

HOPE IN THE HARVEST

Annual Report – 2018 | An In-Depth
Review of the Year



Vision:

Generating Christ-centered economic growth

Mission:

Our mission is to seek to cultivate Christ's hope in underdeveloped and impoverished areas of the world through agricultural and personal transformation. Building on borrowed talent, we seek to impact attitudes and practices that will promote the economic and social well-being of individuals, from a conviction that a changed life results from a Christ-changed heart.

A Message from the Board President

Friends and Family of HITH,

We have great HOPE! That is the message that I would like to bring to you all this new year of 2019. Every day we are showered with negative, bad, hateful news from all around the world. We see tragedy, loss and despicable acts at every turn, yet I stand today and declare we have great Hope! Why I share that good news is because of the Good News of Jesus. Paul tells us that even when we are perplexed by all the terrible things around us do not be overwhelmed, our hope is not of or in this world.

This is why, we at Hope in the Harvest, believe in planting the seed of Hope daily in the lives of others especially in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Liberia. We are called by this great Hope of Jesus to not only bring education in agriculture but also to share the love of Jesus to all people. We are so blessed to have dedicated missionaries in the Sebald's and Glenn's. Bill, Holly, Nathan and Anna continue to work with our staff and partners to encourage, educate and engage a community that has seen the hardships of war, famine political unrest and so many obstacles that are by products of the flesh.

The only Hope for Liberia, the United States and the rest of the world for that matter, is Jesus. This is the first and foremost priority of Hope in the Harvest to bring Hope to everyone we meet. The greatest way to combat loneliness is to share the Hope that you are not alone. The only way to combat poverty is to bring the Hope that you can become self-reliant and create a different future for yourself and your family. This is why we must stay diligent and keep our eyes on the prize of planting, watering and harvesting Hope in the lives of those considered hopeless!

We have great Hope in 2019 because of Jesus. Please join us in prayer and if possible, with your financial support in sharing the awesome Hope we have in Christ! Please continue to pray for our on the ground missionaries the Sebald's and Glenn's. They are truly making a huge difference in the lives of many by sharing and shining the Hope we have in Jesus. May your 2019 be filled with the great Hope we have because of what God has done. Fix your eyes on the prize in Christ Jesus!

Shan Sheridan
Chairman of the Board
Hope In The Harvest, Missions International

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The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land . Deuteronomy 28L8

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Thank you to our staff, board, and all our partners!

Photos by: Anna Glenn & Edwin Remsberg

Farming God's Way



This past summer, the missionary team was once again trained in Farming God's Way at Lamb's Farm, Lebanon, Indiana, by Grant Dryden from South Africa. Over the past year Pastor Bill Sebald, who has a passion for teaching the Bible, and works as our main FGW leader in Liberia, has enjoyed the opportunity to share God's Word and the gospel of Jesus Christ freely.

Farming God's Way is founded in 3 different areas: biblical, management, and technology. The technological principles of FGW are strange to the culture and practices of Liberia. A typical practice of agriculture here is referred to as "slash and burn" which is where they prepare the fields by cutting down brush and then lighting the whole field on fire. Through FGW this practice is replaced by slash and mulch. Management keys of on time, high standards and minimal waste are new concepts that can not be overstated in a culture that does not naturally value these concepts that are nonetheless critical for development in any sector and in any country. Each time we offer FGW trainings, we always make sure that entire session is devoted to "what is in your hand" to help overcome participants realize all that God has already given them and to help overcome the beggar mentality, which has been enforced through years of hands outs from international agencies.

