

Christian Job Corps

'Everyone can do something'

By Candice Lee
WMU Foundation

I can't do everything, but I can't do nothing. I have to do something." A friend recently made this simple yet profoundly true statement. It clicked with me immediately, as I thought about the number of times recently that I have turned down volunteer opportunities.

We all have to say "no" sometimes, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. When you have small children at home and your time is limited, like me, it just isn't possible to make commitments that involve large chunks of time.

But just because you can't do it all doesn't mean that you can't do something. Recently I met Neeley Caldwell, brand new site coordinator for Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) in Lee County (see story, page 1). Neeley has a passion for reaching those in need. You sense it the moment you meet her. As she told me about

the items she needed for the women going through her CWJC program, I immediately said, "I'll help."

This is not a project I could take on alone, but I knew I could count on my Sunday School class and my co-workers at the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Foundation and national WMU

to help out. And they did. Items came pouring in: toilet paper, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, disinfectant wipes and more. And we were able to present items to both Neeley's site in Lee County and our local site in Birmingham.

I love WMU ministries. They put Christ-followers in contact with people who need to know that Christ loves them. But I've mostly watched from the sidelines, doing nothing because I felt limited in my ability to contribute. Now I realize

it's okay if I can't do everything. But doing nothing is no longer an option. I can do something. Everyone can do something. And my part combined with your part means that we are making a difference. ☪

GET INVOLVED

- ▶ Contact a local CWJC/CMJC site and find out what they need.
- ▶ Get your missions group or Sunday School class involved (see list of CWJC/CMJC sites, this page).
- ▶ If you're able to give a little more of yourself, now's the time.
- ▶ Volunteer as a CWJC/CMJC mentor.

WMU scholarship helps further education

(continued from page 1)
State Community College as a recipient of the Faye Dove Scholarship Award, established in 2013 by national Woman's Missionary Union.

The new annual scholarship honors select CWJC graduates who have demonstrated perseverance in achieving personal goals and plan to continue their education. Bonin-Turner was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

She plans to continue her education, earn a master's degree and become a licensed therapist. She credits the CWJC for her success.

"Because of the love and encouragement I received at CWJC, I am literally forever changed," she said. "The positive environment helped me more than words can say."

Sober for five years, she volunteers 20 hours a week to help

women who are fighting addictions, and is confidently rebuilding her life.

"God has carried me through so many of life's challenges," she said. "At CWJC, I found hope, love and acceptance. It was so beautiful to begin to believe that I could get beyond my insecurities. That's what I found at CWJC and I have carried that with me into all facets of my life." (BP)

CWJC 'equips, empowers' women in US

(continued from page 1)
and certified CWJC and Christian Men's Job Corps (CMJC) sites, and several of these serve participants in multiple locations at satellite sites. Of these sites, 120 offer CWJC, 10 offer CMJC and 29 offer both. In 2012, 11,080 staff and volunteers served approximately 4,250 participants.

According to independentsector.org, the estimated value of volunteer time for 2012 is \$22.14 per hour.

With more than 3.7 million volunteer hours served in 2012, CWJC/CMJC had an economic impact of more than \$82 million based on this estimate.

Founded by national WMU

in 1997, CWJC provides a Christian environment to equip disadvantaged women for life and employment through biblical nourishment. Each participant is paired with a mentor to guide, encourage and keep them accountable.

For more information, visit wmu.com/jobcorps. (BP)

Obama speaks to Iran's leader about U.S. pastor's release

A historic phone call between President Obama and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Sept. 27 capped a significant week in the case of an American pastor imprisoned in Iran.

During the 15-minute call, Obama voiced concern for Saeed Abedini, a U.S. citizen who marked a year of incarceration for his Christian faith Sept. 26. Though Secretary of State John Kerry has called for Abedini's release, this was the president's first time to speak out on the pastor's behalf.

Obama also expressed concern for two other Americans imprisoned or missing in Iran, in addition to dealing with other topics.

Abedini's wife, Naghmeh, said the call marked "the most encouraging news I have heard since Saeed was imprisoned one year ago. I am very grateful to President Obama for standing up for Saeed and for the other Americans who are held captive in Iran. This development is truly an answer to prayer."

The conversation was the first time presidents of the two countries have spoken directly since 1979.

Abedini's family is optimistic in the wake of the president's phone call, as Iran released 91 prisoners of conscience in the days leading up to Rouhani's Sept. 24 speech at the United Na-

tions. Two of them were women held since 2009 on charges of "undermining the national security of Iran" after they converted from Islam to Christianity and joined a house church, according to Morning Star News.

Obama's move was "a significant step forward in this critical case," said Jordan Sekulow, executive director of the American Center for Law and Justice, which represents Naghmeh Abedini. "We're ... grateful to President Obama for raising Pastor Saeed's imprisonment and call on President Rou-

State CWJC, CMJC ministry sites

Albertville — Marshall County Christian Services, Linda Henry lindray@bell-south.net; CWJC Marshall South Site, Leslie Henry cwjc217@charter.net

Anniston — Calhoun Baptist Association CWJC, Millicent Monk cwjc@sbsbc.org

Arab — CWJC Marshall North Site, Gwyn Moore misssgwyn720@yahoo.com

Auburn — CWJC of Lee County, Neeley Caldwell cwjc-lee@att.net

Birmingham — M-Power Ministries CWJC, Beverly Sansom Beverly.sansom@mpowerministries.org

Cleveland — Anchor Ministries, Charlotte Stevens anchorministries12@gmail.com or Nancy Dill dillnn@aol.com

Guntersville — Lift Up Your Head with CWJC, Shelia Banks cwjc.shelia@yahoo.com

Huntsville — CWJC of Madison County, Elaine Dickson cwjc@cwjc.net; First Baptist Church Site, Charmika Merriweather cmerriweather@cwjc.net; The P.L.A.C.E. Ministry Center, Pat Swinford pswinford@cwjc.net; Union Hill CWJC, Constance Tiller ctiller565@aol.com

CMJC

Albertville — Hope for Life CMJC, David Lokey dlokey@charter.net

Anniston — Calhoun Baptist Association CMJC, Jim Davis jdavis@cbasbc.org

For more information, visit www.alawoman.com/cwjc or www.alawoman.com/cmjc.



"If ye continue in My word, then ... ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
John 8:31-32

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ABEDINI

hani to put his promise of being 'moderate' into action by releasing Saeed without further delay."

The 33-year-old pastor had converted from Islam to Christianity in Iran in 2000 and planted house churches until 2005. Although Iran has no law against house churches, the government termed his involvement a threat to "national security,"

even though he had ceased such work after agreeing in 2009 to limit his ministry to humanitarian work, according to Morning Star News. (BP)