

Increase

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



by Kyle Robinson, Executive Director

Happy New Year! I pray that your first weeks of 2020 have been good ones. We know the clichés when it comes to the New Year and resolutions. Diets have already been broken, exercise routines aborted and you're behind on your reading plan. Many of the New Year's resolutions we hear about are focused on self-definition or improvement.

God has been leading H*VMI in some self-definition over the last several months. This is not a pursuit of looking better or getting in better shape. H*VMI did not get a gym membership! This is a God-driven change to reflect what we see Him doing in the ministry of H*VMI.

Through the nearly fifty years of H*VMI, ministries have begun, expanded, changed, and some have faded. God has guided all of this through His children. Tim and Kathy Sheetz began the Disability Ministry at the inception of the ministry. God provided Shirley Cook to start BASIS. You'll read about her life later in this newsletter. He provided Judy Edinger and Linda Ingham to begin REST ministries while under BCM (Bible Club Movement—now Bible Centered Ministries, the umbrella mission under which H*VMI began and served for thirty years). God brought Cathi Myers into the ministry to begin Minds Renewed. Bill and Debbie Carson began Twilight Senior Ministries. These are just some examples of the people God has used to bring in ministry and programs to H*VMI.

People come and go as God leads and directs. God has piloted this ministry from the beginning. We are simply along for the ride, following His lead. As we continue to follow Him into 2020 we believe He is leading H*VMI to define ourselves as we

focus on providing the Gospel to people facing life's challenges. As H*VMI moved through 2019, we saw growth and expansion, especially in our BASIS and Disability Ministry programs, as well as exciting developments in the area of training.

H*VMI was founded on the idea of equipping the church to minister to people facing life's challenges. More and more churches are contacting us to ask for training or assistance in serving the needs of their congregation. At the same time, as some ministries have increased, our opportunities in the REST and Minds Renewed Ministries have decreased. Just as God began these ministries, He has the plan to change or alter their scope. In response to His leading, H*VMI is stepping into 2020 with three clear ministry/program areas: **Disability, Grief** and **Training & Equipping**. We continue to address the needs of people facing mental illness or abuse as well as a variety of life challenges through the training aspect of the ministry, providing churches with the tools necessary to serve people facing these challenges. All donations received for Minds Renewed or REST will be dedicated to the Training & Equipping Ministry. We also will continue to address the needs of people facing life's challenges internationally by remaining available for overseas training as requested.



The H*VMI family is excited to see what 2020 will bring. H*VMI is so blessed by each one who follows along with our ministry, prays for us and supports the ministry. We are praising the Lord for you. We praise the Lord for His wisdom and direction.



Please check the H*VMI website or call our office to learn the results of the two very important meetings needed for FINAL APPROVALS before we can begin digging on our property to get it ready to build: Planning Commission on January 9th and Akron Borough Council on February 10th.

Associate Missionary Training

Becoming an H*VMI Associate Missionary. It's a process! It's a process that, as God leads people who apply to become an H*VMI Associate Missionary, will ultimately result in those individuals becoming Fulltime H*VMI Missionaries. Part of the process is the Associate Missionary Training (AMT). On December 6 and 7, 2019, Chris Fletcher and Dan Steinman, attended two very full days of training. We are excited that God has led these two gentlemen to H*VMI. They are already very valuable members of the ministry. As you meet them through their testimonies, we know you'll agree.



Chris Fletcher

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

2 Corinthians 5:17

Recently, I have had an opportunity to step back and look at how

God has directed my life. There have been so many twists and turns over the years; but it has been so exciting to see how God has brought me to where I am now. I was born in New Jersey in 1989. I was born with Spina Bifida, which is a condition where the spinal cord is not properly developed at birth. I was adopted into a Christian family at a very young age, and grew up going to church, as well as attending the local Christian school. However, for years, I did not really believe in my heart what I was hearing. I did not do more than just have "good behavior" and "go with the flow." For most of my childhood, I said and did the right things, without truly taking them to heart. But it was not for lack of good teaching. I was blessed to be under solid preaching each Sunday, and had so many wonderful teachers at school. Even in the summer, I was presented with godly role models. Ever since I was about eight, I got to spend a week at Handi*Camp each summer. I loved the fun activities and games, and made so many friends each year! But looking back, one of the things that has most stuck with me is the Christ-like example shown by the staff each year. When I went to camp, I was seen as more than my disability. People showed me kindness and compassion, without being condescending. I was able to be myself, without the stares and stigmas normally

attached to those who live life with a disability. But more than that, I was reminded that my biggest problem was not having a wheelchair; it was having a sinful heart in need of salvation.

