Transforming Stories of making disciples in the way of Christ

Summer 2025 VOLUME 11 • ISSUE 2



Marketplace Ministry

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From the Chair

Loving Your Neighbor as Meaningful Work

BY PAUL J. YODER



am thankful for the opportunity to serve on the VMMissions Board of Directors. I am excited that VMMissions has been developing and investing in the marketplace ministry model—particularly given that most Christians are neither pastors nor "professional missionaries." I am honored to share a few reflections as Aaron Kauffman has been on sabbatical.

I received a sense of calm and clarity as a young adult when I saw people serving God in many fields. In particular, I noticed the examples of my own grandfathers. One was a business owner and pastor, the other a farmer and deacon. I found it valuable—as the son of a pastor—to see that those who came before me served God fully whether as ordained or lay leaders in the Church.

Knowing that I could serve God without going to seminary, I felt called to the class-room. My wife is also an educator. Over the years we have thanked God for the "meaningful work" we find in schools.

I have also reflected on what makes my work "meaningful." I often joke that working with people makes teaching exciting and compelling—as well as infuriating and frustrating! There was never a dull moment in my middle school classroom! Now that I teach and mentor current and future teachers, the communication patterns are different, but the demands of the learning process and the centrality of relationship are remarkably similar.

In recent months, I have been drawn again and again to Luke 10 and the Parable of the Good Samaritan. I am realizing that the illustration Jesus provides for "loving your neighbor" beautifully embodies what I meant by "meaningful work." I find this teaching of Jesus key in my attempts to serve God through my "day job."

I am reminded that loving God and loving neighbor are integrated. Furthermore, Jesus teaches that *mercy* is central to *being* a neighbor. In fact, Jesus asks who "do you think *was* a neighbor to the man?" before directing the expert in the law—and us—to "Go and do likewise."

I find this passage to be inspiring and challenging. I admit that I too often fail to show mercy like the priest and the Levite. Clearly, *loving* our neighbors—*being* a neighbor—requires God at work within us. This is the incarnational witness that not only makes our work "meaningful" but invites God's transformation in us and through us.

Paul J. Yoder serves as Chair of the VMMissions Board of Directors.

Cover image: Carl Strite uses donuts as an opening for gospel ministry at a prison in Alabama in October 2024. *See article on page 8.* Photo courtesy of Carl Strite.

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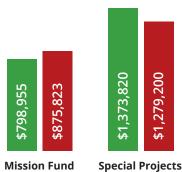
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Financial Report

Reporting: 09/01/24 to 06/30/25

Income: \$2,172,775 (total)Expenses: \$2,155,024 (total)

(not including investment income)



Undesignated giving by households and churches Giving to specific ministries

Transforming

Editor: Jon Trotter

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News+Events



tran Send 20th Anniversary

tranSend Alumni & Family **Celebration is October 4**

Alumni of tranSend and families are warmly welcomed to attend a special gathering in celebration of 20 years of the program and its significant impact on so many lives.

The event program will include sharing from various alumni, current and former program directors Martin Rhodes and Ken Horst, and from program visionary and benefactor Sarah Ellen (Histand) Slabaugh. Join us for a special evening of food, fellowship, and stories.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE AND RSVP

Hit the Road at Bike Shenandoah on Sept. 20



Join the ride at Bike Shenandoah on September 20 in Harrisonburg, Virginia. For 28 vears, serious bike enthusiasts as well as casual

riders and kids have been pedaling the Valley and raising money for local organizations. Bike Shenandoah offers five routes of varying length and difficulty: 100K, 50K, 25K, a 25K gravel route, and a 5K ride (for all ages and abilities).

VMMissions and the SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest) program are entities that benefit from this event. Learn more and register at bikeshenandoah.org.

Festival of Praise Concert returns on November 2

Festival of Praise is a concert of various men's a cappella groups singing hymns and gospel songs. The event concludes with a combined mass chorus finale directed by Nathan May. An offering will benefit the ministries of VMMissions. Learn more at vmmissions.org/festival-of-praise.

Partner Appreciation Banquet is November 15

Join VMMissions for a special evening of food, worship, and stories of transformation, in gratitude for the ways our partners have so generously supported the ministries of VMMissions through praying and giving.

Go to vmmissions.org/banquet to learn more and RSVP.

