



Aroma

"For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing." 2 Corinthians 2:15

A question for you: in order for something to give off an aroma, what does it have to do? Look pretty? No. Speak or make a sound? No. Accomplish a physical task? No. It simply needs to be. The essence of what gives off an aroma is a deep, integral part of that object. Simply by being what it was made to be, it gives off a fragrant aroma.

Meet Christina. She was a wonderful servant of the Lord every day of her life since the day she accepted Him as Savior. "How," you may ask? Was it through her eloquence of speech? No. Christina was born with Cerebral Palsy and never spoke a word in her life. Was it through her great skills and giftedness that could charm or amaze a crowd? No. Christina was totally dependent on others for every aspect of her daily life and care. Did she have a brilliant mind that could expound on the complexities of theology? No. Then what?!?!? Christina was an aroma simply by *being*. That's it. Just by being. She was a sweet aroma by being the one-of-a-kind, *perfectly* created person God made her to be. She emitted a delightful aroma as her genuine love for "all things Jesus" bubbled up from deep within her and found its way to a broad smile on her face. Christina's life had meaning and purpose simply by *being* who God made her to be!



Christina connected with H*VMI's Handi*Camp program and Bible clubs when she lived in various residential facilities. Through the years, she heard the Gospel in simple ways that she could understand. She saw God's Truth through the visual Bible lessons that we presented and through the lives of our staff who worked with her. Somewhere along the way, Christina made the Truth of the Gospel "hers." Did she verbalize it? No. But her life changed in such a noticeable way. It could only be explained by the working of God's Spirit speaking to *her* spirit to give her an understanding beyond her intellectual limitations. What *did* we notice? Christina's face would light up whenever she could go to a chapel time or Bible club. As soon as worship began, she would push herself up in her wheelchair, arch her back and look straight up to heaven with a HUGE smile on her

face! When we gave opportunity to recite memory verses, Christina did not want to be excluded. Someone would bring her to the front of the class, and, since she could not verbalize the words, she would be given choices of which words were part of the memory verse. Christina chose the correct words every time! One time in camp, she became so excited about a song that she actually broke the steel metal brace on the back of her chair! Her wheelchair repairman attended Christina's memorial service. (Yes, Christina is Home with her Savior!) When he heard the stories of Christina's love for worship, he said, "Now I know why her chair was in the shop so often! I never knew why it broke so much in such odd places!"

H*VMI has the honor of serving many others like Christina. People whom the world, and in some cases even the Church, might look at and question, "What good are they? What will they ever become? They can't do anything but sit there!" Yet through God's transforming power, they have become valuable, contributing members of the Body of Christ—a fragrant aroma in a dark and "stinky" world. As the holidays come upon us, they will no doubt be filled with the aromas of roasting turkey, pumpkin pie, pine-scented Christmas trees, and cookies baking in the oven. As you smell those smells, remember the sweetest aroma of all. It is the scent of those whose voices may be silent, but who have become our teachers. They are the aroma of those chosen of God to show us what it means to have a simple yet deep faith and a complete trust in and total dependence upon Him. That aroma is a testimony to God's amazing power to work beyond human limitations so HE ALONE receives the glory!

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Your regular giving—or special, year-end gift—helps H*VMI continue making disciples of ALL people so they, too, may become a sweet aroma of His love and grace in a needy world! Thank you!

GIVE ONLINE at: hvmi.org/donate OR MAIL TO: H*VMI, PO Box 122, Akron PA 17501. (Thank you for providing an envelope.)



Enhancing Trust

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H*VMI MINISTRY CENTER



Property Development

The Land Development Process has been marching on through the fall and into winter. Like a train going through a dark tunnel, we are beginning to see light at the end of that tunnel! Through three submission and comment review processes, we identified and made plans to address the issues that Borough Officials are focusing on. As we go through this process, we are protecting accessibility and other crucial site features designed to meet the needs of the people we serve. In all of this, we are striving to follow

2 Corinthians 8:21—“For we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord’s sight but also in the sight of man.” God is the One who will provide for our property needs as we honor the local officials who are charged with the review and approval process. PRAISE the Lord that our November 8th meeting was another step forward. The next meeting is scheduled for December 13th. **Please keep praying, and stay tuned for more updates via Facebook or on our website.**

▲ OPEN HERE ▲



ON PRAYER

- **PRAISE** for each step, no matter how tiny, toward the approvals for building on the ministry center property.
- **PRAY** for increased opportunities to come alongside churches through training opportunities designed to help them better serve people facing life challenges.
- **PRAY** for us to make the most of each opportunity for ministry in residential facilities as we serve those facing long periods of isolation from friends and family. Ministry in these locations is on again/off again depending on virus restrictions.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit hvmi.org/upcoming-events or call our office at **717.859.4777** for details.

Monthly Bible clubs (PA & NJ) for children, teens and adults with developmental disabilities:

1st, 3rd and 4th Mondays/1st, 2nd and 3rd Thursdays

Monthly parent support groups for parents of a child with a disability: 2nd Monday (PA) and 4th Monday (NJ)

Monthly support group for parents who have lost a child: various nights based on location (PA, NJ, DE & FL)

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