In 2018, pastor Bill, together with various Liberian staff have visited various towns and villages, as well as hosting training workshops at the ARC. The list of outreach workshops and participants for 2018 includes:

- Buonplay (34)
- Careysburg at Wullki Farms (12)
- Waitias (22)
- Bethel International Ministries (42)
- Gbarnga (29)
- Karnplay (27)
- Vonzua (75)
- Near the Forest (115)
- Inland Youth conference (150+)
- On site training included the Evangelical Church of Liberia (11)
- Bethel International Ministries (32)
- The United Liberian Inland Sunday School department (34)

In addition to these trainings, there is a FGW class that is required for all LICC Agriculture freshmen (23) in which they take an entire semester to go through the principles in depth and are each responsible for then creating and maintaining their own FGW demonstration plot. There are also various small groups receiving instruction for an introduction to this tool given freely as a gift to the God's people and for God's glory.

Vonzua

Hope in the Harvest Missions International was blessed to see how Farming God's Way can be used as a tool for outreach as well. Vonzua, Capemount, is a predominantly Muslim area of Liberia. At least 7 Muslims attended the workshop and commented on how much they appreciated and enjoyed hearing the Bible stories. One man, told our field technician Michael, "At the mosque, they tell us that Jesus is a prophet, but we don't know what that means. This is the first time I heard that Jesus came to be my Savior!"



Biblical Principles:

1. Acknowledge God and God alone
2. Consider Your Ways
3. Understanding God's All Sufficiency
4. What You Sow You Will Reap
5. Bring the Tithes and Offerings to God
6. Stake Your Claim

Management Principles:

1. On Time
2. High Standards
3. Minimal Wastage
4. With the Fruit of the Holy Spirit

Technology Principles:

1. No Plowing
2. 100% Mulching
3. Practice Rotations



PROFITABLE AGRICULTURE

Demonstrating profitable agriculture at the ARC

The ARC staff and missionaries continued their drive towards developing Liberia's agriculture industry through research and demonstration. The agriculture industry is weak and undeveloped, but even in the midst of the difficult environment agriculture is a low hanging fruit. Profitable business opportunities are available, but there is need for someone to go in front and be the leader of an entrepreneurship revolution. At the ARC, 2018 was all about doing the kind of hard work research in order to demonstrate profitability in agriculture.

Why profitability in agriculture? Why is demonstrating agriculture not enough? Over the past few years of demonstrating agriculture in Liberia, we've talked with a lot of farmers and the thing that continues to shock us the most is that these farmers, though passionate and excited about what they do, have no idea whether or not they are making money with their farms. As we dig deeper into the details of the numbers we actually discover that many of them are actually LOSING money! The economy in Liberia is so broken, but that doesn't mean it's not possible to make money in farming, it just means that we have to be more strategic, more intentional, more creative, more organized, and more discerning. Farmers are losing money because they are doing what everyone else around them is doing, forcing out big money for inputs and then selling at rock-bottom prices- but there are other ways! Here at the ARC this past year, we have been very intentional about not only demonstrating agriculture, but also demonstrating it in such a way that will be able to show the average farmer solutions for how to think outside the box and increase their profits.

Two of the areas we have focused on include: poultry and swine production.

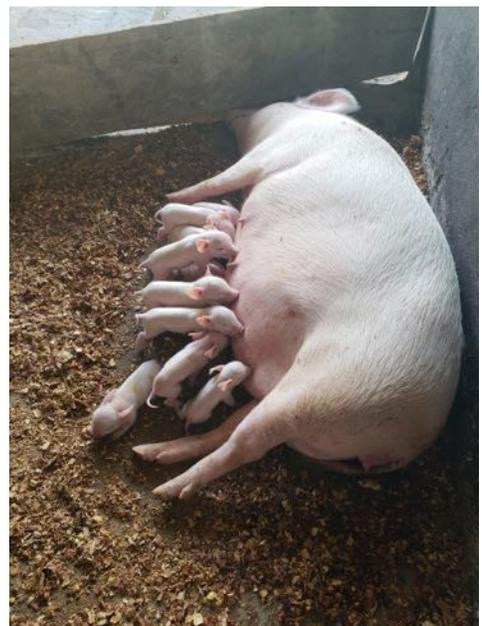
The new chicken hut facility was built in early 2018 as a part of undertaking the egg production project and broiler production project. The egg production project quickly became the number one focus because eggs are more easily marketed and sold at a profitable price in Liberia. Commercial poultry production is nonexistent in Liberia. All of the eggs sold in country are imported from the Ukraine or India. The overarching vision of the egg production project at the ARC is to develop egg value chains so that cash for eggs stay in the country and jobs are created for Liberians. For the broiler project we produced, marketed, and sold almost 200 broiler chickens to the local market and ARC visitors. Currently there are 100 hens laying about 80 eggs per day which, because of the difficulties of finding quality feed for a good price, is something to be celebrated. The most important aspect of these projects is the knowledge and experienced gained, and the process of

