

Northeastern District ALLIANCEWOMEN

District Newsletter, July 2020

Do You Really Want to Live Free?

By Terri Groh, District Director

I have been blessed with the ability to do many things in my life. I enjoy my role as Alliance Women's Director for our district. I am the Disciple-making Ministries Director at our church. I'm on the District Missions Committee. I write. I have a sewing business. I love to bake and cook and have started participating in the local farmer's market.

The problem with being able to juggle multiple balls is that eventually it becomes one ball too many and something falls. And as the ball is falling and I reach to regain control, other balls start to fall. I recently have had balls starting to drop all around me as I have either been moving too quickly and overlooked something, or as I seemed to have a brain glitch and totally forgot about an appointment or activity I should have been doing. When this happens, I get so frustrated with myself. I want to do things well and the reality is that when you have too many balls in the air, eventually something will fall.

During the covid-19 lockdown of the past three months, the Lord began to strip away at my busyness with reminders that I need to slow it down and focus. Just because I can do multiple things doesn't mean I should do that. Just because I love activity doesn't mean that I should seek it out. And as He began to gently nudge me about this, He also began to stir a desire within me to be still, sit with Him, and just listen. He wanted me to learn a lesson that wouldn't be learned if I keep running around.

He has been gently pulling some deep-rooted strongholds in my life up to the surface so He can deal with them. Things like the need for approval and affirmation. Things like control and fear and anxiety. He pulls them out into the light so I can see them. He doesn't condemn or accuse me. He just gently asks me if I'm ready to let go of them. When I don't open my fist to release them, He says, "It's okay." "You're not ready yet." But then, the Lord in

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His infinite patience and gentleness will pull them out again at a different time and ask, "How about now?"

I'm amazed at His patience with me. I'm awestruck at the love and compassion He shows me when I refuse to let go. To be honest, I'm embarrassed about my flaws. I know others may look at me at times and roll their eyes saying, "When will she ever learn?" But not my precious Lord. He understands me and He knows the underlying cause and deep hurts that no one else can see.

My struggles may not be your struggles. We all deal with different things in our lives. But we all serve the same God. He sees your hurt and your weariness and your longing. He wants to you to be set free from those hinderances that hold you back so that you can live free. He wants you to surrender them to Him so He can fill you with the things that will help you live a victorious life.

I want to encourage you to open up your hand and let them go. Won't you join me this year as we look at year two of our theme of Set Free? But this year, we want to realize that when we are set free from those sinful behaviors and burden that we will truly be able to live free in Christ. I'm looking forward to the journey this year and I am praying for each of you in the coming year.

National Project

Thank you for your giving to the 2019-2020 National Project. Because of your faithfulness we raised \$15,774.21. Great job, ladies!

National Project Goal for 2020-2021

National Goal—\$250,000

Northeastern District Goal—\$ 16,000

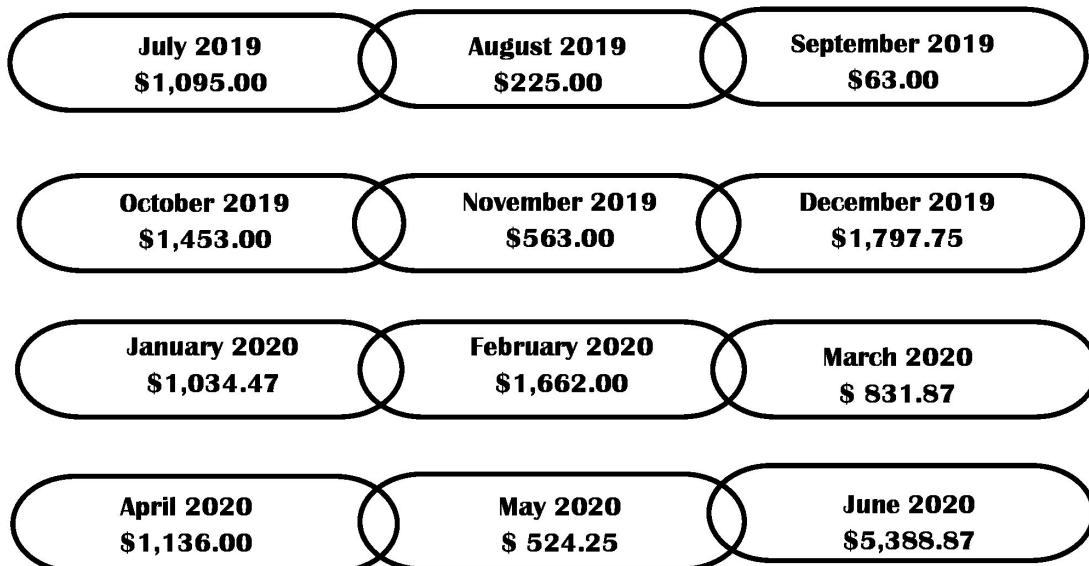
**See page 4-5 for more information on the
2020-2021 National Project**



National Goal—\$250,000
Northeastern District Goal—\$16,000

Year-to-date Amount— \$15,774.21

Help break their chains so they can be SET FREE!



