



Quarterly News

Third Quarter 2015

PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL – TRANSFORMING LIVES

YOUR IMPACT

Our World is in Good Hands!

It's Lydia Award season at PEER Servants and with our inspiring 2015 finalists, picking the winner has never been tougher!

We need your help! We sponsor this annual award to recognize the micro-entrepreneurs served by our partners around the world who excel in business growth, community/church service, and/or overcoming major obstacles. They remind us of Lydia – an entrepreneur we meet in Acts 16 of the Bible who supported Paul and his companions and was integral to the birth of the church in Europe. God may choose to use these 2015 finalists just as much as He did Lydia herself!

Charles Ejiku, Uganda

Charles Ejiku saw people dying from cholera and malaria in his neighborhood and, as a nurse, he knew he needed to do something about it. He took his \$600 in life savings and started a clinic. The affordable healthcare he offered to the materially poor soon led to a demand for his services that exceeded his savings. He turned to CAFECC, PEER Servants' partner in Northern Uganda.

The capital Charles received from CAFECC, starting with just \$200, enabled him to expand his first clinic, start a second, and purchase a motorbike to make house calls. He now employs 10 people – including 5 nurses. His neighborhood is no longer known as a place for cholera and malaria.

Luxala Suman, Sri Lanka

War destroyed Luxala Suman's home and village. Fever took the life of her husband. But nothing could take away Luxala's desire to provide a better life and education for her

three children. She turned to HEED, PEER Servants' Sri Lankan partner, to access small business capital.

Luxala opened a small retail shop out of her home. She pounded her neighbor's rice into flour, provided meals for migrant fishermen, learned how to dry fish, started raising chickens and a vegetable garden, and bought one of the village's few refrigerators and rented out space. The result – her children are now excelling at a good school, on their way to a much better life.

Joel/Angel Venus, Philippines

Joel Venus started with a \$100 loan from a cousin to establish what is now a tuna processing business employing 20 people and serving 30 wholesalers. Joel and his wife, Venus, have relied on over 20 loans from CCT, PEER Servants' Filipino partner, to support their business growth.

Now Joel and Angel can not only educate their own children, but two nieces as well. They are generous towards their local church and even enabled their pastor to start an ice cream shop! Their innovation has enabled them to experience more of the kingdom of heaven on earth and extend it to others.

These are just short versions of Charles', Luxala's, and Joel/Angel's stories. Check out our website (www.peerservants.org) for much more of their stories and to vote online for your favorite. With thousands of micro-entrepreneurs around the world like these three, we think you'll agree that our world is in very good hands!

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, giving securely online, or gifting appreciated stock. 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

Todd G. Engelsen
President



The Lydia Award Celebration

will honor 3 entrepreneurs who have started businesses with a small amount of loan capital, overcome poverty, discovered the joy of providing for their family needs, created jobs for others and are blessing their communities in amazing ways.

Thursday, August 6, 2015 6:30-8:30 pm

Lydia Awards Celebration - Aug. 6

Please join us for our 2015 Lydia Awards Celebration wherein we'll hear more about the 2015 finalists, enjoy Ugandan, Sri Lankan, and Filipino cuisine, and cast our in-person (in addition to online) votes for our favorites before announcing the 2015 Lydia Award winner. The event is free, so come with a friend! Thursday, August 6, 6:30-8:30 pm, Room 205 of Grace Chapel's Adult Learning Center (2 Militia Dr., Lexington, MA).

WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE

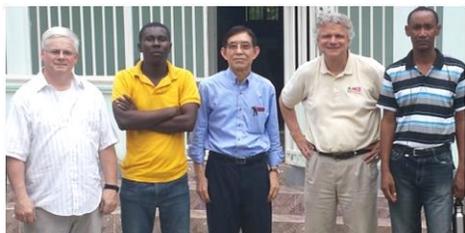
**Zambian Blocks = Med School Fees**

Concrete blockmaking is a business dominated by men in Western Zambia. That didn't intimidate Simasiku Wakung'uma one bit! A client of CEMFIN/Zambia, she qualified for credit to grow her business, doubling its size, creating top-quality blocks, and employing nine people. Her hard work and dedication are making it possible for her to send one of her dependents to medical school, with another about to start!

