

"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Luke 4:18-21



Today

Alma Hunt

Offering for Virginia Missions

EMPHASIS DATES
September 13-20, 2009

GOAL: \$1,167,500

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The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind,
to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.
Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down.
The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them,
"TODAY this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 4:18-2

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2009 Allocations

Planned distribution of funds received from the 2009 Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions.

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Offering Resources

Your pre-ordered Virginia Missions prayer guides will be sent to your church along with posters and a sample of all items available for the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions emphasis. For help with any of the items listed below, please call 800.ALL.BGAV (255.2428), ext. 8267, or email [WMUV](mailto:wmuv@wmuv.org).

Speakers List

Invite a Virginia Missions speaker to your church.

[Download the 2009 Speakers List.](#)



Prayer Guide

This year's prayer guide for the Alma Hunt Offering asks, "What are you doing **TODAY** to share Christ's love with others?" Use this prayer guide as a bulletin insert. Share the ministries that are highlighted in it during your Missionary Moments. Encourage a week of prayer for the ministries or people listed. Lead a discussion on ways to help others TODAY and everyday. Lead your church or group to become a part of these ministries through actual hands-on involvement or committed prayer support.

[Download the 2009 Prayer Guide.](#)



Leader's Mission Study (Supplement)



The Leader's Mission Study is a resource for leaders that contains a mission study for adults, youth, children, and preschoolers. Use this study during your Alma Hunt Offering emphasis for your mission group meetings or Wednesday prayer time.

[Download the 2009 Leader's Mission Study.](#)



DVD

Use the DVD during Sunday morning worship, Wednesday night prayer service, or with a small group. After viewing the video, lead a discussion on how your church or group can become involved in the ministries of Virginia Baptists. Encourage sharing of opportunities for missions involvement that are available in your area. Brainstorm ways your church can help others TODAY and everyday.

For additional DVDs, call 800.ALL.BGAV (255.2428), ext. 8267 or email WMUV.



Poster

For additional posters, call 800.ALL.BGAV (255.2428), ext. 8267 or email WMUV.



Offering Envelope

For additional offering envelopes, call 800.ALL.BGAV (255.2428), ext. 8267 or email WMUV.



Goal Board

Create a display board to track how your church is doing toward meeting your Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions goal.

[Download the 2009 Goal Board.](#)



PowerPoint Presentation

Download the Alma Hunt Offering emphasis PowerPoint presentation (in .ppsx and .pdf formats).

[PowerPoint slide show \(.ppsx\)](#) | [PowerPoint slides \(.pdf\)](#)

To download the PowerPoint presentation, right-click the link and choose "Save As" or "Save Target As."



Graphics



You may use these graphics in your newsletters, bulletins, etc. Click the links below to download graphics of the logo, theme, and poster (in .jpg format).



General Logo: [Alma Hunt logo](#)

"TODAY" theme: [Calendar](#) | [Post-It](#) | [Complete Imagery](#) | [Background](#) | [Poster](#)

To save these files, either 1) right-click the link and choose "Save As" or "Save Target As" or 2) click the link to open in new window, then right-click the image and choose "Save Picture As."

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Prayer Guide

[Download the 2009 Prayer Guide](#), which contains all of the articles featured on this page.

Hunger Initiatives



Jesus said, "The poor will always be with you," and that is so true TODAY where Christians have a tremendous opportunity to minister to people by helping with their food needs.

With a sense of urgency, churches across Virginia are creating networks, connecting with other churches and ministries to eradicate hunger in Virginia. Through its "Spend Yourself" initiative, Highlands Fellowship and First Baptist Radford (both in Southwest Virginia) and Columbia Baptist (in Northern Virginia) are developing relationships and creating sustainability with their community garden. Newington Baptist (Middle Peninsula) is one of 25 Virginia Baptist churches that is partnering with Angel Food Ministries as a way to supplement its food pantry of over 20 years. Partnering with five other churches, Newington's ministry continues to grow, giving each church the opportunity to minister and witness in the name of Christ.

Prayer and Reflection: What steps can you take to eradicate hunger in Virginia, in your community or around the state?



CrossRoads Leaders



TODAY Lesley Gray is taking her missions leadership skills to a new level. As an introverted young woman from Fieldale, Virginia, Lesley never aspired to be a great leader, but a variety of experiences in her life showed her how she could





serve and inspire others with the message of the Gospel in ways she had never imagined.