2019-2020 National Project

Bosnia-Herzegovinia

Roma people and women coming out of prison to be set free from heroin addiction

Cambodia

Help and a home for those seeking to be set free from drug and alcohol addiction

Paraguay

Reaching youth through camp ministry to be set free to follow Jesus

Uruguay

Encounter retreats for well-educated women in a spiritually-resistant culture to be set free from emptiness



*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord,
continue to live your lives in him (Colossians 2:6).*



We invite you to embrace this opportunity to join the worldwide work of The Alliance through your prayers and financial support.



PROJECT COUNTRYSIDE | PHILIPPINES | \$45,000

marketplace ministries provides transitional housing and employment opportunities for released women prisoners.



HEALING UNSEEN WOUNDS | KOSOVO | \$32,000

An aXcess team is displaying Christ's love to an overlooked community of wartime rape survivors.



TABITHA FUND | NEW YORK CITY | \$56,500

Envision New York seeks to meet West African immigrant women's critical needs, including transitional housing.



REFUGEE RELIEF | LATIN AMERICA | \$32,000

CAMA is partnering with Alliance churches in Colombia to meet the practical needs of Venezuelan refugees.

How to Give:



BY CHECK

Designate "The Christian and Missionary Alliance." Please indicate "Alliance Women" on the memo line. Mail to:
The Christian and Missionary Alliance
Attn: Donor Services
8595 Explorer Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80920



BY PHONE

Call toll free
(866) 443-8262



ONLINE

Go to
alliancewomen.org/give

NOTE: Your tax-deductible gifts also support U.S. Alliance multicultural ministries, Alliance Women, and the Great Commission Fund.

Pray for our International Workers

Spronks

- Please pray for the countries of Gabon and Senegal to open their borders and for Covid cases to decline so travel to Gabon is permitted later this year.

Eikosts

- On Wednesday (July 1) we are scheduled to fly out of Sarajevo to Istanbul, JFK and finally Syracuse. Please pray for calm nerves and good understanding as we negotiate security/health screening in Istanbul.
- We are assuming we'll need to be in isolation for 2 weeks after we arrive. Pray for patience for us and our family as we are anxious to see each other (especially my mom).
- Later in the month we will have our regular re-entry conference (HAMS), but via ZOOM. We are thankful not to make another big trip right away to Colorado Springs, but will miss seeing our colleagues in person.
- We need to connect with a doctor as soon as possible to begin our medical checkup process. This will most likely be complicated by isolation requirements. Pray for God's timing.
- Please pray for my mom, who has been moved to the long-term care section at her senior housing facility. The isolation of the pandemic has taken its toll on her mind.

Strong

- Please pray for Et. He is a Lao man, in his early 50s, who has worked with CAMA Crafts for over 20 years as the manager. A couple of years ago he was diagnosed with colon cancer. He had surgery and chemo several times in neighboring Thailand. The last surgery was to take a mass off his liver. They could not get it all. Now he has severe stomach pains and scans from hospitals in Laos show that there are other tumors in his upper abdomen. He is single and lives with his mother. There are no cancer hospitals in Laos. He has to go to Thailand and now it requires a 14-day quarantine (this is what they have heard). He called his Dr. in Thailand, and they said to come. But Thailand is requiring paper work and documents to be signed by the Thailand hospital assuring Et will not go anywhere else. The hospital will not sign these documents. Pray he can get the Thailand officials to allow him to go across the border to seek help and take someone with him. Pray for peace and comfort for Et and his mother. Pray for the whole CAMA Craft staff as they walk with Et through this situation. Pray too for our CAMA staff there working with Et that they know how to handle things in a Biblical and culturally appropriate way.

Pray for our staff working in a CAC country helping refugees. The COVID 19 virus has entered among the refugees. Pray that it would not be fatal there and that people would get over it quickly. Also pray for our staff that this will open doors for them as it already has, but that with these open doors they can build strong and trusting relationships. Pray there would be open doors to share the love of Jesus in both word and

deed.

