When women answer the call

Empower Saturdays are a wonderful place of learning, but the retreat is an extended time to get to know one another better and be refreshed as we allow the Lord to reveal deeper places that need His touch. Hearing one another’s stories and struggles reminds us that we are not alone as we walk in the truth. A shift in perspective and focus directs us to “Praise the Lord, oh my soul and forget not all his benefits- who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s” (Psalm 103:2-5). Jesus is our victorious champion and has made a way for us to walk in freedom!
A couple of years ago, a woman came to me at one of the spring classes to tell me how God had met her at the retreat and brought healing to an area of her life where she had given up hope. She left the retreat thinking this would be like similar experiences of a spiritual high, then things would level off and eventually end up back in depression, which she had lived in for years. Every day she woke up waiting for the old feelings to return, but they never came. She said that after several weeks, she finally got the hint that God had completely healed her and things weren’t going back to the way they were! She then repented of her unbelief and happily focused on how to live in this newly found freedom.

Empower women around the world are walking in their new-found freedom with the courage to bring healing into their community for just the right people at just the right time.

How often do you hear a painful story and think, “I wish there was some way I could help.” Many Empower women are answering the call, stepping into those needs, listening to God’s direction and creating a way to help!

Read how you can step in and answer the call with us on page 3.

Listening for His heartbeat,

Wanda Walborn
Director, Empower

This year was my second Empower retreat. I am amazed at the way God took last year’s mountain top moment and continued the work He began with this year’s retreat. I am currently taking Engage and it has been a beautiful journey of taking what I learned in Empower and carrying it over to other women through the mentoring program. It has been powerful to see the work God has been continuing to do within myself from my first to second year in the Empower courses.

During this year’s retreat I was in awe of the unity and growth, both in size and in character, in the room. It was incredible to see so many women from all over gathering to worship and lean into the Holy Spirit’s presence through each teaching and prayer session. We sang together, we raised our hands and declared ‘Victory’ together, we prayed together, we released burdens and shattered the chains of our lies together, we broke bread and laughed together. I felt as if I had a front row seat to the beauty bestowed upon God’s daughters.

Lies were the central theme of the weekend, and with each speaker’s charge and challenge to us, I felt God stirring a new thing in everyone, myself included.
**3 RETREATS**
**317 WOMEN**
**CALIFORNIA**
**KOSOVO**
**NEW JERSEY**

No matter where the women come from the message of healing is the same: Break the lies of the enemy, believe the truth of your King, and walk in freedom.

"What a blessing it was to serve as a mentor at the Empower West Coast retreat! What joy to accompany women as they walked through the process of becoming aware of lies they believe so they could then combat those lies with truth and move forward in their journey, doing all God has called them to do."

- Donice Van Gilst
  Empower Mentor, Sacramento, CA

"The retreat gave me space and time for Jesus to uncover the lies and fears I had been living under. It set me free in a sweet community of fellow women in leadership."

- Sarah Bourns
  Empower One Student, NYC Empower

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**LEAD, MOVE, GROW in the SPIRIT**

**March 14, 2020 | 9AM–4PM | Princeton Alliance Church**

Empower, in partnership with the Metro District LEAD Team, will be hosting a Leadership Training Day for Spirit-led leaders to learn how to Grow, Lead, and Move in the Spirit.

For more information and registration, visit [www.metrocma.org/Lead](http://www.metrocma.org/Lead)
In Palestine an Alliance International Worker befriended a woman named Lydia (name changed for security), a mother of 5 children, who was being physically abused by her husband. Lydia left her husband but despaired for how she could provide for her family and take care of her children. Our Empower graduate saw Lydia’s need as well as her talents with handicrafts. She taught her how to make jewelry and coached her in the skills of selling it within their community and abroad. Now Lydia is using a skill to do a job that she loves while providing for her family. We sold Lydia’s jewelry at the Empower retreats, providing opportunities for women all over the country to step in and help!

Empower women around the world are answering the call to minister to those in need and women around the world are asking for Empower to come to their region!

Empower is ready to answer them by providing 2 new international sites. We will need your help to launch those new sites! Each site requires $10,000 in funding to provide tech support, translation services, and a retreat.