**Moldovan Farm = Girls' Education**

Moldova is the lead source country in Europe for human trafficking. Despite being widowed, Vera Matveiciuc wasn't about to have that affect her family. Through capital, business training, and spiritual encouragement from Invest Credit/Moldova, she has started a successful farm – raising not only corn, peppers, cabbage, walnuts, and sunflowers, but raising chickens, ducks, and pigs as well. Her business has allowed her to send her daughters to the capital for a better education.

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



How much would it cost ACLAM/Haiti to bring in an IT expert and retired CPA to enhance their operations? Not even a Gourde! In fact, if it's PEER Servants volunteers Dave Leach (far left) and David Suh (middle), they'll even pay their way to come! Dave and David joined PEER Servants President Todd Engelsen on a trip to Haiti to work with ACLAM in early June.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We'd love to hear from you!

Web: www.peerservants.org

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Teenagers from Guatemala and Boston working together to proclaim the good news of Christ and His Kingdom to children of a materially poor Guatemalan village as part of their Vacation Bible School.

Our Future is in Good Hands!

PEER Servants is focused on pursuing Jesus' vision that the kingdom of heaven be extended to earth. It's a huge task – certainly beyond any one individual's, organization's, or even country's ability to do alone. When we look at the world today, most would agree what we see is far from the kingdom of heaven on earth.

The task of extending the kingdom of heaven to earth is so big and will take so long given our current reality that we have to engage young people, teenagers even, in the task and we have to teach them how to work together from around the world much more effectively than the generations that preceded them have done. This is what has given birth to PEER Teens.

What is PEER Teens?

PEER Teens is a global group of teenagers who are learning together how to experience and extend more of the kingdom of heaven on earth. The PEER Teens affiliates are tied to some of the organizations in the PEER Servants microfinance network – currently in the countries of Uganda, the Philippines, Guatemala, and PEER Servants in Boston.

PEER Teens take to heart not only Jesus' vision of the kingdom of heaven being extended to earth expressed in Matthew 6:10, but also Paul's encouragement to Timothy expressed in 1 Timothy 4:12. They want to "set the example in their speech, conduct, faith, love, and purity" and realize as teenagers that they are uniquely equipped to extend the kingdom in ways no other age group can do as effectively as they can. Each PEER Teens affiliate identifies ways they can extend the kingdom locally and then invites other PEER Teens affiliates from around the world to join them in their initiative.

What Good Comes from Uganda!

PEER Teens started in Northern Uganda in 2014 with six Ugandan teenagers joining together to reach out to South Sudanese refugees and idle young people in their own neighborhoods. Recently, PEER Teens Uganda has been making hospital visitations. PEER Teens Boston has focused on reaching out to refugee families and recently helped a South Sudanese family furnish their apartment while preparing to do the same for an Eritrean family. Teenagers in Guatemala are dedicated to reaching out to and discipling the young children living in very materially poor communities. The Teens in Guatemala recently invited the Teens from Boston to join them in their children's outreach. It was a powerful time together as the Teens worked together as peers, focusing first on building tight friendships, and then joining together to effectively complete the task at hand. God's Spirit was poured out mightily among them as young people rededicated their lives to following Jesus.

Working to Raise Funds

The PEER Teens Boston members acknowledge they live in a part of the world that has much greater access to material resources than other parts of the world. They have raised thousands of dollars through cleaning up houses, yards, and cars and serving at various events. (Have some odd projects around the house or yard? Email us at peerteens@peerservants.org!) Their vision and hard work recently caught the eye of a church that provided a very generous grant. They don't dismiss the notion that true disciples of Jesus will join the Holy Spirit in taking on the huge task of extending the kingdom of heaven to earth. With them, our future is in very good hands!