

"That's one small step  
for mankind," he said as he stepped on the  
surface. ... the moon's surface

# Local Missions Recount 2015

Covenant Life Church

WALKS  
MOON

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### **Psalm 75:1**

We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near.  
We **recount** your wondrous deeds.

### **Local Missions Goal**

To be who we are (disciples of Jesus), where we are (our community), so that people might see evidences of the Kingdom and submit to the King.

## 01 Camp Hill Square ESOL

Two mornings a week, just minutes from the church, four volunteers meet with eight immigrants to teach beginner and intermediate level English classes. After several years, friendship has been established between teachers and students to the point that classes meet in the homes of students. The result has been a more relaxed atmosphere and a growing sense of community.

This year we invited the ESOL students into a church member's home where we hosted a Thanksgiving lunch which included traditional American and international foods. During the event each participant shared expressions of gratitude and children sang the alphabet song. We all joined in singing a thanksgiving worship song. One highlight was two women

volunteers driving a student home, where, with great excitement, she insisted they come in for tea. They were warmly welcomed into her Muslim home and received not only tea and treats, but long hugs from her non-English speaking grandmother. The volunteers felt so privileged to be invited into their world.

**Pray** that the Holy Spirit would deepen our conversations with students and that they and their families would be drawn to the knowledge of Jesus as their personal savior.

## 02 Lord's Table Soup Kitchen

The Lord's Table is hosted by St. Martin's Church in Gaithersburg where approximately 30 volunteers serve 300-400 hundred individuals throughout the year. No one is turned away.

Members of Covenant Life Church serve on the first Wednesday and fourth Friday from September to June by preparing and serving meals. We also provide Bibles and literature in English and Spanish along with reading glasses for those in need which has led to informal Bible studies. A guest commented, "I see the Bibles. This must be Covenant Life's day."

We have developed deep relationships with Mary Canapary, the project's director, and Kathy Lopez, the kitchen manager. Additionally, the deep relationships among the CLC

volunteers have been some of the most meaningful we have experienced at the church.

**Pray** for more Wednesday volunteers and Spanish speakers and for spiritual hunger and an interest in Bible study amongst the dear people we serve.





### 03 Good Samaritan Advocates

Our 44 active volunteers (22 from CLC and 22 from other area churches) provide free legal counsel on most issues to those who could not otherwise afford it.

During a one hour meeting with a GSA attorney and other team members, the client's legal issues are clarified, key background information and documents identified, immediate assistance provided as appropriate, and immediate issues resolved where possible. Where matters cannot be resolved in the initial meeting, the attorney may:

- invite the client to return for further session(s)
- provide referrals to attorneys, legal aid services, or appropriate social service agencies
- provide further pro bono assistance

Clients Have Said:

- "I left the meeting with a great burden lifted. I don't feel alone in

this struggle and I look forward to having those "Samaritans" as a support!"

- "This program is very helpful and I felt comfortable with the people who worked with me. They treated me and my situation with great respect, dignity, and understanding."
- "We benefitted from the legal advice, spiritual focus, and comfort our counseling team provided."

#### Pray:

- For the successful launch of the new Clarksburg correctional outreach.
- That the leadership of Cedarbrook Community Church in Clarksburg and/or Church of the Redeemer in Gaithersburg will be willing to launch a GSA Clinic in 2016.
- That the GSA ministry at CLC will be able to double the clients served in 2016 to over 100.

## 04 EF High School Exchange

EF High School Exchange brings high school exchange students to the USA for a 10 month cultural exchange. The students live with a host family, attend the local high school, and participate in American life.

- By showing them your values, you will influence their understanding of what a Christian is and what Christians believe.
- By praying for your student, you will play a part in changing the course of their eternal destiny.
- By opening up your home and life, you will extend genuine friendship and demonstrate sincere love for the students and the families who sent them.

Host Family:

“My children have tried new foods and have learned words in another language. The experience has sparked their interest in visiting other

countries. It has also helped them see that benefits of other cultures and has helped them appreciate different perspectives.”

Parents of Exchange Student:

“W. will leave you soon. Thank you (Host Mom) for be like a friend to her and mother as well. Thank you for being with her to face all the problems and help her solve all the things in her daily life. I feel ashamed that you can give a deeply talk about her future and philosophy that I can't give. Through the phone, I can feel she changes her perspective of views and attitude to life. She becomes happy, cheerful, thoughtful, and considerate. It's all because of you; your influences made her change to be positive. We look forward to welcoming your family to have a chance to visit our country soon.”

## 05 Global Gates

Montgomery County has countless immigrants from countries with less than two percent Christian population (primarily Muslim and Hindu backgrounds). The mission field has come to us!