Are you ready to answer the call?
Give today at empowerww.org/donate

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WORLDWIDE IMPACT
CONFIDENTIAL FOR SECURITY

International Worker - East Asia

For nearly 30 years as an international worker, I have wrestled with the challenges of healthy cross-cultural relationships in both family and ministry. I began our last home assignment again hurting and battle weary, longing for mature spiritual community. Joining EMPOWER as a livestream student was God’s gracious gift to me. Just being in this loving, faith-filled community of mature women who are committed to walk with one another in the journey of their own hearts and willingly come alongside others was in itself healing, affirming and hope inspiring! Throughout the year the Lord brought deeper healing to my heart, helped me to recognize and renounce lies, and renewed my confidence to stand in my God-given identity and authority. I know I needed their help and intercession!

Since our return to the field in 2018, the Father has opened a new door to partner with another IW and minister to the deeper needs of a small group of hungry and mature believers. Under the pressure of increasing government restrictions God is strengthening and empowering their hearts from within. “Deliverance? – What is this?” - one brother asked when translating soul care materials. “I think I need this. Can you help me?” His humble request challenged us to cross a new threshold in ministry - and the Lord set his heart free!

His testimony drew others. His sister visiting from another province asked with desperation: “My heart is too broken to manage life. I don’t have what it takes... If God doesn’t heal my heart, I have no hope...Can you help me?” After our day together, she sent a short video, dancing with her little nephew to worship music. Many other voices have joined the Empower echo in the Far East: Calling out, “Will you come and train us?” I am so grateful for my Empower experience and that I can be a part of answering that call!
Throughout my over 30 years in ministry I’ve been blessed to have had leadership who affirmed my spiritual gifts, encouraged me, challenged me, corrected me, and took risks with and for me along the way. Most of the limitations and insecurities I experienced were self-imposed. Because of childhood wounds and some poor teachings in my teen years, I believed that I had nothing to contribute. I hesitated to vocalize even that which I was discerning through the Holy Spirit. To do so would make me an imposter because I believed that my words would get me in trouble and if I spoke someone would get hurt. The old adage “children should speak only when spoken to” and the biblical and admirable concept of a gentle and quiet spirit shaped my communication patterns well into adulthood and ministry.

The lies I believed were identified in Empower One. I found truth in Scripture. I fan into flame the gifts God has given to me (2 Timothy 1:6-7) and operate in them without fear, but in His power with love and self-control. Wisdom comes from God alone (James 1:5) and I am not an imposter because God himself knows me (John 15:15). Jesus said that if those who honor and follow him were to remain silent, the stones would cry out (Luke 19:40). Mute, dead stones would speak in my place? Not on my watch!

As I stand in my identity as a child of God and lead in the places and ways he has opened to me, the greatest joy is to see the church—the full body of Christ—functioning as God intended. By using my gifts and my voice, I’ve seen change take place in the lives of individuals. I’ve graciously spoken truth to those in places of influence and seen problems solved and wrongs righted. People have found freedom from bondage. Others have been released to fruitful ministry. There’s nowhere I’d rather be than fully obedient to the calling of God on my life.

Experience Empower
Free Open Class // April 18, 2020 // 9AM - 1PM
Visit empowerww.org to RSVP
EMPOWERING the WORKPLACE

Michelle Park
Empower Professor & Proclaim Coach
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

How do you view Empower’s credibility in the world of academia?

What Empower offers is on par with taking Master’s level classes with world-class professors. The fact that there is a certification of completion for women who finish the course, backed and issued by the Metropolitan District of the C&MA, and the opportunity to receive six transfer credits to be applied towards a degree at Nyack College or Alliance Theological Seminary speaks to the credibility of Empower. I love that any woman who has desired to learn more about the Bible and be equipped in areas of leadership can join Empower. Even when women who feel they do not have the time, finances or even a specific call to ministry can receive this kind of teaching - whether they decide to further pursue a degree or not. Anyone who has experienced Empower knows it is far more than just a program, it equips the mind and tends to the heart and soul.

How has Empower impacted you, professionally?