Workers Recently Appointed for Service



Gingerich, serving as an intern through tranSend at a community center and a partner congregation in Mannheim, Germany.



Katrina Witmer (name changed), serving as an intern through tranSend with two ministry team families North Africa.

Overview of 2024-2025 Fundraising Events

As VMMissions closes out the current fiscal year on August 31, here is a snapshot of our fundraising events over the past year and their impact toward our Mission Fund goal. There are a number of events this fall to get involved in—we invite you to join us!

Events that raised funds for the Mission Fund of VMMissions over the past 12 months include Bike Shenandoah, Festival of Praise, the Great Community Give, Putt for Missions, and Motorcycle for Missions. This year we also received 10% of all sales for one day at Gift & Thrift, a thrift store in Harrisonburg, Va.

Total **Participants** \$45,353 **388** (approximate)

These events constitute an important contributor to our fundraising efforts through the year, but our focus is on inviting and cultivating partners to participate in God's work through VMMissions in equipping, sending, supporting, praying, and serving as God calls each of us to mission wherever we are.

VMMissions is grateful to each person who has come alongside us in the work of God's mission-at an event or at a distance. Thank you for your faithful partnership.

Worker Reappointment

Raleigh & Opal R. (names changed), serving among an unreached people group in North Africa, 9/2025 to 8/2029.

Help us reach our annual Mission Fund goal of \$450,000 by August 31.

Scan the QR code or text GIVE to (877) 722-0176 or **send a check** to make a gift.



Ministry in the Marketplace

VMMissions equips believers for ministry in their places of work with coaching, accountability, and a network of support.

BY JASON RHODES SHOWALTER



uring my m i d d l e school years, my family dismantled a 100-yearold barn and rebuilt it as a home and guest house.

I was homeschooled

during that extended construction project, and while I don't remember much book learning in that season, it was an enduring education, an experience that profoundly shaped my understanding of and appreciation for the gift of work. As my parents welcome guests from all over the world to their home, they continue to minister through this place of work that was created through labor.

Patrick Lay describes the biblical vision of labor as *workship* in his book by the same title, building a theology of work as worship from the Hebrew word *avoda*, which is variously translated in English as work, worship, or service depending on the context. When we properly understand work as a gift from God and the context where we can glorify God, the relationships formed there become a crucible of our daily discipleship to Jesus: becoming like him, saying the things he said, doing the things he did.

The biblical vision of work notwithstanding, the Church has, for much of its history, promoted the disparate categories of "sacred" and "secular" in relation to many aspects of daily life. The perception that roles in church structures or missions contexts far from home are more spiritual has harmed both the Church and God's mission in the world.

One hears echoes of this attitude in the idealization of "full-time ministry" which usually excludes *ministry through* marketplace employment. To be clear, the Church has always called people to different kinds of dedicated work in the kingdom, and some of these roles require flexibility and availability that not all professions offer, but all work that glorifies God is equally sacred.

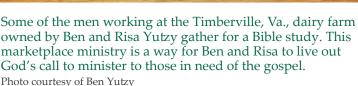
Anabaptists have been spared at least some of the excesses of the false dichotomy of the sacred/ secular divide because of their emphasis on the priesthood of all believers in daily life. In this view, all Christians are intermediaries of God's work through Christ and those separated from God. Far from triumphalistic, this identity is shaped by the reminder that we received grace "while we were still God's enemies" (Rom. 5:10) and follows the pattern of the incarnation in which Christ "made himself nothing, taking on the very nature of a servant" (Phil. 2:7).

We are called to be ambassadors of the gospel whether that be in our hometown and first language or as one sent to cross barriers of culture and language where the church is not yet.

Even as Anabaptists have recognized vocational ("called out") roles of leadership in local congregations and cross-cultural missions, they have maintained a strong emphasis on the holiness of a variety of combinations of labor, sometimes referred to as bi- or co-vocational ministry in several spheres of work both inside and beyond church structures. While the specifics differ as to how individual believers earn a living, all Christians are called to daily live their discipleship to Jesus and vocational identity as members of Christ's *ekklesia*, a people called out of the world and sent back into it as priests of God's reconciling work through Christ.

