



Increase

FALL
2016

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



When the “Miracle” Doesn’t Happen

By Tim Sheetz, Executive Director

“We prayed for our daughter to have a miraculous recovery. But, we had one instead when we experienced Him meeting us at every turn.” That was the testimony of a father at one of our H*VMI PIP (Parents In Progress) Support Groups for parents of children with disabilities. It got us all thinking about the sovereignty, grace and faithfulness of God.

What would we like for our lives and the lives of those we love? Healthy eyes to see; ears that hear; bodies free of disease or disability; and minds that can think clearly.

When these reasonable longings don’t seem to be the plan, we pray earnestly for a “miracle” to take place. Healing, God, please! Wholeness, God, please! Sometimes the miracle happens. Sometimes it doesn’t.

When the miracle doesn’t happen, we might be faced with a future full of serious challenges, things we never anticipated to be a part of our life: medical terminology we previously didn’t know existed; a financial tsunami; sleepless nights; doctors’ visits that occupy more of our time than any other life activity; STRESS! Exhausted, disillusioned, hurting—we can easily come to the end of ourselves.

That’s when most of us finally accept His invitation to enter the presence of our sovereign God Who promises peace, grace, wisdom and strength for each challenge—even if we never understand why the “miracle” didn’t take place. Paul says in Romans 11:33-34, “*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For Who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His Counselor?*” It’s in His presence that we can realize that God knew all along what we would be facing and was ready and more than able to walk along with us, providing all we would need, wrapped up in His amazing, unconditional love!

As our friend in the support group said, “... we experienced Him meeting us at every turn.” THAT becomes the miracle—learning to trust more deeply than we might ever have needed to if the miracle of deliverance from the circumstance had happened; seeing Him provide all we need.

Paul concluded in Romans 11:36, “*For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.*” May our testimony mirror his whether the miracle we seek happens—or it doesn’t.

H*VMI Annual PA Banquet

Turn the page with us—the page of your calendar, that is. When you turn from September to October –BAM!–right there–on October 1, you should have an entry that reads, “H*VMI Annual PA Banquet.” If it’s not there, please check the details on the enclosed flyer, be sure to RSVP and then write it in your calendar.

Our banquet theme is **Hope for Times Like These**. In this world where terror, anger, fear, worry, violence, uncertainty... seem to reign, we need **HOPE**. Please join us as H*VMI Board members, Dick Esher and

Bob Weaver; our Executive Director, Tim Sheetz; Assistant to the Executive Director, Kyle Robinson; and Director of

Disability Ministries, Tara Kelley, share about the **HOPE** that H*VMI offers in all our ministry outreaches. Doris Ortman will share a musical package of **HOPE**. Yoder’s will provide delicious food and we’ll **HOPE** the results of enjoying it won’t appear around our waists!

We **HOPE** to see you there.



A Very Warm Welcome to Christine Whiting

(Note: Christine has joined the H*VMI Family to fill a very much needed role in our office.)



“Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.” ~Proverbs 19:21

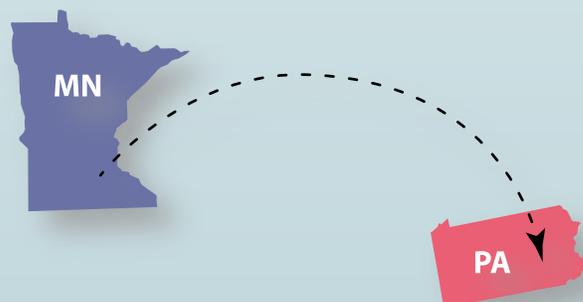
I am so thankful that, regardless of my foolish choices or silly plans in life, it is the will of the Lord that always prevails. My life is simply a glimpse of God’s providence and sovereignty - I cannot begin to fathom the tapestry He is creating in me. I have only caught a glimpse here and there of His handiwork, but I know that He is good and will continue to lead me. Most recently, He has led me into the open arms of the H*VMI Ministry! I am thrilled to be able to serve as Secretarial Ministry Assistant.

