

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

ANNUAL YEAR IN REVIEW & CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

PO BOX 959 CHESTERTOWN MD 21620

DECEMBER 2017, ISSUE 10



GRATITUDE & NEW INITIATIVES

Christmas is a time to be grateful and reflect on the good things in the past year. Thank you for your prayers, giving and service. We are humbled at the Lord's work. Look what He has done through you, through us in these 10 years! Each year we keep growing and helping more people – binding wounds of the heart, feeding hungry tummies and hungry souls, giving education, business skills, empowering indigenous leadership and giving hope. Thank you for being a part of that. Please enjoy reading the stories and testimonies below of the people your loved ones have helped this year! – *Melissa Stuebing, President*

IN THIS ISSUE

India: Child Sponsorship	pg 1
Missionary Updates	pg 2
Zambia: Fashion as Mission	pg 2
Zambia & US Interns	pg 3
Expressive Arts Therapy	pg 3-4
India Mobile Schools in Slums	pg 4

ZAMBIAN ASSOCIATION OF CHILD CARE WORKERS

We sent missionary Jason Stansbury as well as indigenous staff Josphat Phiri, Chingaipe Zulu and Chipu Pepe Nambeye to a 4 week training for Zambian Association of Child Care Workers. Thank you donors!



THE GIFT OF SPONSORSHIP

Christianity Today did a research project which found that child sponsorship is one of the most effective ways to change a child's life for the better. We can attest that to be true. In 2015, our board of directors went to India and spent time with the children in our sponsorship program. Most of these children were living on the streets by Tenali Railway Station, some homeless, some abandoned, some with families who love them but are struggling in poverty. Now these children are in

school, fed and cared for.

We have only 5 children remaining to be sponsored for \$25 a month each. Meet your child here – www.CoLaborers.com/child-sponsorship

See a video on our child sponsorship program at www.youtube.com/user/CoLaborersIntl

"Thanks to CoLaborers. I finally have a daughter! Sponsoring a child has been such a blessing. I love getting letters from her & seeing pictures of her & watching her grow... She's already grown so much this year! It's such a blessing to be part of such a life changing organization" – Katie, child sponsor



www.CoLaborers.com

MISSIONARY MIKE PEGK



Mike answered the call to service at 70 years old as a retired drug and alcohol counselor. He joined us in Zambia, working alongside local leaders at Chisomo Centers to help homeless youth and

children struggling with substance use. He served February – April 2017. Mike became known around Lusaka as “Mr. Happy”. In addition to providing mental wellness activities, he helped with education, bible study and took kids to church with him on Sundays.

So many of us think that if we haven't done something by a certain age in our life, that we will never do it. We give up on our dreams and our callings by way of busyness, responsibility or hardship. Be encouraged through Mike's example that it is never too late to live your dreams, to stretch yourself further than you thought to help someone else, and to answer God's call on your life.



MISSIONARY JASON STANSBURY



Jason completed his 3rd year with us in Zambia. Jason has served as the drop-in center coordinator at Chisomo, overseeing local

and intl volunteers, local programs (education, bible studies, recreation, hygiene and health, mental wellness groups and outreaches) and everything else that comes with the day-in and day-out of working with street children and youth. Jason modelled 2 Thessalonians 2:8 “so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.” His work fostered hope and will forever impact the future of the boys he has poured into, as well as the interns and volunteers he trained. Service was not without its challenges this year. It is not all mountain tops, there are times in the valley as well. We need to be real to recognize the burnout that can come with serving on God's front lines and when it is important to take a step back to renew ourselves spiritually, mentally, emotionally and take a season of rest. Thank you to all Jason's supporters and prayer partners. He is now back in the US for sabbatical but is still a collaborator and plans to return to Zambia in future years.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR ZAMBIAN WOMEN: *Fashion as Mission*

Tori Neales returned to Zambia this year for another professional training for the women of the Mothers' Programme and the older street youth. This time, joined by her daughter Bailey and by 2 fashion students from Liberty, Sarah Blanke and Katelyn Verbeke. Tori, Bailey, Sarah and Katelyn worked with Josephine, local leader of the Mothers' Programme, to teach an advanced skills sewing workshop to the 60 women in the programme. Women learned how to make stuffed animals, dresses, hand bags, necklaces and shirts to sell at the local market in Lusaka as well as in our online store –

www.etsy.com/shop/CoLaborersIntl

“Getting the chance through CoLaborers to teach and learn from the women in the Mothers' Programme at Chisomo Centers taught me more about the Lord's heart for His people - all of His people and the various ways in which they worship Him and rejoice in His name.” - Sarah Blanke



Skills Training and Mentoring for Older Zambian Street Youth

Bob Neales returned to Zambia to do another skills training with older street boys and repaired Chisomo's facilities. He and local leader Josphat worked with the boys to build a very large wall in the kitchen as well as paint inside and outside the overnight shelter and drop-in center. They built 2' x 3' shelving for the boys to store their clothes and shoes. They built a basketball backboard for both locations. Bob also did mentoring by teaching the boys some basic boxing techniques. He brought boxing gloves, jump ropes and bought a punching bag for the boys.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Semester: Zambia

We began a new venture this year by sending John Holley (Liberty) and Jess Jasitt (Fuller) to Lusaka as our first ever semester-long interns. John served from February to June in youth ministry and psychology, and Jess from July to September in youth ministry and education.



