



Empower

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

2016

Thank You!

What an amazing and productive year we've had, thanks to our incredible missionaries and supporters. Because of your faithful support and prayers, lives around the world are being changed. As the year draws to a close we wanted to share some of the amazing ways that YOU have changed lives around the globe.

It's been a year of growth, both at home and abroad. At the end of 2015, we launched our new website, which enabled us to improve our communication with all of you, and to expand our reach to tell even more people about the important work of Empower:

Families are being transformed when we bring them the truth of what the Bible says about marriage and mutual respect through our New Man, New Woman, New Life seminar.

Victims of trauma are finding hope and healing, and their caregivers are being equipped by our Created to Belong and Healing from Trauma resources.

Two conversations from this year provide a telling glimpse into the work we do, why it matters, and what we believe God has for us in the future. Each is a microcosm in which we can see the impact of our work throughout the world.

The first was a conversation Arnold Phiri, Empower's director in Malawi, had with a local pastor there. In some areas, Malawi embraces a horrific custom in which



families hire a man (called a "hyena") to rape their young daughters as an initiation to sex, or to have sex with widows to "cleanse" them after their husbands have died, in order to appease the spirits of the village ancestors.

When Empower minister Dr. Sally Bryant was there this summer, Malawi was in the news because one such "hyena" was found to be HIV positive.

In response to Sally's teachings, Arnold was asked to conduct New Man, New Woman, New Life (NMNW) in one area that practiced this custom. The women told Arnold that they hated the "cleansing" practices, but had felt helpless to object for fear that not allowing themselves or their young daughters to be raped would cause the ancestors to wipe out the whole village. The pressure put on them by this superstition was stronger than their fear of sexual assault.



The pastor told Arnold that Empower's Bible-based teaching helped them at a very basic level to combat vicious customs. The NGOs (secular aid agencies), in contrast, didn't help at all, but just distributed condoms.

NGOs are supposedly not allowed to comment on the religious or cultural practices of the people they are serving. Fortunately, we don't have that restriction, and Empower's teaching method allows people to make their own cultural applications. We are so grateful and happy that, once people understand what the Bible is saying, they realize that God cares for women as well as men and does not allow their abuse. We thank God that neither ancestral spirits nor modern economics have any power over those who love Him.

Your support is so crucial to this work! It allows us to send Arnold to help "the least among us" to resist harmful customs and find peace. As horrifying as these local superstitions and customs are, we are changing them slowly by bringing the light of truth to shine in the darkness.

The second conversation was with leaders of the Anglican diocese in Nairobi, Kenya. Accompanied by Rev. Captain Jackmoris Wachiri, we met with Rev. Geoffrey Okapisi, administrative secretary for the Nairobi Diocese.

*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.***

"Now we know that this is about preserving the family, we can take this to the diocese," Rev. Jackmoris, whom we met at the seminar held at St. Paul's University in January, said. Diocese leaders are deeply concerned about family collapse, and men's and women's growing alienation from each other.


Rev. Geoffrey told us he clearly sees that if the family is not stable, it affects the church. He sees NMNW seminar as a key tool to help stabilize and heal families.



The Bishop of Nairobi wants to roll the program down to all his congregations. "St. Monica's (Jackmoris' church) has benefited greatly," Rev. Geoffrey said. "Now we are in."

He said, "People will listen to you if you have a message. You have a message." What an amazing moment, that again, would not have been possible without your help!

We believe that God is truly going before us in Kenya, and our dream is that what we do in Kenya, we will eventually be able to do in all the other countries we've been working in on the African continent. If you share that dream, we hope you'll generously support our work with a year-end gift.

 **We could not have had these conversations, and brought about the transformation that they represent, without your help!** We are so grateful for your concern for children in Malawi, for pastors in Kenya, for families and traumatized people everywhere. Thank you!

