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# Covenant Community Missions

HIGHLIGHTING WAYS THAT OUR COVENANT COMMUNITY REACHES OUT TO THE LARGER COMMUNITY AROUND US

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Welcome to our new mission oriented Covenant communication. This monthly newsletter will highlight ways that our Covenant community reaches out to the larger community around us. In here you'll learn not only what CAMT (Covenant Adult Mission Team) is up to, but also what missions individuals are passionate about and how they participate in them. We would love to learn about and feature your favorite mission - please contact Milly Elrod at [mtelrod@comcast.net](mailto:mtelrod@comcast.net).

## Villages in Partnership with Eileen Gradwell

This month's featured mission is Villages in Partnership which is a faith based nonprofit, based in Allentown, NJ that does development work in Malawi, Africa. Their goal is to eradicate extreme poverty in the vulnerable population who are living in the Sakata Region of Malawi. Extreme poverty is poverty that leads to hopelessness. It is caused by a lack of resources in six critical needs of human development: food, water, education, medical care, infrastructure, and economic opportunity. Without adequate resources in each of these areas, extreme poverty traps its victims in a vicious cycle that they cannot break out of on their own.

Over the past ten years VIP has developed a powerful system to address these 6 critical needs. And they have seen a great deal of progress. Hundreds more children are now attending school, areas that have experienced perpetual hunger now have enough food, women and young girls are no longer walking hours each day to access clean water, and people are starting small businesses and taking advantage of previously unattainable economic opportunities.

Watch this [short video](#) to learn more or check out VIP's website at [villagesinpartnership.org](http://villagesinpartnership.org).

But there is a lot more work left to do and you can help. The people of Malawi have the capacity, determination and desire to change. What they lack are necessary critical resources, training and capital. They need outside partners to come alongside them, to provide them with the resources and training necessary to lift themselves out of extreme poverty.

Partners come in all forms – churches, individuals, and businesses who offer their time, talent, and resources to support VIP's mission. One of our newest members, Eileen Gradwell, daughter of longtime member Iris Fairbairn, is on the Board of VIP and has traveled to Malawi multiple times to see firsthand the important work that VIP is doing in the villages. She has participated and led medical and dental mission trips to Malawi. She, her mom, and friends sew dresses for girls and her mom knits hats and makes blankets. Eileen recently participated in VIP's biggest fundraiser, a Water Walk which was held virtually this year. There are so many ways to contribute and participate in this important work. If you wish to join Eileen in helping VIP to continue to bring more of these critical resources to the people of Malawi contact her at [Eileen.Gradwell@gmail.com](mailto:Eileen.Gradwell@gmail.com).



## CAMT Updates

**Faith Ministry** – our March mission team week to Reynosa was postponed and FM has cancelled all trips until September. Our visit has been TENTATIVELY rescheduled for September 19–26, 2020. Anyone interested in information or in joining the team for September can contact Barbara Rhinehart at [brhinehart@gmail.com](mailto:brhinehart@gmail.com).

**Rise Against Hunger event** – this event was also postponed from April and while we have been attempting to reschedule it for fall it is looking like we may not be able to reschedule until 2021.

**Broad Street Ministry** – has currently suspended having volunteers assist with the meals. They are hoping that they will be able to include volunteers in the fall. Watch upcoming newsletters for updates.