investigating all parts of the business. One conclusion made so far is that it is currently possible to break even in egg production, but more opportunities for improvement are out there to be had. The ARC missionaries and staff are excited about the discoveries and developments made so far and hold an optimistic outlook on the future of egg production in Liberia.

Also in 2018 the piggery was finally filled with pigs and added on to so that it now has the capability to grow multiple litters to market size. Pigs are commercially produced more than any other livestock species in Liberia, but, again, the market conditions are difficult. The ARC staff knows that pig production in Liberia is not going to be easy, but in order for things to improve somebody needs to step out in front. In January 2018 the first 4 pigs were bought and by the end of January 2018 there has been 4 litters born and there are over 20 pigs on the farm. The pigs at the LICC ARC are the best looking pigs in Liberia. Relative to the other pigs on the market, the ARC pigs are well-muscled and fat. Investigations are being done on higher quality feed at a profitable price; various markets and their requirements on the producer; and pork processing techniques. The ARC staff is hopeful to see LICC bacon on the Monrovia supermarket shelves in 2019.

As the ARC continues to shift its focus to profitable agriculture, there are many ideas for more research and demonstration projects in 2019. In order to open up possibilities for livestock value chains the ARC is seeking to investigate profitable livestock feed production. The vision is to produce, market, and sell quality poultry feed at a price that allows for egg production to be profitable. Once the cost of feed is adequately decreased, the ARC will seek to teach and help others develop profitable egg production businesses around Liberia. The development of a chicken egg value chain will create jobs and keep Liberian money in Liberia where it should be. In addition, the ARC's field team will continue to focus on profitable grain and vegetable production using Farming God's Way.

The marketing and sale of ARC crops will continue to be developed. The vision is to operate our own market on campus that will serve the LICC community and its surroundings. Despite the suffocating challenges of the Liberian economy, the ARC is moving forward and we pray for God's guidance along the way.



Photos from our profitability studies:
swine, poultry, vegetables, food processing.

Liberian Chocolate

A Sweet Experiment in Profitability

their own people. There is a huge opportunity for Liberia to do the same, although it does not come without its challenges....one of the biggest being that it is difficult to find high-quality beans in Liberia.

Would you please be in prayer with us as we see where God is leading us next? We have students and staff who are excited and passionate about this project and willing to be a part of it as it grows and we thank God for them and continue to ask for his discernment as it relates to this exciting project.

This past year, the ARC started out on a new adventure- Liberian-made chocolate- motivated in part by our desire to research and demonstrate profitable agriculture but also by the passion and excitement of our staff who continue to push us forward and support us in this endeavor.

What started out as just a small experiment in the senior Food Processing and Preservation class with 8 students has now turned into a small-scale business that is providing income and training for our LICC agriculture student workers producing the chocolate, income and training for our LICC Women and Girls Institute who are sewing the chocolate packaging, and fair prices and training for local cocoa farmers.

We are hoping and praying that this business continues to grow for the sake of the agricultural industry in Liberia and also for the sake of our mission in Liberia. Liberia is a place with rich and fertile soil and therefore is a place with so much potential, and yet because of the war and so many other factors, Liberia continues to be behind in development. Meanwhile, West Africa is the cocoa capital of the world and 70% of the world's cocoa comes from this small region of Africa. Liberia's neighboring countries, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, and Ghana are in the list of top 10 producers in the world and yet Liberia falls nowhere on the list, despite the fact that they have been growing cocoa for decades much like their neighbors.

