



2015 Newsletter and Giving Invitation

Thanks to Empower's work in 2015, we've seen transformation:

Families once marked by strife and mistrust became loving, safe, and Christ-led.

Orphans and individuals scarred by trauma found hope and healing.

Couples throughout Africa, India, and the United States discovered biblical truth that set them free to enjoy relationships of equality, mutuality, and unity.

We're honored that God has called us to minister in this way—but we need your support to bring the Empower message to more people in 2016. We hope you'll partner with us in our work by including us in your year-end giving.

Here are some of the ways your support is helping us to transform families around the world.



*The family is under attack by modern forces everywhere in the world. At the same time, leaders in less-developed countries struggle against local cultures that accept abuse, suppression, and inequality as "normal." Empower supports these leaders in their efforts to transform their communities through biblical teachings on **God's love for us and its meaning for how we treat each other in marriage, family, and community.***

2015 MINISTRY TRIPS

UGANDA



January Carrie Miles, Donell Peck, and Mary Dee Foft trained the archdeacons and Mother's Union leaders of Kisoro, Uganda, in the *New Man, New Woman* seminar. Their bishop charged these leaders to take these teachings to the whole diocese.

BURUNDI

Empower has been working in Burundi since we began. In 2015, we conducted an executive overview for the Anglican bishops and their staff. The archbishop has directed that this message be taught in the entire province of Burundi.

Unfortunately, the programs that were set to begin in April had to be cancelled because of the civil unrest there. Please pray for Burundi. Many of our partners there have fled the country, while others stay in situations of great uncertainty.

KENYA

The Empower team conducted executive overviews for African International University, in Karen, and at St. Paul University in Limuru. Both universities want to integrate the material throughout their curriculum.

ETHIOPIA

Carrie stopped in Ethiopia on her way to India to meet with a group at Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa. This visit was complicated by her arrival on Epiphany, a huge Christian holiday in Ethiopia. The streets were blocked by processions of the Ark of the Covenant, and crowds dancing and singing. Although this limited the number of people who were able to get to the meetings with Carrie, those who came were very receptive. And perceptive. As one man noted about the biblical teachings, "Oh, so equality is necessary, but the real point is unity."

Crowded streets in Addis Ababa during Epiphany. That's Carrie's hotel in the distance. She never got there because of the crowds!



INDIA

Carrie and Donell went on to India from Africa. We conducted NMNW seminars in New Delhi and Guwahati, working with Koki and Johnny Desai and the Evangelical Fellowship of India. The Guwahati group was especially interesting, with men there from matriarchal societies in which men might be discarded when they can no longer work. Thank God, Jesus redeems both men and women!



Anita Coleman, who has joined the Orange Advisory Team, took the NMNW teachings to a girls' school in Tamil Nadu, India. She returned with many ideas for incorporating drama and dance into teaching a younger audience.

HIGHLIGHTS

Empower is very much at the right place at the right time. When people heard about our biblical solutions to family problems, their response was, "We have been looking for this."

MALAWI

July Sally Bryant and Aimee McKone traveled to Malawi to teach master classes on *New Man, New Woman, New Life*. Their trip was a challenging one, with flight delays and challenging navigation through the airport in Nigeria. But once they arrived in Blantyre, they were delighted to see our partners in Malawi and their ownership of the Empower materials. Sally and Aimee held a Master Class in Blantyre and another in Lilongwe.



HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor Arnold Phiri, our partner in Malawi of six years, told us, "If Jesus is Lord, then he is the boss of the house. We now have peace and partnership in the family. My wife is my partner, not my slave." He is using the Empower materials for premarital counseling in his congregation.

Seeing more fathers holding their children and couples sitting together, something they never used to do.

Thank you for the whole vision and passion for redeeming marriage and family to the original plan and purpose of God's creation.—Rev. Canon Jovahn Turyamureba

“We now have peace and partnership in the family. My wife is my partner, not my slave.” — Pastor Arnold Phiri, Malawi

BE A CHAMPION FOR EMPOWER!

Empower’s message of Biblical equality and unity is indeed counter-cultural, especially in places where women are believed to be cursed by God, and children incorrigible, and therefore “allowed” to be mistreated.

When you give to Empower, you can transform families and communities. We see dramatic changes in families that go through our biblical, practical training: abuse stops, cooperation begins, mutual respect and love begin to flourish.

Your donation brings truth to men and women, which brings, as Pastor Arnold attests, “peace and partnership” to families. Please consider partnering with us financially so that we can continue to expand this important work.

Gifts by check can be made payable to
“Empower” and sent to:
Empower International Ministries
P. O. Box 2953
Orange, CA 92859

For Paypal or credit card donations, go to our website, www.EmpowerInternational.org, and click on “support us.” Or call Carrie Miles at 714.602.7857.

