



Increase

SUMMER
2 0 1 6

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

I'M ASTONISHED!

By Tim Sheetz, Executive Director



Tim & Kathy Sheetz

*The following is the update shared with guests at the H*VMI NJ Banquet, April 16, 2016.*

I am astonished! I really am! I am filled with amazement and wonder. I am amazed, staggered, astounded, stunned, dumbfounded, flabbergasted and even gobsmacked! Well, I'm not really gobsmacked, because, tho' it IS a synonym of astonished, the definition of gobsmacked is "being totally speechless and unable to think of anything to say." I have a few things I do want to say!

I am astonished—at God's creation. And, I'm astonished at God's work in H*VMI.

Habbakuk 1:5 says, ***"Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days—you would not believe if you were told."***

I am astonished that God has allowed me to be a part of this amazing ministry for nearly 43 years. As Kathy and I have watched it grow and watched God bring talented, dedicated people to serve under the banner of H*VMI, and watched God evolve this ministry into many different programs of compassion for people who are seriously challenged by life's circumstances—we have been astonished—filled with amazement and wonder. I think, as you read the following vignettes from the various H*VMI ministries, YOU will be astonished too, to see the things God has done and is doing in the hearts and lives of people touched by the ministries of H*VMI.



In a phone conversation: A mom, a member of one of our PIP Support Groups for parents of a child with a disability, was explaining to me why she couldn't come to the next meeting. She lost another caregiver, a very serious and chronic problem for our parents. Her adult daughter requires total care because of the severity of her disability due to a car crash and subsequent brain damage. This mom who, like me, is getting up in years, needs to fill in whenever caregivers are unavailable. It's hard on Mom, especially physically. An adult son pitches in to help when he can. It's challenging for all—but there are joys. With some difficulty because of her disability, the daughter communicated this message to her brother: *"I have a great brother. I am a great sister. We have a great mother. We have a great God. I have a wonderful life!"*



From Don Allison, Director: A newly bereaved parent responded after we learned of the loss of her daughter and sent her a letter: *"Thank you for your kindness in reaching out to us in our time of sorrow. You will never know how much it meant to us to get your letter of compassion in the mail. Your letter was quite a surprise and such a blessing. We're devastated by the death of our daughter. Hearing from someone who has also lost a daughter gives us a connection and hope. God bless you."*

Continued on page 2



From Tara Kelley, Director: For such a time as this, God places each of us in this world with purpose.

For some people affected by disability, realizing that purpose can be challenging and elusive. The questions often come, "Why, God, was I born with a disability?" "How can God use ME?" At our recent camp retreat, the question was asked, "Do I have to **LIKE** my disability?" Our speaker, who, himself, has a physical disability, encouraged our retreat guest with the following: *"We don't have to **LIKE** our disability. We just have to be willing to accept it. It's similar to Jesus in the garden. He didn't **LIKE** the reality of the pain, the disability and the anguish He knew He was about to experience on the cross. He even asked His Father if He could escape it. Nevertheless, He was **WILLING** to endure it in complete obedience to God's purpose. God has a purpose for our disability. A purpose that ultimately will bring Him honor, glory and praise."*



From Jackie England, Director: The Street Ministry Team began our outreach last June. On the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, our Prayer Team walks the streets in the mornings to pray for the ministry that will take place there

in the evening. Over these months, we have met many individuals, given out treats and prayed with those who were willing for it. We're also very aware that some hang back, watching from a distance, fearful, perhaps to have a one-on-one encounter with us just yet. Many times it is difficult to know if we are having an impact; but, recently, we heard the best compliment. This is what was said: *"Those people in the yellow shirts really care about us."*

We're so thankful that God uses even the yellow shirts we wear to be recognized. When our yellow-shirt team is on the streets consistently, always showing compassion in Jesus' Name, God receives the glory.