In the summer of 2009, a confident college kid rolled into Camp Sankanac for Handi*Camp Orientation. I was ready to serve and make a difference. It didn’t take long, however, before I was humbled and frightened. (I believe I cried after session 3!). I was on my knees, helpless, hopeless, and scared - and that was just where God wanted me. I had walked into camp thinking “I’m Christine, I can do this! I can do anything!” And I ended up leaving that summer knowing that I am capable of NOTHING on my own. When people tell me —“Oh I could never do that,” in reference to working with people with disabilities, I flash back to my sobbing pathetic form on that cabin floor. I couldn’t either. I can’t. **God can. God does.** “But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” ~2 Corinthians 12:9 I learned very quickly that the more I recognized my weaknesses and incompetence, the more the Lord could

work in and through me. God’s grace saw me through every heartbreaking, satisfying, miraculous and inspiring moment that summer. He became my hands, my feet and my back. Broken and on my knees at camp I discovered the beauty of helplessness. To truly be an empty vessel, desperate to be filled. I wasn’t sure where God would lead me from that point, but I knew more than ever I was ready to serve Him wherever He would lead.

The Lord changed my heart and my life forever after my first summer at Handi*Camp. He even unexpectedly provided the man of my dreams! (Yea, camp couples!) Prior to that, I had different plans for the direction of my life; but as Proverbs 19 says, *“The Lord’s purposes stand firm.”* I was able to switch gears and get my Master’s in Special Education and spent a beautiful and challenging four years at a Charter school in MN. It was a job that required heart, humility and hard work. I was easily burnt out and my shoulders would ache constantly from paperwork, stress or hunching over to help a student. But none of that mattered, because I was following God’s will and serving those who I had been called to love. And whether it was through teaching, marriage or serving summers at camp, I learned that serving and caring for people is hard. It can be messy, awkward, smelly, painful, back-breaking and downright exhausting. But then I would slap myself and remember that it’s not about me at all. It’s about being God’s vessel in a tangible way to others—and HE will give all the strength needed to continue on.

So as I returned to Handi*Camp in the summers (when possible), the spark to serve long term for H*VMI slowly turned into a flame. Finally, after many years of prayer and hope, the Lord saw fit to call my husband and me back to the east coast. It is with great joy, tremendous thankfulness and giddy excitement that I join Handi*Vangelism Ministries International as Secretarial Ministry Assistant. I wait with hopeful expectation to see what the Lord will do as this new adventure begins.



Property Update

By Kyle Robinson, Assistant to the Executive Director of H*VMI

“So how’s the Property Project moving along?” This is a question I heard countless times throughout this summer. Most times when someone is asked the same question repeatedly, he or she might get frustrated. I’m just the opposite, especially when it comes to questions about the Property H*VMI would like to purchase and develop. Each time I am asked about the Property, I’m thankful. It means that people are thinking about it. It means that God is laying it on their hearts. And, hopefully, it means that people are joining our H*VMI missionaries and Board in praying about it. Prayer is the ONLY way we can see this project reach a successful conclusion. We are blessed to have skilled professionals giving their time and abilities to this project. Each one has communicated to me, without hesitation, that it is their prayer that God will use them in this and that He will get the glory.

So, “How’s the Property Project moving along?” you ask. Great. Since the last issue of *Increase*, we have made forward movement with the zoning approval process. The petition we submitted to the Akron Borough Council

passed from them to the Akron Planning Commission, the Lancaster County Planning Commission and now has come back again to Akron. At each meeting, we have been met with, what we perceive as, optimism and a desire to move forward with us. Each meeting has been a month or two apart which makes it feel like the process is moving very slowly. And, now, due to the Handi*Camp schedule and the schedules of the Council and others involved, September was the earliest date for a meeting to discuss future steps. Once zoning is approved, we’ll be taking the next VERY BIG step—seeking funding. Please keep praying with us. We hope to inform you soon that the Akron Borough Council has approved our plan and we are a GO!