My workplace is comprised of many different environments and roles; at Redeemer Counseling Services as a marriage and family therapist, as an adjunct lecturer for the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling and ATS, and on the local church level. In all of my work, Empower has pruned and cultivated different skills and parts of me over the years. It has uprooted lies about who I am and planted truths and dreams for my future. Empower is like a village that has helped me to be even more present and grounded in all that I do. I have felt the tangible support from others and the truth of God being ever more rooted in me. This year I am stepping into a new season professionally, as I start my own private therapy practice. I can say I am able to do so largely because of Empower’s impact on my life.

How has Empower impacted you, personally?

I took Empower at a time in my life where I found myself in roles that required a lot of giving. Being a wife and mom was not necessarily the taxing part, it was the role of pastor’s wife in a church plant, as well as being a therapist that was so taxing. I enjoyed what I was doing... until I didn’t. I felt burnt out and I realized I was not doing self-care well. During that season I heard about Empower and I enrolled for self-care. I felt it would be my opportunity to receive.

Yes, there was a ton of work involved, however, the teachings I sat under filled my heart, soul and spirit. I also met like-minded women who just “got me.” It felt safe and I was ministered to in mentoring groups. I allowed God’s Spirit to seep into areas where I felt dry. Now, as a professor for Empower teaching on conflict, one of the joys is reading through the papers and seeing God at work in women’s lives. It’s so life giving to see the transformation that happens throughout the course.
A Pastor’s Perspective

REV. TED KANG, Lead Pastor, San Jose Alliance Church

As a pastor, there is no greater joy than seeing God’s people flourish in the areas of their giftings and calling. As we celebrate the third year of Empower at San Jose, more than a couple dozen of our women have gone through the program. Many of them, who had never seen themselves as leaders, are now leading fearlessly both within and outside the church.

One of these transformed lives was a woman named Ada. Upon completing the first year of Empower, Ada stood in front of hundreds of people and testified of God’s transforming work in her life. She grew up with the lie that she was ‘unlovable’ because of nerve damage that paralyzed one side of her face. Through Empower, God broke the power of shame and insecurity that had kept her in captivity all her life. She now serves as one of our key prayer ministers in the church who imparts the love of God she has received to others.

Another transformed life is Rena. Rena came to our church a few years ago as a struggling single mother looking for a job at our preschool. The challenge of raising five children without a father took a heavy toll on her. Her only goal in life at that time was simply to survive. Through Empower, Rena went through a radical journey of healing and restoration. She is now mentoring other women through Engage and has grown to become one of the key leaders in our Children’s Ministry.

Ada and Rena are just two of many women in our church who have experienced the transforming work of the Holy Spirit through Empower. Church leaders understand ‘leadership formation’ mostly as an academic endeavor. In the past, we have relied on curriculum-based trainings as a primary way of developing leaders. I am grateful for the resources we have to help people grow in their scriptural knowledge as well as ministry skills. However, real and lasting transformations are possible only when God’s people are willing to embrace brokenness and pain as a pathway of growth through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. In this day and age when people put high value on capacity and performance over character and maturity, Empower has been a fresh wind of renewal for our church that cultivates a longing towards the fuller and deeper life in God.
Volunteer Profile

Mercy Rodriguez

NYC Hospitality Team

Empower has taught me the great love of God our Father and his compassion towards us all. This is what propels me to volunteer both in and outside of Empower. Empower prepared me tremendously in helping me understand who I am in Christ and identifying God’s calling on me in this season of my life.

Through the classes, I have been strengthened in my faith, encouraged, affirmed and transformed. I have learned to identify and hear God’s voice more clearly. After taking Empower I was confident enough to take on a new job, as the director of ARK Ministries (All Rockland Kids for Christ). In this role I train volunteers to teach Bible Stories and serve local children and families. The challenges these families face are very real and require a compassionate heart full of the love of God. This love is needed in order for our service to have impact. Jesus has called us to serve Him by serving others and I am humbled to do my part.

It has also been exciting to see volunteers raised up to pursue their own callings and serve locally and even globally. I love that I get to be a part of a bigger, world-wide story by sending others out.

Empower Leadership Team

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Dr. Amy Davis Abdallah, Faculty Advisor
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