



2020 ANNUAL YEAR IN REVIEW

PO BOX 959 CHESTERTOWN MD 21620

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Prayer knows no borders. This has been a year of finding strength in surrendering to God's grace. Over and over, He has made dry land in the deep waters and a way in the wilderness. We have drawn even closer together as CoLaborers and as friends - grateful at what God does through the willing.

ZAMBIA



CoLaborers Zambia has applied to be a registered community development nonprofit! *Hooray!* CoLaborers Zambia is locally led by Nanyemba Chirwa (Program Director), Chipo Nambeye (Trainer), Angel Muka (Treasurer), Gomezgani Chirwa (Strategic Planning), and Kelvin Hamakando (Public Relations). Melissa and Shelly also serve through telecommuting. Two articles in the *Times of Zambia* newspaper have been published about our efforts already.



This year, we have been focused on **food relief**. More than 2 million Zambians face extreme hunger. Southern Province, previously Zambia's largest contributor to the food basket, was severely affected by drought during the 2018/2019 farming season - leading to total crop failure.

"The flood was in the area where I grew up, a rural area in the Southern Province of Zambia. For me to see people in my community not being able to have food – that really touched me. Some were even going for a week without eating anything" - Nanyemba

Northern and Luapula Provinces were devastated by flooding in the 2019/2020 farming season - leaving crops completely damaged, households displaced, and about 1.5 million people in need of food relief. In Southern, Northern and Eastern Provinces, CoLaborers Zambia has been providing mealie meal (corn meal), a staple food in the Zambian diet. CoLaborers.com/Zambia

"We all have something that other people need. It doesn't matter the kind of people you are living with in the community, whether they share the same faith with you, or they don't share the same faith with you, as long as they're human beings, they need help, you just need to reach out to them and help them out." - Angel

BECAUSE OF YOU, WE HAVE FED 685 FAMILIES SO FAR!



We are also continuing to support Chisomo Centers through educational scholarships for children of the street as well as through support for their women's economic empowerment program and their sewing projects.

COSTA RICA



"Our first 3 months in Costa Rica have gone by so quickly! Since arriving in October, Frank and I have been working hard in our Spanish classes, and have met a few friends within the pandemic rules. We have been blessed to find what we believe will be our church home here, God willing. We have felt so welcome there from the very beginning, and they preach the Truth of Jesus with such conviction and joy. The Lord is showing us how to be patient in His will for us here in San José, and to keep trusting Him regardless of circumstances.

We see here every day that the people of Costa Rica, while suffering through this pandemic like so many, are in general so kind and patient with us. The other day while walking through the park, we met a Costa

Rican family who also had a 2 year old little girl. While talking (socially distanced and in Spanish), Eden started playing with some of her toys, and was very sad to have to leave eventually. She was so excited to finally meet a friend after so much isolation. She was still crying by the time we were across the park, and all of a sudden we saw the little girl's older brother running to us with a ball Eden had been playing with. He



told us she wanted to give it to Eden, and then ran away again. It was such a kind gesture by people we may or may not meet again, and it brought so much joy to Eden. It is a simple story, but I feel like it shows the spirit of the people here.

As we head into our Christmas vacation from school, we feel it is our opportunity to meet some of the many ministries here working with homeless, abused, and orphaned children in this city. We have a few contacts and plan on sitting down to chat with them and see if Frank and I, and CoLaborers, will be able to serve alongside them to love and care for the forgotten children here. Please pray for us that God would bring us the right connections and make it very clear where and how He wants us to be His hands and feet." [CoLaborers.com/Hynsons](https://colaborers.com/hynsons)

Thank you to Andrea Rodriguez Soto for translating the Latin American culture version of "Literacy-Free 12 Step Expressive Arts Therapy" into Spanish to reach more people suffering from life-controlling addiction.



INDIA



India Mobile Schools: At the beginning of 2020, Karuna Annavarapu led local volunteers in continuing mobile schools in slums around Tenali, AP India without access to formal education. These schools offer basic math, science and literacy. We postponed sending our team of teachers to join in these efforts due to COVID-19 and hope to rejoin efforts when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, Pastor John and Karuna have been doing local COVID-19 relief for vulnerable people in the area.

Child Sponsorships: In addition to bringing education to slum areas, we also sponsor children to school. This year, we were able to secure partial university scholarships for 3 older youth who have now come through the program. Please pray for them as the Lord may use them as future leaders in their community.

Welcome to Katie Miller, our new Child Sponsorship Director.

YOU CAN HELP! We currently have 4 children 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 - [CoLaborers.com/child-sponsorship](https://colaborers.com/child-sponsorship)

GENERAL UPDATES



Research: Melissa Stuebing and Hjördis Lorenz continue research in "Literacy-Free 12 Step Expressive Arts Therapy", presenting scientific findings at Eastern Psychological Association's annual conference, writing up a manuscript on the Zambian studies (joined by authors Chipo Nambeye, and Gabriel Lungu), and working with a Kenyan CDC partner organization to

prepare a future study using the Kenyan version of the same curriculum. Online trainings in the US are also now occurring and endorsed for continuing education by MD Board of Professional Counselors & Therapists.

Interns: Recognizing our US interns this year - Gabrielle Oldham (Psychology intern from Liberty University) and Daniel Sison (Film intern from Messiah College).

Board and Staff: Katie Miller joined us this year as our Child Sponsorship Director and [Sarah Pinard joined us on our board of directors](#). Both have a history of serving in various capacities. We currently have more staff openings, please email Melissa@CoLaborersInternational.com if you are interested in serving.



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