Several factors inform VMMissions' emphasis on equipping believers for marketplace ministry. Jesus commissions his followers in Matthew 28 to "go and make disciples of all peoples." As we read the story of the New Testament we see disciple-making, this most basic building block of the church, occurring primarily in the contexts of daily work, not in worship gatherings. The women gathered for prayer with Lydia by the river in Acts 16 likely composed







A greenhouse nursery brings economic blessing to a town along the Silk Road in Central Asia, a continuing legacy of Mennonites who once lived here. Photo courtesy of Jay (name changed)

a Roman oikos, extended households that included biological family and networks of work relationships. Ministry team Priscilla and Aquila mentored Paul early in his walk with Jesus through the context of daily work.

Additionally, most churches, globally speaking, have co-vocational leaders. As VMMissions partners with churches-in the U.S. and around the

VMMissions seeks to

equip believers to live

out their faith in every

sphere of life, including

places of employment.

world-in disciple-making and the formation of churches that grow as these disciples of Jesus gather, we learn from the sustainable patterns of ministry in these contexts.

In places where there are few believers, ambassadors of the

gospel who work in professional or entrepreneurial contexts also naturally model rhythms of daily work, disciple-making, and rest similar to patterns realistic for most believers and the co-vocational leaders of the churches that emerge. It's also important to note that most cross-cultural ambassadors of the gospel are sent not from North America but by churches of the global south to near neighbors.

Furthermore, in areas of the world with barriers to the spread of the gospel, and where public sharing is often restricted, natural opportunities for daily discipleship spring from professional and trade roles. One-third of the world's population lives in these regions where few or no expressions of church exist. These people will never meet a Christian in their lifetime unless a near neighbor or someone sent from afar crosses cultural boundaries as an ambassador of the good news.

Properly understood, our labor is an offering, our work an altar in the world. John Chrysostom, the fourth-century "golden-tongued" preacher and bishop of Constantinople, said, "Our spirit should

> be quick to reach out toward God, not only when it is engaged in meditation; at other times also, when it is carrying out its duties, caring for the needy, performing works of charity, or giving generously in the service of others. Our spirit should long for God and call him to mind, so

that these works may be seasoned with the salt of God's love, and so make a palatable offering to the Lord of the universe."

In this spirit, VMMissions seeks to support and equip believers to "live out their faith in every sphere of life," including places of employment. We are called to be ambassadors of the gospel whether that be in our hometown and first language or as one sent to cross barriers of culture and language

where the church is not yet.

Jason Rhodes Showalter is the VMMissions Global Ministries Director.

Reflections on a Missionary Identity

The mission field is everywhere, and bearing witness to the gospel wherever we are is the call and identity for all believers.

BY MAX Z. (NAME CHANGED)

The other day, during a cold-call walk-in sales visit, someone jokingly asked me, "Why are you trying to sell me feed? Are there not enough dollars in America?" It was a light-hearted moment, but the question captured something I've been asked in more serious tones many times before: why would someone leave the U.S. to sell animal feed in an economically depressed country?

Last fall, I moved to Central Asia to work with a Business for Transformation (B4T) company that sells animal feed, among other things. One of the company's goals is to provide economic infrastructure that supports local believers-especially in rural areas where Christian witness is especially

Whenever people ask me why I'm doing this, they usually start to understand after I explain my background: I grew up in Eastern Europe, developed a passion for job creation in post-communist economies, studied economic development in university, and carry a desire to bear witness to the gospel where there are fewer believers (I share this last point when appropriate). Explaining my journey has helped me reflect deeply on who I am, why I do what I do, and why I do it where I do it.

My parents moved from the U.S. to Eastern Europe to help plant a church. Friends back in America often called them "missionaries." As a third-culture kid (TCK), I remember bristling when we were "welcomed home" during visits to the U.S., and I didn't like being asked what it was like living on the mission field. I felt like my village in Eastern Europe was my home. I also wondered: Why didn't they consider their Midwestern hometown in the U.S. a mission field?

I'm encouraged that more people in the American church are now starting to view themselves as missionaries. I was glad to see LMC's goal to "mobilize every member as a missionary." Wherever I live, I want to have an identity as: a citizen of heaven/a member of the household of God (Eph. 2:19), a

royal priest who has been called out (1 Peter 2:9), a foreigner (1 Peter 2:11; Heb. 11:13-14) and an ambassador for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20), who seeks the welfare of the city where I live (Jer. 29:7), loves neighbors (Matt. 22:39), and proclaims the good news (1 Peter 2:10, 2 Cor. 5:19).