When I was around 12 years old, our pastor preached a sermon from Ephesians 6, speaking to the youth about what obedience was really like. It was not just about "doing the right thing." True obedience was having a heart that desired to serve God and obey His laws. I repented of my sins and put my faith in Christ as the only One who could save me. God worked in my heart and shifted my life goals. I had a growing desire to be a teacher and went to college for Elementary Education and Special Education. About eight years ago, I got invited back to Handi*Camp, this time as a Bible teacher! It was so exciting for me to be able to work at the place that had been such a blessing to me during my childhood. I have enjoyed teaching at camp each year, and always return having learned some new lessons myself!

Then five years ago, we moved from New Jersey to Pennsylvania, and God placed me right in the same town where H*VMI is located. I have been able to get even more involved, and have been volunteering with the Mobilization Team for this past year. I have gotten to travel to various colleges, churches, and businesses in an effort to connect with the local community.

Recently, I became an Associate Missionary with H*VMI, and am prayerfully moving towards working fulltime with the ministry. I am so grateful for the opportunity to work with this ministry that has had such an impact on me over the years, and I am excited to see where God will lead me in the coming years.

Dan Steinman



Hi, my name is Dan Steinman. I am an Associate Missionary with H*VMI. I recently completed H*VMI's AMT Course and, because of that, I have a better understanding of the organization that God has led me to and a better understanding of

how I will fit in. As I participated in the training, the word, "family," was often used when referring to H*VMI staff and missionaries. I already feel honored to be part of the family and the opportunity God provided for me to serve Him, something He does for all of us who receive Jesus as Savior.

I am an "older gentlemen." I work in a retirement community as a maintenance mechanic. As I approach the end of my work journey, I never in a million years would have envisioned myself getting involved in a fulltime ministry. I always thought I would retire and spend time in my workshop at home and traveling with my wife. God has a way of changing our hearts and taking us out of our comfort zone. He has done just that in my life. I cannot resist or say "no" to what He is asking me to do.

My wife and I lost a son in a tragic automobile accident October 5th, 2016. A lady at our church came alongside my wife and invited her to a BASIS Support Group

meeting where she met Tim and Kathy Sheetz and a room full of parents who had lost children. It took me a while to go to the meetings myself because we all know that men do not sit in a circle and talk about our feelings or cry!!! I was not about to go myself! But, after my wife had attended two meetings and I asked her hundreds of questions when she got home from them, she told me she was done answering questions and I needed to go for myself and answer my own questions. I went and, as I sat in that living room for the first time and listened to the different losses in the group, I felt as if each person had gone through something even worse than my wife and I had. God began working in my heart. I attended more meetings. Eventually, my wife and I, along with Nancy, the lady from our church, with help from Tim, Kyle and Don from H*VMI, started a BASIS Support Group in our home. It's been meeting now for a little over a year. Eventually, I was also able to start a support group where I work. Tim and Kathy lead this group made up mostly of residents who have lost spouses. They, too, are grateful for the opportunity to share with others.

I would like to ask for your prayers as I continue my own grief walk and as I reach out even more to help others who are hurting. If, by chance, you and I should ever meet, please say "hi," smile and feel free to share your story with me.

Blessings, Dan

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance." James 1:2-3

Serve Christ - Serve Others - Serve With H*VMI!

Visit our website and click on the GET INVOLVED tab.

Go to humi.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*Camp 2020

As 2020 was approaching, many advertisers jumped on the wagon of "20/20 vision." As we approach Handi*Camp 2020, we are filled with anticipation of SEEing God at work in and through the lives of the children, teens and adults we serve. What exactly do we SEE? Do you, our ministry partners and friends, SEE what we SEE? Or, should I say, do you "C" what I "C"?

We SEE:

Campsites

New ones! We were hoping to have camp 2020 at our new Ministry Center, but that was not God's plan. This year's new sites will help alleviate some of the challenges we have faced, and they will hold us over until we can be "home." The need, not just desire, for our own facility is ever increasingly evident! However, we are grateful for the interim locations God did provide.

