

## Job Skills for Women: Working Together to Move Forward

Karen was released from jail with little-to-no sense of direction. Invited to church by a friend, she learned about Job Skills for Women, a Christian Women's Jobs Corps (CWJC) site which is facilitated by WMU of Roanoke Valley. She found a place where she could grow.

After meeting Diane Shepherd of Coopers Cove and Shirley Mullins of Troutville, Karen participated as a student in Job Skills for Women. This was the beginning of her journey toward transformation resulting in employment as a residential manager at the Transitional House. Women coming out of jail, escaping domestic violence, or recovering from drug use call this house home. A member of Belmont Baptist, Karen is now the one who invites people to church and refers others to Job Skills for Women.

As a collaborative ministry with Coopers Cove, Melrose, Belmont, Bonsack, and Rosalind Hills Baptist churches, Job Skills for Women offers Bible study, life skills training, computer classes, and counseling. They work together as one. Diane says that, "Karen was homeless, jobless, and churchless but now she has a home, a job, and a church, and she helps other women." Dorothy, the founder of the Transitional House, exclaims that, "In 2014 Karen needed a place to be; but today, I will tell anybody anytime that if it were not for Karen, Transitional House for Women would not be where it is today."



Please pray for the Job Skills for Women ministry and those seeking a positive transformation in their lives.

## Ministering Together to Burmese Refugees

For many people, the idea of travel and work is not a freedom but a right. For many families who have come to the United States in pursuit of opportunity, work, and even freedom of religion, they see it as a privilege.

We can better understand this dynamic when we learn the stories of refugees. Burmese minister and WMUV Board Member, Roi Ji Marip, has led many Burmese refugees to Christ through the ministry in Harrisonburg. She requests your prayers for refugee, Aung La Htun, and his four children and grandson. While they face trial and tribulations every day, their story is also one of hope and purpose.

Living in a Thailand refugee camp for 16 years, on August 23, 2018, Aung La Htun was granted refugee status to America. When he first moved, he had difficulties in finding a job because he couldn't speak English and was not afforded an education while living at the camp. Roi Ji helped Aung walk through the early days of the integration process. Aung found work and eventually brought his family to America. Roi Ji's church supported Aung's family and now they are diligent churchgoers. Aung's family members continue to hear about Jesus. Please pray that Aung and his family, like so many other refugee families in Harrisonburg before him, will make the decision to follow Jesus.



Please pray for Aung La Htun and his family along with the many other refugees seeking the hands of Christ in our communities.



#AlmaHunt19

AlmaHunt.org

Information and Resources Available Online!

The stories you will read in this prayer guide are of real people and real ministries, and all are recipients of some financial support from this offering. Every dollar you give goes directly to support these and many other ministries.

We invite you to give to the Alma Hunt Offering—joining your gifts with those of many other Virginia Baptists as we work Together as One—sharing the love of Christ across the Commonwealth and with the whole world.



The annual offering for Virginia missions was named for Alma Hunt (1909-2008), a native Virginian who was known worldwide for her missions service and her unwavering dedication to the cause of Christ. Churches and individuals may contribute at any time. The offering provides funding for all Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia (WMUV) missions and ministries and makes possible other special ministries, outreach projects, and initiatives not funded through regular streams of giving.

Since 1976, this offering has been a joint venture of WMUV and the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV). The annual goal and allocation of funds are determined by the executive Director/Treasurer of WMUV and the executive Director of the BGAV and approved by their respective boards.

## What is the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions?



**Alma Hunt**  
Offering for Virginia Missions

Emphasis Dates  
September 8-15, 2019

Offering Goal  
\$1,167,500

"...so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."





## Standing Rock: Building Relationships Together

All in Jesus' name—hand in hand and heart to heart—we build relationships and trust with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of The Dakotas through loving kindness, listening ears, and words of encouragement. We do this together as one.

