sending an encouraging note and/or a special treat box for us to share with our staff? We can provide you the camp addresses. We will be sure your encouragement is shared with our staff members!

1 **Following**
Receive regular camp updates by following us on Facebook at [facebook.com/handivangelism](https://www.facebook.com/handivangelism). Use these updates as a prayer guide and join us in THANKING the Lord for all He will accomplish this summer!

If you are able to be a part of Handi*Camp 2019, please use the enclosed RESPONSE COUPON in this issue OR EMAIL brobinson@hvmi.org. Partnering with us in ANY of these ways will make a difference in the lives of ALL our campers and guests. THANK YOU!

Looking for some special "moms!"
Handi*Camp has a unique need this year for some camp "moms." What? We need a mature (or may I say, older???) woman to serve each week (or weeks) overseeing our team of Service Staff in the areas of housekeeping, laundry, meal service and clean-up. If you have a heart to build into the lives of young people, please contact us for details of this special need!

AM-BASS-A-DAT-ING

By Tim Sheetz, H*VMI Founder and Ministry Ambassador

As you read through the pages of this issue of *Increase*, you'll see that God is very much at work in and through this ministry in so many wonderful ways. The H*VMI calendar is always filled with events and opportunities to serve. And, as the H*VMI ministry team has found over the past 45 years, whenever and wherever we "serve," we always find that we are blessed more than we bless!



Things are changing at H*VMI—very much for the better. Kyle Robinson, the new Executive Director, is doing an amazing job at moving the ministry ahead administratively, while also allowing God to work through his heart of compassion to touch people where they need it most. He's garnering great respect and support from our Board, staff and those to whom we minister, as well as from those outside the ministry as he interacts with them (i.e. the local borough council from whom we must seek approvals for the new H*VMI property).

Kathy and I are enjoying seeing God at work in H*VMI from a different perspective than we have over the past 45 years of the ministry. Some things haven't changed for us. We continue to be able to use the hearts and skills God has given us to host and facilitate support groups for bereaved parents and parents of children with disabilities; help in Bible clubs; and be a part of the Handi*Camp ministry. Kyle and I continue to talk together and pray together regularly about ministry issues. But, this is where the biggest change comes: now the final decisions are Kyle's.

Being freed up from administrative details provides me the opportunity to make plans under the part of my new title noted as "Ministry Ambassador." Our fun-loving office staff likes to suggest that I get out there and "ambassadate!" I doubt that this is a word that will be added to Webster's Dictionary, but the heart of our staff, and my heart, is to let as many people as possible know that H*VMI is here! I am excited to spend time contacting individuals who have special needs that H*VMI can meet. I am excited to let churches know that we have awesome resources and a very qualified, experienced staff that is eager to come alongside with resources and training for others to learn how to minister to people with disabilities or those impacted by loss in their lives.

Please visit our website to see what seminars, programs and resources we can offer; and then PLEASE CONTACT US, if you sense a need I or any of our staff can fill.

The Misunderstood Child

Used by permission of Kathy Winters

I am the child that looks healthy and fine.
I was born with ten fingers and toes.
But something is different, somewhere in my mind,
And what it is, nobody knows.
I am the child that struggles in school,
Though they say that I'm perfectly smart.
They tell me I'm lazy...can learn if I try...
But I don't seem to know where to start.
I am the child that won't wear the clothes
Which hurt me or bother my feet.
I dread sudden noises, can't handle most smells,
And tastes...there are few foods I'll eat.
I am the child that can't catch the ball
And runs with an awkward gait.
I am the one chosen last on a team
And I cringe as I stand there and wait.
I am the child with whom no one will play...
The one that gets bullied and teased
I try to fit in and I want to be liked,
But nothing I do seems to please.
I am the child that tantrums and freaks
Over things that seem petty and trite.
You'll never know how I panic inside.
When I'm lost in my anger and fright.
I am the child that fidgets and squirms
Though I'm told to sit still and be good.
Do you think that I choose to be out of control?
Don't you know that I would if I could?
I am the child with the broken heart
Though I act like I don't really care.
Perhaps there's a reason I'm made this way...
Some message I'm sent to share.
For I am the child that needs to be loved
And accepted and valued too.
I am the child that is misunderstood.
I am different – but look just like you.

H*VMI had another EXTRAORDINARY day on Nov. 16th!

By Brian Robinson, Office Manager

We had 204 donors (that's 60th highest) give \$50,131 (that's 45th highest in dollars given—out of the 493 organizations on this year's GIVE list). The grand totals to all 493 organizations—23,547 donors—\$10,250,126.68—are currently listed on extragive.org. The "stretch pool" amount from generous sponsors was close to \$600,000 this year. H*VMI won one of the Early Bird Challenge prizes (being one of the first ten organizations to receive donations from 75 unique donors) being sixth of the ten to secure our 75 unique donors sometime in the middle of the night. Many stayed up late to give when the event started. Others called in their donation and credit card info before the event began. Three of us input gifts on behalf of 58 donors totaling \$20,955 throughout the 24 hours! Sadly, none of our many multiple donations during the eleven Golden Ticket time slots were randomly chosen for any of the 44 additional \$750 prizes.



We received a grand total of \$52,837.01—actual donations MINUS processing fees PLUS our percentage of the "stretch pool" amount PLUS our \$750 prize. Like I said—it was an EXTRAORDINARY day—thanks to our many Extraordinary Givers! What a great addition to the H*VMI General Fund to help with day to day costs of doing ministry. Thank the Lord with us for these funds to do His work.