Campers!

Dozens of them! Children, teens and adults eager to enjoy their summer vacation. We see them: swimming, boating, making crafts, singing in the choir, learning archery, running the bases in their wheelchairs, fishing, going on hayrides, eating s'mores around a campfire. We see them: leading worship in chapel, learning more about God's Word in Bible class using curriculum we design just for them, and using their spiritual gifts to share a testimony during our "Time to Shine."

Caregivers

Family and friends who care for our campers year-round, each being able to enjoy their own time to relax, reconnect with loved ones, slip away for a vacation, or catch up on some much needed rest while their child is at Handi*Camp. Handi*Camp is not only a blessing to our campers, but is a respite opportunity for families!

Coming to camp!

Handi*Camp offers a variety of ways to serve the Lord and our campers. Summer staff receive a salary or may choose to volunteer. Positions vary in the level of engagement with people with disabilities. Positions are available for those as young as 16, but are also available for those through age 40, 50, 60, 70, ...! In several positions, "older" adults are preferred. We need: Activities Assistants, Assistant Nurses, Bible Teachers, Counselors, Housekeeping Staff, Lifeguards and Support Staff.

Calling upon the Lord on behalf of a camper

Would you be willing to be a prayer partner for one of our campers during his/her time at camp? We will send you information, including specific requests, prior to camp. After camp you will receive a follow-up note and picture from your camper.

Collecting

Each year we need a variety of supplies (medical, housekeeping, craft, etc.) to make camp happen. Please contact us for a list of needs. Invite friends, families and small groups to help. Amazon or Walmart gift cards are welcomed OR, visit our website (hvmi.org) and click Collect Camp Supplies under the Get Involved Tab to purchase items directly from our Amazon "gift registry."

Camperships

Handi*Camp relies on camper fees and special gifts to fund the entirety of our camp program. However, it is our policy to accept campers regardless of their ability to pay. In order to keep camp running, we need people to partner with us to give full or partial camperships and/or special gifts to the general camp ministry. We have been experiencing a growing need for camperships in recent years; and anticipate the same this year. Any help you can give will certainly bless one of our campers!



By Tara Kelley, Director of Disability Ministries

Will you help us make it happen?



2020 H*VMI CALENDAR

Please check our website for more details on the following; and for Bible clubs and support groups (BASIS for bereaved parents and PIP for parents of children with a disability).

hvmi.org • 717.859.4777

February 15

Seminar on ADHD
Germantown Christian Assembly
Germantown PA

February 20

Pastors' Conference
Pilgrim Chapel
Harrington DE

February 23

Missionary Conference
Brooklawn United Methodist Church
Brooklawn NJ

March 29

Minute for Missions
Deerfield Presbyterian Church
Deerfield NJ

April 18

H*VMI South Jersey Luncheon
The Grove at Centerton, Pittsgrove NJ

May 13-16

Handi*Camp Bible Conference Session 1
Black Rock Retreat Center, Quarryville PA

May 16-19

Handi*Camp Bible Conference Session 2
Black Rock Retreat Center, Quarryville PA

May 20-24

Handi*Camp Staff Orientation
Camp Innabah, Spring City PA

May 25-June 19

Handi*Camp
Camp Innabah, Spring City PA

NEW ADVENTURE

H*VMI North Jersey Luncheon



We've enjoyed being able to share fellowship, a meal and things God has been doing in H*VMI with our friends at our annual PENNSYLVANIA Banquet for many years. Then, several years ago, we added a SOUTH JERSEY event to be able to share with friends in that location. This past November 16th (2019), we made our first foray into NORTH JERSEY. Our

first event there wouldn't be counted a success if we looked only at numbers attending, BUT those of us who were there enjoyed ourselves immensely and we are motivated to do it again next year.

