



Increase

SPRING
2014

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

Friends recently gave my wife and me a decorative plate for our home with the message, "Every day holds the possibility of a miracle."

We're enjoying our friends' thoughtfulness and the new home decoration! We're also enjoying reading and re-reading its message. There's a lot of hope in it! We know about miracles. We've experienced miracles in our personal life over the past 50 years of our marriage (yes—Kathy and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary in 2014); and we've seen miracles in the ministry of H*VMI over these past 40 years.

Now, having celebrated those things which are behind, we're eager to move FORWARD, eager to see what God has in His mind for the days ahead, eager to rejoice in the miracles which we know He will use to accomplish His eternal purposes particularly for and through H*VMI.

About moving forward: We get up in the morning and move forward into the new day. We get into our vehicles and move forward to our next destination. We move forward with plans we've made—for next summer's garden—or for vacation or retirement. As Believers in Jesus Christ, we learn to move forward by faith because we know that God is sovereign over every aspect of our lives—daily and long-term.

A study of Scripture provides vivid testimony of people who moved forward by faith even tho' that move made no earthly sense at all: Abraham moved forward, away from Ur, having no clue where he was going, knowing only that it was a place God chose for him; Moses moved

the Israelites forward to the other side of the Red Sea—through it, not across, as might be more reasonable and less miraculous; Noah moved forward to complete the

construction of an ark in spite of the "odds of nature" being against the idea and in spite of overwhelming criticism; Esther moved forward, out of safety and putting her own life "on the line."

Each person was willing to move forward, trusting God in seemingly unreasonable circumstances.

In spite of overwhelming and unreasonable "odds,"

H*VMI began and has been moving forward for forty years with the miraculous outcome that it is a ministry where "Life's challenges meet Christ's compassion," reigniting joy and renewing hope in the

bleakest of circumstances. (By the way, thank you for celebrating those 40 years with us. You encouraged us greatly with your thoughtful remembrances and helpful financial gifts!! We stand in awe of our miracle-making God.) We intend, by God's grace, to continue to move forward because there is an enormous need for this ministry. Even tho' it continually seems unreasonable to match the magnitude of the need with H*VMI's financial and staffing limitations, we will take each step of faith God places in front of us.

In this issue of Increase, you'll read about some very practical plans already unfolding to help move the ministry forward in various ways. I hope you will continue to stay on board with us for the miraculous ride God is preparing for the days ahead. WE'LL NEED YOU and we'll be so happy for you to experience each day's possibility of a miracle, along with us.

By Tim Sheetz, Executive Director

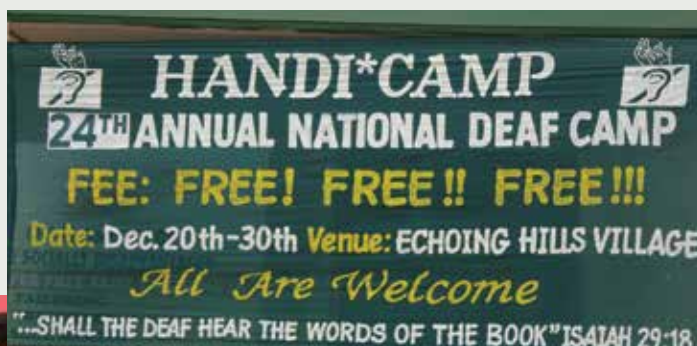
Moving Forward
by
Faith



By Philip Darko, H*VMI Ghana Missionary

Excerpted from his January 2014 NEWS & PRAYER LETTER: Christmas is a season of immense good will, joy and happiness. However, Christmas with the entire joyous atmosphere may pass as another impoverished day for many people across the world, especially the disabled and children living on the streets and slums of the city. In order to lessen the pain and spread the joy, Handi*Vangelism Ministries Ghana decides every year to share God's love by hosting them at a party. Like every other party, there was a lot of music, dancing and competition, a lot to eat and drink. Our children from the Bible club in the slums equally displayed exceptional dancing and singing skills. There was a wonderful presentation by the drama group from our residents at Echoing Hills Village, Ghana.