I didn't like being asked what it was like living on the mission field. Why didn't they consider their Midwestern hometown in the U.S. a mission field?



Max and a colleague at the company in Central Asia discuss feed inventory management. Photo courtesy of Max Z.



The author and his two children explore on the edge of the village where they live. Photo courtesy of Max Z.

After over a decade in the U.S., I'm now living overseas again. In many ways, who I am and what I do hasn't changed:

- Like my previous company in the U.S., my current workplace aims to "seek the welfare of the city" (Jer. 29:7) through business.
- My wife and I remain committed to discipling our children and training them in the way of
- I continue to build relationships with neighbors and coworkers, looking for ways to shine God's light.
- We are a part of a local church community, and we seek to serve, be held accountable, and build each other up in the faith. We see the church as the vehicle of God's work in the world.
- I still volunteer my time to support B4Ts, including through the work of VMMissions' B4T subsidiary.
- I continue to wrestle with how and when to share the good news with those around me.

But there are key *differences* too:

- Language and culture make communication and relationship-building more difficult and slower.
- As a TCK from post-communist Eastern Europe, Central Asia feels, in some ways, more like home than the U.S. ever did.
- Unlike in the U.S., our company's core mission explicitly includes facilitating gospel proclamation and discipleship.

- Our support network looks different: we meet weekly with the family of my co-director, monthly with a VMMissions coach, and I've recently joined an online peer group of other B4T workers. We have fewer close friends near us.
- The economic need is greater here.
- So is the spiritual need. There are far fewer Christians in Muslim-majority Central Asia, particularly in rural areas.

In the spirit of Andrew Scott's book Scatter: Go Therefore and Take Your Job With You, we moved to Central Asia because there are fewer believers here, and because God had put job creation in the postcommunist world on my heart. As I think about who I am and what I do in Central Asia, I am coming to accept the identity of being a missionary, but as something that all believers are called to.

While there is a particular need for more Christians to move and to bear witness in places where the church is not yet, this impulse, this DNA of being sent ones, should be the DNA of the whole church. The church should think of everywhere as a mission field.

I pray that the local church in the U.S. and the local church in Central Asia both understand themselves as missionaries and see their whole lives including their workplace as a mission field. As disciples of Jesus, we are each sent ones-carrying Jesus' authority and mandate to make disciples. May we all carry that identity—wherever we go.

Max Z. (name changed) is a VMMissions Marketplace Worker serving with his family in Central Asia.

Donuts as Ministry

BY CARL STRITE

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28, NIV).

hrough God's grace and faithfulness, a series of events 15 years ago led our family to transition (and through a transformation) from farming to running a mobile donut shop on the streets of Harrisonburg, Va. God gave us favor in this endeavor, and the business took off. We became well-known in the community and beyond. It quickly became clear that this was also an opportunity for us to share God's love with many people.

God has led us to show God's love through sharing a little piece of bread in Jesus' name. We do that in the best way we know how. We pray over the business, and we pray over the donuts. Psalm 34:8 encourages a hands-on experiential approach to knowing God: "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good." Donuts are something people can see, touch, and know. If it's given in Jesus' name, it touches their hearts too. When we give out donuts at festivals, on the neediest streets of Philadelphia, in jails and prisons, and in many other places, I feel like people feel it, they get it. We hope our donut ministry shares the goodness of God in the way Psalm 34 suggests.

A big start to our ministry was in prisons in Alabama. An organization called We Care Prison Ministry has been operating there for 50 years. Over a period of four days, many volunteers come and share the gospel in the state's network of prisons, alongside an evangelist and music group in each prison. In 2010, my wife Miriam and I were working at the donut shop full time, and I started thinking that we should take donuts down to Alabama. I talked to a chaplain and the warden about it, and they agreed. Now we go every year in October and do four to five prisons in a different region each year, eventually getting to all of them. The state prison system in Virginia has not welcomed us in the same way as Alabama, but we do go to several regional jails.

People in prison typically don't get donuts. A woman we met in prison remarked how sometimes you just want something so much, like a cup of coffee. She wanted a donut like that and prayed every day



Carl and Miriam Strite (seated center) with family members and employees. Photo courtesy of Carl Strite

for three years to have one! We were there to give it to her, and God used our ministry to impact her life in a simple way.