A highlight of the luncheon was music presented by Jordan and Kate Roberts, one of H*VMI's many "they met at Handi*Camp, fell in love and married" success stories. We can't share the Roberts' delightful music in this newsletter, but the lyrics of one of their presentations are so powerful, we MUST print them here to bless our readers:

Eternal Weight Of Glory

Verse 1

Now the days and hours and moments
Of our suffering seem so long
And the toilsome wait and wond'ring
Threaten silence to our song
Now our pain is real and pressing
Where our faith is thin and weak
But our hope is set on Jesus
And we cling to Him our strength

Verse 2

Oh eternal weight of glory
Oh inheritance divine
We will see our Lord redeeming
Every past and future time
All our pains will be transfigured
Like the scars of Christ our Lord
We will see the weight of glory
And our broken years restored

Chorus

For behold I tell a mystery
At the trumpet sound we'll wake
Death is swallowed up in vict'ry
When we meet our King of grace
Ev'ry year we thought was wasted
Every night we cried how long
All will be a passing moment
In our Savior's victory song

Verse 3

We will see our wounded Savior
We'll behold Him face to face
And we'll hear our anguished stories
Sung as vict'ry songs of grace

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BOOK REVIEW

By Marilyn Barto, Secretarial Ministry Assistant

Priceless Jewel, Walking Together Through Chronic Illness

By John L. Marshall with Marilyn Marshall. Self-published in 2018. Available on Amazon.



This is a personally written and published story of a church history professor, a husband and then a widower, who fell in love with a sparkling Christian young woman who was chronically ill most of her life. She only knew physical pain and suffering, and yet wanted wholly to minister to others, the ill and the well.

John shares the emotional, physical and spiritual struggles Marilyn battled; and his own as well, as he suffered watching her deteriorate and then succumb to her final diagnosis of cancer. The list included chronic fatigue immune dysfunction syndrome (CFIDS), lupus, myositis, myasthenia gravis, akathisia, and then breast cancer.

Marilyn was a most priceless jewel in the world to God. In the words of the unknown source in *Streams in the Desert*, "He is the most skilled lapidary in the universe."

Their love story is a beautiful example of accepting one's circumstances as "God allowed," to be used for "His Glory."

Save the Date



Annual H*VMI South Jersey Luncheon

April 18, 2020

11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

The Grove at Centerton, Pittsgrove NJ

Please join us for the fellowship, great food and exciting H*VMI Ministry Updates—AND—please invite your family, friends, neighbors, church family....to come too!

BASIS' Best Friend

By Tim Sheetz, Interim Director of BASIS

She was never married. She didn't lose a child. She didn't even have any children. BUT Shirley Cook's legacy continues to touch the lives of hundreds of parents – parents who know the terrible grief of losing a child.

In 1975, Shirley Cook was walking past Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. God drew her attention to the imposing building and led her to ask Him, "Do you have a ministry for me there?" He did! H*V's "Pajama Club" was born. Through the next twenty years, hundreds of children attended H*V's Sunday school at CHOP, and scores gave their hearts to Christ.

Through those years, some children healed and went home. Some children, instead, went to Heaven. Shirley's heart broke for their

parents. She felt led to gather together five mothers she'd met at CHOP who had lost their children to give them an opportunity to share their heartache with each other.

That meeting was, in essence, the first BASIS Support Group. That meeting, in 1981, was the foundation for what eventually became BASIS, H*VMI's outreach to bereaved parents. Shirley was the first BASIS Director, followed by Judy Blore, followed by Don Allison.

God called Shirley Home on December 16th, 2019 at age 100 years and 4 months.



Worth The Wait

By Tim Sheetz, Founder and Ministry Ambassador



In his early teen years, Bert dove into a shallow body of water. His neck was broken and his journey as a quadriplegic began. He worked hard, through long years and through rigorous therapy sessions. He graduated from high school and then

college. Bert loved art and, using adaptive devices, he became an excellent artist. He blessed many people as he maximized this God-given gift. He married a wonderful woman, Marlene, and they joined the H*VMI family. We were so happy to enjoy them as friends and ministry partners. Their love for the Lord and for people with disabilities made them a dynamite team. Marlene used the gift of teaching that God had instilled in her in various H*VMI programs. Bert served as H*VMI's graphic artist for many years, up until just a short time before the Lord called him Home.

I'll never forget the privilege it was for my wife, Kathy, and me to stand beside Bert's hospital bed and, along with Marlene and many of their friends, sing hymns of hope and thanksgiving until Bert was ushered into the arms of His Savior and Lord.