Diane Korman, a ministry site leader, made her tenth trek to South Dakota this summer. Diane shares, "The transformation I have seen and experienced has been truly amazing. In my first year, we were greeted with curious, guarded looks; we are now greeted with open arms, hugs, big smiles, and tears. Children ask me for Bibles for their mothers, and adults ask me to write my name and favorite verses in their new Bibles. One woman told me I was her saving grace. I prayed with her, hugged her, and told her I loved her. A grandmother shared with me how they experience much joy through these relationships. I stay in touch with many from Little Eagle throughout the year."



Full-time minister on site, Pastor Buford "Boots" Marsh, sends his greetings and thanks to WMUV for coming. He says, "For over 10 years you have extended a gospel witness to our people. The future is full of hope as you continue to pray, give, and come. The seeds sown are still growing; many have received Jesus as Savior and Lord. Pray for a breakthrough for further discipleship."

Please pray for the continued outpouring of support and love in sharing the Gospel with the people of Standing Rock.



## Partnering Together for the Community in Eastern Shore

Early this year, a team of interested volunteers converged on Cape Charles and shared together their dreams and visions for Northampton County on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. They discussed how churches on both sides of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel could work together as one for revitalization and renewal in that community.

This initiative is the fruit of the passion of one church, Cape Charles Baptist Church, and their vision to be a community "in the streets, meeting needs, sharing Jesus' love." They have begun this journey engaging with multiple networks and creating ministries such as Splash camp, a summer camp for elementary-age kids that allows them to experience the life of faith and have affordable childcare during the summer months.



Their desire to invite others to their community for the sake of the community and the Kingdom had led them to join with Impact Mission Camps to engage volunteers from around the state in mission in the community. And the partnership with Impact and the BGAV has led to the blossoming long-term partnership that began taking shape at that retreat in January. Each ministry of the partnership will expand that initial vision—inviting all who join to be out "in the streets, meeting needs, sharing Jesus' love." As this vision continues to permeate all that Cape Charles Baptist Church, other local churches, and the wider BGAV family invest in together, you are invited to join in whatever way you can—to pray, to give, and to go.

Please pray for this partnership with the Eastern Shore to revitalize the community for God together.



## South Ridge: Planting a Church Together

When my wife, Jenny, and I made the decision together as one to plant South Ridge Church in Fredericksburg, VA, in mid-2016, we knew there was no turning back on what we believed was a call from God.

Over the course of opening our home to vision gatherings, we have seen people commit to partnering with us whom I would never have expected. To show that we as 16 adults were together as one, some uprooted themselves and moved to our area to be part of our church.

As we launched our church, laser-focused with a mission of leading people in a growing relationship with Jesus, we knew that we had to be together as one as we built our unique culture. Our commitment to be together as one allowed for diversity of thought, experience, and spiritual gifts without the egos.

Nine months into our launch, a handful families moved on. This left our very young church with about 50 people. Together as one...we believed that God would see us through this very painful pruning. Then over the course of nine months, God has allowed us to experience growth in seeing an additional 20 new families become a part of South Ridge Church.



Together as one, people are taking steps of engagement as they connect, serve, invite, and give. For us, together as one looks more like unity than unison.

Please pray for the continued growth of South Ridge Church and other church plants around the state and world.



## Working Together to Make a Big Impact in Lebanon

In Lebanon, a country where a third of its population are refugees, it seems impossible that a small family of Baptist churches could make an impact. But God likes to take small things and make immeasurably more than we can imagine.

The Lebanese Society for Educational & Social Development (LSESD) serves the Church in Lebanon and its region by equipping and resourcing leaders. They address the needs of vulnerable people in the community, and the LSESD is at the forefront of responding to the plight of their refugee neighbors.

In Lebanon we can see how a family of churches with limited resources is holistically addressing the reality of its community. They are extremely active in their communities and taking bold actions for the Kingdom of God.



Relief support across Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq include food aid, hygiene kits, milk and diapers, health care, trauma support, and winterization items—all of which are distributed through local church partners and faith-based organizations. Partners are given training so they can administer relief and assist as many as possible in a coordinated, accountable, and helpful way.

Please pray for the refugees who have been forcibly displaced from their homes and are left with nothing. Pray for joy, stamina, and safety for our sisters and brothers in Lebanon, who are helping them. Pray that we will be inspired to reach out to our neighbors and serve refugees in Virginia.