Scan this code with your smart phone or tablet and see all the plans on our website.



Minds Renewed

8th Annual Event

By Cathi Myers, Director, Minds Renewed

“Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light.” Micah 7:8b

“Depression is a common illness worldwide, with an estimated 350 million people affected. Depression is different from usual mood fluctuations and short-lived emotional responses to challenges in everyday life. Especially when long-lasting and with moderate or severe intensity, depression may become a serious health condition. It can cause the affected person to suffer greatly and function poorly at work, at school and in the family. At its worst, depression can lead to suicide. Over 800,000 people die due to suicide every year. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in 15-29-year-olds.”
—World Health Organization

The good news is: DEPRESSION IS TREATABLE. To learn more about the various types of depression and their treatments, we encourage you to join us at the National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding.

For more information, contact Cathi Myers, Minds Renewed Director, at 717-859-4777 ext. 110.

National Day of Prayer

for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

6:30 p.m. displays and Resources available

Calvary Church
1051 Landis Valley Road
Lancaster, PA 17601

Admission is free.
An offering will be received.

Voluntary small group prayer time will follow the speaker's presentation.

DEPRESSION: DISPELLING ITS DARKNESS

GUEST SPEAKER:

Dr. Karla Campanella, M.D. initially trained and worked as a family doctor. She and her family also spent four years in Asia working as medical missionaries. When they returned to the United States, she trained in psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania. She now works as a psychiatrist in the Philhaven system. She works in Plain (Amish) community clinics and in a family practice office as a way to improve access to mental health services.

Event sponsors:



717.859.4777
hvmi.org



717.285.5596
faithfriendship.org





The ABC's of Handi*Camp 2016

By Tara Kelley, Director, Disability Ministries



A is for ANTICIPATION. Our campers wait all year for camp! Some already called to tell us when they'd be back again next year!

B is for BYSTANDERS. Someone, upon observing us on our off camp site trip, emailed: "I need to send a compliment to your staff.... I went to the OC boardwalk on Wednesday and came across about four or five of the campers and their aides walking/shopping on the boardwalk. Each observation we had we found the aides to be polite/kind/respectful and attentive to the campers. ... Kudos to you and your staff for treating these wonderful yet challenged campers with such deserved dignity. What an awesome encounter we had!"

C is for COUNSELORS. We're thankful for each person God sent our way to care for our campers. We were especially blessed by the number of "older" men who chose to serve alongside us... they actually outnumbered the younger guys!

D is for DONORS. Those who contributed financially, sent gift cards, gave supplies, helped with clean-up days ... we thank the Lord (and you) for the enormous part you played in helping to make this summer happen.

E is for ELECTRICITY. This is the first year in at least five that we did not lose power at Malaga!

F is for FIRST-TIMES. Camp provides the opportunity for new, "first-time" experiences. It was a delight to be there when one young lady caught her first fish. Her smile was priceless, dispelling her uncertainty that she could even do it!

G is for GLUE. Through the good, the grief-filled and the challenging times, what held us together this summer? God's glue... the teamwork and unity He gave to the camp leadership team and to the staff as a whole.

H is for HEARTACHE. It broke our hearts to hear of the disappointment in our campers as we had to make some calls to say, "You can't come this summer. We don't have enough staff." It hurt all the more to know that some families would not have a much needed "respite." It was not what we planned. It's becoming harder to find qualified staff, and this year some whom we thought were coming had to change their plans at the last minute. Pray, even now, for next year's staffing issues!

I is for INCLUDING. We're thankful that camp is a place where everyone is able to participate in all of the activities. Nobody is left out!

