



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

## NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2019 was one of those ‘if it doesn’t kill you it will only make you stronger’ years. There was loss upon loss and hiccup after hiccup on all sides. Then, in good God fashion, there was restoration after restoration and understanding upon understanding.

As I sat the other day pondering the past 10 years, I couldn’t help but be overwhelmed at how many blessings of God there have been. 2019 was not the exception.

Light & Salt Ministries started off the year with some amazing visits, beginning with Jim Friesen in February. He came and conquered, and then joined the board of directors in Canada shortly afterwards. A team of 9 people graced us from an organization called Adventures in Missions in that same month, and then a second team from Adventures in Missions with 14 people visited in the month of March. All in all, it was a great way to start out, with high and lifted spirits.

The biggest adventure of 2019 was the purchase of land for the future construction of our Light & Salt Ministries facility. This took place early in the year as well, making January 10th our site date, and from which birthed our battle cry: **“NICARAGUA, WE’RE HERE TO STAY!”** This was a major event and made history, giving LASM a stake in the ground to both establish and affirm our permanent presence within the country.

The creation of a new Legacy Program for Light & Salt Ministries where you can now will your bequests, endowments, RRSPs, RRIFs, life insurance benefits, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and real estate to the ministry is another landmark for LASM.

With this step forward, we have achieved a very clear ‘before and after’ in the options we allow our partners in making LASM an integral part of their lives, now, and forevermore.

A third and final milestone for 2019, among many more, is the alliance that LASM attained with a Nicaraguan University called INATEC. We hosted our first government course from May to November, finalizing classes with 21 graduates in sewing.

One of the biggest things I’ve learned, and it’s become deep in me like that of a bone graft, is that God is a **FAITHFUL** God. Yes, so cliché, I know. But what can you do when the proof is in the pudding, time and time again!? ‘I will sing of His love come down’ is a little tune that I always sang as a teen. I find myself humming along to it as I write. God is a good God, an amazing God and is at the forefront of this thing. No matter the bumps in the road, the betrayals, the weaknesses, the temptations, or the triumphs, when God is at the wheel, it’s all good.

To those who keep their trust and commitment to what God does in and through LASM, whether that be in prayer, committee work, financial partnership and/or advocating for us, I can guarantee that in another 10 or 20 years we will all see the fruit that is already multiplying, multiply even more. In one of the hardest moments of my life this past year, I found myself sitting around a table and being asked the question, “Where do you see yourself in 5 years?” My answer came quickly, and straight from the heart: ‘Thriving,’ I said. And I am sticking to my word. Onward and upward, it is a beautiful and honorable battle we fight.



Tara Germain

# BOY CLASSES 41 STUDENTS



## Formation Hours

**Bible Class & Spiritual Formation:**  
438.3 hours x 41 = 17,970 student hours

**Homework Tutorial Hours:**  
96.3 hours x 41 = 3,948 student hours

**English Class:**  
192.6 hours x 41 = 7,896 student hours

**Critical Thinking/Problem Solving Training:**  
64.2 hours x 41 = 2,632 student hours

**Sports Training:**  
192.6 hours x 41 = 7,896 student hours

**Plates of food served:**  
7,136+

## Risk Levels

**20** Students were from high risk living conditions

**13** from moderate risk

**8** from lower risk

## Family Status

**17** students are children of single mothers

**1** lives with a single father

**1** student lives with his next of kin

**22** students live with both parents where substance abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse and/or extreme poverty are present in the home.