Our 24th Annual National Deaf Christmas Camp came off from 20-30th December. The theme for the camp was "Good News of Great Joy," Luke 2:8-20. God granted us another opportunity this year round to share Biblical truths with our Deaf brethren from all over the country. The Echoing Hills Village Ghana facility was filled with various groups of Deaf people from across the county mostly fearful and confused about widespread, non-biblical teaching. What a perfect time to emphasize the way of salvation and assurance of eternal life. Praise God for 12 children and adults who received Christ into their lives as Savior and Lord. Pray for them to (move forward and) grow in their faith and in their understanding of the Scriptures.



by Jackie England, Director, REST Ministries

Imagine arriving in a new world and finding it home... John and I were blessed by our time in Ghana. In spite of the many differences in cultures, we found that people are the same everywhere. It was great to watch one another ministering in different ways, John using his carpentry skills while I spent time interacting with the residents and women of Echoing Hills Village and beyond. I think the highlight for us both was the time spent with Philip in street ministry. I gave a brief lesson from the story of Noah and John handed out candy. He had the more difficult job—everyone wanted candy! It is our prayer that God would continue to bless the staff of H*VMI Ghana and those they serve.



Moving Forward...in REST Ministries



By Jackie England, Director, REST Ministries

December 1990 was the official beginning of REST Ministries. The ministry was born out of the desire to understand and help women walk in the truth of their position in Christ and to be free from the lies of their past hurts and experiences. REST Ministries' vision included a desire to call the church to come alongside and help those who are hurting to find hope and restoration through a relationship with Christ. As we enter our 24th year of ministry to the hurting, God is bringing needed changes to the face of REST Ministries.

After much prayer and discussion, we as a staff believe it is the right time to restructure the ministry. By "restructuring" I mean that the Coatesville-based aspects of REST—our Prison and Aftercare Departments—will be moving under the leadership of a local, trusted ministry with whom we have closely worked over the years, Life Transforming Ministries (LTM). Our Education/Training Department will continue as REST Ministries. We believe these changes give both ministries the ability to focus our resources and energies and to expand our outreach.

This means that at the end of February, REST Ministries will no longer be based in Coatesville. However, since we've been renting office space from LTM, our Prison and Aftercare Departments will remain right where they are, just under a different name. It also means that Heather Albrecht, Michelle Manthey, Stephanie Noble and Cindy Harmon will no longer be under H*VMI, but LTM, along with our Prison and Aftercare volunteers. Those who are missionaries will soon begin raising/transferring support. I encourage you to consider being a part of their support network and learning more about LTM at quietrevolution.org.

REST Ministries' office will move to the Akron, PA location, where H*VMI has its ministry center. And, Judy Edinger and I will continue to work from our home offices, as well, to provide training and materials to those who want to learn more about abuse and the process of restoration. We continue to explore new opportunities for ministry and are investigating ministry opportunities to the victims of human trafficking, the new wave of slavery that is invading our world. This is estimated to be one of the top grossing

criminal industries in the world with about 21 million victims, including US citizens of all ages.

As I ponder these changes, I am reminded of the necessity of change to bring about growth. I think of how the split between Paul and Barnabas resulted in more opportunities for ministry in the early church, and I trust God that He will perform the same for us. It is our prayer that God will bring everything under His leadership and that we will have wisdom and discernment as we make this transition. Please continue to keep us in prayer as we work through the many details involved; for wisdom and a smooth transition. I am excited to see what the future holds for all of us and I know that God will continue to use REST Ministries and Life Transforming Ministries to reach the hurting for Christ. Thank you for your faithful support of us.



Responding with Christ-Like Compassion

(The following is excerpted from "Our Daily Bread," by Randy Kilgore, copyright RBC Ministries, Grand Rapids Michigan. Used by permission. All rights reserved.)

Sgt. Richard Kirkland was a Confederate soldier in the US Civil War (1861–1865). When the Union's failed charge at Marye's Heights during the Battle of Fredericksburg left wounded soldiers abandoned in no-man's land, Kirkland got permission to help them. Collecting canteens, he leaped the stone wall and bent over the first soldier to lend assistance. At great personal risk, the "Angel of Marye's Heights" extended the mercy of Christ to enemy soldiers.