CREATED TO BELONG

August Linda Ikeda and Sue Kerrigan taught both *Created to Belong*, and *Healing From Trauma* in Lilongwe, Malawi. From there, they met Pastor Arnold Phiri, who drove them to the village of Mulange to present both seminars. Empower employs a “train the trainer” format to equip local leaders to pass along what they’ve learned.

HIGHLIGHTS

Bishop Peter Chirwa, who traveled many hours from the “lake country,” joined us at the HFT training. He participated fully, even engaging in some hands-on training on how to put on a puppet show to help children resolve their trauma!

Excellent feedback including comments like: “This not only will help us with the orphans all of us have taken into our homes, but also with our biological children and even understanding ourselves.”

Having the bus stop on the way to Blantyre to make way for a presidential motorcade, and having local market vendors board the bus to sell us fruit and vegetables! (But thankfully, leaving the chickens, rats- and bats-on-a-stick outside the bus!)



NOW IN THE UNITED STATES!



Face-to-Face

The *New Man, New Woman, New Life* seminar has changed lives and families around the world. We recently adapted the material for a North American audience and published it under the title *Face-to-Face: Discovering the Joy of Relationships Built on Mutual Respect, Equality, and Compassionate Love*.

Face-to-Face is available in both couples’ and singles’ editions. We’ve gotten great reviews on Amazon, and momentum is growing. *Face-to-Face* is a great way to introduce your church or colleagues to Empower and our message. We hope you’ll order a copy and recommend it to others for small group study, pre-marital counseling, or a resource for individual study.

To order on Amazon, go to <http://amzn.to/1jvUymx> for the Couples edition; <http://goo.gl/Rcbvtd> for the Single’s edition. For multiple copies at a discount, email us at EIM@fastmail.fm.

*Pastor Francis of Zambia attended a New Man, New Woman, New Life seminar led by Sally Bryant and Aimee McKone, and immediately began integrating the information into all of his pastoral work. When he quoted from the Empower material while conducting a marriage ceremony, people came up to him to say **they had never heard the love of God expressed like that**, nor heard such wisdom from such a young man.*

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Pastor Frank Tweheyo, EIM's African Program Director, was invited to Mozambique by another ministry because they saw a need for what Empower teaches there. Witchcraft, sexual promiscuity, and Animism pervade the culture, and have become entwined in the church (so that people have trouble discerning the difference between cultural norms and Biblical truth). The local leaders urged him to return with the Empower program.

Frank took *New Man, New Woman* to Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, with **Pastor Phobice Tweheyo** and **Rev. Canon Jovahn Turyamureeba**. Goma is in North Kivu, an area that has seen much political instability and family disintegration. Although the senior pastor at the host church is a woman, there was great debate in response to the teaching. At first, nearly half the participants argued that Adam was not in the garden while the serpent was talking to Eve, saying that they had been taught that in Bible school.

HIGHLIGHTS

After much debate, those attending the teaching finally accepted that man and woman were never cursed but received the consequences of their disobedience. They also learned that women are not sexual property which is truly good news in a country where rape is rampant.

A student from the University of Goma approached Canon Jovahn and requested that this teaching be extended to the University.

Empower/Uganda president **Margaret Kiswiriri**, in Kampala, Uganda, reports that she is busy teaching NMNW at her church. Her congregation had resisted Empower training at first, so she worked only with the youth. She is now working with couples, and training "one group after another."

Our partners in India, **Koki and Johnny Desai**, flew to Manipur, then drove seven hours on a "broken road through thick forest" to reach Tamenglong, where they led NMNW. A few days later, they traveled six hours travel by train to Nagaland, where they taught NMNW at the Discipleship Bible College.

HIGHLIGHTS

Excellent feedback from both seminars, including this: "Christian family has Christ first. I learned that being a head has to do with responsibility and not authority. Head is to provide and protect, not dominate and control. Jesus caused change in people he met with. It takes courage to stand against traditions and change culture-bound society."

PLANS FOR 2016

January Carrie Miles, Donell Peck, Susan Njemanze: Uganda and Kenya.

January Sarah and David Nutter: Assam, India.

Linda Ikeda (with Arnold Phiri): Malawi

Sally Bryant and Aimee McKone: Malawi

July, Tanzania—Francine and Dan Thomas

Please help support these expensive but vital programs.

NEWS

As you may have noticed, we're updating a few things. We've got a new logo, which we believe expresses our desire to bring people together in joy and unity. We're also launching a new website, which we hope you'll visit often. We'll be updating you regularly with inspiring stories about how Empower is making a difference around the world, and how you can get involved, so please visit the site often at www.EmpowerInternational.org.



IN MEMORY: The 2015 trips are dedicated to the memory of board members Bill Stefan's father, William Frank Stefan, and Linda Ikeda's mother, Doris Hoar.