- Pray for 2 new couples trying to leave to go to their countries of service. They are waiting on open doors and ways to enter to get visas. Pray that God opens the doors for these 2 couples and makes the path smooth for them.
- Pray for 2 businesses and outreach projects that CAMA helped start. One is over 30 years old and the other is 13 years old. The COVID 19 virus has really hurt them (lack of sales and therefore lack of income), but they are looking at creative ways to stay alive. Please pray God will grant the wisdom and also open doors to sell products in ways they did not have before.
- Pray for us, the Stronges, as well as other CAMA and C&MA IWs who are home on home assignment looking for ways to get back to our/their countries of ministry. Pray that the countries would open their borders for entry and that visas can be secured. We are hoping to leave by mid-Aug - a month later than planned when we came home a year ago.

Dr. Renee Valach

Bongolo had its first case of Covid last week. The patient has returned to her home in the capital of the province, and we are making a list of contacts. Already the hospital workers tell me that the bush taxi driver who brought her is very sick with cough and fever.

There are around 5000 cases in the country. The borders are still closed, and there are still restrictions like a curfew from 6pm to 6am and no gatherings of more than 10 people.

- Pray for continued protection for us from Covid.
- We are the only hospital in this province and the next that can provide essential surgery like c-sections or trauma care. Because of Covid we've been screening people, and we know that there are often around 600 people coming through the gates of the hospital in a day. Because of the confinement we've had no break for months. Pray that the doctors would be able to get a break in July.
- We are very short on non-sterile medical exam gloves. We can't buy them in country because they been set aside for the Covid response. Pray for gloves.
- We are out of several common medicines, including three of the most common blood pressure medicines. Pray for medicines and that the long-standing problem with ordering certain medicines would finally be resolved.

Zoggs

- The opening of the Dominican Republic and especially the borders/airport July 1st. It is still up in the air so please pray.
- Ed needs to return to the US to get follow up testing from his surgery last year. This has been a real challenge. Getting appointments, covid testing, possible 14 day quarantine prior to the procedure.

Pray for our International Workers (Continued)

Zoggs (continued)

- Wisdom for Krista's college. We were hoping to be able to go to the US to visit colleges this summer as she will be a senior in the fall. We are praying for a good chemical engineering school where Krista can compete on the swim team that we can afford.
- Wisdom for Rachels school. Whether to stay here in the DR for fall semester and do it online or return to a campus that will likely be very restricted.
- That our current food ministry will continue to wind down as more things open and people return to work.
- We reopened the church 2 Sundays ago on a limited basis but with social distancing and new people we are maxing out our space and chairs.
- That we will be able to continue to keep the body connected through Zoom (Kids Club, Prayer Meetings (M, W & F), Alpha Program/Youth Group and Bible study).
- And the big one, our residency. We submitted our paperwork and money before the virus and in the meantime our residency has expired. We are going for permanent residency which will have us renew every 5 years instead of annually. We need our residency cards to ensure reentry if we are able to travel to the US.



Thank you for keeping our International Workers before the throne!

ALLIANCEWOMEN

Dear Women of the Northeaster District of the Alliance,

I would like to invite you to consider an amazing opportunity to join other women from our district in this one-year Bible and Discipleship course. We will read and study the Word of God and 12 excellent books together and be stretched to process and apply Biblical truths together to our lives.



Take a minute to check out the website: <https://www.empowerww.org/>

My life was richly blessed this past year. I felt like God brought me to a sweeter and quieter place in my soul that I was deeply longing for. I respect the 8 women who took this Empower journey with me and

together we would like to invite you to prayerfully consider it. Here is a short [video from our 2020 graduates](#).



You can [register online](#) and reach out to me, but don't delay. Early bird registration ends July 1, which is \$800, AND the district is offering a \$200 incentive scholarship to the first 10 women who register bringing the cost down to \$600. So, ACT NOW.

I am really excited about the tremendous potential and great opportunity to see women in upstate and central New York grow together as they are challenged and equipped for ministry. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.



Sincerely,
Amy Nehlsen, NED Site Coordinator for
Empower 717-701-9603 (cell);
amy@fultonalliance.org



We are grateful for our District Disciplemaking Specialist, Lisa Vogan, as she graduated Empower One this year as well. This program aligns with our district vision of making disciples.

"I am very glad that the Northeastern District had a pilot satellite site for Empower this past year. All nine women successfully completed this first year, and some will now go further. At graduation each one gave a testimony of being challenged, blessed, and growing personally in a very powerful way. Equipping like this is right at the core of our district vision to engage everyone as a full ministry partner. We are eager to see more women take this choice opportunity to step up in their faith and ministry. If you are on the fence, I say: Go for it!" **David Linn, District Superintendent**