



All There?!?!

“...and they weren’t all there...” A staff member spoke these words after a Bible club for young adults with disabilities. For those not closely associated with the world of disability, you may not immediately perceive the problem here! Unfortunately, all too often, our friends with disabilities suffer from being prejudged based on their appearance, their speech or their actions. Some may have verbal ticks, fidget or do unusual repetitive movements. In any case, many people, even in the church, look at individuals with disabilities with pity and think or say, “They’re not all there.” Many question, “Can they understand? Can they really be reached with the Gospel?”

The one who spoke the words, “not all there,” *certainly* did not mean them in the way mentioned above! Rather, it had to do with the fact that we were *feeling* outnumbered by clubbers, and on this particular night many of our regular attendees were absent, which would have meant even



more clubbers had they all come! Apart from feeling outnumbered, one young man really struggled sitting for the main lesson time. He seemed bothered by the noise, no matter how low we

turned the music or toned down our enthusiastic clapping. He chose to move himself to the rear of the room (a little quieter back there!) and to sit backwards on a chair. This challenge is not uncommon among those we serve, but we count on the fact that GOD STILL WORKS! The clubber’s helper continued trying to engage with him, encourage him and reinforce what was being taught. Still, he seemed disengaged. It would have been easy to assume he was not listening, let alone understanding or absorbing the lesson.

After the large group lesson, we had small group table time. During this time, clubbers work through their Bible club book—curriculum written by H*VMI staff specifically designed for those we serve. We also engage in various activities to review, reinforce and apply the Bible story.

Since this clubber was not going to move to a table, we moved the table to him! As soon as the books, markers, tape and glue came out, the clubber turned, put his feet on the floor and faced the table. Right away, he *completely* engaged in the activities contained in the colorful book. He pointed to the pictures, answering all of the questions. Enthusiastically, he repeated words as his helper read them. HE GOT IT—ALL OF IT! This year’s Bible club theme is *God’s Story In Colors*. That night’s color was purple, and the Bible Truth was that God always keeps His promises. When our clubber’s mom came to pick him up, he clearly said the phrase, “Purple Promises.”

Now, back to the words that started this story: “They weren’t all there!” This definitely was not a comment on any of our Bible clubbers’ ability to understand! We know better! On that night, like so many others, God kept His promise to send us *THE* Helper, His Holy Spirit, to help us ALL understand His Word. It was quite evident that His Spirit gave this clubber an understanding of “Purple Promises!” God promised that His Word will not return void (Isaiah 55:11). While outward appearances can be deceiving, especially with those we serve, we see Him working deep in the innermost part of hearts! He promised that His power is able to do things beyond what our minds can conceive— including His ability to draw *ANYONE* to Himself for salvation, as **FAITH IS NOT A WORK OF THE MIND BUT A RESPONSE OF OUR SPIRIT TO HIS**. He is our promise keeping God—“all there” for us—in our grief, pain, loss or disability!

As H*VMI spreads the Truth that God is “all there” for us, and as we train others to look beyond the façade to see a person who is indeed “all there,” we need people like you who are able to come alongside us through prayer and/or financial ministry support. Would you please consider your part in this ministry today? **Thank you!**

Follow prayer needs at: hvmi.org/pray

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I/We want to help others hear about the God Who is “all there” for them.

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



For many years, H*VMI has been keenly aware of the challenges of not having a permanent location with our own facilities. Having an H*VMI Ministry Center means we can more effectively minister through existing opportunities, be more self-sustaining and grow every aspect of ministry into the future.

By God's grace, H*VMI is almost "all there" with our Property Project. Our last update in INCREASE shared that we received unanimous approval of our Land Development Plan. Since then, H*VMI's Engineer, Attorney and Project Manager have been working diligently to meet the conditions of approval so that the plan can be recorded, and we can move on to construction. Those conditions include:

- Obtaining Storm Water and Highway Occupancy Permits.
- Minor plan adjustments, additional details and/or corrections.
- Proof of financial security required by Akron Borough—a standard

provision for large projects. [H*VMI must seek a Letter of Credit from a bank on which the municipality could draw in the event that H*VMI should abandon the project. It comes as no surprise that our commitment to the Lord and to our supporters are not enough to satisfy this condition!]

Of course, a project of this size also necessitates fundraising! Along with the Letter of Credit, H*VMI will be seeking approval for a Construction-Style Revolving Line of Credit. H*VMI's plan and hope is that we will not use it. Our prayer is for monies received through fundraising efforts to be available to pay invoices as they are due. It is no small thing to build this kind of Ministry Center or to raise the money needed to do so. However, we have a BIG God and, for Him, money is nothing more than numbers on a page.

Please continue to PRAISE the Lord with us for what He has done thus far; and be PRAYING for Him to provide all we need as H*VMI takes this next big step.

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ON PRAYER

- **PRAISE** for each step of progress on the Ministry Center Project.
- **PRAY** for wisdom as we share Truth with those who are grieving and with those attending this summer's Handi*Camp/Lesson on the Lawn programs.
- **PRAY** that the information shared through H*VMI's training seminars will be used by attendees to make an even greater impact in the church and in the community.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- June, July & August:** Handi*Camp and Lessons on the Lawn, Akron PA
- August 6** Handi*Camp, PIP and Bible Club Picnic, Akron PA
- August 20** BASIS Picnic, Akron PA
- September 13** Annual Charity Golf Outing, Tanglewood Manor Golf Club, Quarryville PA
- October 7-8** H*VMI Annual Ministry Yard Sale, Akron PA
- October 22** Lancaster County Area Ministry Luncheon, Yoder's Banquet Center, New Holland PA

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