

# Increase

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



## Unanimous Approval!

By Kyle Robinson, H\*VMI Executive Director

You know, because you have been watching and praying with us, that H\*VMI has been working our way through the final approval process for our Property Project. Approval for the Land Development Plan was the last major approval needed.

With God's direction and provision, H\*VMI has now successfully completed five different, very extensive processes to get to this point.

- 1. Request to Change the Akron Zoning Ordinance.**
- 2. Non-Profit Property Taxation Process.**
- 3. First Conditional Use Hearing.**  
(Since H\*VMI's use of the property did not fit neatly into a residential or commercial box, we needed to go through this process to be approved to use the property in the way we intended.)
- 4. Second Conditional Use Hearing.**  
(We needed to make a plan adjustment. It was determined by local officials that we needed to go through the Conditional Use Hearing a second time!)
- 5. This Current Land Development Plan Approval.**

God has paved the way for us through all of this. We have seen His Hand on us for every jot and tittle: all the planning, at every meeting, with every contact and in every situation.

This final approval is what is known as a Conditional Plan Approval. This is standard for these types of plans. There are always things to be done post approval and before construction, so before the recently approved Plan is actually officially signed and recorded, we have another "to do list." This list is called Conditions of Approval. However, even with these tasks, because the Land Development Plan has been approved,

we can move forward with excavators and builders to prepare for the construction process. H\*VMI is in a unique circumstance when it comes to timing concerning this new list and actual ground breaking. It's obviously the Lord's timing once again! We received written notification of the approval and conditions, but any excavation or construction can't really

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**"we can move forward with excavators and builders to prepare for the construction process"**

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happen until the weather warms up. So, H\*VMI has 2-3 months to prepare before we jump in and begin digging! In addition to the administrative items required by the Borough, H\*VMI needs to secure two other permits: *Highway Occupancy Permit* and *PA DEP Stormwater Permit*. We had already applied for both permits, and they have been in process for a few months.

*Continued on page 2*

We're anticipating that God will bring it all together at just the right time!

I want to say a huge thank you to all who have prayed for H\*VMI and encouraged us through these months. It has not been easy. As an H\*VMI staff, we have been trusting the Lord. At times, though, as we struggled and invested so much time and energy, we couldn't help but have questions and frustrations.

God placed it upon our hearts to pursue acquiring our own property; He directed us to the place of His choosing and provided funds for us to purchase it; He granted us favor in decision after decision along the way. These things were like the stones from the Jordan in Joshua chapter 4. As we faced numerous challenges, we would often look back and remind ourselves of God's prior provisions.

In the end, at the two meetings where the local Akron Borough Officials were voting to approve or not approve our Plan, it was actually "a breeze." As the Executive Director, knowing how much work had been done over these days, weeks, months and years; knowing how much sleep has been lost and money has been spent – when the final vote was taken on Monday night, January 10, 2022, and the unanimous approval was handed down, I realized that

I was expecting some commotion. (Fireworks? Angels singing? Shouts of joy and relief?) But, as is so true in many aspects of our lives, God doesn't show up in lightning, fire or with a bang. He speaks in a still small voice as we wait on and trust in Him.

While H\*VMI has waited on God, we were also diligent to do all that was asked of us by the local authorities. There is no doubt that God was always going before us. We know, without a doubt, especially in these last days, He is the One Who brought unity among local officials which allowed us to jump over this last hurdle. Praise the Lord for ALL HE HAS DONE!

In the coming weeks and months, H\*VMI will be working on preparations with the excavator, finalizing plan conditions with the Borough, securing those two outstanding permits and, obviously —raising funds. We will share more information on those items in future

mailings; and updates are going up on our website's Property Page as well, so check in there between mailings to see those updates. ([hvmi.org/property-updates](http://hvmi.org/property-updates))

Please PRAISE God for all He has done. To Him and Him alone goes the glory.

And, please PRAY for us as we seek to accomplish the tasks on the Conditions of Approval list.



