

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

Picture This...

By Tim Sheetz, Executive Director, H*VMI

The old adage is so true, "A picture is worth 1000 words!" Pictures have a way of making things very real. They help us to be "there" for the moment. Although I don't "do Facebook!," I understand that this is one of the reasons it's so popular today. You'll see many pictures in this issue of *Increase*. I encourage you to REALLY look at



them. See the people. Notice facial expressions. Notice background. Think about the ministry context of each picture. Capture—and enjoy—the moment!

Throughout His ministry, Jesus used word pictures to stimulate His listeners to action or to challenge traditional thinking. I know you can easily run a video in your mind of The Prodigal Son and of the Good Samaritan. I know you can picture the dear woman scouring her house for the lost coin. These video pictures were valuable teaching tools then and now.

There is something I would love for you to picture. When we finish painting this word picture, it just may challenge your concept of "church." Start by bringing up in your mind a picture of the front door of your church.

As you enter the door, picture the three greeters just inside: a young boy who has cerebral palsy and a mild intellectual disability is sitting in his wheelchair with his parents beside him. In addition to the verbal greeting you receive from his parents, there's a warm, welcoming smile from their young son.

As you scan the sanctuary to find a seat, you can see that there are cutout sections in some of the rows of pews. These are occupied by others in wheelchairs. They are comfortable there, knowing that preparations were made to make them feel welcome and an important part of all who have come to worship this morning.

You recognize a woman who is visually impaired, sitting on one side of the sanctuary. It's her customary seat in your church. Lying beside her is her guide dog. In her lap is this Sunday's church bulletin and several sheets of paper on which are the hymns to be sung this morning.

When we finish painting this word picture, it just may challenge your concept of "church."

These were prepared in advance for her—all in large print.

In front of the sanctuary, a Sign Language interpreter is in place in front of several Deaf people. They're all "talking" together as they wait for the service to begin.

In the way back of the sanctuary is a couple who has recently lost a child. Tears are already flowing, even before the prelude music begins. They anticipate that the hymns they will hear will be even more rich with meaning because of their profound grief. They are comfortable being there. They realize that their tears are welcome and that others, as they come by to hug them, will shed tears, as well, for the loss of their

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Picture This...

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child. This congregation has been thoughtfully advised by the caring pastor about the grief journey this couple is on and how important it is to not stand back and isolate them, making their heartbreak even more intense. And, by the way, the pastor has also previously reminded your congregation that all around you in church are people who are struggling with other hurts—abuse, mental health issues. They may not be as easily recognizable; but, they are people who should also feel welcome to worship.

You're just about to take your seat, when there's a sudden burst of sound and movement a few pews down from the back of your church. It's startling at first, but then, you and other worshippers smile, remembering it's the young man with autism. He's there with his family; there to worship God in his own way. Because the congregation accepts him, he and his parents can be there. His noisy distractions will come and go through the service, but you know that you and everyone there will soon tune those out as you focus on the One you have all come to worship.

Jesus is the One drawing this picture in your mind! And, as this Masterful Artist draws, tears of joy and excitement are in His eyes. THIS is the way He intends for His church to be. In the Gospels, He paid close attention to



people who were hurting and disabled. ALL were welcome in His presence. ALL were valuable to Him. While He was walking on this earth, He instilled hearts that would care in His disciples.

That's what He wants in His church today—and in your heart and mine.

Get the picture???

“Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.”

Romans 15:5-7 (NASB)

Press Release!

October 13, 2015

from Dan Busby, President, ECFA



Handi*Vangelism Ministries International
Accredited by
National Financial
Accountability Organization



Enhancing Trust

The ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability) announced today the accreditation of Handi*Vangelism Ministries International of Akron, PA.

ECFA accreditation is based on the ECFA Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship™, including including financial accountability, transparency, sound board governance and ethical fundraising. Handi*Vangelism Ministries International joins a growing number of Christ-centered churches and ministries across America, supported by over 27 million donors that have earned the right to display the ECFA seal. When an organization is accredited by ECFA, it demonstrates its willingness to follow the model of Biblical accountability.

We are pleased to accredit this ministry committed to show that Christ can redeem, restore, comfort, and give direction and hope.

Editors note: to learn more about ECFA go to ***ecfa.org***.

Not Just for H*VMI's Lancaster County Friends!!!