From the beginning, I have felt God's call to a ministry of compassion, and I know that God has given me a heart for the broken and the lost. Part of our ministry has been to hire individuals coming out of prison and give them the opportunity to participate in God's divine purpose in the world. It's certainly had its challenges, but it's another opportunity to share God's love. One man we hired after a while said that he never prayed before, but now he is praying and his prayers are even being answered! The Spirit moved in another man during the work day, and he wanted to be baptized. We did it right there in the parking lot.

All of us, regardless of how much we desire to be faithful to God's call on our lives, still live in the flesh and are prone to wonder from God's call and his wonderful provision of grace. And the good stories above are few and far between. Partnering with a mission organization has helped me to define this ministry and has provided more structure to what I do. Being a Marketplace Worker with VMMissions helps me to obey God's call to the lost and needy and keeps the ministry surrounded with a wider network of prayer. Through coaching and accountability, I've been able to focus on my relationship with God, which can easily suffer even as you are doing good things for others.

Recently, I've been really excited and encouraged to share about my ministry with churches. This has led me to a new goal: to possibly teach a class along with Baker Rigg, a chaplain and VMMissions worker, at the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Regional Jail. It would force me to study the Word. The teacher always learns the most, and I am ready to study.

Carl Strite is a VMMissions Marketplace Worker based in Harrisonburg, Va.

Using Professions for Faith Conversations

BY ARMANDO AND VERONICA SANCHEZ

The business that Armando owns is flexible enough to develop his ministry as a pastor. He can set his own schedule to meet the needs of the congregation where God has called him to be the pastor.

Armando has hired people who do not know the gospel; he shares with them that he is a pastor and that he knows Jesus. His question for them is, "Do you know Jesus as Savior?" They start a conversation and he shares the good news of Jesus with them. Some of them have been reconciled with God and are now attending church.

Veronica also helps our son with his cleaning business as a supervisor. His group of employees are four women, two from Nicaragua and two from Honduras. One day she went to take them to their work area and they talked a little about the Bible. The next day, she went to supervise them and took them iced coffees to start a conversation about the good news of Jesus.

Two of them have taken significant steps of faith, and another is interested in learning more about Jesus to give her life to him. All four have attended

Veronica Sanchez (second from left) with the employees of her son's cleaning company, with whom she has shared the good news of Jesus. Photos courtesy of Veronica Sanchez

worship at church. We will be in conversation with them to start a discipleship group.

Now we're starting a home meeting, where discipleship has begun for those attending. We've implemented the tools we've received from VMMissions.

The man pictured at right on the roof was Armando's coworker for several years. Armando always told him to return to God's path, to straighten his steps. He has returned to faith, brought his family from his home country, and now they're reunited here in this country, and are attending church.

As Marketplace Workers, we receive coaching from Lizzette Hernandez, the

VMMissions Latino Ministries Coach. This relationship helps our ministry because she is attentive to our pastoral health, and shares strategies and tools with us to strengthen our ministry so that it is more efficient.

Why do we relate to a mission organization as church planters? We once planted a church without the help of an organization, and it was more difficult because we didn't have many tools or strategies to evangelize and make disciples.

When we planted our second church, Iglesia Shalom, we did so with the help of VMMissions. It has been a blessing to have a coach, tools, training, and strategies to equip us and start in a different way. Through this partnership, we have reached more people who now know Jesus.

Armando and Veronica Sanchez are church planters and pastors of Iglesia Shalom, Waynesboro, Va.



Call to Prayer: Praying for Peace and Courage

BY LAURA YODER



s I work, prayer has been like an ever-flowing brook, sometimes reducing to a trickle and sometimes surging at the banks after a heavy rain, but always bringing a steady source of hope in the Lord.

I've been a nursing professor for over 20 years now and a nurse for 28 years. Both in my work as a nurse and in my work as a nursing professor, prayer has formed me and nurtured my relationship with God so that I can nurture others.

Not all of my patients nor my students have a habit of prayer; in fact, these days the majority of my students would say they don't know how to pray. Some are resistant to prayer, especially if they are agnostic or atheist. When I was a young nurse in my 20s, I tended to keep my prayers for my patients and students to myself, in my private prayer life. If I was asked to pray, I never declined, but I didn't openly offer it.

As I matured, I developed a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and a deeper intuition that guides me to moments of praying openly with students, collectively or individually, and even when I know they are resistant. Those are holy ground moments that can't be predicted or directed using any kind of formula or plan.