Moving Forward CONDITIONAL USE REQUEST APPROVED!

By Kyle Robinson, Executive Director

This is HUGE news! Another big hurdle crossed. We are preparing for the FINAL STEP, Land Development Planning, before being able to put the "Under Construction" sign on the Property. We will be submitting an application with more than 20 detailed pages including grading, storm water management, building dimensions and various permit requests. At the end of this process, we will be able to start construction. Since the beginning of this project, many of you have offered: yourself as a volunteer; your church group for a work day; or your business as a resource. You've said, "When

the time comes, give me a call." We are so grateful for your willingness to serve alongside us, and we plan to use volunteers and people we know to help in construction. SO PLEASE WATCH YOUR MAILBOX! We plan to mail a flyer in the coming months with a list of needs. It will ask for your response with specific ways you can come alongside H*VMI to make this dream a reality. Please be praying about how you, someone you know, your church or your business may be able to help. As we progress, we will contact you as a need matches your ability to partner. Thank you in advance for preparing to join with us in our property project. The Lord is at work!

We're MOVING!

...No —not to the property yet! We ARE moving our old database systems into one, new, consolidated one! Please bear with us as make this transition— AND—please help us by letting us know if:



- You had previously asked to be removed from this mailing list, but in the transition you were inadvertently added back onto the list. PLEASE let us know and we will honor your request.
- This mailing came to an incorrect or incomplete address.
- You're a "snowbird" and have mail going to multiple addresses at different times of year.
- Your name and/or a family member's name to whom this was addressed is incorrect in any way.
- You would like to switch to an email mailing rather than hard copy.
- You are receiving multiple mailings and really only want one!
- ANY other changes or corrections you would like us to make to your entry in our system.

Please indicate changes on the enclosed RESPONSE FORM or email tkelley@hvmi.org. THANK YOU for your help!



H*VMI CALENDAR 2019

Visit the H*VMI website or call our office
for event details.

hvmi.org • 717.859.4777

- March 29-30** **H*VMI Board of Directors Meeting,**
H*VMI Office, Ephrata PA
- April 6** **Annual NJ Ministry Fundraising Banquet,**
The Grove, Centerton NJ
(see enclosed invitation for details and to RSVP)
- May 4** **Annual BASIS Breakfast and**
Remembrance Event *(for bereaved parents)*
Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland PA
- May 21** **H*VMI fulltime staff to CAMP!**
- May 22** **Handi*Camp summer staff**
Orientation begins
- May 27-July 11** **Handi*Camp**
- September 12** **Golf Outing,**
Tanglewood Manor, Quarryville PA
- October 5** **Annual PA Ministry Fundraising Banquet,**
Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland PA
- MONTHLY** **Bible Clubs:** *For people with*
developmental disabilities.
Support Groups: *For parents of children*
with disabilities or for bereaved parents.

Online Opportunities

Visit us at hvmi.org and keep up with:

- **Blogs**
- **Resources**
- **Ministry Events and Dates**
- **Missionary Information**
- **Property Updates**

Make a donation online for H*VMI or for the ministry of a designated missionary. Shop by going through links on our site and H*VMI will get a percentage from your purchases. Look for the *AmazonSmile*, *eBay* and *iGive* links.

Handi*Vangelism Ministries International™

A Ministry of Compassion since 1973

Executive Director: Kyle Robinson

Ministry Departments

BASIS

Ministering to bereaved parents and their families through a support system of personal contact, newsletters, support groups and other activities.

Disability Ministries

Discipleship • Handi*Camp • PIP • Training

Providing encouragement, Biblical instruction and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities through year-round programs and summer camp; supporting parents of children with disabilities through resources, special events and group meetings; and training individuals and churches to better understand and meet the needs of people with disabilities and their families through seminars and awareness events.

International

Ministering in Ghana, West Africa and training national workers throughout the world as they develop ministry outreaches to people with special needs and life challenges.

Minds Renewed

Helping people address mental health issues personally or with a loved one.

REST Ministries

Offering hope to the hurting, abused and addicted, in the church and in the community.

Seminars

Helping people facing life challenges; and training Christian workers on topics such as grief and loss, mental health, abuse, divorce and disability.

Twilight Senior Ministries

Serving senior citizens and their families.

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Enhancing Trust

For more information, contact us at:

H*VMI

PO Box 122 • Akron, PA 17501-0122

Phone: **717.859.4777**

Email: **info@hvmi.org**

Website: **hvmi.org**



Like us on facebook! facebook.com/handivangelism

RESPONSE FORM



I am interested in receiving information about the following Handi*Camp *'INGS'*: (see pgs. 4-5)

I'd like to learn more about being a camp "mom."

Please PRINT your contact information below.

▲ Name _____

▲ Street or PO Box _____

▲ City _____ ▲ State _____ ▲ Zip _____

▲ Phone # _____ ▲ Email address _____

This is updated contact information. (Use reverse side if additional space is needed.)

I prefer to receive H*VMI mailings by email.

I/we would like to help H*VMI through a financial gift for:

General Fund \$ _____ Handi*Camp \$ _____

Method of Payment: Cash Check (Please make checks payable to H*VMI.)

Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: ____ / ____ Visa MasterCard Discover AmExpress

Name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____

Thank you!



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