Save the Date! **NOVEMBER 20, 2015**

THE **EXTRA** **ORDINARY** **GIVE**™



NOVEMBER 20, 2015

EXTRAGIVE.ORG

This November 20 go the EXTRA mile for Handi*Vangelism Ministries International. On that day, H*VMI is again participating in the **Extraordinary Give**, Lancaster County's Largest Day of Giving. For 24-hours only (midnight to midnight), visit **ExtraGive.org**, make an online credit card donation (\$25 minimum) and your gift will be stretched by \$250,000 from the Lancaster County Community Foundation and sponsors. Plus, just by donating, you could help us win EXTRA from the \$50,000 prize pool! This program is open to any donor—you don't have to live in Lancaster County to give.

H*VMI, along with each organization in the **Extraordinary Give**, will receive a percentage of the \$250,000 based on the percentage designated to H*VMI of the total dollars given during the 24 hours to all organizations.

AND—there are two main ways to help us win one or more \$1000 prizes:

- **Give EARLY**—right after midnight. The first 10 organizations receiving gifts from 50 unique donors will receive a \$1000 Early Bird Challenge prize. H*VMI won one of these in 2013, but just missed one last year. Please consider staying up late to give after midnight; or if you're not a "night owl," you can contact Brian Robinson (*cell phone 717-475-5864*) for assistance. He is willing to provide your credit card info to the Lancaster County Community Foundation for you so you can make an Early Bird donation to help us reach our goal of 50 donors for this added prize.

- **Give during GOLDEN TICKET Timeslots.** Five donations will be randomly picked during seven different timeslots and a \$1000 prize will be added to that donation. H*VMI received one of these prizes in 2013, too. Quite a few of our friends gave multiple donations during the various timeslots (*remember—\$25 is the minimum online donation*). Maybe you can help by giving during any of these times this year and your donation might be randomly chosen:

12:00-3:00 AM

5:00-8:00 AM

9:00-11:00 AM

12:00-2:00 PM

4:00-6:00 PM

7:00-9:00 PM

10:00 PM-12:00 AM

AGAIN—Brian is willing to help on your behalf with any donations you would like to give at various times—call him with your info and instructions. (Several donors contacted him last year to help in this way.)

Donors will receive a tax-deductible receipt from the Lancaster County Community Foundation. H*VMI will receive a list of donors so we can acknowledge each donation. Funds given through this special program will go to H*VMI's General Fund which benefits all H*VMI departments.

When You Give Extra, Extraordinary Things Happen!
Mark your calendars. Tell your Friends. Give Extraordinary.
ExtraGive.org.

PICTURE THIS — A Pictorial Update of Recent H*VMI



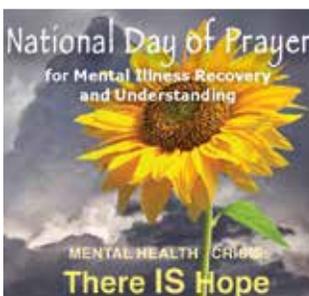
PIP Picnic: August 15, Akron, PA



Golf Outing: September 28, Pittsgrove, NJ



REST Street Ministry Team: Oct. 8, Elkton, MD



National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding: October 6, Lancaster, PA



Bible Club: October 1, Akron, PA

Ministry Events

*Letters Written
in Our Hearts*
2 Corinthians 3:2-3
...you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us..



PA Banquet: October 3,
New Holland, PA



BASIS Picnic: August 8, Annville, PA



H*VMI's New Property, architectural and engineering drawings unveiled at PA Banquet

God At Work In Ghana

H*VMI Ghana Water Project—Completed!!!!

by Larry Lamina, Director, H*VMI Ghana

H*VMI Ghana would like to thank all friends for your gifts to help our children and residents have potable water to drink. Our facility has been linked to the state main supply and we are enjoying safe, clean, potable water.

Works that were done include the following:

1. Connecting the supply line to all the dormitories, kitchen and the guest rooms.
2. Repairs of old washroom systems: washers, water closet handles, toilet seats, metal showers, valves etc.
3. Connecting underground pipelines to all the dormitories.

We are delighted to see God's blessings in His ministry. Christ proved Himself faithful to us yet another time.

