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Dear Friends,

Recently, I went to hear a group of Colombians who came to Canada to tell us about the human rights violations in their country. They represented indigenous communities, healthcare workers, a women's organisation and a human rights group. They came to ask Canadians to pressure the Canadian government not to ratify the Free Trade Agreement with Colombia until there is an independent assessment of human rights violations there.

When they left, they expressed fear of possible retaliation they may face on their return. They have had their lives threatened before, and have seen their co-workers killed or made to 'disappear'. They know a similar fate may await them for speaking out. And yet they came, at great personal risk, to give witness, to defend the rights of all Colombians.

The promise of Easter is that God is present when people work for justice so that others may have life. As I said goodbye to the Colombian representatives, I left with a sense that yes, God is Risen. Despite the death, repression, poverty surrounding them, and the fear for their lives and that of their families, the people I met still find the courage to defend life. And in doing so, they create new life, by inspiring others to believe and to work so that all may have life to the fullest.

To face the challenges encountered by the Colombian people, and by so many others around the world, requires faith and hope. Ultimately faith is the action of a sustained commitment. And it is this commitment to defend life which proves that God has indeed risen.

I invite you to join CJI in supporting the work of people who strive to give life to communities struggling against poverty and injustice in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and elsewhere. Thanks to your generous and loyal support, we witness that God is Risen.

With best wishes for a joyful Easter,

Jenny Cafiso
Director, Canadian Jesuits International



Jenny Caluso/CJI, Zambia

‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.’

Luke 24:5

HE IS RISEN

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OUR VISION
AND MISSION

The vision of CJI is of a world of justice, peace and integrity of creation, transformed through our commitment to the poor and our faith in a living God in our midst.

As a response to God’s love in the world, the mission of CJI is to support poor and marginalised people in developing countries through the work of Jesuit and other partners, and to carry out educational advocacy in Canada, linked with our overseas work.

We work with Jesuit and other partners rooted in the Jesuit tradition in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Eastern Europe.

At Easter we celebrate the transition from death to **new life**, an event so radical it is hard to believe. It is hardly surprising that when Jesus resurrected, those closest to Him – Mary Magdalene, Thomas and the other apostles, the disciples at Emmaus – took time to realise that He had indeed conquered death.

Perhaps it is the same for us. It is not too difficult to recognise the crucified Jesus in millions of people who are crushed by the tyranny of injustice, poverty, disease and death. And we succumb to hopelessness, as Jesus’ disciples did, believing that nothing can be done to defeat such overwhelming evil. The alarming global economic crisis deepens our discouragement.

Love conquers death

And yet, in those very places where death appears to triumph, **new life** is born when people work with generosity and compassion to overcome poverty and despair. There is the love that conquers death, the risen Jesus at work.

Living and serving among dispossessed communities worldwide, the partners of Canadian Jesuits International (CJI) work hard to nurture life in very tough conditions.

Take community schools run in places as diverse as Darjeeling, Zambia and Jamaica, which give hundreds of vulnerable children the promise of **new life**. Or Kasisi Agricultural



Jane Lee/CJI, Darjeeling

Training Centre in Zambia, which trains small scale farmers to grow organic food at lower costs. Or Jesu Ashram in Darjeeling, where people overcome by leprosy, TB and HIV receive the medicines, food and loving support they need to start anew.

Building a new life

Those we serve, courageously fight for life in circumstances that are harsher than ever, due to rising prices of food and other basics. They persevere even if every day is an often fruitless search for work and for food. And although very poor, many help others in even greater need.

But they cannot do it alone. This is why we invite you to join us in supporting people who are struggling to build a **new life** in self-sufficiency and dignity.



McIsaac/St. Anne's School, Jamaica

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

James 2:17

In a poor neighbourhood in Kingston, Jamaica, the staff of St. Anne's Primary School realised that some of their 500 pupils were coming to class on an empty stomach. They discovered that the hungry children's parents were unemployed or underemployed and couldn't always afford to feed their families. Of course, this had an adverse impact on the children: poor academic performance, behavioural problems and lack of concentration. The school decided to provide a low-cost but nutritious breakfast for the children. The results are happier and healthier children with a "huge difference in school performance", says Fr Peter McIsaac SJ, chair of the St. Anne's Primary School Board of Management.

Give new life

This is just one of the projects supported by CJI. St. Anne's Primary School needs funds to keep the children well nourished, as do many of our partners who strive to meet immediate and urgent needs on a daily basis.

This Easter, join our life-giving mission; share your living faith by making a gift to CJI. For as little as \$2 per day, you could give a child at St. Anne's a hot breakfast, which includes protein, starch and green vegetables.

By designating your gift to "greatest need" you allow CJI to support St. Anne's Primary School and many other similar projects around the world. Your invaluable contribution will go directly to sustain the work of our partners on the ground.



McIsaac/St. Anne's School, Jamaica

Thank you for your gift to CJI

It is thanks to your support that CJI can continue making a difference. Most of our funding comes from individual donors across Canada, who for over 50 years, have supported people in need with faithful generosity.

Please send a **cheque** payable to **Canadian Jesuits International**. Or just log on to www.canadianjesuitsinternational.ca, click the Canada Helps icon and follow the easy instructions.

A **monthly donation** is a simple way to give ongoing support to this work. It's easy to do by credit-card or through your bank account and it's a wonderful help to CJI.

If you wish to leave a lasting legacy, you could consider planned giving. To learn more, call or write to us at CJI.

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