

# Covenant Community Missions

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

The Covenant Community Missions newsletter highlights ways our Covenant community reaches out to the larger community around us. This issue features our relationship with Central Presbyterian Church in Norristown (also our July Minute for Mission). It announces our Rise Against Hunger event being held in October, a small team returning to Faith Ministry in Reynosa, Mexico if the way be clear in September, and the hopeful resumption of Broad Street Ministry teams in the fall. Read on for information about the annual back to school supply drive with the People's Pantry and for thank you notes from two soldiers who received sneakers from Covenant via Sneakers for Soldiers. We'd love to highlight what missions you are passionate about and how you connect to them. Please contact Milly Elrod at [mteprod@comcast.net](mailto:mteprod@comcast.net) to share your favorite mission.

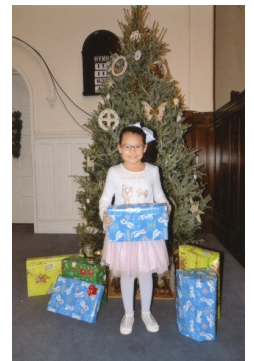
## Central Presbyterian Church in Norristown

We welcomed Pastor Gadiel Gomez and his daughter Pilar to our July Minute for Mission. Pastor Gadiel has led what is now called Central Presbyterian Church in Norristown since 2003. His congregation meets in the First Presbyterian Church's building and the members typically have come to America from the Caribbean, Central American and South America. Our connection to this ministry began with the CAMT trip to Reynosa in 2009. While in Reynosa, Millie Williams met a family from Michigan who knew Pastor Gadiel. They suggested that since our groups were close geographically that we meet. Once home, CAMT decided Millie Williams and Kay Rowell would make an initial visit to meet Pastor Gadiel. During that visit they discovered that the congregation had a need for bilingual Bibles. Through a series of Spirit led moments, CAMT was able to get 100 Bibles ordered and delivered. CAMT members have made visits to them over the years and attended some of their anniversary celebrations. Pastor Gadiel's visit to Covenant's worship service in November 2010 resulted in Covenant inviting Central's children to participate in our Christmas family program. The photos to the right are a sample from their 2020 thank you to us.

Their services can be viewed online via their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Central-Presbyterian-Church-656277394407877>. We look forward to continuing our relationship and growing together in the fruits of the Spirit.



Pastor Gadiel Gomez and his daughter Pilar



## Updates on Covenant Adult Mission Team News



**Rise Against Hunger – October 16, 9-11 am** – This year we are doing our meal packaging event in collaboration with Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Chester, PA. Westminster is hosting a multi-group Chester County food packaging event over the weekend of October 15-17, 2021. The 285,000 meals that will be packed will fill a whole container which will be sealed and shipped at the end of the weekend.

Covenant will be working the first shift on Saturday Oct. 16th which is 9-11 AM at Westminster. We need to raise \$6000 which is the cost of the ingredients in 20,000 meals. Donations can be made to Covenant Presbyterian Church marked for Rise Against Hunger via our website or by mailing a check. We also need 70-100 volunteers so we can package 20,000 meals in 2 hours. Volunteers need to be at least 4 years old and anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. You can sign up by e-mailing Barbara Rhinehart at [brhinehart@gmail.com](mailto:brhinehart@gmail.com) or on the clipboard at the Welcome Desk at Covenant. We hope you will be able to help and please invite friends and family to join us.



**Faith Ministry** – In the beginning of May, Faith Ministry announced a plan to have small teams of vaccinated people return to Reynosa. Four CAMT members (Barbara Rhinehart, Carol Cornell, Kay Rowell and George Rowell), plan to visit September 18-25. Teams began to visit in June but then there were shootings in Reynosa that caused Faith Ministry to put visits on hold. We pray that conditions in Reynosa will once again become safe and we pray for the staff, volunteers and families there. And if the way be clear, we will pray for our CAMT visit and the renewing of our relationship with Faith Ministry.



**Broad Street Ministry** will be starting to use volunteer teams to assist with their lunch service again this fall. We are on the list for serving lunch on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Once we have a confirmed start date we will publish how to sign up. Barbara from CAMT dropped a load of our donated clothes this month and was able to volunteer for mail sorting and distribution.

## Updates on Covenant Connected Missions



**2021 Backpack and School Supply collection** has begun. These items will be given to over 400 Great Valley School District Students. Needed items are: Backpacks (middle & high school), colored pencils, broadline washable markers, thinline markers, pencil sharpeners that are hand-held, #2 Ticonderoga pencils, pink pearl erasers (2-3"), graph paper, index cards, post it notes, spiral notebooks both college & wide ruled, and plastic rulers. Items may be dropped off at the People's Pantry (2nd and 4th Wednesdays and Saturdays 8-11am) or Covenant Church during office hours (9-1, Mon-Fri).



**Sneakers for Soldiers** – from the Hausladens (Nov 2020 Minute for Mission).

Our service members really do appreciate our donors! So far, 6,258 men and women deployed to combat zones and imminent danger areas have experienced the support of grateful Americans. Each pair of sneakers is tagged with a donor's first name or organization and city/state to show that someone cares.

Two notes of appreciation were recently received by recipients of sneakers from Covenant:

*"Good afternoon, I received a pair of new running shoes through the Sneakers for Soldiers program here in Kuwait. Thank you very much and thank you for your support of the Armed Forces. This pair of shoes will make a big difference in my life during my time overseas and away from home. Have a blessed day."*

*"Hello, you don't know who I am but I am one of the Soldiers that you gifted a pair of shoes. I want to thank you for doing that. I am currently deployed in the Middle East. It is super cool and nice that y'all took the time to think of some way to help out. I am grateful for the support and prayers that you sent with these shoes. I like to think it's the little things that mean the most – like a pair of shoes. Again thank you for your support and prayers for all the armed forces across the world. God Bless."*