MINDS Renewed



Sent to Cathi Myers, Director, from a member of our Minds Renewed Support Group: *"I came to Minds Renewed because my husband has some mental health issues. In the midst of dealing with his tendency to completely withdraw from life, I must stay healthy and functioning, all*

*the while not allowing his depression and anxiety to bring our whole family down into the sewer with him. In the Minds Renewed Support Group, we are going through the book, **BEYOND BOUNDARIES**, by John Townsend. A boundary is respect. Respect for what is OK for me, and what is not OK for me. Sometimes a boundary is a wall put up for protection. This might include an imaginary wall, like detachment, for emotional protection. Other times, a boundary is space and separation in order to feel refreshed and renewed. However, as Mr. Townsend points out, we are made for relationship; and, if we are ever going to restore a relationship, we must bring the walls down. In looking at my personality, I have recognized that I am a non-confrontational type of person. This is a problem because I tend to ignore some issues, giving the other person the benefit of the doubt or making excuses for hurtful behavior. I am learning to recognize my part in ignoring or not addressing issues with my husband. But I am also learning to lovingly confront issues with him. This is hard to do. Depression and anxiety make the relationship so much harder. I continually rely on God to give me strength and compassion, because I can no longer manufacture those traits on my own. I'm thankful that Minds Renewed helps me to keep working on my own Interwoven Health so that when my husband is ready to join life again, I can bring the boundary walls down and restore the relationship."*

H*VMI™ GHANA



From Philip Darko, one of our H*VMI missionaries in Ghana, West Africa: *“Thank you for praying with us during Easter Camp for the visually impaired. I, with the Ghana camp staff and the volunteer team from Ohio (USA), felt your prayers at work. The Lord really proved Himself in all, and we are so grateful for the 14 souls that came to Christ and the many more who gave their lives to Christ. We had 120 adults and 65 children attend camp, all with visual impairments; and 28*

camp staff and volunteers, including our mission team from Ohio, who allowed themselves to be used by God to show forth His love through them to our campers. There was a testimony of a lady by the name of Anastasia who finally decided to forgive a friend who offended her two years ago. As we met with her during one of the counseling sessions, and through the Word of God, she came to the understanding and the essence of forgiveness. She broke into tears and I believe the Lord touched this young woman in a special way. This is exactly what your prayers can do. The Lord gave us very nice weather from a Ghanaian perspective; but of course it may not have been nice to our guests from Ohio!!! In all, the Name of the Lord was Supreme throughout the camp week.”

Twilight Senior Ministries

From Bill and Debbie Carson, Directors: Bitter, spiteful, abusive, and lonely. These words easily described Agatha. Most people could not stand to be in her presence.

Her gutter language, non-stop smoking, alcohol-use and degrading treatment of people repulsed others. Yet Agatha’s neighbors at the retirement complex prayed for her soul daily and expressed concern about her. Through the years, we sent her birthday and encouragement cards, but had no direct contact. One day, a social worker called to say that Agatha had a massive heart-attack and was hospitalized in very critical condition. When we visited her, she was in ICU in a medically-induced coma, not expected to live. Bill and I prayed over Agatha. Bill presented the plan of salvation. There was no evidence of response. For several days, several times a day, Bill and I returned to

her side. I prayed, and Bill continued to talk to Agatha about Jesus. Still—no response. To the surprise of her doctors, Agatha’s physical condition began to improve dramatically, and she was brought out of the coma. Agatha was not the same person. God totally changed her! This new person was gracious and thankful, not spewing filth and fury. As Bill talked with her, she related that she had heard his words, responded in her heart to those words, experienced forgiveness and was indeed praising God for His salvation and her changed heart.

After Agatha returned home, neighbors who visited her called the change a miracle! She was friendly. She thanked people for putting up with her. Her broken relationship with her son was restored. Several weeks later, Agatha passed into Jesus’ waiting arms. Many shed tears at her memorial service. But, they were not tears of sorrow—they were tears of joy that God redeemed this life in the eleventh hour!

I could share so many more stories with you of people whose lives are impacted by the program areas of H*VMI. But, I think I will choose for now to be gobsmacked, saying only that God has been pleased to use this ministry “for such a time as this,” and all of us are blessed to see Him at work. We *“observe, are astonished and wonder.”*

Get the Word Out!