Liberia exports at least 10,000 tons of cocoa each year and yet at the same time imports thousands of dollars worth of cocoa products because of right now there is no commercial processing of cocoa beans within the country. Liberia instead exports raw cocoa beans for a low price and then imports cocoa products at a high price, meaning that they are missing out on the income that comes from adding value to their own beans. Again, neighboring countries such as Ghana and Ivory Coast have already started doing this and in doing so are keeping more of the value of their agricultural products inside their country, in the hands of



Student Joshua Zemah pours chocolate



Students stand over the wrapped chocolate before it goes out for delivery

Dark Chocolate Coconut Squares

EDUCATION AT THE ARC

By Anna Glenn

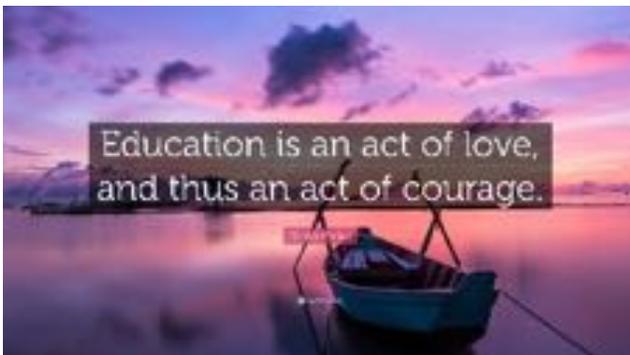
Education in Liberia has been something that has made my heart twist and hurt from the moment I stepped foot into my own classroom at a public high school here in Liberia. Some of the things I heard about and even witnessed myself made me often want to lose hope in the future of Liberia. I saw teachers taking bribes for tests (both physical and monetary); I saw school being closed at least once or twice a week for holidays or football games; I saw students in 11th grade who didn't know how to read; I saw students getting beat with switches; I saw 95% of my class cheat on my first test and act like I was the crazy one for not allowing it; I saw teachers who couldn't spell and then passed that onto their students; I saw schools without libraries and I saw schools with libraries that no one was allowed to enter; I heard about corruption on the national exams and I saw copies of the national exams that made me realize why everyone had to bribe their way out of it in order to pass; I had students tell me they wanted to be teachers one day...just so they could be the one with power; I saw students who could memorize pages of notes but couldn't explain what any of it meant; I saw children selling in the streets because they didn't have money for school; I saw the ratio of boys to girls in my classes and realized what the girls were up against if they wanted an education; and I saw teachers who just failed to show up to class some days just because. As an educator, the situation grieved me immensely and I often found it difficult to see past all the difficulties and hurdles that were facing these young students.

However, there were always beacons of light and this past semester, when I had the opportunity to teach an Agriculture Education class at LICC was one of those times. In the very beginning of class, I printed out a ton of inspirational quotes regarding education and asked my students to analyze and reflect on them and tell them what each of the quotes meant to them and their roles as potential future teachers. This was one of the responses I got and it made my heart melt:

"Let me take us back to Paulo Freire, who says that 'education is an act of love and thus an act of courage.' Education is an act of love in the sense that it is an pathway for an individual to live a better life and know their importance in the society in which they live. Based on this, if a person does not love you he/she will not give you a bright light to the world around them. Serving as a classroom teacher before, my thinking was not about love or courage, but only to make money. Now that I know education is about love and courage, I have the desire to help teach my friends and family with the motive of love and courage."

This response surprised me and made me smile because very rarely do I hear people talk about education in this light. Lucky for me, the rest of the semester continued along the same path and I saw my hope for Liberia and the education system continuing to grow as I looked into the faces of each of my students who might one day themselves be teachers. At the end of the year I was sitting around on the steps talking with a couple of my students (both of whom who had worked as teachers before or were working as teachers now) and they just kept going on and on about how much this class meant to them and how every single person in Liberia needed to take this class so that they could understand the TRUE meaning of education and the power it has to change a nation. They told me how their perspectives had been challenged and their minds opened up and a fire lit within them. One of them even told me, that I should visit the elementary school he was teaching at and interview his students--- "They will tell you I am no longer the same harsh man! They will tell you how much we all enjoy learning now with all these new teaching techniques that I've learned to use in my classroom." Again, my heart melted and swelled with HOPE...