It is our aim to mobilize and equip churches by training, teaching, and encouraging participation in outreach events to these unreached groups through one full time and one part time paid staff and many volunteers. A recent trainee wrote, “I believe the Holy Spirit has used Global Gates trainers to open my eyes to a greater purpose for my life. The result is that I am more aware of and purposeful in how I spend my time and resources to spread the gospel to the unreached within reach.”

In December over 150 Persians attended a Christmas party we hosted and we recently baptized a man from a closed country who is now sharing his faith with Muslims.

A Persian woman who heard the gospel in Farsi and in stories that bridged to her Muslim background stated, “I have heard that Christians believe Jesus died on the cross for our sins but I never understood what that meant until now.”

An Arab college student enthused, “I have been in your country for two years. You are the first serious Christians I have met; I would like to talk to you more.”

**Pray** that we would see ten people come to Christ in 2016, that we would be personally refreshed by God's word and His Spirit, and that we would have total financial support.



## 06 Prison Outreach

Seven rotating volunteers meet with up to four inmates on a weekly basis at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility in Clarksburg for individual Bible study, prayer, and counseling. We are excited that friendships between volunteers and inmates have deepened over the past year.

**Pray** that volunteers would be spiritually renewed and encouraged and that God would draw more inmates to the Bible study. We need the wisdom and love that comes from the Holy Spirit.

Several weeks ago one man sincerely asked how a person could change his thoughts, desires, and life. He looked discouraged and sad. He said he grew up in church but never really knew God. After some discussion the man prayed that the Lord would take away his sin and make him new. He then joyfully exclaimed, "I can't explain how I feel right now. I feel like I'm high. I feel like I'm stoned!" What an unorthodox way to describe the work of the Holy Spirit but pretty awesome nonetheless.



## 07 Men's Shelter Dinners

80-200 men stay at the Rockville men's shelter where there are 60 permanent beds. In the winter the numbers can swell to 200 with men sleeping on floor mats. The recent addition of a sleep-only shelter (made from four donated school-style trailers) has opened. Men leave these trailers at nine a.m. and can take showers and have dinner at the main shelter before being transported back to the trailers for the night.

Jay Scopin, a CLC member and the center's director, gave a tour of the shelter. He said that men are able to access medical, dental, and mental health services that rotate through the shelter. The underlying causes of homelessness (mental illness, drug addiction, and lack of employment) are addressed and appropriate housing is sought.

15-20 volunteers prepare and serve the men a hot dinner one night a month. Heated meals are not

available at the shelter because there is only a partial kitchen. One of the guys who wore a Redskins sweatshirt exclaimed that he wanted to taste everything. He said, "I can't even begin to tell you how happy this meal makes me."

The Ferleman family has been faithfully leading this ministry and has recruited volunteers who are thankful for the opportunity to bless these homeless men.

**Pray** for gospel seeds to be sown, that the men would experience God's love through our care, and that we would continue to find favor with the shelter staff along with finding ways to befriend them. to these families, that the Holy Spirit would lead us, and that additional volunteers would join this ministry.



## 08 Pro Life Team

Mary Beth Phillips, Charrie Bates, and Betty Stavelly partner with volunteers who participate in a variety of activities such as pro-life education, sidewalk counseling for those facing a crisis pregnancy or a poor fetal diagnosis, and in counseling and caring for those who have chosen abortion in the past. To date we have taken twelve women through the nine week *Forgiven and Set Free Bible* course. The participants expressed an interest in continuing to meet every few months to fellowship and encourage one another.

We joined with area churches in participation of the bi-annual *40 Days for Life* campaign to pray on the Germantown sidewalk outside of a late-term abortion clinic operated by Leroy Carhart. In the fall of 2015 the campaign had over 50 volunteers.

As a result, eleven babies were saved and we welcomed a new CLC volunteer at Germantown Pregnancy Choices.

We have begun work to offer much needed seminars on topics such as miscarriage and stillbirth, end of life issues, and caring for aging parents.

**Pray** that we will demonstrate a truly consistent ethic of love and life for all humans in all circumstances.

**Pray** that those entrusted with political power will fulfill the first responsibility of government and protect the vulnerable and weak.

**Pray** that that the light of Christ will shine on those in the abortion industry and that they will come under the sovereign reign of God and be reconciled to Him.





## 09 JOY Club

There are over 30 dedicated volunteers providing essential child care for families attending ESOL classes at South Lake Elementary School near Lakeforest mall. These sacrificial servants are on the brink of being outnumbered by the enthusiastic children who receive love and the gospel message on Monday evenings.

**Pray** that we will be wise and winsome gospel ambassadors and that God would bring additional volunteers to offer the program on Wednesday nights.

## 10 Conversational English at South Lake

10 volunteers regularly meet with 40 immigrants who practice English skills they have learned through our Monday night ESOL class at South Lake Elementary School located close to Lakeforest mall.