By Kyle Robinson, Assistant to the Executive Director of H*VMI,
Director of Mobilization, Handi*Camp Program Director

I pray you have been “staying tuned” as we have moved along in the process of establishing H*VMI’s Ministry Center. We want to update you on what’s been happening since the last edition of *Increase*:

- H*VMI presented a petition to Akron Borough at two different meetings, the Akron Borough Council and the Akron Planning Commission. They both went well and we feel the purpose of the H*VMI Ministry Center was communicated and received clearly.
- Akron Planning Commission sent our petition to Lancaster County Planning Commission (LCPC) to be reviewed. On April 11th the LCPC held a meeting, reviewed our petition and gave their approval. The next step is for H*VMI to reappear before the Akron Planning Commission for their recommendation.
- Through the professionals God has provided, we have continued to work on the building designs, property layouts and future plans for this project. We are focused on planning well for the future of H*VMI’s ministry outreach, locally and globally.
- God has provided us a relationship with a professional kitchen designer (Scopus HG). The company is actually right upstairs from our current rental office. They have generously provided designs for our future kitchen and price estimates for purchase and installation.



At our most recent banquet, the latest building drawings were on display. They were designed by Steve Fry (Fry Associates Architecture) and colored and laid out by Claire Krout, our very own Graphic Artist. In addition to the property update given at the banquet, the people in attendance were challenged to “get the word out.” All along the way, God has provided for H*VMI through connections: connections with a general contractor; connections with an architect who shared the project with an engineer; connections with our Board of Directors; connections with an owner of a pitch and putt golf course; connections with the neighborhood; connections with our supporters who are praying for this project. God loves it when His people work together. The Biblical challenge in I Corinthians 12 concerning being members of one body is so applicable here. We are all vital parts of this ministry but have vastly differing roles. How can the people in the various roles accomplish a goal without communication? That is why we are doing our best to be open with you about what God is doing and why we want to hear from you as this process continues to move along.

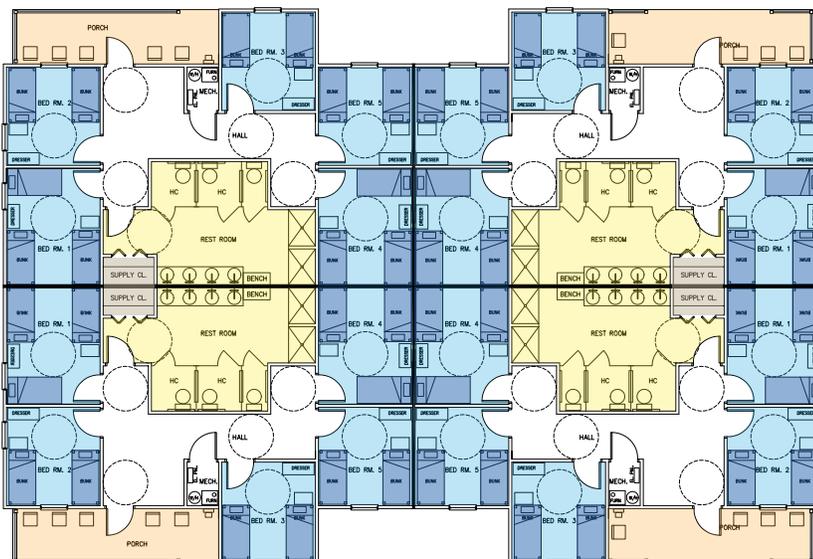
This is a big goal when looked at from a human perspective; but we need to remember that God created those 16 acres, His resources far surpass property budgets, His wisdom is beyond our comprehension and His plan is greater than ours could ever be. Our privilege in this process is to pray for and spread the word about what God is doing and watch Him work. So share what God is doing in the ministry of H*VMI with people in your circles. God desires to use us to accomplish His plan. We share in the blessing of serving the Lord as we work together for Him. Let’s give more people the opportunity to share that blessing.

Get the Word OUT!

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



Quad Cabin - Upper Level





2016 Schedule



- May 24** Fulltime staff arrive at Camp Sankanac (PA)
- May 25** Camp Sankanac Clean-Up Day
- May 25-29** Summer Staff Orientation
- May 30-June 3** Week 1, Camp Sankanac
(Challenger Adults*)
- June 6-10** Week 2, Camp Sankanac
(Challenger Adults)
- June 11** Malaga Camp Clean-Up Day/
Staff moves to Malaga (NJ)
Volunteers needed!!!
- June 13-18** Week 3, Malaga Camp
(Bible Conference 1*)
- June 20-24** Week 4, Malaga Camp
(Challenger Youth/Adventurers*)
- June 27-July 1** Week 5, Malaga Camp
(Conquerors*/Voyagers*)
- July 3-July 8** Week 6, Malaga Camp
(Bible Conference 2*)
- July 9** Staff departs for home

***Challengers:** Youth (ages 9-21) and Adults (21+) who have moderate or life skills level intellectual or multiple disabilities.