J is for JESUS. He is the reason for everything we do. Our Bible theme for most weeks was Winning God's Way, encouraging our campers to focus on the things that are really important!

K is for KITCHEN. We're thankful for each person who volunteered to serve in the kitchen – not to mention all the tasty meals they made for us!

L is for LOVE. A friend of the ministry shared with the staff, "You guys are truly awesome. Your love for Christ shines through!" May they always see Him, not us, so He receives all the glory!

M is for MUSIC. Many of our camp staff enjoyed singing – all the time. God used those songs and hymns as a testimony to others. A Malaga resident emailed, "I'm sitting here in my living room listening to the Handi*Camp campers singing beautifully as they walk by. Such a sweet sound."

N is for our NURSES. While we did not get all the nurses we needed, we were very thankful for each nurse who did serve with us. They were all highly skilled individuals with a true heart to care for the healthcare needs of our campers.

O is for OPPORTUNITY. We're thankful for the opportunities to share the Lord, especially with our new campers, as some of them may have heard His Truth for the first time.

P is for PRAYING. We're thankful for each of you who prayed the campers (and staff) through this season.

Q is for QUESTIONS. Some easy. Some hard. But God gave the wisdom needed as we tackled some of the difficult life issue questions asked by our campers. We're thankful that they feel safe sharing with us.

R is for RELATIONSHIP. So many times staff shared the blessing the relationships were that they developed with their campers. Often we are the ones who learn from the campers. God uses them to teach and to grow us.

S is for SERVICE STAFF. An outstanding group that came alongside the rest of the staff to serve meals, clean the camp, help with camper care... and so much more! Where would we have been without their helping hands?

T is for TEACHERS. Our team of Bible teachers (small group and chapel times) are becoming more and more creative and dynamic in their presentation of His Word!

U is for U-HAUL. Our big truck came regularly for us to load up our camp supplies to move from location to location. Someone commented, "You actually bring all that with you?" "YES!" For now...until God provides a place of our own.

V is for VERSES. Our memory verses this year were Psalm 18:30-31. "God's way is perfect. The Lord's words are pure. He is a shield to those who trust him. Who is God? Only the Lord. Who is the Rock? Only our God." Many times God did, indeed, reveal to us that His way was perfect, even when it didn't always make sense.

W is for WEATHER...and wonderful weather it was! A true A+! Little rain, very few bad storms and not much humidity until the middle of our final week!

X is for X-RAYS. None needed! We are thankful for the overall safety He gave and for never having to call 911!

Y is for YEAR-ROUND. Our ministry to campers and their families do not end with camp. Pray for our team as we gear up for Bible clubs and studies, email devotions, one-on-one visitation, correspondence lessons, support groups and more!

Z is for ZONING. While we are grateful for the facilities God gives us to use, there's No Place like Home. Each year it becomes more and more evident that we need a place to call our own, specifically designed to meet changing needs of our campers. Please PRAY as we continue to proceed with zoning meetings, looking for the Lord to provide in His time.

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks..." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Father and Daughter Team Up to Serve at Handi*Camp



Hi, my name is Dane Rudy and I had the privilege of serving a week this year at Handi*Camp during the first week of camp. I am 58 years old and my challenge to serve at Handi*Camp came from my daughter, Danae, who has served at Handi*Camp for the last three years. She

started being involved with this ministry in her freshman year of college and has felt compelled to return for the last three years. She has always come home from the six weeks of camp raving about how God works through this ministry, the way the staff faithfully follows the Lord in all they do and the quality they put into the ministry. I especially liked to hear about all the campers and guests they minister to throughout the six weeks of camp. She would tell amazing stories of lives that were encouraged, Bible truths taught and the genuine love and concern the staff and counselors demonstrated to their campers and guests. But some of the most endearing testimonies were those of campers who were testimonies themselves. Danae would tell me of a camper who would find joy in everything and pray about everything... or the special lady who would pour sound Biblical wisdom and advice into her the whole week of camp... and I would think, "Really, who has the handicap?" Danae would be honest though and tell me about the long hours and busy schedule of serving at a camp like this, but the joy of serving always overshadowed any of those thoughts. So Danae started challenging me with periodic comments like, "Why don't you serve one of the weeks in Pottstown yourself?" I hesitated much and had just about talked myself out it using the "I'm too old for that type of ministry" and "I am too busy at work" excuses.