When I pray, I like to draw on the basic format of the Lord's prayer to guide my prayer, starting with naming my Father in heaven and noticing God's holiness. Then I pray for what I think the student or patient is needing most from God, inviting God's will to be done and for heaven on earth. I end with words of gratitude for the Lord's provision and ask for God's guidance in turning away from sin and in living a life full of the same grace and forgiveness he extends to us.

These prayers sometimes happen in the classroom before a unit test, but more often during one-to-one advising sessions, meetings with nursing faculty, with my prayer partners, or privately.

Praying for all my students helps me prepare well to see them, know them, and love them, the way God does.

As I prepare for a new academic year, I spend a lot of time thinking about the students who are coming or returning. This year, I have students who I know are deeply divided due to moral identity politics. I have already witnessed their contempt for each other. Yet, they are all beautiful children of God who are being called to lives of wholeness and holiness.

Praying for them, and for my own heart and posture of hopefulness in the Lord, is how I find peace and the courage to love them through their contempt. Praying for all my students helps me prepare well to see them, know them, and love them, the way God does. Prayer is my ever-flowing stream of living water that keeps my own cup full and my heart hydrated with charity.

Laura Yoder is on the VMMissions Board of Directors representing the Harrisonburg District of Virginia Mennonite Conference.



Worker Profile: Randall Schlabach

Service program: transForm (Marketplace Worker) Serving since: 2023

Assignment:

My assignment is to assist men in finding freedom, hope, and redemption from pornography addiction. In 2018, as I was undergoing my own recovery, I felt guided by God to witness families become healthy and whole. The most effective approach for me to achieve this is to guide men through their own recovery journeys.

The Lord guided me to this passage: "In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause" (Psalm 25:1-3, NIV).

This scripture encapsulates the essence of recovery. We must place our trust in the Lord. We address shame and recovery over our adversaries, and proclaim victory in Jesus. I accomplish this by leading groups through either the Conquer Series or the 7 Pillars of Freedom. Additionally, I work with individuals and guide them through a process I refer to as SWIM, which stands for Surrender, Wounds, Identity, and Maturity.

Biggest challenge:

My most significant challenge thus far has been effectively marketing this to churches. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting with pastors and laypersons to communicate my vision, yet the number of men I have successfully reached falls short of my expectations.

Biggest joy:

I experience numerous joys, each arising when an individual takes a significant step towards recovery. These steps may encompass acknowledging the need for assistance, as the initial step, or recognizing that the solution lies not in exerting greater effort but in embracing faith in Jesus Christ. One of my most recent joys is the desire of one of the men I mentor to be re-baptized.

A typical day:

My daily routine deviates from the norm due to my role as a Marketplace Worker. I hold two part-time positions. During the week, I serve as the Pastor of Congregational Care for Martins Creek Mennonite Church (Millersburg, Ohio), dedicating 20 hours to the church.

On Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, I am employed by Kidron Town and Country as a gopher (go for this, go for that). Typically, Tuesdays are for my ministry work, where I engage in meetings with men and monitor accountability through text messages, phone calls and an app called Covenant Eyes.



Transforming (USPS-15280) Virginia Mennonite Missions 601 Parkwood Drive Harrisonburg, VA 22802-2498







Partner **Appreciation Banquet**

November 15, 2025

Park View Mennonite Church Harrisonburg, Virginia

Food | Worship | Stories of Transformation

An evening of thanksgiving for the ways our partners have so generously supported VMMissions through praying and giving.



MY COINS COUNT: FOOD IN THE NAME OF JESUS







AT THE TABLE WITH JESUS

VMMissions will use its My Coins Count share to help mission workers invite more people to the table. Sharing food with others is a great way to share something of ourselves. Eating a meal together can make even strangers feel more like friends.

As workers eat with their neighbors, they learn to know and care for them. They share their lives with others and hear what people need and long for. They can also share about God's love for everyone around the table—a lot like what Jesus did!

FOOD FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT HOME

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) will use its My Coins Count share to buy food to share with families who have had to move due to fighting or because of a disaster like a flood or drought. Having to move makes it much harder for families to get enough food.

By helping people feed their families, we show that we love God by following Jesus' teaching to give food to the hungry.

VMMissions and MCC split the proceeds of My Coins Count 50/50.