As a child, Lesley was a camper at CrossRoads Camp and Conference Center, a year-round ministry facility operated by WMUV. As a teenager and college student, she served five years as a staffer there. Combining those experiences with her leadership as a student at Bluefield College, Lesley has taken her passion for missions a big step further: she was recently appointed as the youngest-ever member of WMUV's Board of Trustees. "WMUV has been the foundation for my faith and growing," said Lesley, "and now it's my turn to help others learn what God has planned for their lives."

Summer camp is a life changing experience.

Prayer and Reflection: Are you a leader? Is God calling you to take the next step in leadership? What will you do today to accomplish this?

Resort & Leisure Ministries



TODAY churches in the Norfolk Area Baptist Association are reaching vacationers and employees alike with the love of Christ. Using monies from the Alma Hunt Offering designated for resort and leisure ministries, churches like First Baptist of Virginia Beach and Oceanview Baptist are finding fun and unique ways to minister to a diverse population along Virginia's shoreline.

Distributing frozen water bottles with scriptures attached and frozen M&Ms, church members engage area lifeguards at the beaches in conversation. They create and give out "lifeguard kits" which include New Testaments, worship flyers, snacks, and lip balm.

To reach children in the area, churches are hosting block parties using a trailer they have outfitted specifically for outreach and ministry. Families who attend the block parties often develop relationships with church members and connect with the local church. Virginia Baptists are touching lives and reaching adults, teens, and children alike by meeting them where they are—TODAY.

Give a bottle of cold water to someone you see working.

Prayer and Reflection: During your next vacation, consider the needs of those serving you.

School of Rock and Worship



TODAY, Richmond's Northminster Church's School of Rock and Worship is reaching out to its surrounding community by providing an opportunity for young people not only to learn to play a musical instrument and compose or sing a song, but to live their dreams of performing. The school's director, Aaron Aker, and Northminster's Director of Worship Arts, Logan Jones, explain, "We specialize in teaching modern and classical commercial rock music along with modern band-style worship music. It is our philosophy that the best way to learn to play an instrument is through

private lessons at the same time as playing with others in a band setting."

The music school's students will have opportunity to participate in leading worship in the church's contemporary services, as well as perform in the weekly youth praise and worship band during youth Sunday School.

A Virginia Baptist Courageous Vision Partnership grant, funded in part by the Alma Hunt Offering, will provide scholarships to allow parents from the surrounding community who might not have the financial means to send their children to the School of Rock and Worship.

Provide an instrument for a young person.

Prayer and Reflection: How can your church make a difference in the lives of young people in your community?

Standing Rock Indian Reservation



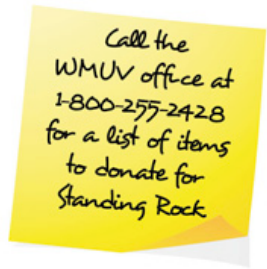
TODAY volunteers are inspired to minister with Virginia Baptists because of how they have been ministered to in the past. In March 2009, four Native American volunteers from Standing Rock reservation made the long journey from



South Dakota to Lee County, Virginia, where they worked alongside members of the Roanoke Valley Association in construction and literacy ministries.

Standing Rock, a reservation covering 2.3 million acres on the borders of North and South Dakota, is home to nearly 8,500 people who struggle with difficult life circumstances. This year, over 300 Virginia Baptists traveled to Standing Rock to assist the three Baptist churches there with children's, sports, medical, and construction ministries.

Desiring to show their appreciation to Virginia Baptists and to share the ways of Christ, the volunteers from Standing Rock are carrying out Kingdom work with their willing hearts and working hands—responding TODAY to God's call on their lives.



Prayer and Reflection: How can you make a difference for people in your community who have been oppressed and pushed aside?

Impact! PHREAKS



TODAY a young woman is experiencing the life transformation that only Christ can bring. Toni Byrd, 19, has participated in Virginia Baptists' PHREAKS program (People Having Radical Excitement About Kingdom Stuff) and Impact Virginia (student construction mission camp), and her perspective has been forever changed.