While few of us will face an enemy on the battlefield, those who suffer can be found all around us—people struggling against loneliness, loss, health issues, and sin. Their cries, muted by our many distractions, plead for mercy and comfort, for hope and help.

We must be compelled to emulate Sgt. Kirkland. Today is the day for us to "leap the wall" of safety to lend comfort from God to those in need.



Moving Forward...in BASIS

By Don Allison, Director, BASIS

It is my privilege and honor to now serve as Director of BASIS, a ministry to bereaved parents. BASIS, of course, is one of many ministries of H*VMI. I would have preferred not to have encountered the experience that connected me with BASIS. However, since I had no control over that experience I am very glad to be part of this ministry.

The experience that led me to this ministry was by far the most painful experience of my life. I still remember the words of the doctor eight years ago, “Your daughter is very sick and she may not make it through the night.” Crystal died early the next morning. My wife, Iris, and I were devastated. Crystal (36) was a wonderful daughter, married, with two children, Robin (10) and Jeff (8).

Crystal began having painful symptoms on Mother’s Day, was finally diagnosed with leukemia on her birthday a month later, and despite treatment, went to be with the Lord seven weeks later. Our journey of grief began and we are still on that journey.

Although God has helped us and we have had the support of family and friends, the journey is not complete and still takes us through some painful times. One of the things that helped me cope with my grief was attending a BASIS support group. Other grieving parents who had been on their grief journey longer than I had gave me some hope and comfort; and hope and comfort are what I have the privilege to share with other grieving parents now.

BASIS has been ministering to grieving parents since 1981 and I am very appreciative of all who have served in this ministry in the past. At a recent planning retreat, our staff evaluated current ministries of BASIS and made plans to improve and expand our ministry. The annual BASIS Breakfast is scheduled for May 3 this year. We are continuing some of the past features but also adding new features. Deceased children will be honored in a special way as we introduce our “Wall of Remembrance.”

Currently we have nearly four hundred grieving families from all over the country in our database. Every week we make contact with grieving, hurting parents. We keep in touch through encouragement notes, newsletters, support groups, picnics, comfort blogs and personal contacts.



We are excited about a new ministry of BASIS added this year. C2H2 which stands for Compassion, Comfort, Healing and Hope is a ministry for bereaved children, ages 3 – 18. C2H2 is led by our newest staff member, Michelle Noble.

Future Possibilities

- Doubling number of Support Groups
- Doubling number of families to whom we minister
- Expansion of training/seminars
- Increasing partnerships with other ministries
- Increasing partnerships with churches
- Retreats for bereaved parents
- Establishing a permanent “Wall of Remembrance”

If you know any bereaved parents, please tell them about our ministry. We would like the opportunity to walk with them in their grief journey. The Scripture that has compelled me to do this ministry comes from

II Corinthians 1:3-4:

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”

We appreciate your continued prayer and financial support.



Moving Forward...Fast...Forward!

*Handi*Camp*

By Tara Kelley, Director, Disability Ministries

With the overabundance of winter weather the northeast has had—it is hard to imagine that the HOT summer of CAMP time would ever be coming! But... FAST FORWARD just a few months and we will be welcoming this year's group of campers and Bible Conference guests to their weeks of fun, fellowship and growing in the Lord! Would you consider "joining" us this summer? There are ways for everyone to be part of Handi*Camp this summer, whether "in person" or right from your own home. Please consider one of the following:

- Join our summer staff **or**, recommend someone to us who might be interested. We are seeking committed Believers to serve as Counselors, Nurses, Service Staff or Bible Teachers.
- Consider personally, or as a VBS/small group project, adopting a camper or guest, by providing a campership. Handi*Camp never turns away someone who is unable to pay the camp fee, but we depend on God's provision through His people to supply these camperships.
- Collect supplies! We need many things to make camp happen—from cleaning supplies to arts and crafts supplies and everything in between! We can provide you with a list of this year's needs.