***Adventurers:** Youth (ages 9-15) who have disabilities and are at or near their peer level socially, emotionally and academically.

***Conquerors:** Youth (ages 16-20) who have disabilities and are at or near their peer level socially, emotionally and academically.

***Voyagers:** Young adults (20-34) who have disabilities and are at or near their peer level socially, emotionally and academically.

***Bible Conference 1:** Adults (ages 35+) with physical and/or mild intellectual disabilities who need minimal support for participation.

***Bible Conference 2:** Adults (ages 21+) with physical disabilities who are in or have the potential to be in college, career and/or independent living situations.

Here are some ways you can pray for Handi*Camp:

1. Pray for a servant mind-set for each staff member and that we would glorify Him in all that we do.
2. Pray for unity among the staff.
3. Pray that everyone will stay healthy and that the staff will have the stamina to serve well to the end.
4. Pray for wisdom for the Handi*Camp leadership team as we make decisions, provide guidance and encourage the staff.
5. Pray for safety in camp activities and off-camp trips.
6. Pray for spiritual growth and open hearts of each camper/guest as they hear the Truth of God's Word presented. Pray for those teaching His Word throughout the summer.
7. Pray that this summer will make an impact of eternal significance on each person involved (staff, campers, guests).





By Karen Czapla (Karen is a faithful volunteer at the Akron, PA Monthly Bible Study)

On the first Thursday of each month from October to April, the H*VMI Bible study meets at the Akron Church of the Brethren. Each member of our group of about a dozen adults has a disability of one kind or another, and all are seeking to be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. We sit under the teaching of Tim Landis. Tim, himself, has a visual disability, and I am blessed to be his assistant, helping in whatever ways are needed.



This year, Tim's lessons have centered on the theme of "Living Out Our Faith." Topics have included: God's Amazing Grace; How Trusting Jesus Can Help Us Live Through the Fears and Worries of This Life; Ways We Can Remember God's Love for Us and How We Can Love Him with All Our Heart; Developing a Humble Character So We Can Interact with Other People in a Spirit of Humility as Christ Would; and Micah 6:8 which tells us to, "Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God." We also have a time of sharing concerns and praises and of praying for each other, and are encouraged to uphold each other in prayer throughout the month between meetings.

What blesses me most about the H*VMI Bible Study in Akron is that, although each person has a significant disability, disability fades into the background and the Lord Jesus and living our life in fellowship with Him as His disciples is the focus. A parent of one of the members of our group recently wrote to me and said, in part, "God's Word is so powerful and we all need it so much. I just appreciate that there is a Bible study specifically designed for adults with disabilities. What a tremendous blessing and support to us parents, as well!"

In October, we plan to start a new series on a new theme. We invite anyone in the Akron, PA area who would like to, to come join us.

What's H*VMI Been Up To?

Support Groups
Year-round



Conferences & Seminars
Year-round

Bible Conference 2
Retreat
March 18-20, 2016



South Jersey Banquet
April 16, 2016

BASIS Breakfast
April 30, 2016



Do You Know H*VMI?