**“Praise the Lord for ALL HE HAS done!”**

## We Have Extraordinary Givers!

By Brian Robinson, H\*VMI Office Manager

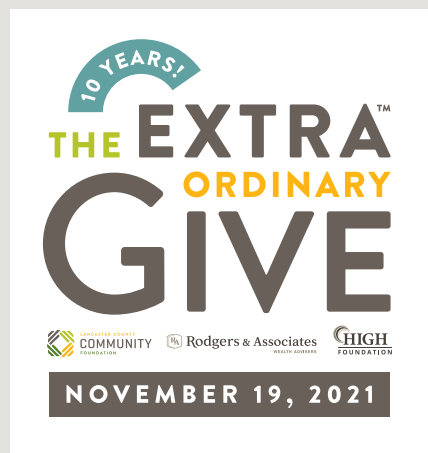
**H\*VMI had another EXTRAORDINARY day on November 19, 2021 —thanks to 223 Extraordinary Givers!**

Designations to H\*VMI in the 24-hour Extraordinary Give day event totaled \$53,056.11 (total includes \$600 in prizes). With many of our donors choosing to cover the cost of the transaction fee for their gift(s), the amount we received is \$55,655.71 (our donations and prizes minus a small amount for transaction fees PLUS our portion of the stretch pool funds provided by GIVE sponsors)! **Thank the Lord with us!**

**Prizes: \$500 Midnight Madness Prize**—H\*VMI came in 1st place of 20 organizations to get to 50 unique donors. Thanks

to all who stayed up Thursday night to donate right after midnight. **\$100 Magic Minute** —we won this prize, too; **FOUR** of our donors made a donation during that 11:19 am minute.

Thanks so much again to everyone who donated to help bolster H\*VMI's General Fund going into a new year of ministry.



By Tara Kelley,  
Handi\*Camp Director



Are you ready for summer? Certainly, the remnants of snow and cold weather make the thought of summer seem far away; but Handi\*Camp will be here before we know it! What is ahead for 2022?

- ★ Since there are presently no adequate facility options for an overnight camp (until we can build), we will continue with Day Camp Programs held on H\*VMI's Ministry Center Property.
- ★ Since last year's Day Camp was such a success, we are ADDING a sixth week! One of those weeks will accommodate campers who have more involved care needs – a group we had previously been limited in our ability to serve.
- ★ Since the H\*VMI staff cannot do this alone, we are asking the Lord to send people like you who can partner with us to make Handi\*Camp 2022 a reality. It takes many hands and hearts with various skills and gifts working together. Please consider a way you can minister to the campers who will be with us this summer:
- ★ **Pray:** A prayer partner is needed

to pray specifically for each camper, each week.

- ★ **Collect supplies:** Everything from snacks to soap. Collect—or organize a collection of—supplies to donate to Handi\*Camp. *A list is available upon request.*
- ★ **Serve as a Day Camp Buddy:** Training is provided/required. Young adults (18+) through “older” adults in their 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s ... serve as buddies/counselors for our campers, to provide care and help them participate in all activities of the Day Camp Program. (Position paid or volunteer.)
- ★ **Be part of our “Extra Hands” Staff:** Serve behind the scenes as part of our housekeeping staff; come alongside counselors as extra hands as they serve our campers (orientation required); be a camp nurse; or help bring the fun to camp as an activities assistant! (All positions paid or volunteer.)
- ★ **Be a host family:** Since Handi\*Camp

does not currently have facilities in which to house out-of-town staff, host families in the Lancaster County area are needed to provide a “home away from home” for a staff member, for one or more weeks of camp. \*If you live out of the area, please PRAY specifically for this need to be filled.

- ★ **Provide a Staff Meal:** Bring a dinner meal to camp for the staff one or more nights during camp. \*See above.
- ★ **Financially Partner:** Handi\*Camp does not charge for our Day Camp program since some families travel from out of town and need to pay for the expense of a hotel while their child is at camp. However, there are still significant costs involved in providing this program including tent rental, materials, and summer staff salaries. Consider Day Camp for a special church, Sunday School or VBS offering.

For more information or to help with any of these, please return the REPLY FORM on page 8, email [tkelley@hvmi.org](mailto:tkelley@hvmi.org) or call 717.859.4777. **THANK YOU!**





# Journey Through Grief



Handi\*Vangelism has had the privilege of presenting *Journey Through Grief – A Help For People In Pain Seminar* at churches and conferences throughout the U.S., as well as in other countries, since 1989. This four hour seminar is continually updated and is designed to describe the process of grief and to suggest ways individuals can learn to cope with loss situations. It is prepared to especially help God's people, whose role model is the Lord Jesus, to understand their own losses and to encourage them to reach out to others who are in pain. Who would benefit from the seminar? Those who have experienced loss in their own lives – death, divorce, finances, health ... ; and those who may not have experienced a personal loss but want to help others who are grieving. Materials covered include: Types of Loss Situations, Feelings Associated with Loss, Stages of Grief, Factors Affecting Grief, Responses to Grief, How to Survive a Loss and How to Minister to a Hurting World.