I am so proud of the students I had in my class last semester and I love their hearts. I am so excited for all that they will do for not only their own generation but for the one after them. The future of Liberia is in good hands with these future teachers. Thank you for believing in this ministry, this work, these students, and this country. God is truly shaping and molding hearts to better serve His Kingdom here on Earth!



Students teaching their final lessons



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

GLOBAL CLASSROOM

New partnership with University of Maryland

Over the past year, the Agriculture Department at LICC and the Agricultural College at University of Maryland (UMD) have been working on developing a unique partnership through an initiative called Global Classroom. Through this initiative students at UMD are paired with students at universities in developing countries and together these students will take a class online where they discuss trends, challenges, and opportunities for farmers worldwide. For their final project, students were tasked with the goal of implementing some type of creative solution to encourage and help farmers, specifically here in Liberia. In March 2018, 6 UMD students and 2 UMD staff came to Liberia for 1 week and worked with 10 LICC students and our staff in putting together a series of agricultural trainings for local farmers. It was such a unique opportunity for all the students involved and a great opportunity for cross-cultural collaboration. This partnership will continue for at least 3 more years thanks to a small grant that was won to help pilot this program.



Agriculture Day 2018

This year the Agriculture Department hosted their first Annual Agriculture Day on campus! The students organized this day as a way to show off their work here in the department, increase the public's awareness about Liberia International Christian College, specifically the ARC, and also to educate people about and encourage people to pursue careers in agriculture. The students conducted tours all throughout the farm for hundreds of guests, they organized a ceremony celebrating agriculture and even wrote their own song for the program, and they sold many of the agricultural products that they had either grown or preserved as a way to raise money and awareness. Overall it was an exciting day and we look forward to all the years to come!



AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

Some major accomplishments from this past year include:

- Hired **3** more agriculture teachers for the BSC program
- **12** FGW Workshops in local villages
- Built a new poultry barn aimed at demonstrating profitability in the poultry industry. Raised and sold approximately **150** meat birds and are now managing **96** layer birds whose eggs are sold in the market daily
- Purchased 4 pigs, worked on breeding pigs and expanding the piggery to double the size-- now have **38** pigs
- Hosted our **first** annual LICC Agriculture Day- welcomed **200+** people to campus
- Started a food processing business on campus with student motivation- producing chocolate, ginger candy, cookies, and jams/jellies.
- Conducted training with local farmers cooperative- RSADI and trained **46** farmers.
- Hosted trainings with UMD and LICC students for farmers in **3** local villages
- Started a ROOTS club- a student-led organization aimed at supporting and encouraging youth in agriculture

Experimented with more natural methods of pest control (such as neem leaves and oils)

- Saw success with greenhouse grown tomatoes
- Planted and worked on a demonstration farm in a nearby village of Waitias
- New record keeping system implemented at the ARC to help keep track of animal/harvest weights, feeding, diseases, etc
- New financial management system implemented and mid-management staff trained in accounting and financial record keeping as it relates to the ARC
- Tattooed **41** rabbits
- Ear-tagged **29** goats



PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

Some major accomplishments in the area of personal transformation include:

- **22** sponsored students (6 college, 3 high school, 3 elementary)
 - over 70 students enrolled in LICC agriculture department Bachelor's Degree Program
 - Assisted with helping **1** agriculture staff member start their Masters Degree Program in Israel
 - Taught at a professional development for **24** LICC teachers/staff on concepts of good lesson planning
 - Taught **2** teacher trainings in Gbhan and Gbarnga and trained **15** teachers
 - Hosted a missionary who did a literacy teacher training with LICC students and local teachers
 - HITH missionaries taught **9** agriculture courses at LICC
 - LICC graduated **2** students in agriculture with Associates Degrees
 - Speaking engagements at dozens of churches and/or church conferences.
 - Held 3rd Annual Spiritual Warfare Conference at LICC with **100+** attendees
 - Held 1st Spiritual Warfare Conference in Monrovia with **100+** attendees
 - Hosted 4th Isoko Leadership Institute- had **15** attendees
 - Hosted a team of **3** missionaries from Kenya
 - Hosted a three teams with **10** total short-term missionaries associated with ULICAF
 - Morning devotions at the ARC reading through the books of Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Song of Solomons, Genesis, Matthew. Hosea.
 - Weekly bible study and sermon preparation with **5-10** ULIC pastors
 - Attended and spoke at the ULIC Men's Conference with **200+** men
 - Welcomed the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) District Officer to the ARC for tours and ground-breaking ceremony
 - Welcomed guests from local and international government, NGOs, and private industries.
- HITH missionaries mentored 36 students throughout the 2nd semester during faculty student bible studies
 - Ministering with the LICC Women's Group while helping to teach life skills- approximately **10-15** women
 - Hosted **2** Christian Movie nights for staff and their families, over **40** people in attendance each time
 - Implemented and hosted about **20** "Wisdom Wednesdays"- a time of professional development for all our staff and a time to talk about visioning and goal-setting for the ARC and individual farms/businesses
 - Welcomed about **20** class field trips and conducted **dozens of tours** on campus throughout the year
 - Attended the 3rd annual NGO Networking fair and met with other people interested in learning about our ministry
 - Welcomed **4** interns from the US to the ARC who worked on projects all over the farm and in the communities



HITH: What is something that you would say to someone considering an internship with HITH?

Micah Murphy: Initially, I was nervous about what I would be required to do upon arrival. My mindset was to humble myself and learn whatever I could from the bottom up in the field. It paid dividends in my experience and I would highly recommend it to anyone who would want to do an internship.

"Marriage & Family"



It is so incredibly difficult for a child in school to learn if they do not have a stable and nurturing home environment. It is no different for workers when it comes to being productive at work. The home and family unit affect *everything* in society. Homes and marriages in Liberia are broken. The war in Liberia tore apart so many homes and left children with a single parent or no parent at all. Because of the culture here, men have multiple wives/girlfriends and many children, too many to possibly provide for reasonably. Because of the poor economy, parents are forced to run in different directions and sometimes live far apart from each other just to try and make some money. Marriages frequently end in divorce just like anywhere else in the world. Spiritually, the families and people in them are malnourished. In keeping with the mission not just to improve agriculture, but to transform lives, the missionary team of Hope in the Harvest, has focused on being as intentional as possible to minister to our staff of 20 and their families during this past year.

Everyday begins with a ½ hour morning devotion beginning at 7:45am. So far, the team has read and discussed Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Hosea, Joel, and various Old Testament prophecies and New Testament fulfillment. They read a portion of Scripture and discuss it to make sure everyone understands what it says. Everyone is invited to contribute as well as sharing prayer requests. Recently, they have also been following the story of Joseph throughout Genesis and analyzing the stories through the lens of marriage/family. They also have had family nights showing Christian movies on marriage and family. Interpersonal conflict is a common occurrence in any environment. The ministry of Hope in the Harvest in Liberia is no exception. Using the biblical principles that are taught and learned, those in conflict are reconciled with God and with each other. The ARC staff considers this ministry highly valuable for their lives, both now and eternally. We pray for God to continue to bless our staff and their families so that their lives and love for each other would be a true representation and tangible display of Christ's love for each other.