Scripture and prayer requests are integrated into the conversations and are followed by a Discovery Bible Study. A study of Isaiah 53 led to a discussion of the gospel. Over 200 students and their families attended a Thanksgiving dinner where we shared the good news. One of the men attending the dinner said he wanted to taste everything and said, "I can't even begin to tell you how happy this meal makes me."

We are excited to hear increasing English language proficiency!

**Pray** for improved teaching and for those who walk in darkness to embrace the good news of the gospel.

## 11 Laytonia Girls Club

Across from the church building three to four volunteers regularly meet with 16 girls ranging from 5-16 years of age. They come together to create a craft, hear a devotional, and occasionally a testimony from a young lady in the church.

In October a group of younger girls decorated paper lanterns. The teacher illuminated each previously darkened lantern with a flashlight. She explained that though we may be pretty it is only through the love of Jesus that God's light shines in and through us. His love makes us truly beautiful. Sherly Giglio asked the younger group to tell the older girls what they did that day. One little girl said, "Today we made lanterns and my teacher, Miss Tash, said it's like us; God will put His light in us so we can shine because He loves us."

One highlight of the Christmas party was Polaroid photos of the children with their families. We invited mothers and daughters to attend a summer party where games were played, prizes won, and family bonds were deepened.

**Pray** that salvation would come to these families, that the Holy Spirit would lead us, and that additional volunteers would join this ministry.

## 12 Riverdale Community

Six volunteers have radically altered their lives by moving into a Riverdale apartment complex to reach over 30 refugee families. We serve these refugee families by:

- Collecting donated baby items, furniture, and essential home items
- Preparing welcome meals
- Offering conversational English tutoring to Muslim refugee women
- Assisting, educating, and equipping refugees as they search for and apply for jobs
- Assisting new refugees in navigating medical, educational, and financial systems

We held a Christmas Day party attended by 25 people from Korean, Caucasian, Congolese, and Eritrean backgrounds. It was the first Christmas in the United States for two families. As we prayed, thanking God for His faithfulness this past year and the grand gift of His Son, Jesus,

we were joined by prayers in Korean, English, French, and Swahili.

A Muslim family brought us a cake to thank us for the English lessons. This was a huge breakthrough. May God continue to pour out His grace and favor on us. We have also been encouraged by hearing:

- “I don’t know where we’d be without your family.”
- “Thank you so much pastor. You’ve done so much to care for us. Thank God for you.”
- “You are a good Christian.” from a Muslim Afghan man

**Pray** for:

- Deepening relationships with Muslim families.
- The discipleship of Christian refugee families and the multiplication of disciples.
- More Christians to move into Riverdale to join in the mission.

## 13 JOY Camp

For the past six years Joy Camp, a weeklong Vacation Bible School, has enriched the lives of families at three Gaithersburg locations: Laytonia, South Lake Elementary School, and Johnson Park. The camps are run by over 25 enthusiastic adults and seventy five energetic teens.

Older campers at Laytonia return year after year toting the Bibles they were given. They bring younger brothers and sisters, lingering on as helpers. Questions like, “Wait! God loves us? What if you don’t love God back?” are an example of what can be heard throughout the week. At the end of each week we are able to interact with both children and families by hosting a popular cookout.

In the fall of 2015 we initiated Joy Club, a weekly Vacation Bible School and homework club, to serve the families attending ESOL at South Lake Elementary School.

**Pray** that the gospel would spread in these neighborhood and that we would have increased opportunities to further and deepen the relationships that have been faithfully built.

## 14 Forest Oak Towers

Forest Oak Towers is an affordable housing community for seniors. Three volunteers meet weekly on Wednesdays for lunch with eight to twelve residents. We also extend invitations to the monthly CLC Senior Saints Luncheon and provide transportation. Recently one resident was heard saying, “Those folks from CLC are so nice. I enjoy going to the Senior Saints Luncheon because everyone is friendly, kind, and welcoming.”

In addition, we offer a monthly Bible Study which is attended by five to ten residents. They have asked us to pray for them and answer their questions about the Bible and personal faith. Several residents have said, “Please do not stop coming.” They have found friends that they can count on to listen to, care for, and pray with them.

One resident, Gavina, is struggling with health problems. She is

comfortable sharing her burdens and after prayer has been uplifted in her struggle transitioning into more joyful conversation.

Don is a 95 year old curmudgeon who has long discounted believing in, “a God who would create man knowing He would condemn some to hell.” After several years he recently began to ask questions about the gospel. A summary of the fall of man and God’s plan of salvation was shared with him.

For the fourth year CLC hosted a Thanksgiving dinner on the Tuesday before the holiday. Over one hundred folks attended.

**Pray** that more residents would attend the Bible study and the Wednesday lunches and for more spiritual conversations.





