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SOUTHEAST CHRISTIAN

2008 Working Groups
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Transformational Development

Day One: Trends & Challenges

Facilitator: Stan Rowland

Scribe: Augustine Muema
Discussions were centered on ways in which medical missions can have positive transformational Impact.

Sought to get a common understanding and meaning of 'Transformation''

- What is transformation? Its been commonly used in both Christian and secular circles

Responses:
-Totally new; new ideas; old to new; renewal of mind
- Hard change
- Change from one thing to another
- Renewal of mind, heart, behavior, spirit, total behavior change
- Accepting Christ is only the foundation for a whole process of change.
- It's more often a progressive change than an immediate change
  - ✓ Agreed to accept a working definition by Bryant Myers- quoted from his book on principles and practices of Transformational development- changed people finding their true identity and true vocation in God; it begins at the individual level

What have we experienced in regard to wholistic approach to ministry?
Any difference?

- Change of attitude in the way western Christians share Christ, not so much that you change your culture but do it Christ's way.
- Medical missions without transformation is easy and popular
- Even though one may be placed in a majority Christian culture, the church does at times enforce negative culture even though it can well transform it. That is, in social justice the church can be both silent and active.
- Transformation is not possible without spirituality
- Shot term missions can do lots of harm. They become an impediment to transformation especially if the outsider comes with a welfare attitude – 'to meet the needs of others'. They should rather have a servant attitude.
- Its important for transformation workers to know the culture of groups they work with
- Timeline. Its not about projects but a transformation of cultures and whole belief systems. It takes a long time to do transformational work

How do we know whether transformation is happening in qualitative as well as quantitative terms?

- Though detecting community transformation may take long, individual focus may be easier to measure
- Transformation may not be forward direction always, at times may involve backslides
- Transformation is a process

INDICATORS

1. Change of attitudes and perspectives of the world around them
2. Motivations in their lives
3. Spoken words
4. A wooh! Experience
5. A HOPE for life
6. TRUST among the peoples
7. A more relational community- improvement in relationships
8. Behavior change
9. Leadership styles
10. Multiplier effects on others
11. Life has purpose beyond material achievement
12. Churches focus beyond the spiritual

Day Two: Solutions & Strategies

Stan Rowland displayed a toy racing car that later changed into a robot. Its also called a transformer. Used this to display the essence of transformation as inbuilt not from outside.
We broke out into four working groups to answer questions.

Question 1:
Why do we want to measure change in the communities

- See evidence of Gods glory
- Measuring effectiveness
- Accountability to both the community and the grant program
- Reproducibility (multiplication)
- Change is scary so we want to monitor it, keep track
- Assessing direction of transformation
- Strategic planning for the future
- Providing a basis for hope and vision
- To see the progress made
- Assessing relevance of change to the gospel
- Facilitates self awareness for participants/ facilitator
- To measure the degree of change due to transformation caused in us by the Holy spirit

Question 2:
On a village level, what might a community that is transformed by God look like. Whats' the difference between a transformed village from a non-transformed village?

- crime rate goes down
- a visible body of Christ working in the community
- Emerging leadership
- Unity and cooperation
- Visible general prosperity
- Evangelical minded
- Change in concrete indicators like reduced diseases/rate; increased education standards; good housing, better security, better education
- Improved moral standards
- Education of women
- Strong relations, stable families
- Faith in action
- Joy
- General fruitful productivity
- Addictions are done away with
- Self sufficiency

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- Ownership/responsibility
- Goals/ plans/ hopeful/long-term mindset
- Worship of true God
- Reputation worth following
- Improved / availability of basic life needs
- Redistribution of wealth- justice, equity
- Teachable / learn ability
- Outreaching churches
- Reproducibility/multiplication
- Trust/ working together

Question 3:
What can be done to begin to facilitate/ foster transformation?

- ✓ Prayer Walks- by observation, relationships and trust
- ✓ Become part of the community
- ✓ Listen
- ✓ Identify community assets
- ✓ Facilitate fruitful asset use
- ✓ Service to the community
- ✓ Understanding community culture- individual and institutional
- ✓ Partnering with the likeminded
- ✓ Understand ourselves
- ✓ Challenge unjust systems
- ✓ Use variety of media to communicate (helps overcome functional illiteracy)

Group members had a clear yes to continue in the dialogue on transformation through the internet/ blog.
Needed :

1. Questions to keep the dialogue going
2. Success stories of transformation
3. Learning resources to be shared
4. Discussion topics
5. World cafe

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