

Has anyone every helped you when you really needed it? (answers, have your own ready just in case).

The America for Christ Offering that we're going to be taking this next month is all about helping people all over America know more about the love of Jesus and helping them in many different ways.

(Slide 1) Today, our story about help in America actually starts on the other side of the world. It starts in the mountains that are in between the countries of Myanmar and Thailand. There is a group of people who live in those mountains and they are called the Karen. The people who control Myanmar don't like the Karen and they have burned many of the Karen villages. In Thailand, the Karen have a hard time finding jobs that pay enough for them to live there.

(Slide 2) The Karen people have had such a hard time trying to live in those mountains that they have been settled into refugee camps that hold from 2,000 to 50,000 people. They live in the camps until a place for them can be found to make a new home in another part of the world. Many of them have come to America—even to Minnesota and South Dakota!

(Slide 3) Now, the First Baptist Church in Huron, SD, had been having a hard time. Members kept leaving the church and the number of people was getting smaller and smaller. Pretty soon less than 20 members were left and they wondered if the church was going to have to close. They prayed hard for God to help them. Guess who God sent to them?! That's right—God knew that there were many Karen people who already loved him and were even Baptists, just like the Huron church. God knew that Huron, SD had some good places where the Karen people could work and live. God even knew that the pastor of FBC Huron was really good at learning new languages and would do a good job helping the Karen people get settled in Huron. God put all those good things together and helped remake FBC Huron in a new way!

(Slide 4) And here is where the helping hands of the America for Christ Offering come in: the money from last year's offering helped to pay for 10 Karen kids to go to Baptist Camp Judson in SD!! The money we share in the America for Christ offering gets used in many ways to help people in America live and know about God's love.

(Slide 5)

The offering helps with things like:

Evangelism—telling the good news about God's love

Reconciliation—making peace between people who have been mad at each other

Church planting—starting new churches

Refugee resettlement—helping people who have to leave their homes to find new ones in safe places

Volunteer Ministry—helping people who want to help find just the right place to use their skills/gifts

Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling—helping hospitals and churches to find the right kinds of pastors

Intercultural fellowship—helping people from different places learn to know, like each other, and worship together.

The America for Christ Offering helps many people in many ways. **Let's Pray:**