## 15 ESOL at South Lake

The program at South Lake Elementary School currently hosts 100-130 students from 24 countries through the efforts of 31-45 volunteers. Four levels of English classes are offered in the school located near Lakeforest mall.

This year we added a Wednesday night conversation class followed by a Bible study. JOY Club began to provide childcare to 40 children during the Monday classes. Students have said: “I learn more in every class.” “I like the Bible verses used during the classes.” “The teachers are patient.” “Childcare has helped my child be less fearful.” “I feel comfortable asking questions without feeling ashamed.” “I have learned to write a little more.”

Every Day Is Christmas partnered with us by providing some families Thanksgiving baskets and by extending an invitation to them to participate in EDIC’s Christmas Toy Store and Resource Event. For the first time, we had students join us for the Christmas service and attend Introducing God.

**Pray** that God will continue to build relationships between the volunteers and the families we serve, especially those from countries closed to the gospel.



## 16 Every Day Is Christmas

Holiday celebrations are an added challenge for single parents and cash strapped families. For ten years EDIC has come alongside 40-50 families in need. Volunteer teams decorate and deliver Thanksgiving food baskets. They also bless parents by operating a low cost Christmas toy store.

EDIC participated in the 2015 ESOL Christmas party at South Lake Elementary School where someone said, “Thank you for the incredible impact you had on our families. Faces beamed when parents heard that toys, immigration lawyers, and Montgomery College assistance would be offered.”

We are considering becoming a nonprofit organization. **Pray** that we would have wisdom and a clear sense of direction for the future. **Pray** that more doors will open in the future.



## 17 Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)

Over 100 volunteers serve 1000 coaches and students in Montgomery County Public Schools:

- The Coaches Ministry focuses on ministering to the heart of the coach first and then through the coach to the athletes.
- The Campus Ministry is initiated and led by student-athletes. It is sponsored by coaches and supported by staff.
- An FCA Camp is an event that uses an annual theme and scripture for athletes and coaches to develop athletic skills, create influential relationships, and encounter Jesus Christ.

Through the increased number of character coaches in MCPS we are seeing kids who have no awareness of the gospel be open to hearing about Jesus Christ at outreach events, huddles, and camps.

A Northwest High School summer cross country coach invited seven of

his players to an Endurance Camp. One of the runners shared that it was the best week of his summer. One month later, they started a FCA huddle at Northwest HS.

Matthew McCabe enthused, “The FCA Character Coach position at Seneca Valley High School has given me an opportunity to invest in the character formation of local young men.”

### Pray for:

- More staff for the Montgomery County FCA Team.
- Ministry wisdom and boldness in ministering to coaches and sharing the gospel.
- God to use the 2016 camp season to encourage Christians in their faith and to draw student-athletes to Him for the first time.

## 18 Youth for Christ

38 volunteers and four paid staff serve about one hundred and 55 unchurched students at three local middle schools. The ministry also offers a week long summer camp which was attended by over 140 students where many experienced Jesus for the first time.

The Campus Life ministry at Neelsville MS has grown to over 30 students because of the freedom granted team members to visit at lunch time. At the beginning of the school year a forlorn student was greeted, befriended, and cheered by a team member. Now the young man always smiles and waves at his new friend.

### Student Testimonies:

“At first I was hesitant because I have never been very religious. The thought of talking about God for an hour every week frazzled me. As time progressed, I grew to love it. Now my

relationship with God is inspiring. He is always there for me and I know He will always love me. Both He and my leaders are my role models and I am more optimistic because of them.”  
High School Teen

“I go through clinical depression and suicidal thoughts; Campus Life is my safe place.” High School Teen

“Camp made me realize the love that God has for us and how much better it is to live for Jesus than it is to block Him out.” - Middle School Teen

### Pray:

- More people would volunteer and financially support the ministry.
- That the Neelsville ministry would experience growth and grace.
- That the chapter will grow and change to increase the impact on teens for God’s glory.



## 19 CLC Basketball Outreach

This outreach occurs weekly in the church gym. It is led by two volunteers who meet with 40+ unchurched young men. During the evening a short message is presented which has led to a monthly Bible study. A sense of community is being built as guys come to see one another even if they don't plan on playing that night.

One young man said, "Basketball on Thursdays saves lives. Saved mine. I did shameful things leading up to basketball. And even at first when I went. Somewhere during one of those 10 minute talks on that one week God spoke volumes. He knew I wouldn't

wake up Sunday mornings. So every Thursday I went. It wasn't just basketball anymore." Another guy said, "I have changed so much and enjoy the halftime talks. It feels good hearing from the Word and building relationships with the other guys. I got back into church just from coming to the gym."

**Pray** that God would inspire us with vision for 2016, continue to bring the spiritually dead to life, and would deepen our spiritual conversations with the participants.