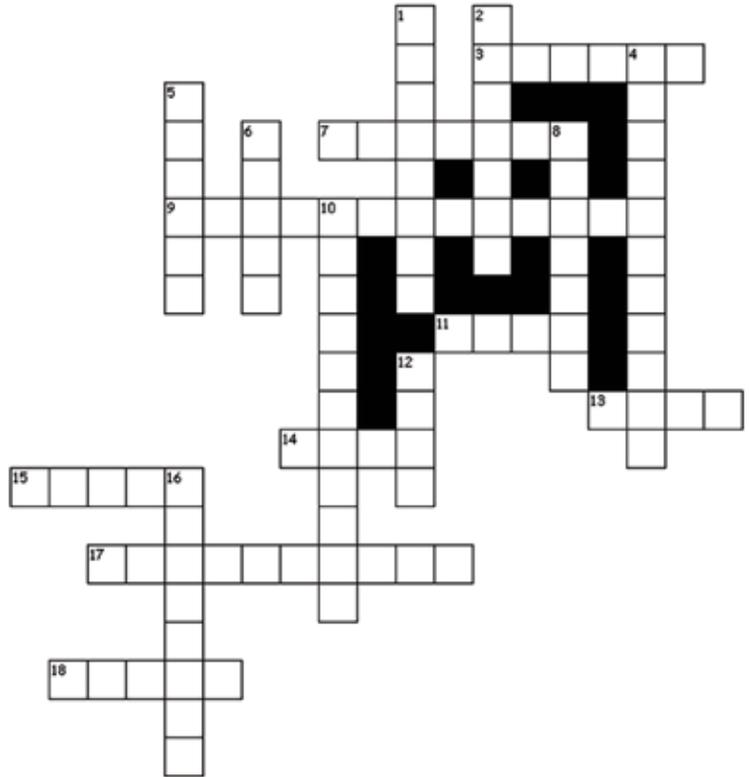
Find the answers for the crossword puzzle throughout this newsletter.

ACROSS

- Your _____ purchases through *ebay*, *Amazon.com* and *iGive.com* benefit H*VMI.
- H*VMI is a Community _____ with United Way.
- H*VMI programs are more than local programs.
- A tag line for H*VMI's long prayed for Ministry Center.
- The best thing you can do for H*VMI.
- H*VMI's summer program for people with disabilities.
- H*VMI's membership in ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability) enhances donors' _____.
- Timing for H*VMI's Discipleship Ministries programs.
- H*VMI's ministry to bereaved parents.

DOWN

- H*VMI's quarterly newsletter is an antonym for this.
- H*VMI belongs to this Lancaster disability consortium.
- Increase*, *RENEW*, *Heart to Heart*, *REST & Review*.
- September 26 is the date of H*VMI's upcoming Annual Golf _____.
- The more than ordinary giving program from which H*VMI benefits financially.
- Second word in the name of H*VMI's ministry to people with mental health challenges.



- What H*VMI seeks to provide for the hurting, abused and addicted.
- The testimony of a parent, in the loss of her daughter, is that BASIS provided her connection and _____.
- What H*VMI seminars provide to Christian workers and lay people.

Answers on page 8

H*VMI is thankful for the partnership of the following organizations.



Community Partner



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 or scan this QR code with your smart phone and go directly to our website! And keep up with:

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



Enhancing Trust





Handi*Vangelism Ministries International™

A Ministry of Compassion since 1973

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:

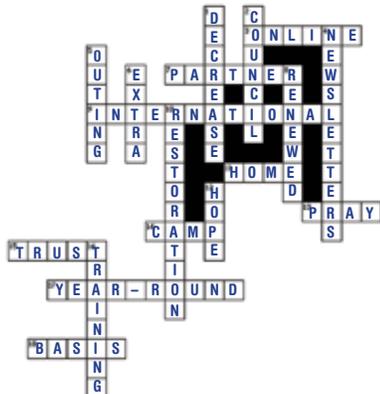
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Answers for Puzzle on Page 7



H*VMI Calendar

- May 24-July 9 **Handi*Camp** (See complete schedule on page 5.)
- July 22 **H*VMI Night at Lancaster Barnstormers Baseball Game** - Lancaster PA
- July 30-Aug 8 **Ministry team serving in Ghana** - Tim Sheetz, Kyle Robinson & Jackie England
- August 13 **BASIS Picnic** - Lebanon PA
- August 15-19 **Associate Missionary Training** - H*VMI Office, Ephrata PA
- August 20 **All Family Picnic** (Handi*Camp, Bible Club, PIP Families) Roland Park, Akron PA
- August 27 **BASIS Picnic** - Rutledge PA
- September 26 **H*VMI Golf Outing** - Centerton Country Club, Pittsgrove NJ
- October 1 **H*VMI PA Banquet** - Yoder's, New Holland PA
- October 4 **National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding** Calvary Church, Lancaster PA

Visit our website or call our office for additional information.

hvmi.org • 717.859.4777

Save the Date

Golf Outing

Monday, September 26th, 2016

9AM Shotgun Start

Centerton Golf Club,
Pittsgrove, NJ

Early reservations or
questions, contact

Ken Steward at

609.352.5666;

email: ksteward@hvmi.org

or visit hvmi.org

