



PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL – TRANSFORMING LIVES



Quarterly News

Third Quarter 2012

YOUR IMPACT

The Kingdom in the Philippines

You know that Jesus called us to join Him in extending His kingdom from heaven to earth. That's why when Jesus talked about the gospel, it was about the gospel of the kingdom, and it was not only to come, but "near", "In", and "among" us. This kingdom is not only a place where one gets their daily bread, but a place where Jesus is worshipped and followed as the King. As we travel the world and partner with brothers and sisters in Christ who are also extending the kingdom, we have found one place where we see this kingdom like no other place. That place is the Philippines, and the organization Jesus is using to extend the kingdom is The Center for Community Transformation (CCT).

More than 130,000 Served

CCT has a very impressive microfinance operation. From the late 1990s to 2005, CCT experienced phenomenal growth – increasing their number of active clients from 3,000 to over 100,000. In 2012, they have over 130,000 active clients accessing affordable credit and making secure deposits to transform their own lives and that of their families, churches, and communities. As the clients' businesses grow, they have access to top-notch business training and even mentoring from some of the Philippines' most successful Christian business people. What started as one branch in Tondo, one of Manila's largest and most notorious slums, is now 140 branches spread throughout the country. How was all of this funded? Primarily through Christian Filipinos! As they saw the transformation, they gave sacrificially – over 95% of CCT's funding comes from within the country.

More than Microfinance

There is much more to CCT than microfinance. Consider this...

- The 130,000+ clients meet weekly in groups of 20-30 with a Bible Study. That means 5,000+ weekly Bible studies!
- CCT runs its operation so efficiently that a surplus is generated from the microfinance. The clients are owners in the cooperative, so they receive a dividend from part of the surplus, while some of the surplus funds programs for the poorest of the poor, like the man pictured above. He once lived on the streets; now he has his own home.

Now CCT is going even further in extending the kingdom. They are transitioning their 140 microfinance branches into community centers where not only a woman will have access to microfinance, but her husband can receive vocational training, her pre-school children can get an education, the family can access healthcare, and the community can have access to a strong church. This is what extending the kingdom from heaven to earth looks like in the Philippines, and we are honored that CCT has asked us to join them in this effort. This community center initiative is so ambitious that it goes beyond what the Filipino people can fund alone.

PEER Servants has created the CCT Fund. 100% of the 2012 donations we receive earmarked for this Fund will go towards these community centers. **We thank God for this great work that is extending the kingdom of heaven to the Philippines.**

How we thank God for you, a very important part of our PEER Servants team! 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 do so by mailing a check made out to "PEER Servants" or giving securely online. See the back side of the newsletter for contact info. We will send you a receipt and a thank you for your generosity. **God bless you!**

Todd G. Engelsen

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President



Walk for Economic Empowerment

PEER Servants' Walk for Economic Empowerment is one of your best opportunities to raise funds that will empower the materially poor. Our goal is to raise \$50,000+ this year - 100% of which goes to our microfinance partners (you can even choose which one for the funds you raise). The remaining 2012 Walks are in Boston (September 29), Phoenix (October 6), and Birmingham (October 20). Go to www.w4ee.org to register (\$20 registration fee), create your own fundraising webpage, distribute it to friends, and within minutes God will be using your actions to extend opportunity to the materially poor. You'll also have a great day at the Walk!

WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE



Uganda - 10+ Jobs/33 Students

Alex Edoma, served by CAFEECC/Uganda, received his first loan for just over \$100 and used it to buy cement. Now he has grown his construction supply business to include 3 locations, have 10+ employees, and support a pre-school with 33 children. He is the very deserving recipient of PEER Servants' 2012 Lydia Award.



Sri Lanka - Bigger/Better Chickens

Want a bigger and better chicken? Lots of people in northern Sri Lanka do, and when they do, they see George Stanislas. Most grow their chickens for just 42 days before going to market; George allows his chickens 60 days. It's just one of many innovations George has adopted to grow his business. His concern for fellow Sri Lankans has led him to train 15 others in poultry-raising.

FAST FACTS

39

The number of churches CCT/Philippines planted among the materially poor in 2011, reflecting their commitment to holistic transformation.

97.4%

The loan repayment rate for Invest Credit/Moldova in 2011, reflecting their exceptionally high loan portfolio quality.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Question, suggestion, or concern?

We'd love to hear from you!
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Some of the almost 20,000 clients being served by CSS/India.

Indelible India!

"If Christians would really live according to the teachings of Christ, as found in the Bible, all of India would be Christian today." Gandhi

Mark Twain allegedly called it "the most extraordinary country that the sun visits". While not all would go as far as Twain, few would omit the word "extraordinary" in describing India. And it is in India that you will find PEER Servants' newest microfinance partner, the Christian Service Society (CSS).

In the Outskirts of Kolkata

CSS has been serving over 15,000 of the materially poor in Muslim and Hindu villages on the outskirts of Kolkata (Calcutta) for over 20 years. They approached PEER Servants as a partner because they wanted to enter a new phase of growth that would allow them to serve thousands more. Through PEER Servants volunteers, CSS could access technical and marketing services that would allow them to support their growth. Nearing two years into the partnership and given funding from a number of sources, CSS is approaching 20,000 clients.

CSS starts with very small loans – less than \$25US. Paying back this small initial loan reveals the creditworthiness of the client. With successful repayment and business growth, they qualify for larger and larger loans. Sabila is a current CSS client with a small grocery store serving 100 customers a day – she grew her business with an initial CSS loan of \$10US, with many more to follow. Now she can send her two children to school and the family is living in a concrete rather than thatched house.

Following Christ's Teachings

One Indian Christian who is committed to following the Biblical teachings of Christ that Gandhi referred to is Himadri Munshi, CSS Executive Director. A former Marxist, Himadri became a follower of Jesus and then gave up a successful career to establish CSS as a program that would proclaim good news to the poor. He now leads a staff of over 60 and, like Jesus, maintains a very simple lifestyle in order to direct as many of the resources as possible to empowering the materially poor.

While microfinance is the largest of CSS's programs, it is complemented with an animal husbandry program that keeps the livestock of many of the CSS clients healthy. There are many young girls and boys at risk in the region where CSS operates, so Himadri has established a home for 50 girls and 25 boys, supported in large part by the surplus from the microfinance work. CSS is even able to provide encouragement to local churches through the proceeds of their work.



Himadri, the CSS staff, and the nearly 20,000 clients served by CSS are all part of what make India a very extraordinary place. PEER Servants' India Fund has been established to further encourage Himadri in this extraordinary work and his ongoing commitment to follow the Biblical teachings of Christ.