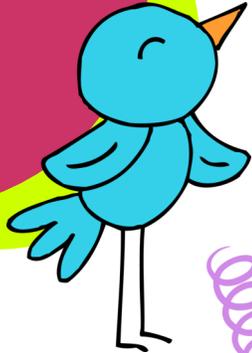


# STEP BY STEP

## A Ministry Update and Prayer Letter from Tara Kelley

March—May 2018

"The Lord will always lead you. He will satisfy your needs in dry lands and give strength to your bones. You will be like a garden that has much water, like a **SPRING** that never runs dry." Isaiah 58:11



### SPRING training

No—not baseball! Trust me, no amount of “spring training” could help me play baseball! But, when it comes to *ministry TRAINING*, these past winter months and going forward into Spring, God has opened many doors of opportunity. Please PRAY that the information will be used to help families and further equip those involved in Christian ministry. We PRAISE the Lord for the feedback we receive from participants:

- “Lots of practical info, tips, ideas. Interactive.”
- “I appreciate the creative approach and suggestions/recommendations for effective teaching and communication.”
- “I enjoyed the activities to get us to feel how it is for a child with different-abilities.”
- “Great tips to incorporate into the whole class and to use at home with my son with ADHD.”
- “You put helping kids in a framework of a positive, Christ-centered approach.”
- “Quality content and materials.”
- “Loved the personal stories to clarify feelings; Biblical examples of the process of grief.”
- “Brought to the front of the mind things I knew about but did not *think* about.”
- “It seems that a lot of hearts were touched, and people were moved to take action.”

Please pray for upcoming opportunities for some on our training team:

March 6: **Outside The Box** at Lancaster Bible College (LBC) in Lancaster, PA. (Tara)

March 7: **Help For People In Pain** at Garden Spot Village in New Holland, PA. (Tim/Kathy Sheetz)

April 14: **ADHD** at LBC Children’s Ministry Conference in Lancaster, PA. (Tara)

### H\*VMI seminar offerings include:

**The ABC’s of Bringing Out the Best in Students with ADHD**

**Building Children of Hope—protecting and ministering to victims of child abuse**

**Helping Children of Divorce**

**Walking Alongside People Affected by Disability—intro to disability ministry**

**Outside the Box—ministering to people affected by physical disabilities**

**Simplicity of the Gospel—tools for sharing with those with intellectual disabilities**

**Supporting Families Affected by Disability**

**Help for People in Pain—a seminar on grief and loss**

**Relationships—dealing with and healing from difficult relationships**

If your church, school or home-school group would like: a COMPLETE list of available seminars; to schedule a seminar; OR information about our day-and-a-half mini-conferences, please contact me by email or phone. We are now scheduling for the fall/winter of 2018/2019.



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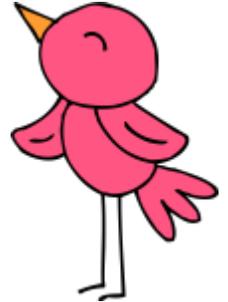
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*Tax-deductible gifts in support of Tara’s ministry may be sent to the office address above and designated for account #369. Thank you!*

## hope SPRINGs eternal

"By the book," people with an intellectual disability should have difficulty: generalizing; remembering things; thinking logically; understanding language; learning concepts; memorizing... *the list goes on!* But, God's Spirit is NOT disabled nor challenged by a diagnosis.

Hope, GOD'S HOPE, springs eternal! As we teach His Word to people, most of whom have an intellectual disability, we praise Him for the glimmers of HOPE we see as His Word takes root in their lives. Such was the case at Melmark with Debra. During our lesson on honoring God, I asked the group, "What does it mean to honor God?" I received a variety of answers. Debra shouted, "To be respectful." Then she said, "WAIT!" She proceeded to pull out of her overly-filled bag her camp workbook from last summer. She thumbed through the pages until she found the one with the memory verse we learned. She pointed and said, "Right here!" - and then read, "... Teach me to respect you completely. I HONOR Your name forever!" Debra, by God's grace at work in her life, *memorized* the verse from camp; *remembered* it (and will happily tell you *all* the verses we've learned at camp in recent years, including references); *understood* the concept of honoring God; and *logically* connected that what we were talking about at Bible club was the same as what we had discussed at camp! Debra is not the only one who has shown growth in the Lord. PRAISE HIM for His ability to work in ways that defy all this world's pre-conceived ideas about "abilities." PRAISE Him for the opportunities to present His Truth and watch Him work!



## SPRING into action

Age does not have to limit one's ability to serve the Lord. I appreciate a new contact we recently received from Garden Spot Village (GSV), a local retirement/care community. I was able to present the ministry to scores of "seniors" living on this campus. Why? Handi\*Camp was chosen as one of their missions outreach projects. They will be collecting items for our ministry and one of the residents will be serving as a nurse this summer. We appreciate the "older" - yet very capable - staff members God sends us each summer. So many are seeking new ways to continue serving the Lord in their "retired" years!

(By the way... GSV is also sending a team to rebuild homes in NC destroyed by recent hurricanes! Nothing stopping these folks!) It is truly a gift, and a blessing, to see all ages serving alongside each other to make camp a success!

## SPRING ahead

These next months are filled with transition. Year-round ministry opportunities are in their final months and camp planning is well underway. Please PRAY for all that's ahead!

- Teaching monthly Bible clubs continuing through April.
- Support groups (PIP and BASIS) running through May; BASIS breakfast event in April.
- Our bi-annual Board meeting with many important decisions being made.
- Ongoing work on the Property Project. (Note: We're working on a few more approvals and studies needed on our way to receiving building permits!)
- Planning of our annual NJ Ministry Banquet. See invitation enclosed.
- Planning and teaching at a retreat for adults with a disability.
- Continuing to plan and present seminars still to come this Spring.
- Presenting at missions conference meetings.
- Recruiting camp staff: *kitchen/cook helpers, counselors, nurses, teachers, housekeeping staff, prayer partners and supply collectors!* Please CONTACT ME if you can help!
- Developing camp curriculum.



THANK YOU for your partnership in ministry!

With His love,  
Jara, "J"

when this ministry  
SPRINGs to mind,  
please pray

### MARCH:

- 1: Lancaster Bible Club
- 3-5: Jonestown Missions Conference
- 5: Melmark Bible Club
- 6: Disability Training Seminar at LBC
- 7: *Help for People In Pain* seminar at GSV
- 12: Lancaster PIP
- 15: NJ PIP & Bible Club
- 20: BASIS
- 21: Maple Farm Bible Study
- 22: NJ Ministry Banquet
- 23-24: Board Meeting

### APRIL:

- 2: Melmark Bible Club
- 5: Lancaster Bible Club
- 9: Lancaster PIP
- 14: ADHD seminar at Children's Ministry Conference at LBC
- 17: BASIS
- 18: Maple Farm Bible Study
- 19: NJ PIP & Bible Club
- 21: Teach at "A-Team" Retreat
- 28: BASIS breakfast

### MAY:

- 14: Lancaster PIP
- 15: BASIS
- 16: Maple Farm Bible Study
- 17: NJ PIP & Bible Club
- 22: LEAVE FOR CAMP! (details in next letter)