



PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL – TRANSFORMING LIVES



YOUR IMPACT

Like a Well-Watered Garden

Spring has sprung, and with it, the thought of getting back to our gardens! PEER Servants President, Todd Engelsen, had the tremendous privilege of speaking at the recent Annual Membership Meeting of our Filipino partner, The Center for Community Transformation (CCT), on their 2017 theme, "Like a Well-Watered Garden". Here are some highlights.

The Words from Isaiah

Take a couple of minutes to read [Isaiah 58](#). Verse 11 stands out...

*"The Lord will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail."*

Isaiah reminds us that God is looking for far more than nice words, good intentions, or pious humility. He is looking for us to be active in extending justice, setting the oppressed free, sharing our food with the hungry, and sheltering the poor wanderer. Then He will hear our call and cry, guide us, and we will find joy in Him.

Lessons from the Garden

What can we learn from a good garden that applies to our own lives?

- **Dirt.** Most good gardens start with good dirt. It's the same with us. We all started from dirt, and to dirt we will someday return. Too many of us are walking around

as if we're more than dirt. All God needs us to be is good dirt that can yield fruit.

- **Seeds:** Seeds are dormant. Apply the right elements along with a bit of faith and a miracle takes place – a little seed becomes a beautiful plant or even tree. The same is true of our lives and the materially poor – if we apply the right elements, we can all blossom into something far greater than we currently are.
- **Mulch/Fertilizer:** Mulch and fertilizer protect plants and enable them to grow. They keep weeds, literal or figurative, from growing. The best mulch and fertilizer comes from spending a few minutes with God each day – reading His Word, speaking to Him, and listening to Him.
- **Water:** You can't get a well-watered garden without water! And yet we are totally dependent on God as the ultimate source for water. We often prefer to be self-sufficient and run from being dependent on God. Embrace your dependence on Him.
- **Birds and Bees:** We're not going to see many new gardens without the birds and bees! Invest in the lives of others; pour your life into theirs. You will not only extend the well-watered garden to others, you will experience more of it yourself!

CCT - An Amazing Garden!

CCT is such a well-watered garden because of their inspiring commitment to embrace that they are no more than dirt, embrace their dependence on God, and embrace the huge potential each of the materially poor have when the right elements are applied!

Celebrating 25+ Years of Partnership!

How we thank God for 25+ amazing years of extending more of the kingdom of heaven to earth! Through your prayers and financial support, God is at work enabling tens of thousands of the materially poor and non-poor to experience economic, social, and spiritual transformation. Thank you!

If you would like to send a tax-deductible donation to PEER Servants, you can direct 100% of your gift to any of our Microfinance Partner Funds. See the back side of the newsletter for contact info. Thank you for your generosity. **God bless you!**

Todd G. Engelsen

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President



June 3 - Walk for Economic Empowerment

Looking for an opportunity to have a huge positive impact on the materially poor? Then join us for our 2017 Walk for Economic

Empowerment. In just minutes, you can register for the Walk, set up a crowdfunding page, and distribute it to family and friends to support you in your endeavor! Go to w4ee.org for all of the details. You can direct 100% of what you raise to our microfinance partner of your choice. And with games and food for young and old, you'll have a blast while doing it! Please join us – Saturday, June 3, from 9:30 am to 2 pm. We'll meet just outside the PEER Servants office – 591 North Avenue in Wakefield, MA – and it's an easy 3-mile walk around beautiful Lake Quannapowitt.

WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE



Approaching 30,000 Indian Clients

Christian Service Society, our Indian microfinance partner, continues to grow, having just surpassed 29,000 active clients. Over 90% of them are women who use the loans to grow their small businesses and better provide for their families. CSS reaches them using the Indian Railway and serves around 150 clients per station. With average loans around \$65, it takes \$10,000 to add a railway station. CSS is hoping to add at least 10 stations in 2017.



Discipling the Next Generation

Sijo Cherian has been a very committed PEER Servants volunteer for 5+ years working with CSS in India. He joined the recent Peru trip to help our Latin partners learn from CSS. That in and of itself would have made for a rich experience, but Sijo made it an even more memorable experience by bringing his daughter, Kripa. Through the trip experience, Kripa could start to see the world a bit more the way God sees it and take some first steps in extending to it more of the kingdom of heaven.

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



Viviana and Gonzalo are two of PEER Servants' newest volunteers. They are both from Lima, Peru. Gonzalo is a microfinance expert. As Peruvians, they were best positioned to train and encourage the team at Kallarischunchis on our recent Peru trip. PEER Servants warmly welcomes volunteers from around the world. Interested? Email us at serve@peerservants.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We'd love to hear from you!

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Meet one of Kallarischunchis' many inspiring clients selling souvenir items in the largest market in Cusco. Although it is PEER Servants' smallest partner, Kallarischunchis has still made over 2,500 micro-loans to the materially poor in Peru. They have a vibrant Christian witness in the community and are extending the kingdom of heaven to the materially poor.

Exciting Developments in Peru

Marleni Berrios went to see the work of CCT in the Philippines in November 2015. Her life has never been the same since! She went as a board member of Kallarischunchis, PEER Servants' Peruvian microfinance partner. She came back committed to become Kallarischunchis' new full-time Executive Director. It was a big leap of faith as she left security and comfort behind, but what has resulted is a Peruvian microfinance organization that is on the frontlines of extending the kingdom of heaven to the Peruvian people.

New Products and Services

Marleni and her team have already introduced new products and services offered by Kallarischunchis. She wanted to reach the very, very materially poor women from the indigenous groups. Such women did not yet have businesses to benefit from a micro-loan, so Marleni started them in savings groups. They save just a few dollars a month, but as they gather, they encourage each other, learn more about God's Word and His love for them, and learn how to provide for their families. One savings group has started a small business making beautiful cards. It is led by a woman who has a real love for her neighbors and wants them to experience the love of Christ.

Marleni did not stop there. She started group loans to complement individual loans and now there are more group loan clients than individual. The advantage of group loans is two fold – it helps Kallarischunchis to become sustainable by working with more clients at one time, and it offers a setting where the good news of Jesus' love is communicated within the group meeting. In addition, Marleni has started a children's program wherein children also save while learning more about Jesus and having lots of fun!

Trans-Pacific Partnership

Kallarischunchis has benefited from participating in the Microfinance Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The TPP is an alliance PEER Servants has formed with the microfinance partners in the Philippines, Guatemala, and Peru so that they can learn from and teach each other. The microfinance program in the Philippines is much more mature and developed, so the Filipinos can train and encourage the Guatemalans and Peruvians. In other areas, the Guatemalans and Peruvians take the lead. Marleni hopes to return to the Philippines later this year to learn more in-depth lessons that she will then contextualize in Peru.

PEER teens Peru Launch

There is even more God is doing through Marleni and the Kallarischunchis team. She has engaged the Peruvian teens in ministry among the children. These teens recently became the newest affiliate in PEER teens, so they are liaising with other teens in Uganda, Guatemala, Boston, Zambia, and the Philippines in how they can encourage each other to extend more and more of the kingdom of heaven to earth. Expect to hear some exciting stories of how God is going to use PEER teens Peru in the days ahead!

Vibrant Volunteers

How has Marleni accomplished so much in such a short period? She has recruited a fantastic group of Peruvian volunteers around her. They are helping with communications, technology, working with the children and youth, and so much more. Their collective sacrifice is allowing more and more Peruvians to experience the spiritual, social and material aspects of the kingdom of heaven on earth. They have exciting plans for the future, and we are honored to be able to support them through our partnership.