This year, we've not only been busy (and effective!) in ministry, but have been documenting all of that activity on our blog and social media. In September, we moved into new offices, a step of faith and growth for our ministry that we believe will help us continue to move forward as we faithfully follow God.

We're also seeing great fruit as the Created to Belong message has spread. Thanks to our train-the-trainer model, hundreds of caregivers in Malawi are learning how to effectively minister to those suffering trauma. Your gifts and support are bringing healing to many!



Here are some highlights from our ministry year

January

Carrie Miles, Susan Njemanze, and Donell Peck visited **Kenya**, along with Frank Michael Tweheyo, our Africa Program Director, who is based in Uganda. They taught NMNW at St. Paul's University, and for a group in Karen.

At these seminars, as always, the biggest "ah-ha moment" for participants was studying Genesis 3 to discover that they are NOT cursed!

The transformative power of our message is so clear—knowing women (and men) are not cursed, but made in God's image, changes everything about their relationships. It changes how wives and daughters are treated. This simple truth is often the tipping point to change not only individual marriages, but entire villages.

In many of the countries we serve, violence against women is common and accepted, even where it is technically against the law. Even pastors and church leaders feel pressured to go along with this culturally accepted norm and often simply don't talk about it. Or, their belief that women are cursed by God allows them to justify violent behavior against women and girls. Our work brings the conversation into the light, and we see men repenting of what they were not even willing to call sin before.

India: Also in January, Empower Board members David and Sarah Nutter presented NMNW in **Guwahati, India**.

February

Dennis Preato, MDiv, a new friend of Empower, generously offered to share some of his excellent work on gender equality with us. Take some time to visit our new website and read his essays on gender equality.

March

In March, we posted several articles to get people talking about the content of our seminars, and of Face-to-Face, which is a small group study guide based on New Man, New Woman, New Life, designed for western audiences.



An April visit by our Indian partners, Johnny and Koldi Desai

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Gifts by check can be made payable to
"Empower" and sent to:
Empower International Ministries
14032 Enderle Center Dr, Ste 201
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For Paypal or credit card donations, go to our
website, www.EmpowerInternational.org, and
click on "support us."



Be sure to visit EmpowerInternational.org and sign up
for our blog.

We also heard reports in the spring from partners
who are using our material and seeing lives changed.
Pastor Frank Michael Tweheyo reported that in
Rwanda, he saw true fruit of Empower's work in
changed attitudes and actions of men.

Empower partner Anne Besigye continues to use our
material at Kabale Women's Guidance and Counsel-
ing Services in **Uganda** to promote family wellness.

May

Frank Tweheyo and his wife Phobice traveled to
Nampula, Mozambique in late May, to conduct a New
Man, New Woman, New Life seminar. The govern-
ment there pays traditional witchdoctors to conduct
initiation-to-adulthood camps for teenagers. Frank
notes that these traditions teach the girls that they
can't refuse any man sexually, leaving the girls with
no control and no self-esteem.

The Tweheyos and their hosts reported that the
seminars' results were powerful and life-changing,
leading to repentance and empowered lives in Christ.

June

CTB—For the third year in a row, Created to Belong
director Linda Ikeda traveled to **Malawi**. This trip, she
taught the first ever Created to Belong Master Class.
Sue Kerrigan accompanied her, along with new
Empower partner Ann Lo. Linda, an R.N. and a
licensed marriage, family and child therapist, is the
author of Created to Belong and recently developed
the Master Class materials. Sue is a licensed R.N. from
Seattle. Ann is interested in translating Empower ma-
terials into Chinese, as she and her husband run a
ministry in China, as well as pastoring a church in
northern California



On the trip, Linda and Sue saw first-hand the effective-
ness our "train the trainers" model. Linda, Sue, and Ann
visited ten villages in two days, where graduates of the
Created to Belong and **Healing from Trauma** work-
shops have trained others. The response from hundreds
of transformed people was incredible.