"Impact has given me the opportunity to take myself from being a complete stranger to becoming a friend to those in need," explains Toni. "I no longer take things for granted. I no longer want things I don't have. I no longer judge others before I meet them. When I look back at how I used to be, I think to myself, 'Where was the love of Christ I had in my heart? I know it was there, but why didn't it show?'"

Toni is ready to make an impact on others' lives by sharing from her own experience and her love for Christ—TODAY!



Prayer and Reflection: Evaluate your priorities: what is God calling you to do to make an impact for Christ?

Reynolds Memorial Hope Builders



What do these two women have in common: a faithful member of Reynolds Memorial in Sperryville and a former prison inmate at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women? Strength for TODAY and a new Hope Builders site—when the women are Mitzi Mills and Tina Cerato.

Through obedience to Christ's call to "proclaim freedom for the prisoners," Mitzi prayed with and mentored Tina Cerato after she was released from prison. By receiving Christ's love for the oppressed, Tina Cerato started living a life transformed. Together, they felt God's call to start a new Hope Builders site at Reynolds Memorial for the Rappahannock area.

"God has put it all in place and He will take care of the rest," says Mitzi. This is best exemplified in Tina, who will become an official Hope Builders mentor to other women who are former inmates.



Prayer and Reflection: Is God calling you to become a mentor? What do you need to do today to make this a reality?

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Who Was Miss Alma? May We Be Found as Faithful!

She was missions. Her countenance an icon that calls us to action - the mention of her name is an inspiration for all to be all that God intends for us to be. She was "Miss Alma," the Virginia born academian whose classroom was the world.

Traveling to 93 countries through almost nine decades, Miss Alma had many cherished friends. In an interview for *Missions Mosaic* magazine she shared that keeping up with friends in far away places is quite a challenge. "I feel inadequate, if not defeated, when a day has passed and I didn't get around to seeing someone who needed a visit or writing a letter of encouragement." What is it that made her so dear? No doubt her zeal for life and her devotion to following the plan that God created for her lead others to hold her in the highest of regards. But it was her love for others and her desire to encourage them in their walk of faith that rendered her a treasure in Baptist life.

Named Executive Secretary of the WMU in 1948, Miss Alma gave 26 years of superior leadership and furthered the cause of missions. Under her tenure, WMU acquired a national building and watched its membership exceed the one million mark. Her retirement years afforded her even further opportunities to enhance mission causes. She kept a full datebook of speaking engagements across the country served as a Baptist stateswoman and goodwill ambassador.

Certainly we know that Miss Alma belongs to the world! To try and keep her all for ourselves would be selfish. But to say that there is enormous pride in Virginia for what she has meant to missions would be a ghastly understatement. Thus the celebration in naming the offering for mission causes in Virginia for Miss Alma.

Miss Alma remained active in mission causes whenever she was able until she went to be with the Lord on June 14, 2008.

Miss Alma, Virginia Baptists say thank you for your gift of dedication to missions and furthering the cause of Christ.

May we be found as faithful!



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Alma Hunt Q & A

What is the Alma Hunt Emphasis for Virginia Missions?

The Alma Hunt Emphasis for Virginia Missions is a year-round expression of the mission spirit of Virginia Baptists.

Why is it called the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions?

Alma Hunt was a Virginia born, world renown Baptist leader, having served 26 years as WMU National Executive Director and after retirement as a national and international missions advocate. Until her death at age 98, her sacrificial service was an example for all Virginia Baptists to emulate. Thus, the State Missions Offering of Virginia was named in her honor in 1998.

When is the Alma Hunt Emphasis observed?

September is the prime awareness month and season of prayer. However, churches may emphasize missional learning, involvement, and giving opportunities available through the Alma Hunt missions initiatives whenever they choose.

What is this year's theme and scripture?

The theme for 2009 is "TODAY," based off of Luke 4: 18-21:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, 'TODAY this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'" (NIV)

What does the Alma Hunt Offering fund beyond my regular giving?

The Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions makes possible special ministries, outreach projects, and initiatives that are not

funded through regular streams of giving but are uniquely connected to Virginia Baptists. These ministry allocations are determined annually for publication.

Who decides which ministries will be funded?

Since 1976 this offering has been a joint venture between Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia (WMUV) and the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) with the development of an annual goal and allocation of funds under the direction of a Virginia Missions Committee. This committee is composed of equal representation from the WMUV Trustee Board and the BGAV Executive Board as appointed and elected.

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