



PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL – TRANSFORMING LIVES



Quarterly News

Third Quarter 2022

YOUR IMPACT

On the Road Again

After more than 30 months of not crossing an international border, the PEER Servants family is traveling again! COVID has kept the world at a standstill. Now, it's nice to be able to cross those borders and be together with our Global Partners again. First stop? Mongu, Zambia.

The Team

As our first post-COVID international trip, we kept the team traveling to Zambia small, including two of our Charlotte, NC veterans, Dick Wilson and John Crawford. Dick went to help CEMFIN, our Zambian partner, enhance their program reporting, especially as it relates to quantifying and managing risk. John went to help them map out their post-COVID strategic plan as they add a bus and trucking business to complement their core microfinance business. Joining Dick and John was David Zelotte, originally from Bukavu, DRC, but now working in Bujumbura, Burundi. David is very gifted in videography and website development, so his focus was helping CEMFIN develop a new website. The last team member was PEER Servants President, Todd Engelsen.

The Host

Christian Empowerment Microfinance (CEMFIN) is celebrating ten years of extending the kingdom of heaven to the Western Province in Zambia. They have lent hundreds of thousands of dollars to around 1,500 clients as a means to enable families to live with sufficiency and dignity. Their staff and Board, some in the picture above, have been faithful stewards of the kingdom. Pastor Alick Kalonga (holding the watermelon) is the Founder and CEO of

CEMFIN. What started with microfinance now includes programs in youth empowerment, education, and transportation. One of the trip highlights was celebrating the launch of CEMFIN's transport business.

The Trip

This trip highlighted many aspects of CEMFIN's multifaceted kingdom outreach. The core microfinance business survived COVID but now needs to grow as the clients' businesses were hit hard by COVID. CEMFIN stood with its clients, even providing humanitarian support. Thanks to the generosity of PEER Servants donors, CEMFIN was able to retain all of its staff through the pandemic. The Team met with the PEER Teens Zambia members and four PEER Teens Zambia Scholars, all pursuing university degrees in healthcare. The trip highlight was gathering to dedicate the CEMFIN bus and 20-ton cargo truck. It was a day of celebration for the extended CEMFIN family! No trip to Zambia is complete without enjoying the stunning beauty of the country. The CEMFIN and PEER Teams joined together to visit Liuwa Plain National Park in the Zambezi Plain, greeting a lion and countless wildebeest, zebra, and antelope along the way!

Join Us

The PEER Team left Zambia so encouraged by their time with our partners at CEMFIN. Would you like to join a future PEER trip? We are heading to Guatemala (September), the Philippines (October), and Peru (November). Email us at travel@peerservants.org if you'd like to explore joining us!

Celebrating 30+ Years of Partnership!

How we thank God for 30+ 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 Global Partner Funds. See the back side of the newsletter for contact info. Thank you for your generosity. **God bless you!**

Todd G. Engelsen

Todd G. Engelsen
President

It's Lydia Award Season!



Every year, PEER Servants recognizes inspiring micro-entrepreneurs served by our Global Partners through the Lydia Awards. We will announce the three 2022 Finalists on August 6. You will have an opportunity to vote online for your favorite and attend a Virtual or In-Person Annual Lydia Celebration in October. Stay tuned for specific dates, times, and venues.

WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE



Zambia's Future Healthcare

Many of the PEER Teens Zambia Scholars are pursuing careers in healthcare. Joining PEER Servants volunteers David (far left), Dick, and Todd are Persis, (3rd from left, future Radiologist), George (future Anesthesiologist), Alick (future Ophthalmologist), and Emmy (future Physician's Assistant). The future of Zambian healthcare is in very good hands!



Peru's Future Entrepreneurs

Meet two of the Quechua women being trained by Kallarisunchis, PEER Servants' Peruvian partner, in how to operate a fast food business. Many of the indigenous women of Peru are not yet in a position to use loan capital well. Vocational training like this prepares them to be ready for accessing microfinance to enhance the lives of their family members.

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



That's PEER Servants "Team Zambia" volunteers David Zelotte and John Crawford as they arrive in Lusaka, Zambia in June. David is from the Democratic Republic of Congo and living in Bujumbura – he is helping PEER's Zambian partner build a new website. John is from Charlotte, North Carolina and a long-term Team Zambia member.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We'd love to hear from you!

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More than 100 PEER Servants volunteers gathered outside Boston to support the Walk for Global Empowerment. Everyone received an official t-shirt to identify us as we walked. Teams also carried flags of the countries we serve. Walkers were very visible and well-received by the community.

A Global Kingdom Community

One word that is central to much of what PEER Servants does is "kingdom." We have embraced Jesus' vision that the kingdom would come "on earth as it is in heaven." We love reading the words of Jesus, especially as captured in the Book of Matthew, wherein he starts a sentence with "The kingdom of heaven is like..." Jesus ends those sentences reminding us that the kingdom is full of mercy, forgiveness, and feeding the hungry, visiting the prisoner, and welcoming in the stranger. It lacks worrying, boasting, or living self-righteously. It comes through mustard seed initiatives, which means we can all do something to embrace the kingdom and extend it to others. PEER Servants Annual Walk for Global Empowerment is a great event for the kingdom. It's when the Global PEER Family gathers to walk, climb, and even dance so that many more people can experience the kingdom.

A Walking Community

Hundreds of PEER supporters gathered around the world in groups from five to one hundred and five to participate in the 2022 Walk for Global Empowerment. The Australians led us, soon followed by Filipinos, Kenyans, Ugandans, South Sudanese, Burundians, and Zambians. Those from the Americas, including Canadians, Guatemalans, and Americans, embraced the role as the global caboose. The largest gathering of walkers was outside Boston, and God gave the Bostonians a stunningly beautiful day to walk. Many corporate sponsors, like Chick-fil-A and HoneyDew Donuts, made the day delicious. We walked to tell the world that more of God's amazing kingdom is coming to earth. What a message of hope in these dark days!

A Climbing Community

While the vast majority stayed at or close to sea level for their part in the 2022 Walk for Global Empowerment, Duncan Olumbe, PEER Kenya Co-Leader, decided to reach for the highest point in Africa to communicate that the kingdom was near. Duncan topped Mount Kilimanjaro, over 19,000 feet above sea level. Duncan is passionate that the Samburu people of Tuale get access to clean water and, through that, come to know the Living Water as well. While clean water has yet to come, Duncan has not given up in his passion to see the people of Tuale experience more of this kingdom.

A Dancing Community

As part of the 2022 Walk, PEER Servants sponsored our Second Annual Global Dance Contest. The Zambians, South Sudanese, Filipinos, and Guatemalans all submitted amazing dances, but in the end, there was but one dance that pranced above all others to take home the top prize. This dance was submitted by Esther Suh, a Korean American who is nearing the end of her eighth decade, and who recently learned how to do Traditional Korean Dance. Esther was stunning – in her dress, her dance, and, most especially, her desire. Through her dance, she raised \$1,000 that will go to extend the kingdom to the materially poor in Guatemala. Her dance will lead to countless number of Guatemalan children, mothers, and even fathers dancing for years to come.

The Global PEER family would like to raise \$250,000 by July 31 through the 2022 Walk for Global Empowerment as they walk, climb, and dance. If you'd like to help reach that goal, please go to peerservants.org/walk.