Our African facilitators, led by Pastor Frank, were busy
in June. They presented the New Man, New Woman,
New Life seminar at the following locations:

Nairobi, Kenya. NMNW at St. Monica Utawala Parish,
the church of Rev. Captain Jackmoris Wachira. Capt.
Jackmoris, who was at our program at St. Paul's Univer-
sity in January, along with Rev. Dr. Zablon Bundi of St.
Paul's, have become important partners and enthusias-
tic champion of our work in Kenya.

Nairobi, Kenya. Frank Tweheyo delivered a presenta-
tion on Empower for the Anglican clergy of the Nairobi
diocese. The bishop asked for copies of his talk for all
Nairobi clergy, and wants to roll the program down to
all congregations in the diocese.



Limuru, Kenya. We returned to St. Paul's University to
conduct NMNW, organized by Rev. Dr. Zablon Bundi
(our host in January).

July

Empower ministers Dan and Francine Thomas visited **Tanzania** in July, working with (Anglican) Bishop Given Gaula and his wife Rev. Lillian Gaula at the Bible School Kondo, which is run by their diocese. This influential couple has welcomed Empower and been a wonderful support. The Thomases go to Tanzania regularly to do various programs with the Bishop and his wife.

Francine tells of meeting an elderly canon, whom she had seen before but couldn't quite place, who suddenly took his wife's hand and held it up above their heads, saying "We must always live as new men and women just as we were taught." She then remembered that these were participants in the first NMNW seminar they taught there.

August

In August, Empower Minister Sally Bryant visited **Malawi**, where she was invited to speak at a General Conference of a denomination made up of African Independent churches. This is her seventh trip to Malawi.

September



We celebrated moving into new offices at our annual board meeting!

At the end of September Wayne Pelly traveled to **Kenya**. He spoke at the Ekklesia Foundation for Gender Equality annual conference, held in Bondo, and facilitated NMNW for the Bondo Mothers' Union leaders. He then joined Pastor Frank Tweheyo to speak at Utawala Deliverance Church in Utawala, where the response to the teaching was profound, with attendance doubling between days one and two, and then growing even more to day three, to about 42 total (many of whom came very enthusiastically to the Master Class taught by Carrie, Frank and Donell a week later.)



Frank and Wayne also taught the New Man, New Woman seminar in **Kibera**, Africa's largest slum, to a receptive audience.

October

October brought another flurry of travel, as Pam Frohreich and Frank conducted the NMNW seminar at Teen Challenge in **Nairobi, Kenya**. Carrie and Donell Peck traveled to Nairobi as well, joining Pam and Frank for the last day of the Teen Challenge seminar. Donell and Frank later lead a seminar for graduates of the TC program.



Carrie, Frank, and Donell conducted a Master Class training to 53 very eager Anglicans and Pentecostals in a suburb of Nairobi. The Kenyans are particularly interested in Carrie's work on the impact of economic development on the family, so she presented that as well. At the request of several recent groups of participants, Donell developed and led sessions on sex education.

Year end

Our work around the globe requires an investment of both time and finances. Your faithful support helps with everything from printing workbooks to securing venues in which to speak. While our ministers pay or raise their own travel expenses, putting on the seminars is still costly, and we still turn down more requests that we accept, simply for lack of funding.

Our dream for the coming year is that we would be able to say yes to more opportunities. We sense that God is moving and we want to keep the momentum going forward. To do that, we need you to partner with us.

How? First, pray! Visit www.EmpowerInternational.org and subscribe to our blog, so that you can receive email updates. When you receive our emails, would you take a few moments to pray for our work, our partners, and the people we are reaching?

Also, please prayerfully consider including Empower in your year-end giving plans. What better investment than changing and helping families with the truth of unity and mutual respect? And again, thank you for all that you do to bring life-changing biblical teachings to people who desperately need to hear it. **With your help, we are proclaiming God's love for us and its meaning for how we treat each other in marriage, family, and community.**