Bert's life wasn't an easy one. He could have given up so many times. He could have railed against God because of the "accident" that took the use of his arms and legs away from him. Instead, he accepted God's sovereignty over his life and turned any disappointment into an opportunity to learn to trust God's love in an even greater way. He learned the secret of *Proverbs 3:5-6* "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Kathy and I have been in this ministry for 47 years. Over this time, we've met many remarkable people, Bert and Marlene among them. We've met parents who have a child with a disability—that disability directing and redirecting the way the parents' and the child's life would unfold. We've met many, many individuals with disabilities who have lived in such a way that the disability was not a liability to them, but a blessing. One friend even said, "I praise God for my disability. If it weren't for that, I don't know where I'd be now. I doubt that I would have learned to love Jesus. I think I would have lived a life of drugs and crime and maybe even be in jail, like my older brothers are." We've also met parents who have lost children. The circumstance of the death, the age of their child, whether the loss was recent or decades ago—none of this matters. The loss is profound and lasts for the parents' lifetime. We've met people who have experienced the worst of what life could offer; and we've been blessed to see them, as they are grieving, also grabbing onto the promises in God's Word in ways that have taught us how much deeper we need to go with trusting Him in our own lives. We have learned how abundantly God redeems—not only our souls when we cry out to Him for salvation—but the circumstances of our lives as well.

When we're going through the tough circumstances of this life, whether our own or walking with others on their journey, there's a hope that can keep us on track. It's this: one day, we will ALL, who are Believers in Jesus Christ as Savior, stand before our Heavenly Father, our Creator, and be blessed to sing His praises with Bert and Marlene and the company of people we've met here on our earthly journey. We persevere through life's challenges while we wait for that day, all the while knowing—it will be worth the wait!

Update From November 22, 2019

By Brian Robinson,
Office Manager

H*VMI had another
EXTRAORDINARY
day on November 22nd.
Gifts designated to
H*VMI by 221 donors

THE EXTRA ORDINARY GIVE



totalled \$40,739.90. With many of our donors choosing to cover the cost of the transaction fee, PLUS \$600.00 in prizes, PLUS our portion of the stretch pool, the grand total we received from this year's Extraordinary Give is \$43,899.01.

The additional prizes H*VMI won are:

- The **\$500 Midnight Madness** prize: These went to the first 20 organizations that received donations from 50 unique donors. We were the 4th of the 20 organizations to secure our 50 donors – and it only took until 12:14 AM. To accomplish this, many donors stayed up to give right at midnight; others chose to call in their donation to me with their credit card info before the event began; and four of our H*VMI staffers used quick fingers to input 28 of those 50 donations.
- The **\$100 Magic Minute** prize (a new prize this year): One of our donors made a donation during the 11:22 AM minute.

Thanks so much again to each of our Extraordinary Givers! These dollars are a wonderful year-end addition to our General Fund.

For more information, contact us at:

Handi*Vangelism Ministries International

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Phone: 717.859.4777

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Handi*Vangelism Ministries International™

A Ministry of Compassion since 1973

Executive Director: Kyle Robinson

Disabilities • Grief • Life Challenges

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.

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.

H*VMI Program Areas



DISABILITY

- Discipleship—for people with disabilities of all ages living in rehab centers, residential facilities, nursing homes or the community
- Handi*Camp—for children, youth and adults with physical and/or intellectual disabilities
- PIP—for parents of children with disabilities



GRIEF

- BASIS—for bereaved parents and their families
- for people grieving over many types of losses such as the loss of a spouse, parent, sibling and other significant people; divorce; employment; health



TRAINING & EQUIPPING

- for **Individuals**, the **Church** and the **Community**, locally and around the world, in areas such as disability; grief; mental health; abuse; divorce

Evangelizing • Caring
Discipling • Training • Equipping

I/We would like to be a part of making the vision for Handi*Camp 2020 a reality by:

- Coming:** I/we or someone I know would like to serve at camp.
- Calling:** I/we would like to be a prayer partner for a camper.
- Collecting:** I/we would like to collect supplies. Please send a list!
- Campership, full or partial:** I/we would like to support camp through a financial gift of \$ _____, enclosed. (Note: Full campership is \$690 for five-day camp sessions / \$570 for adult retreat session.)

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 of:**

\$ _____ For: General Fund Handi*Camp Property

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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