## Attendees' Testimonials

- ▶ *Thanks for making the stages of grief much more understandable to me. Thank you also for the personal examples and stories. They make the information more helpful and practical.*
- ▶ *As a grief facilitator myself, I found your material to be extremely helpful. I especially appreciate receiving the binder with all the information— great resource.*
- ▶ *I was fearful that the seminar would be too intense; but, it was so relaxed, so real, so practical. I have never heard people who could get such depressing, heavy material out without leaving a heavy feeling for the listeners.*

## Pastors' Testimonials

- ▶ *As a pastor with the focus, for the last 7 ½ years, on visitation ministry, I have come face-to-face with all kinds of grief. Handi\*Vangelism, is so well-equipped to speak into the lives of those who are facing loss; and also those who wish to respond to people with this special need. I can highly recommend this ministry to churches, Christian schools, colleges and organizations that focus on the needs of people facing crisis. The seminar H\*VMI provides is excellent. The presentation is timely and the materials they have gathered and produced are a tremendous resource for present and future situations. The examples used in the seminar reveal a deep understanding of our broken world and the "how & why" of God's Sovereign leading in tragedy; and of the grieving process. The seminar provides sources of comfort and healing found in the Scripture. The time and tools H\*VMI invests provide a much better understanding of the grief process and the challenges that face young and old in these difficult days. Please give careful thought to bringing this ministry into your circle of care.*
- ▶ *I want to communicate to you our profound thanks for the excellent seminar you gave to us. I am collating the evaluations, and to a man, they are positive. Personally, I was impacted by the very practical and helpful suggestions given to us. It leaves us with hope that grievers can do something about their pain.*

If you would like additional information about the seminar and, possibly, schedule it for your church or group, please contact H\*VMI: Call **717.859.4777** or email us at [training@hvmi.org](mailto:training@hvmi.org).



# 2021 H\*VMI Chicken Barbeque

God provided a beautiful day and lots of H\*VMI neighbors, friends and supporters to attend, to encourage us and to be encouraged. Enjoy some pictures from the day, October 2, 2021. We'll notify you of the date for our next barbeque—as soon as WE know what it is! With excavation and construction on the horizon on the H\*VMI Property, we are carefully and cautiously scheduling upcoming events, especially those that would be held at 3261 Rothsville Road, Akron PA, the address of the future H\*VMI Ministry Center.



Fun fall games.



Waiting for our dinner guests.



The main event.



Fun fall games.



Live music.



Eager to make ice cream sodas.



Serving team ready to go.



Pumpkin painting.



Hand painting.

# We all have...GRAY Hair!

By Tara Kelley, Director of Disability Ministries



This year's BIBLE CLUB theme is *God's Story —In Colors*. Do you happen to know which common color is not mentioned in the Bible? Orange! (If you can find a verse where it is listed, please let us know!) As for other colors—gray, white, green, red, purple, gold and blue—we are learning about them through stories from God's Word. It has been fun to have everyone come to club dressed in our color of the month. But, it has been more wonderful to hear our participants grasping, remembering and even repeating Truth from His Word!

Our first color, gray, reminded us that God takes care of us from the time we are tiny, little babies until we are *really* old and all our hair turns GRAY. We doubled over with laughter

when we took turns trying on a gray wig to see what we would look like when we got old. (Those who came to club *already* having their *own* gray hair were exempt from the activity!) The next month, everyone was surprised to have an indoor snowball fight! It helped us remember how God can make our dirty, sinful heart WHITE like snow when we choose to believe in Jesus. In December, we learned how our Good Shepherd is always with us, even when we cannot see Him with our eyes. He gives us His peace so we can rest in nice places—like fresh GREEN grass. We started the New Year connecting the promises of the colors we had already learned with a challenging new concept: God's plan for us is not always an easy one. There can be hard, frightening, lonely or sad times God allows or directs to come into our lives. The Israelites found that out when they got stuck between Pharaoh's army and the RED Sea! But, no matter what we *feel* at the time, or what *seems* to not make sense, God's plan for us is the *best*—and His is the plan we need to trust and follow.

More colors are yet to come. Please PRAY, especially on Mondays and Thursdays when most clubs take place, for God's Word to continue to take root and grow fruit in the lives of those we serve. And, take time today to PRAISE Him for the beautiful, colorful world He gave us to help us remember His precious promises of love and care.

## GOD Providing

By Steve Wilson, H\*VMI CFO

When we look back at the timing of cash received at H\*VMI over recent years, we see His amazing provision for this ministry. In 2017, God provided more than \$570,000 in just over two months which enabled us to purchase our property, with cash to spare. In 2020, during a global pandemic, God provided H\*VMI with more than \$375,000 in bequests. (Of course, our friends planned these bequests before the pandemic.)