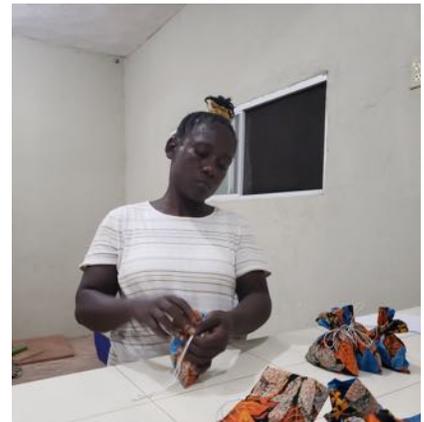
LICC Women

The year was an especially hard year for all of LICC but for the Women's group especially. Eleanor Kiamu the founder and driving force of the group had a stroke in January. Suddenly there was no one leading and they could not go forward. Biawoe and Nelly, Eleanor's helpers stepped up and together with Anna and Holly began to write plans for the group. Previously, they were offering 4 different types of classes but with no money or teachers we had to find a new way.

The sewing class was being led by a tailor but very little was being learned and the cost was high. They then received an order of small bags to be made for the chocolate business that Anna and the students started at LICC. With that order the group was able to have the women start practicing on making these simple bags to sell the chocolate in and the group was able to make a small profit. Since that time, the women's group continues to focus on sewing and are now starting to make other items and have a plan to start classes again.

The baking class tried making food and bread for the students but could not make a profit. They now are baking for weddings and making a profit. They will also be starting classes again and baking for a profit.

The plan is that once an individual has completed one semester they can come back and help with orders to earn a little money for their own families or use the equipment for a small fee and start their own business.



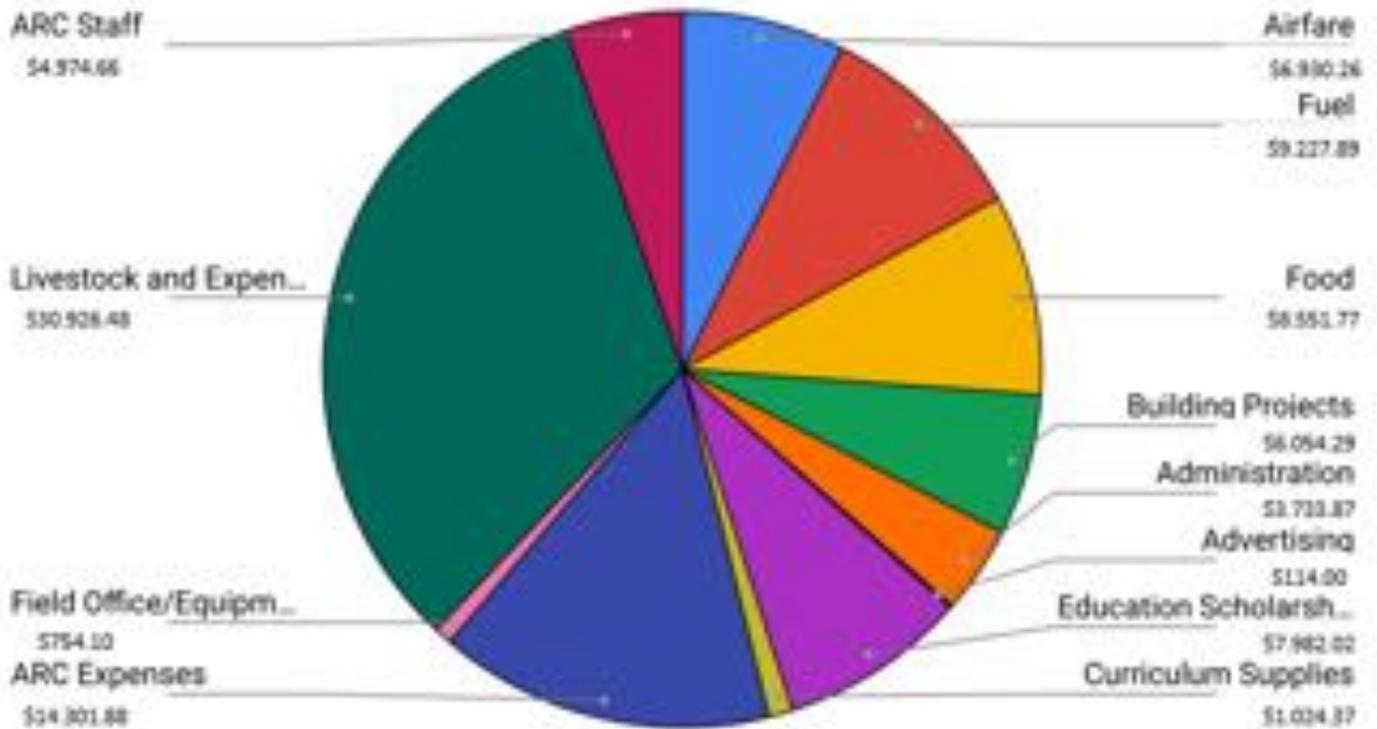
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2017 Expense Report