That just about worked, but the Lord did not give me peace about that decision. I decided to do a week knowing He would give me the strength and whatever I needed. I am so thankful I listened! What a fantastic week! I felt that week was one of those most impactful weeks of ministry I've ever experienced. The Handi*Camp staff did a fantastic job in orientation teaching me what I needed to know to care for the mental and physical needs of the campers, but one of the most meaningful pieces of orientation was teaching me the importance, priority

and ability of ministering to the spiritual needs of the campers. The quality of the training and teambuilding the Handi*Camp staff completed at orientation was excellent. For my week of camp I was paired with a beautiful 29 year old man named William who had an intellectual disability and a speech impediment. I know the staff prays and deliberates hard over counselor to camper assignments, and it did not take long to see that God had paired me with the right camper. William was kind, gentle and so patient throughout the week. His smile and joy would light up the cabin. William loves the Lord and one of his favorite things to do was participate in the Bible lessons, devotions and then read the Bible together during our hour of quiet and rest time. I learned so much from William and his gentle and beautiful Godly spirit. I was able to meet William's parents before and at the close of camp. What a joy to see a family that loves each other and serves each other faithfully no matter what. My fellow counselors who I served alongside of for the week were also a great encouragement as we all worked together and shared in ministering to our group of campers. So, what an amazing opportunity to be able to serve the Lord with the Handi*Camp ministry and alongside my daughter, Danae. Danae has already told me she is serving next year after her senior year of college. She will NOT miss it! I sure can't afford to miss doing a week next year either. There are more "handicaps" that I need worked on by the special campers God sends to Handi*Camp.

William's Testimony

*William's mother sent this to us, wanting us to know the impact Handi*Camp has on her son ...*

I have been working. I read my devotional book that you sent me every day. Mommy reads it to me before I go to work every day. I go to church on Wednesday and Sunday. I learn about Jesus. I miss camp. Mommy says I have a good attitude ever since I came home from camp. Thank you for working with me. It has made me a better Christian.

Your friend, William



Why Doesn't God Fix It?

By Judy Edinger, REST Ministries Education Training Consultant

A few years ago, I learned about a very special, godly woman from a book she had written. The book is *STOLEN WOMAN* and it addresses the problem of trafficking. After reading the book, I contacted Kimberly Rae and told her how much I appreciated her book. Kimberly has lived in Bangladesh, Uganda, Kosovo and Indonesia. She became ill with Addison's disease, a disorder that occurs when your body produces insufficient amounts of certain hormones produced by your adrenal glands. Kimberly also suffers with hypoglycemia, asthma and a cyst on her brain.

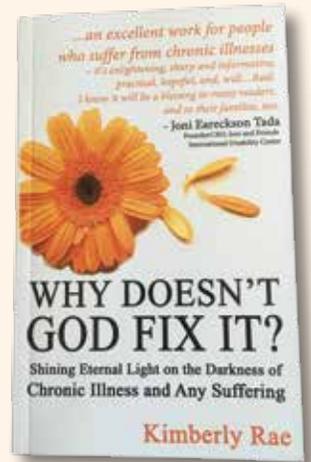
Kimberly and I have kept in touch. She has been a huge encouragement to me on my own journey dealing with chronic illness and other forms of suffering. Like Kimberly, I have suffered with various chronic illnesses for years and recently was diagnosed with Common Variable Immune Deficiency. CVID causes me to deal with fatigue, bad headaches and body pains. Recently, someone said to me, "Why hasn't God answered your prayers yet?" I responded, "Probably because I haven't asked God to heal me, but for me to live in the center of His will and glorify Him in all circumstances, including this illness." Kimberly and I know what it feels like to be

sick and tired of being sick and tired! We deeply appreciate our good days.