"I learned a great deal about what it meant to work overseas for a long period of time; I learned more about myself and about God in this internship and am more prepared for life."- John Holley

July: Zambia

We sent 3 interns to Chisomo Centers for the month of July. Andrea Rodriguez served in the capacity of youth ministry and psychology, Shannon Hemmer in psychology, and Ellen Lipford in social work. They taught our "Literacy-Free 12 Step Expressive Arts Therapy" drug and alcohol curriculum, went on outreaches, and assisted in various other day-to-day activities.



"This experience was life-changing. I will never forget the amazing people I was blessed in meeting. I'm so thankful to have learned more things than I ever expected possible." – Shannon Hemmer

Semester: US

Shannon Hemmer (Liberty) stayed on as a US intern for the fall semester as a nonprofit marketing intern. She and board secretary Rachel West made an inventory of the products made by Chisomo Center's Mothers Programme, readied them for sale on Etsy, made a promotional video using footage from the Neales and launched the store on Black Friday. You can check it out at www.etsy.com/shop/CoLaborersIntl

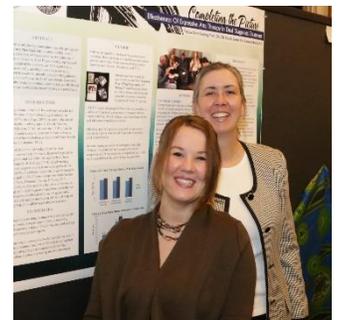
Erin Kondak (Patrick Henry College) interned in the US for the spring semester as a financial planning and data analysis intern. She analyzed data from missionary Ally Olkowski Arnold's longitudinal study of the use of "Literacy-Free 12 Step Expressive Arts Therapy" curriculum with the street youth and children at Chisomo Centers in 2016. She also assisted in the research, contacts and budgeting for a grant we applied for to provide training in this curriculum to organizations across Zambia next year.

LITERACY-FREE 12 STEP EXPRESSIVE ARTS THERAPY

The "Literacy-Free 12 Step Expressive Arts Therapy" curriculum was written by Melissa Stuebing, MA, CAC-AD and edited by Lauren Littlefield, PhD in 2015. Since then we have done 4 IRB approved clinical studies.

US

The US clinical study of this particular curriculum was presented at Eastern Psychological Association's Annual Conference this year and is in the submission process to a peer reviewed scientific journal. It was authored by Melissa, Hjordis Lorenz and Lauren. Self-report results revealed statistically significant positive increases in commitment to recovery, attitude towards making lifestyle changes, and hopefulness in the 47 participants. Compared to the Maryland inpatient facility's total population, retention rate and likelihood of success was much greater for expressive arts participants.



Zambia

Missionary Ally Olkowski Arnold did a longitudinal study of this curriculum in Zambia last year. Paired samples found increased hopefulness in lessons on spirituality, self-care and forgiveness. Lessons found to instill hope were the same rated highest for enjoyment.



Rotary Global Grant

Last year Rotary Intl gave a district grant to purchase sewing machines for the women in the Mothers' Programme. This year, the Chestertown Rotary Club has applied for a global grant to provide the "Literacy-free 12 Step Expressive Arts Therapy" curriculum and training to nonprofits in Zambia, Central Africa who are reaching or hope to reach street youth and young adults with drug and alcohol addiction. We have over 25 organizations across Zambia signed up so far and trainings would take place in Ndola and Lusaka in June 2018 if approved. Please pray that it is!

Reminder – Giving statements will be mailed out Jan 31. Please send in your tax deductible giving using the enclosed envelope. Make checks out to "CoLaborers International" and indicate ministry area on memo. Mail to PO Box 959 Chestertown MD 21620 or give online at www.CoLaborers.com/donate

Special thank you to The First Presbyterian Church of Pottstown, PA for their generous grant to the At-Risk Zambian Youth Scholarship Program this year!

INDIA: MOBILE SCHOOLS IN THE SLUMS

We need education majors!

When we were in India we were touched by the vast populations of children, parents and grandparents living in slum areas without education. We felt led with local leaders to launch a mobile school.

July 20-Aug 4 we will be sending teacher *Sarah Pinard* as a team leader and education students to help launch a mobile school in the slums of Tenali alongside Indian teachers and education students. This mobile school would offer math, literacy and bible study. Americans would focus on math and Indians would focus on Telegu (local language) literacy. At the end of each week would be a bible study and recreation time. This would help us lay out the ground work for more long term initiatives in education in India.

Email -

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JULY 20- AUG 4 2018

India

MOBILE SCHOOL

PROVIDE INTERACTIVE LESSONS IN MATH AND LITERACY WITH A TEAM ALONGSIDE INDIAN TEACHERS TO CHILDREN IN SLUM AREAS SURROUNDING TENALI, AP INDIA.

This is a new initiative!

MELISSA@COLABORERSINTERNATIONAL.COM