God continues to provide for our finances! In 2019, our Administrative and Program areas (General, Camp, Disability Ministries, and BASIS) received \$210,518. In 2020, these areas received \$238,271. This is \$27,754 more than 2019. Then, in 2021, these areas received



**\$323,112.** This is \$84,840 more than 2020.

Since 2019, individual missionary support has increased by about \$15,000 per year. Donations to the Property Fund were \$33,409 in 2019, \$42,331 in 2020, and **\$74,943** in 2021. All of this is happening without a formal capital campaign. (Stay tuned for that!)

When we commit everything into God's Hands, we will see God's Hand in everything! We definitely see His Hand in the financial provision for the ministry.

As we begin 2022, we are about to embark on yet another exciting season in our history. We remember the amazing history of God's provision, and we look to Him to provide the funds necessary to develop the property He provided.





By Tim Sheetz, H\*VMI Founder and Ministry Ambassador

Looking back over the events of 2021, we could easily move into 2022 in despair, frustration and fear. We're so readily inclined to focus on past struggles, aren't we?! But, doing that can make us expect the worst for the present and lose hope for the future.

I'm reminded of the Israelites. Many had seen the hardship their parents endured when they were in bondage in Egypt. They saw the God-inflicted torture of the plagues on the Egyptians and heard the anguishing screams of Egyptian mothers who found their children deceased, a result of the last plague, the Angel of Death. They felt the helplessness of having the Egyptian Army close in on them at the Red Sea. Then, there was the loss of an entire generation over the 40 years of moving from one place to another in the desert, as they looked for the Promised Land where they could finally settle.

Even though God faithfully provided so well for His people (direction by way of a cloud, and fire; food to eat; water to drink; and sandals that didn't wear out), it never seemed to be enough to give the Israelites confidence and contentment. Their attention was more focused on what they *didn't* have than on Who they *did* have. Perhaps it was the negative reminders of the past that blocked their ability to recognize God's work on their behalf in the present, leaving them without hope for the future.

When, at long last, they found themselves finally staring at the Promised Land, it was from across the Jordan River—at flood stage! It was enough to discourage the Israelites yet again; but God never stopped loving and providing for these people of His even as they kept doubting their God.

Joshua 3:1–17 tells the story. In verse 5, God, through Joshua, told the people to consecrate\* themselves and be prepared to see the amazing thing HE would do. In other words, God was saying, “Don't look at the circumstances. Look, instead, at Me, the One Who is sovereign over the circumstances. Redirect your attention, people. Then, move ahead. Take that step of faith and trust Me to perform what you cannot!”

God used the Ark of the Covenant to prod His people to turn their attention from the impossibility of their circumstance and to look at Him. The priests, carrying the Ark of the Covenant, were to lead the people to the edge of the flooded Jordan River. The people were to position themselves so they could see the Ark—and follow it! At just the right time, God stopped the flooding waters of the Jordan, so the Israelites could, as they had done with the Red Sea, cross to the other side on dry ground.

Like the Israelites, remember how God took care of you in the past. Know He is working in your present and is planning your future. With that in mind, with consecrating yourself to Him, with focusing on Him rather than on your circumstances and with trusting Him, you can glide into 2022 full of thanksgiving and—hope! May God, through His strength and grace, give you an incredible 2022 as you place the year and yourself in His amazing Hands.

\***Consecrate**—Separate oneself from things that are unclean, especially anything that would contaminate one's relationship with a perfect God. Consecration also carries the connotation of sanctification, holiness or purity.



# Handi\*Vangelism Ministries International™

*A Ministry of Compassion since 1973*

Executive Director: Kyle Robinson

## 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

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### NEW: TEXT GIVING

For details go to: [hvmi.org/text-to-give](http://hvmi.org/text-to-give)



Give now at: [hvmi.org/donate](http://hvmi.org/donate), or by scanning this QR code with your phone.



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## I/We would like to partner with H\*VMI's Handi\*Camp 2022:

### I/we would like to partner with Handi\*Camp by:

- Praying**
- Collecting supplies. Please send a list!**
- Serving as a Day Camp Buddy**
- I/we would like to help camp through a financial gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**
- Being "Extra Hands" Staff**
- Being a Host Family**
- Providing a Staff Meal**

- I/we would like to help the general ministry of H\*VMI through a financial gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

For:  General Fund  Property

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

▲ Name \_\_\_\_\_

▲ Street or PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

▲ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

▲ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  AmExpress

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

- This is updated contact information.**
- I prefer to receive H\*VMI mailings by email.**

**Thank you!**