## Housing Statistics

**16 families** do not own a house but instead live with relatives or friends

**3 have** mud houses

**4 live** in tin homes

**1** in a plastic home

**17 live** in brick homes



## Family Economics

**15 students** belong to families where the head of the household is unemployed

**12 fathers** work as security guards and have a stable job

**13 mothers** work as domestic workers (very high risk with long hours, 10+ per day)

**10** are merchants

**1 parent** is a farmer

## Direct Service to Student's Parents & Family

**108 Hours** Includes:  
School for Parents  
Home Visits  
Meetings



### Testimony from Parent of Formation Class Student:

Silma is 29 years old, mother of Elthon Jhon who has been with us since 2018. Although it was Elthons grandmother who originally enrolled him at Light & Salt Ministries, Silma feels grateful for the emotional support the ministry offered her son while she was away from him in Costa Rica working. In mid-March, Silma made the decision to withdraw Elthon from class and take him to Costa Rica with her, where her husband was also working, but after one month they were back to Nicaragua because of problems with the father. Last year she faced marriage separation, and as a single mother she began selling fried foods in the streets to support her two children. Silma feels that, thanks to the prayers, the continuous visits and closeness of the ministry, they have been able to overcome these challenges. She says that because of Light & Salt Ministries, Elthon does not feel alone and knows that God has not abandoned their family. Silma sends a personal thank you to those who support her and the other single mothers in the neighborhood, helping them to get ahead in life and to care for their children.

In 2019, 64 women were murdered in Nicaragua as a result of domestic violence. At Light & Salt Ministries, we believe that as we continue to concentrate efforts towards the formation of boys today, they will be loving, caring and protective leaders tomorrow. This in turn betters the quality of life for the girls and women around them. From previous years where desertion rates in our program were as high as 30%, we are down to 4% desertion rates. This staggering improvement reflects the change that is already happening!



# MERCY IN ACTION PROGRAM

## 25 BENEFICIARIES



### 43 Hours of Attention in Group Care Program

Pounds of rice **4,008**

Pounds of beans **3,006**

Litres of cooking oil **964.5**

**Unmeasurable amounts  
of love, prayer and care given!**

## TRIUMPHANT WOMEN SEWING COURSE 22 STUDENTS

**19** Graduates

**686** Hours of spiritual  
formation and  
business classes

=

**13,034** Student hours



### Testimony from Sewing Course Student:

At 38 years old, Marisol is one of our most outstanding students. She is a single mother whose daughter is her motivation to get ahead in life. Marisol has always liked sewing ever since she was little, but never had the opportunity to learn until coming to Light & Salt Ministries. At the time Marisol signed up for sewing classes, she had already learned how to mend and patch garments but still felt a deep desire to learn how to make clothes. By the end of the year, Marisol testified that she had purchased a machine and is working from home. Her reputation and clientel is continually growing and she currently takes orders to make school uniforms and dresses. This is undoubtedly a great success for Marisol and a measurably great success for LASM, as well. We love the way you, our ministry partners, are impacting the lives of women in Dario City!!

# VOLUNTEER HOURS IN 2019

**1632 hours**  
International visits for missions work on the ground in Nicaragua.

**Board of Directors and Committee within Canada**  
  
**720+ hours**  
Board Members  
  
**400+ hours**  
Committee members & Volunteers

**Giesbrecht Law Corporation in Canada**  
  
**8+ Hours**

## FINANCES IN 2019

**\$117,531**

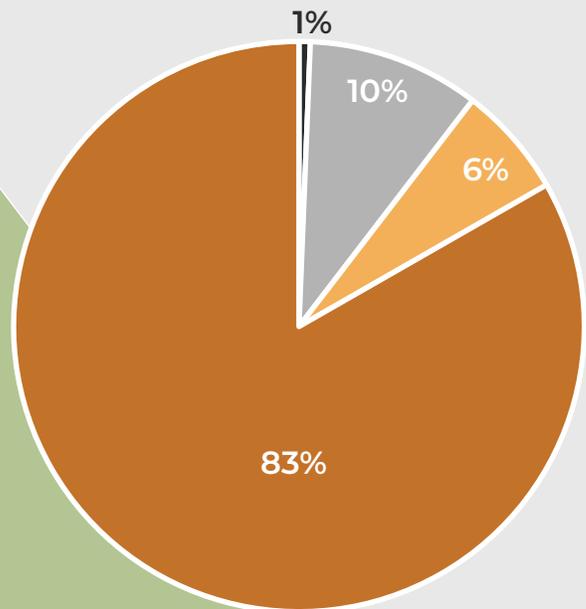
Total donations received in 2019

**\$21,342**

Total donations received for expansion fund Phase 1 in 2019

## TOTAL EXPENSES IN 2019

**\$85,788.78 CAD.**



## YEAR-TO-DATE DONATIONS BY DONOR CATEGORY (CAD)



- Marketing & Fundraising
- Facility
- Administration
- Programs