Kimberly says, "Nearly one out of every two people in our country live with some kind of chronic illness. For those of us who are believers, we might hear that if we just had enough faith, we shouldn't be sick at all. Is God punishing us? Does He not love us as much as people who are healthy? I've struggled through those hard questions and found the Bible has answers full of hope for all of us who suffer." *WHY DOESN'T GOD FIX IT?* was written by Kimberly to share that hope!

I'm excited to recommend this book to you. I am praying that, by reading this book, you will find hope, encouragement and help for your struggles whether they are chronic illness or some other form of suffering. This book is informative, practical, and Biblical. Here is a link where you can read a sample chapter and order autographed copies:

<http://www.kimberlyrae.com/why-doesnt-god-fix-it>



United Way Campaign

The Fall 2016 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 or hurting!

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



Community Partner

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 #1113

BASIS #7659

REST Ministries #12000

*Thank you for prayerfully considering one of these H*VMI programs as part of your United Way donation.*

“HEADS UP!”



The Lancaster County Community Foundation's **Extraordinary Give** event is happening again this fall—**November 18th!** This is a great opportunity for organizations like H*VMI to experience—and their ministry partners to help provide—a financial boost to help meet needs. The program is open to organizations that serve residents of Lancaster County—but, donations can come from anyone, anywhere.

H*VMI donors gave generously as we participated in this program in 2013 (\$27,685), 2014 (\$27,275) and 2015 (\$54,052). With our percentage of the “stretch pool” funds and prizes the Extraordinary Give program includes, we actually received \$30,393 (2013) and \$27,818 (2014) and \$55,435 (2015). *What a blessing from God through our many donors!*

In the next *Increase*, we'll provide specific details about how and when to donate to H*VMI through this year's Extraordinary Give. In the meantime, please don't hold back your donations for H*VMI, waiting for Extraordinary Give day. We need them EVERY DAY. We need them NOW! Our hope, our prayer is that donations through Extraordinary Give, when that time comes, will be IN ADDITION to the giving you already do for H*VMI.

Apart from the “official” Extraordinary Give program, here at H*VMI, we see EVERY donation, every dollar donated to H*VMI as EXTRAORDINARY—just the way we see you, our EXTRAORDINARY prayer warriors and financial donors!

**Monday
September 26th, 2016**

See our website or
call the office for
more information.

717.859.4777
hvmi.org



Handi*Vangelism Ministries International™

A Ministry of Compassion since 1975

Executive Director: Rev. Timothy D. Sheetz

Ministry Departments

BASIS ~ Ministering to parents who have experienced the loss of a child through a support system of personal contact, newsletters, support groups and other activities; and support for children in coping with the loss of a loved one.

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 nationals throughout the world as they develop ministry outreaches to people with special needs and life challenges.

Minds Renewed ~ Helping people renew their minds in God's Word, with spiritual support and encouragement for people addressing mental health issues personally or with a loved one.

REST Ministries ~ Facilitating restoration to the hurting, abused and addicted, whether in the church or on the street.

Seminars ~ Training Christian workers and lay people seeking to serve, and encouragement for those dealing with a wide variety of issues including: grief and loss; mental health; abuse and restoration; divorce; and disability.

Twilight Senior Ministries ~ Bringing the Gospel and Christ's love to the elderly through visitation and Bible Studies.

Increase is published quarterly. Editor: Kathy Sheetz; Design: Claire Krout

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 Facebook: [facebook.com/handivangelism](https://www.facebook.com/handivangelism)



Online Opportunities

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 Amazon, eBay and iGive links.

Visit us at hvmi.org and keep up with:

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