Total Revenue =
\$132,048.13
Total Expenses =
\$94,575.66

HITH Financial Report

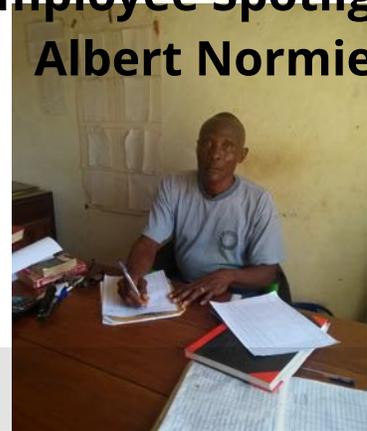
Mission Expenses



PERSONNEL

We are grateful for our team on the ground, our full-time staff at the ARC, and all their dedication to the mission this past year!

Employee Spotlight: Albert Normie



The board members continue to provide vital support to the organization. We thank each of them for the commitment they have shown toward growing this organization, especially during this year of transition!

- Shan Sheridan, president June 2018- now
- Dan Lutes, president June 2017- June 2018
- Matt Beadsley, secretary
- Rae Jahn, treasurer
- Brian Smith, member
- Shelly Lea, member
- Gary Kinsler, member
- Hans Varga, member
- Kelly Kurth, member
- Kim Lumkes, member
- Russ Schwartz, member
- Karen Sutton, member
- Gina Sheets, member

Albert came to the Agriculture Research Center in 2013 after being told by a friend at church that they needed a crew to dig the foundation of the ARC. He along with a friend got a digging and landscape crew together and were hired by Travis to make a level area and begin to dig the foundation of the first floor.

He applied for a security job at the same time and worked both jobs until the foundation was finished, then became head of security for the ARC. Once the first floor was complete Gina and Travis asked him to be in charge of the warehouse located on one end of the first floor. He has been there ever since and now keeps all the inventory and supplies. This past year he has been in charge of the daily finances of the ARC. All sales are reported to him and all expenses are disbursed through Albert and recorded. Each night the books are reviewed by Konah and Nathan. Daily workers and staff sign out tools and return them at the end of the day. No tool is left out in the field overnight or accidentally run over because it was left laying around.

Since 2013 Albert has learned book keeping, record keeping, inventory, finance management and even how to raise animals. This has all been applied to his personal life at home. He now has a budget and savings which he learned through Travis and Gina's teaching. Pigs, rabbits, ducks and chickens are all being raised at his house but the most important thing Albert says is being in the word of God daily. It has changed his life and given him control over his reactions to situations and allowed him to have better relationships with people and his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

VISITORS



Over the past year, Hope in the Harvest has been blessed to hundreds of visitors from all around the world! Visitors included local university students, local high school/elementary students, NGO workers, government officials, church leaders, Peace Corps Volunteers, farmers cooperatives, missionaries, etc. We couldn't possibly include photos of everyone who came, but here are just a few.

HOPE IN THE HARVEST

WWW.HOPEINTHEHARVEST.ORG

CONTACTUS@HOPEINTHEHARVEST.ORG

