



PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL – TRANSFORMING LIVES



## Bringing the World Together

**Guatemala City, Guatemala was the place to be in late November!** Microfinance practitioners gathered from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, South America, and North America to teach and learn from each other. It's one more fantastic example of one of PEER Servants' services at work – networking.

### “It’s TEE Time!”

To a Brit, that quote may invoke visions of 4 pm high tea, and to a golfer, it may invoke visions of beautifully manicured greens. To someone in the PEER Servants network, it means it is time to roll up your sleeves and teach and learn from each other.

“TEE” stands for “Transformative Economic Empowerment”. It is a global annual training program that started with a couple of our African microfinance partners visiting and being visited by The Center for Community Transformation (CCT), our much-larger microfinance partner from the Philippines. For years, CCT would host this annual training, and each year, it grew – eventually organizations from other microfinance networks started to attend as well. It was exciting to witness how God was using CCT and the Filipino people to bless the ends of the earth by helping establish much stronger microfinance programs.

### The Student Becomes Teacher

This year, one of the students was ready to become the teacher! Potter’s House in Guatemala had attended many TEEs in the Philippines. It was nowhere near as big as CCT, but it was still larger than most of the

other indigenous microfinance institutions attending TEE. In fact, it was the perfect size – not too big and not too small – to help the other microfinance institutions learn from them in how they had grown to the size they were. The topic of the November 2016 TEE was “Organizational Development”. Attendees came to learn what practical steps their organizations could take to grow and have more significant impact in empowering the materially poor.

### One of Four Services

Networking is just one of four services PEER Servants offers the indigenous microfinance institutions with which it partners and TEE is just one means through which PEER Servants pursues its networking. In 2017, PEER Servants will host networking events in Asia (the Philippines April 1-8), the Americas (Peru April 14-22) and Africa (Burundi July 7-16) where training of relevance to the microfinance partners in those regions will be offered – some of the training by PEER Servants volunteers, more of it by the staff of the attending institutions.

Beyond networking, PEER Servants offers its microfinance partners capacity building (to enable them to serve more of the materially poor), resource development (to provide them with access to funds to grow), and general encouragement and support (to join them on the front lines through our presence and prayers). Networking is what brings the world together, allows us to see the world closer to the way God sees it, and allows the world to become closer to the way we think God wants to see it.

### 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



### March 11 Concert for Economic Empowerment

Join us for a FREE concert with fantastic music and food from around the globe. Between music sets, you’ll hear the stories of PEER Servants people just like you who are extending the kingdom of heaven to the materially poor by volunteering with PEER

Servants. We’ll be at Revive Community Church (111 Terrace Hall Ave., Burlington, MA) on Sat., March 11, 6:30-8:30 pm. A Global Dessert Reception to follow wherein you can meet the musicians and learn more about PEER Servants involvement. Please join us!

## WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE



## Chicken Anyone?

A Peruvian entrepreneur in Cusco served by Kallarischis. Kallarischis is exploring methods to more effectively reach the indigenous rural populations just outside of Cusco. Interested in seeing their work firsthand (along with the beauty of Machu Picchu)? Join us April 14-22, 2017 for an inspiring trip to Peru to witness firsthand the transformative work of Kallarischis. See Contact Info below.



## The Inaugural Reciprocity Award

PEER Servants knows that lasting transformation is never one-way. This led to the inaugural Reciprocity Award, given at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Banquet, to recognize those from around the world whom God is using to extend more of the kingdom of heaven to us. Reverend Panya Baba from Nigeria was the Award recipient, and his youngest son, Duza, came all the way from Nigeria to accept the Award on his father's behalf. Reverend Baba has been a pioneer and innovator in developing ways that the materially poor could be fully engaged in extending the kingdom.

## THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



Carol Mostrom and Angie Bowman – PEER Servants volunteers for over 20 years! Carol and Angie have contributed significantly to the growth of PEER Servants through their faithfulness, flexibility, and passion for extending a bit more of heaven to the materially poor. Interested? Email us at [volunteer@peerservants.org](mailto:volunteer@peerservants.org).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

## We'd love to hear from you!

Web: [www.peerservants.org](http://www.peerservants.org)

E-Mail: [info@peerservants.org](mailto:info@peerservants.org)

Mail: PO Box 258, Woburn, MA 01801

Phone: 781-245-4059



*A young woman business owner in India who started growing her business with a \$50 micro-loan from the Christian Service Society. Giving monthly allows you to set aside what may be a relatively small amount to you (e.g., \$50) that can have a significant impact on an aspiring micro-entrepreneur in another part of the world. As loans are repaid with high repayment rates, many benefit.*

## The Power of Monthly Giving

As PEER Servants steps beyond 25 years of ministry, the opportunities for empowering the materially poor have never been greater. And here's the great news – given the power of microfinance, it doesn't take that much money to have a significant impact!

Most of the initial micro-loans made by PEER Servants partners are in the \$50 - \$300 range. That may not seem like much to you, but it can be life changing to an aspiring micro-business owner that lacks affordable capital to grow their business. Three exciting outcomes can take place when you donate \$50 - \$300 ...

- First, you support the growth of the business to help the micro-business owner provide for her or his family in the way that she or he knows best. It allows them to live with sufficiency and builds up their dignity.
- Second, as the micro-business owner repays the loan (and most of our microfinance partners have a 90%+ repayment rate), a new micro-business owner can receive the loan, and that repeats itself many times over.
- Third, the micro-business owner repays not only principal but a small amount of interest. That interest, when added up over all the loans our microfinance partner makes, helps cover their operating expenses incurred in offering the materially poor a long-term sustainable source to address their financial opportunities and needs.

Now, consider the impact you could have if you made that \$50 - \$300 donation not just once, but monthly. Eventually you could be blessing dozens if not hundreds of families around the world. Consider the following examples...

## \$50/Month in India

The Christian Service Society (CSS) makes initial loans of \$50 to primarily women on the outskirts of Kolkata. These women are simply amazing! Najima started with a \$50 micro-loan to grow her concrete septic ring business and now employs eight men. Sohagi started with a \$50 micro-loan to grow her garbage recycling business and now employs 20+ men!

CSS's vision is to surpass the 30,000 active client mark. It is growing quickly and needs new loan capital to do so. **Your \$50/month could help them reach a new micro-business owner each month.**

## \$100 in Guatemala or Sri Lanka

Potter's House in Guatemala is extending the kingdom to the "Treasures" living off one of the largest municipal dumps in Latin America. They make initial loans of \$150 to micro-business owners to pursue alternative means of supporting their families. **Your \$100/monthly donation would allow them to reach a new client every 45 days.**

YGro-HEED in Sri Lanka makes initial average loans of \$300, primarily to women heads of household trying to recover from the country's long civil war. **Your \$100/monthly donation would allow them to reach a new client every 90 days.**

## Next Steps

**Interested in significantly empowering the materially poor?** Please consider a monthly donation - either online via our website (go to the "Recurring Donation" section on the "Donate by Credit Card" page) or send your checks to PO Box 258, Woburn, MA 01801. Specify your desired country and they will receive 100% of your donation. Thanks for giving intelligently and generously!