- Come to clean up day! Get ready to "get dirty." This year we are having **two** clean up days: Wednesday, May 21 (in PA) and Saturday, June 7 (in NJ). We could use your helping hands!
- Become a Prayer Partner. We will match you with a camper or guest who will be attending camp this year. You will receive special prayer requests for that person to pray for while he/she is at camp. Then, following camp you will receive a note and picture from the person for whom you prayed.

If you would like to help in any of the above mentioned ways, please email tkelley@hvmi.org **or** note it on the response form.



Moving Forward...Watching the Next

Generation Grow.



Meet Hannah Elizabeth Robinson. She was born on December 23, 2013. She is the daughter of Kyle (Handi*Camp Program Director/H*VMI Director of Mobilization) and Leah (Handi*Camp Health Care Coordinator) Robinson; and the granddaughter of Brian (Handi*Camp Assistant Director/Office Manager) and Sandy (Bible club volunteer) Robinson, and Wayne (H*VMI Board Member) and Jan (Correspondence Bible lesson volunteer) Hill. She brings smiles to the faces of every family and H*VMI family member and we look forward to watching her grow "forward" in grace....

Moving Forward...in our Property Search

Editor's note: As this issue of *Increase* was being developed for publication, including this article noting challenges H*VMI faces by renting properties, we received notice from our current landlord that he must increase our office rent. While it is an understandable increase, it is one we cannot meet. We are, therefore, in the process of looking for yet another temporary office site. It's interesting that this particular challenge became a reality at this particular time!!

We've been *praying*, dreaming, *praying*, planning, *praying*, searching, *praying*, hoping, *praying*, wishing, *praying*...for God to provide H*VMI with **OUR OWN MINISTRY CENTER**. Many of you have been praying, dreaming... with us and we're very grateful for that. ***Please don't stop!***

Why? Why don't we just let this dream go? Why aren't we content to "stay put?" God has and is accomplishing much right where we are. Currently, we rent or borrow facilities for:

- Office Space for H*VMI missionaries/ministries.
- Programs for people in the community facing life challenges (support groups, Bible clubs/studies, recreation opportunities, etc.).
- Training programs for churches, college students and lay people seeking to minister to those facing life challenges.
- Meetings of the Board of Directors, Ministry Departments and other Strategic Planning.
- Six week camping program for children, teens and adults with physical, intellectual and multiple disabilities.

However, here are some challenges H*VMI faces as we continue renting/using facilities that are not our own:

- We are at maximum program opportunity with no space to expand our ministries.
- We are vulnerable to landlords' schedules, fee increases and their need to terminate or alter our lease to meet their own purposes, needs, etc.
- An exhaustive search for alternative rental facilities has proved fruitless.

- Current and potential rental facilities are not designed for or fully equipped to meet the needs of people with disabilities; and our ability to renovate others' property is limited.



- It is difficult for H*VMI to establish a "presence," to become better known in the community, without a "fixed" location.
- Each year we make purchases, repairs and renovations at rental facilities to make them more useable for H*VMI programs. We'd love to invest that money in our own property, with each dollar enhancing H*VMI property and ministries.
- It is a drain on finances and personnel to continually be "in transit," to relocate ministry events (camps, seminars, picnics, etc.) and to have off-campus storage facilities. We often say, "U-Haul will miss our business when we have our own place!"

MOVING FORWARD—If God were to provide our own Ministry Center, we have the potential to grow in these areas:

- Additional overnight camping programs for: people affected by disability; those with autism or profound intellectual disabilities; bereaved children; those whose parents are in prison.
- Retreats for above mentioned camping programs.
- Internships for college/university students, training and equipping them for future ministry/service.
- No cost get-a-ways for bereaved parents or parents/caregivers of those with disabilities.
- Special events such as BASIS, PIP or Minds Renewed picnics; Senior Citizens' outings; family fun days.
- Additional support groups for Minds Renewed, BASIS or PIP. Support group for parents whose children are in prison.
- Additional Bible Club(s).

