

# 2019 ANNUAL YEAR IN REVIEW

PO BOX 959 CHESTERTOWN MD 21620

January 2020, ISSUE 12



Entering 2020, we reflect on all God has done and recall Mary's song from Luke. *"He has performed mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who are proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones, but has exalted the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things, but has sent the rich away empty."* This has been a year of continued service in the US, Zambia, and India and also of preparation for things to come there and in Costa Rica. God has been showing us anew what it means to be colababorers with Him as hard things are redeemed into good things, miracles are worked in times of delay, and we connect us to others in the global body of Christ to do His work His way. As we like to say - you can't serve God, without God!

## COSTA RICA

Brittany & Frank's story began years before meeting. She was an intern with CoLaborers working with street children in Zambia starting in 2015, and continued serving stateside afterwards directing our international internship program and later our child



sponsorship program. Frank served in Ecuador through his church, Hope Fellowship, and also directed their children's ministry. Together, God was preparing them for the mission field to work with at-risk children long term. They were accepted to the Spanish Language Institute for the May 2020 term and will be moving to Costa Rica on CoLaborers' 13th birthday, April 25th, to settle in before school begins May 4th. In the afternoons they will be out in the community of San Jose, practicing language skills and serving the Costa Ricans (Ticos). The goal is to work alongside a few local, indigenous ministries serving at-risk children during their year of schooling. Then we will all pray together as God reveals which ministry to commit to colababorer alongside after they graduate in 2021. They have raised roughly 30% of their monthly support, so anything you can contribute would be appreciated. Please support their family at [www.CoLaborers.com/Hynsons](http://www.CoLaborers.com/Hynsons)

## ZAMBIA

**Drug & Alcohol:** In 2018, we trained 36 organizations in our "Literacy-Free 12 Step Expressive Arts Therapy" curriculum with the endorsement of Zambia's Ministry of Health. 25 participated in a 10 month follow up study which ended this spring. Results showed that participants significantly decreased their substance use of marijuana, alcohol, cigarettes and inhalants. Additionally, this significantly increased participants' open group sharing and personal motivation to change. *Special thanks to researchers Hjordis and Melissa.*

There's been growing interest since the training and follow up study. Our Zambian staff Nanyemba and Chipo facilitated a training November 2019 for 25 staff members at Operation Mobilization in Kabwe and are planning more trainings with local groups in the future. See [www.CoLaborers.com/Zambia](http://www.CoLaborers.com/Zambia)



**Drought Relief:** More than two million Zambians are facing severe food insecurity after drought and flooding reduced harvests. We reached out to donors and received enough funds to help 180 families so far! Nanyemba, Gomezani, Chipo and Angel distributed large bags of mealie meal in Monze, Choma, Mapanza and Macha. Mealie meal is



ground white cornmeal used to make nshima, a staple in the Zambian diet. About \$10- \$12 buys a bag per family. Please consider donating at [www.CoLaborers.com/Zambia](http://www.CoLaborers.com/Zambia)

**Child Scholarships:** We have continued to support child scholarships of street children placed in day school and boarding school by Chisomo Centers in Lusaka, Zambia.

## INDIA



**Zambia meets India:** We met Gibson last year in one of our trainings in Zambia. He was a math teacher and knew God was calling him to leave Zambia for the first time and serve with us in our mobile schools in India. "*God opened the door ... this is the greatest miracle in my life so far I have ever experienced.*" *Special thanks to The Worship Center community church for sponsoring him.*

**India Mobile Schools:** American, Indian and Zambian teachers and education volunteers came together to teach basic math, science and literacy in slums around Tenali, AP India without access to formal schools and education outside of these outreaches. Prior to serving, volunteers received cultural training and was also trained

in the "*Basics in Math, Literacy & Science*" curriculum by Sarah Pinard, BA, M.Ed. who pioneered the efforts last year. This curriculum was developed to be used in slum areas using simple, found objects as teaching materials. It is not meant to replace school, but it does provide foundational basics needed in areas without current access to formal education. Karuna Annavarapu was the lead literacy teacher, Shelly Holland was the team leader, Gibson Simwaka was the math teacher, Pastor John Annavarapu led bible studies and students Natasha, Susan and Sarah volunteered.

We will be sending another elementary education team late July - early August 2020 to India's slums. Apply online here - [www.CoLaborers.com/Hope-for-India](http://www.CoLaborers.com/Hope-for-India)

**Child Sponsorships:** In addition to bringing education to slum areas, we also sponsor children to school in areas with education access. We currently have 7 children, many of which are

siblings from tragic backgrounds, in desperate need of child sponsorship. Just \$25 monthly provides food, shelter, school uniforms, monthly doctor visits and medication. This includes a letter exchange so you can get to know your child - [www.CoLaborers.com/child-sponsorship](http://www.CoLaborers.com/child-sponsorship)



## USA

**Research:** A U.S. study authored by Melissa Stuebing, Hjordis Lorenz and Lauren Littlefield of the "*Literacy-Free 12 Step Expressive Arts Therapy*" curriculum was published in peer-reviewed scientific journal, Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly. Read here - [www.CoLaborers.com/expressivearts](http://www.CoLaborers.com/expressivearts) "*As a counselor, and just on a human level, it has been so meaningful seeing people strengthen personal investment in recovery, see new motivation, and believe again that change and healing are possible. Thank you to Alice Barkley and Andrew Pons for your support in this study.*"

**Interns:** Recognizing our US interns this year - Chris Reade (Messiah College) film, Arielle Jones (Messiah College) Psych Research & Alexis Desai (Washington College) Psychology.

**Board and Staff:** Special thanks to our tireless board members - Rachel, David, Shelly and Melissa. We currently have 2 US volunteer staff openings in marketing and special projects, please email [Melissa@CoLaborersInternational.com](mailto:Melissa@CoLaborersInternational.com) if interested.

## TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIVING!

Please make out checks to CoLaborers International, specify giving area "memo" & send in return envelope to PO Box 959 Chestertown MD 21620 OR give online - [CoLaborers.com/Donate](http://CoLaborers.com/Donate)

**Interested in serving** in India, Zambia, US, or booking a speaker? Email [Melissa@CoLaborersInternational.com](mailto:Melissa@CoLaborersInternational.com)

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