"Great is Thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:20



Encouragement From a Handi*Camp Family

Dear H*VMI Staff,

H*VMI, specifically Handi*Camp, has been a big and important part of our lives as a family. Back in the early 1990s, Jackie attended a Christian Education Convention in Beltsville, MD where Patti Nell led some workshops on ministering to the handicapped. It was at those workshops that Jackie first learned of Handi*Vangelism. Eureka!!! What a find! She was so thrilled to learn that there was a Christian camp for disabled teens and adults, as we were the parents at that time of two young men with disabilities, approximately 18 and 15 years old.

Of course they're much older now. Tommy attended Handi*Camp for the first time in 1993, just after graduating



Harry, Stephen and Tom Craven with Jeremy Denlinger

from high school, and Uncle Jeff was his counselor. Stephen's first year was at Camp Haluwasa, after which it was decided that he would be a better fit for Camp Sankanac. And ever

My Son Has the Kind of Autism No One Talks About

by Bonnie Zampino

Like most parents of children with autism, I have been reading about the family in California who is being sued by several families in their neighborhood. The lawsuit contends that their child is a public nuisance because of his behaviors that his parents failed to fix.

One of the plaintiffs in this case stated "This is not about autism. This is about public safety."

But he is wrong. This is absolutely about autism. It's just not about the autism people hear about.

The media shows us all of the feel-good stories, like the child with autism who gets to be the manager of the high school basketball team, or the boy with autism who goes to the prom with the beautiful girl, or the girl with autism who is voted onto the homecoming court. We light it up blue every April and pat ourselves on the back for being so aware.

But we aren't aware.

Because for every boy with autism who manages his high school basketball team, there are 20 boys with autism who smear feces. And for every girl with autism who gets to be on the homecoming court, there are 30 girls with autism who pull out their hair and bite their arms until they bleed. And for every boy with autism who gets to go the prom, there are 50 boys with autism who hit and kick and bite and hurt other people.

This is the autism that no one talks about. This is the autism that no one wants to see.

We aren't aware.

One of the plaintiffs said "We're not upset about him being autistic. We are concerned and upset about his violence (toward) our children."

There is no way to be upset by this child's behaviors and not be upset about autism. Autism and behaviors go hand-in-hand. Why? The behaviors are communication. Individuals with autism often can't communicate in a way that typically functioning people can understand. So they do things to get their needs met. And often the things they do are scary and violent.

We aren't aware.

My son, who is the same age as the child in this story, was extremely aggressive when he was younger. He did all of the things that the child involved in this lawsuit did. My son ran after other children on the playground just to push them down. He hit. He kicked. He bit. He pulled hair. And I never knew what was coming. For the longest time, I would flinch when he ran up to me...I didn't know whether he was going to hug me or hit me. Can you imagine, as a mom, what that's like? To flinch when your child runs to you?

We aren't aware.

Because I didn't know what my son was going to do to other children, we stopped going to the park. We stopped going to the Mommy and Me class at the library. We started going to the grocery store at 6:00 a.m. when most people weren't

since then they have been attending Camp Sankanac with the exception of a couple years. They so look forward to Camp! And we are so very grateful for that camp because we know that they are being well supervised and CARED for. The staff is always amazingly conscientious and caring and able. And more especially, we all love it that it's a Christ-centered Camp. And did I mention – they have FUN, FUN, FUN! I think each year they feel more comfortable and confident about going. Tommy even flies home from WI where he now lives, so he can go to Handi*Camp.

For the first 15 or 16 years that Tommy and Stephen attended Camp, we (Harry and Jackie) looked forward to that week, not only because it meant so much to them and we knew we were entrusting them into capable, caring hands; but also it meant we, too, could have a week's vacation—whoopie! Now both Tommy and Stephen have their own homes, but we all still look forward to that week of Handi*Camp. In fact, we've added another "camper" for 1-2

weeks!!! Harry has been serving as a "short-term" counselor for the last 3 or so years, and really enjoying it. He has been so impressed with the college students and other young people who serve as counselors. It has really restored his faith in American youth. And he said the application he had to fill out to be a counselor was like applying for seminary, which was also impressive and reassuring.

Incidentally, we've watched Kyle (Robinson) grow from that little boy hangin' out around camp—to that godly young man who will one day be the Executive Director of H*VMI.

We are so grateful for H*VMI and how God is using this expanding ministry to reach so many, not only in PA but around the world. We thank and praise our Lord Jesus Christ, and we pray that He will continue to use this wonderful ministry for His honor and glory in the lives of many.

Kingdom blessings!!