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Moving Forward...Financially

By Steve Gentino, H*VMI CFO

We've finished last year on a good note. Donations were particularly strong in December. We're grateful to God for the generosity of His people toward this ministry. In fact, effective ministry simply cannot be accomplished without the significant financial support of His people.



One unique fund-raising event we participated in this year was the Extraordinary Give program sponsored by the Lancaster County Community Foundation in November. Over \$3.2 million was raised for 260 organizations. We

were surprised and humbled by finding ourselves in the top ten organizations for number of donors, which was a testimony to the broad base of support we enjoy at H*VMI. Total donations to H*VMI amounted to \$27,685, and with the particular matches and incentives of the program, we received over \$30,000.

There are challenges, however. We ended up 2013 with a nearly \$40,000 deficit. As we look to the future we're hoping for greater stability in the financial area. Would you consider playing a part in making our financial picture look brighter? Thanks again for those of you who are already participating in a financial way, and some of you sacrificially. For those of you led by God to begin a financial partnership in this ministry, thank you for that. Your support will be used to strengthen this ministry and even to expand its reach during 2014.

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- Siblings' Days—programs for siblings of a child with a disability.
- Kids in Grief Day (C2H2) programs.
- Community Bible Studies for the people groups we serve, such as women who have gone through an abusive situation.
- Specialized retreat weekends for church groups; for bereaved parents; for those addressing mental health issues themselves or with family members; for caregivers.

H*VMI seeks to be a light in the community through our presence and programs, sharing Christ's compassion in a tangible way with those in need. H*VMI also recognizes that we cannot accomplish this alone. We depend wholly on the Lord's provision. Once He says, "YES! This is the place I have prepared for you," we will be looking for ways He might choose to use His people—both individuals and businesses within the local and outlying communities—with practical skills and resources to make this "dream" become a reality.

But, the first and foremost way for this dream to become a reality is by asking you to keep praying and dreaming with us. Please.

H*VMI CALENDAR 2014

March 14-16 Handi*Camp Mid-Winter Retreat

April 12 H*VMI New Jersey Banquet

May 2-3 H*VMI Board of Directors Meeting

May 3 BASIS Annual Breakfast

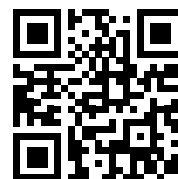
May 21-July 5 Handi*Camp

September 29 H*VMI Golf Outing

October 4 H*VMI PA Banquet

October 7 National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery & Understanding

For additional information on these events, please visit our website, call 717.859.4777 or scan the QR code to the right.



Please Help us Move Forward!

Yes! I/We would like to help H*VMI.

☐ I will pray for God's direction as you move *FORWARD*.

Handi* Camp

- ☐ Sign me up as a Prayer Partner for a camper or guest.
- ☐ Send me information about:
 - ☐ Working at Handi*Camp
 - ☐ Donating supplies
 - ☐ Camperships
 - ☐ Helping with camp clean up day

H*VMI's Financial Needs

☐ Please accept my gift of : \$ _____

Please Designate my gift for:

- ☐ General Fund
- ☐ Where most needed
- ☐ Ministry/Missionary _____

Other

- ☐ I'd prefer to receive future issues of *Increase* via email.
(Please fill out your information on the form below.)
- ☐ Please send me information about automatic withdrawal from my bank account (EFT).
- ☐ Please send me information about gifts of stock.

Method of Payment

- ☐ Check (Please make your check payable to H*VMI.)
 - ☐ Credit Card # : _____
 - ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard Exp. Date: ____/____
- Signature: _____ Date: _____

All financial gifts are tax-deductible. Thank You!

Please complete this response form and return it in the enclosed envelope.

▲ Name (Please Print)

▲ Street or PO Box

▲ City

▲ State

▲ Zip

▲ Phone #

▲ Email address



Executive Director:
Rev. Timothy D. Sheetz

MINISTRY DEPARTMENTS

BASIS

C₂H₂

support for bereaved parents and
for grieving children and teens

Disability Ministries

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

International

H*VMI Ghana ministries; and other
training ministries

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 in a
variety of ministry topics

Twilight Senior Ministries

for those in nursing homes

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