Harry and Jackie Craven

around. He didn't go to daycare but had a sitter at home so he wouldn't be around other kids in a daycare setting. I essentially isolated him in order to keep other people safe. Can you imagine what it's like to be a mom and not be able to take your child to the park? Or have your child attend birthday parties? Or have play dates?

We aren't aware.

Because of my need to isolate my son, I also isolated myself too. I watched from my window as other moms in the neighborhood sat in their camp chairs and chatted while their children played. I couldn't join them because my son couldn't be around the other kids. Once a mom asked if my son could come to their house and play with her son. Can you imagine what it was like to feel so excited and then feel so ashamed when, after explaining my son's issues to her so she would be aware, that invitation was rescinded?

We aren't aware. Not at all.

But we can be. We can open our eyes and understand that autism isn't all about the high functioning child who is "quirky" but OK to be around. Autism isn't all about the six-year-old who can play Piano Man better than Billy Joel. Autism can be hard. Autism can be sad. Autism can be messy. Autism can be violent. Autism can be isolating.

Once we become really aware, lawsuits like this won't happen. Why? Because instead of putting blue lights on our front

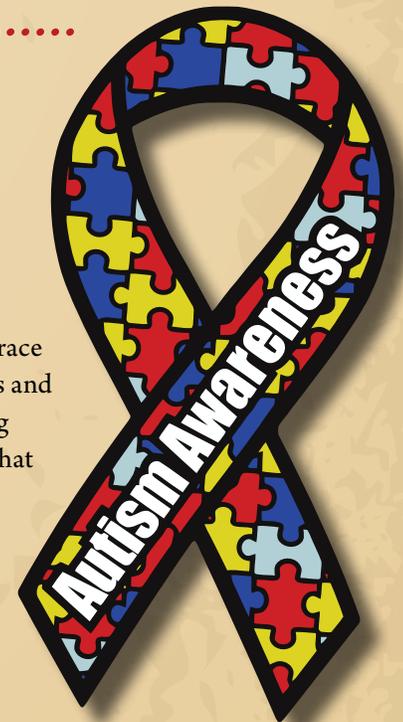
porches, we will go outside with our kids and we will help them play together... typically functioning kids and kids with autism.

We will get to know our neighbors and we will embrace the children with behaviors and embrace their parents along with them. We will learn what things trigger our child's classmate who has autism so that we can help the children interact while avoiding things that will cause aggression. We will be a true village, including those who can model appropriate behaviors and those who are trying so hard to learn them. We will work on teaching our children not to hit and how to avoid being hit.

The parents involved in this lawsuit, on both sides, need to do more. More education, more understanding, more inclusion and more involvement.

Now tell me, is autism the real public nuisance?

We can become aware ... if we really want to.



Picture This!

We'll Soon Be "Closing The Books" on 2015.

Picture what it costs to fund all H*VMI programs: \$40,000/month! God has been gracious to us in 2015. Picture us having funds enough for 2016's on-going and new ministry opportunities.

Can you help complete the picture??? Here's my monthly quarterly special gift of \$_____.

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

Please print your contact information below.

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: ____ / ____

Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____



All financial gifts are tax-deductible. **Thank You!**

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Handi*Vangelism Ministries International™ • PO Box 122 • Akron, PA 17501-0122 • 717.859.4777 • hvmi.org



Handi*Vangelism Ministries International™

A Ministry of Compassion since 1973

Executive Director: Rev. Timothy D. Sheetz

Ministry Departments

BASIS support for bereaved parents and their families

Disability Ministries ~ Discipleship • Handi*Camp • PIP • Training provides programs, resources and support for people with disabilities and their families

International

satellite ministry in Ghana; equipping national workers worldwide

Minds Renewed

helping people obtain optimal health (Interwoven Health); addressing mental health issues

REST Ministries

making God real to the hurting

Seminars

providing training and resources on a variety of ministry topics

Twilight Senior Ministries

serving senior citizens and their families

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

For more information, contact us at:

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

H*VMI Calendar

November 20 ExtraOrdinary Give Event

December 11 Executive Board Meeting
(2016 budget Approval)

April 16, 2016 NJ H*VMI Banquet

Visit our website, hvmi.org,
for more information, or call 717.859.4777 about:

- Bible Clubs
- Support Groups (*BASIS, PIP, Minds Renewed*)

Online Opportunities

- Ministry Events and Dates
- Blogs
- Resources
- Missionary information



Scan this QR code with your smart phone and go directly to our website!

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