



What Does It Take to Engage the Whole Community with the Whole Gospel?

Cause: Wholistic transformation from the inside of individuals, neighborhoods and cities.

Solution: Assist church members and people in a poor neighborhood to empower people in that neighborhood to transform it by knowing and loving their neighbors and creating community, which then transforms the neighborhood from the inside.

By choosing a nearby neighborhood to become involved in, the church team engages the locals to discover their assets, listens to what they, as a community want to do and when they want to do it. Using group facilitation and organization techniques, the neighborhood begins to do things that help to eradicate poverty (physically, spiritually, emotionally, economically and socially) in their neighborhood.

Transformation

The desired end result is seeing transformation take place in individuals and neighborhoods. Transformation is a permanent change in one's attitude, belief, and behavior in all areas of an individual's life (physical, spiritual, emotional, social) that then facilitate the same changes in others; that as an aggregate change their neighborhood from the inside out.

An Approach that Fosters Transformation

- It is a people-oriented, relationship building process.
- It is designed to identify assets within the neighborhood (found in individuals, associations and institutions), and identifies which of those assets they are willing to share.
- People are linked around their common interests.
- People begin to take responsibility for their own lives and then as a group for the life of their neighborhood.
- It is based on neighbors helping neighbors, not being dependent on professionals to do things for them.
- It is designed to be sustainable.
- It is primarily a grass-root, bottom-up process that helps a person to act as a catalyst and facilitator.
- It is a gradual learning process, progressing from the simple to the more complex and from the known to the unknown.
- It works primarily with individuals and households and then impacts the neighborhood as a whole.
- It is greater than the sum of its parts.

Desired Outcomes in Neighborhood for Local Churches Using NT

By the end of three to five years, we hope to see the following:

- Neighbors knowing neighbors and starting to reach out to help each other.
- People in the neighborhood transforming their neighborhood physically, spiritually, emotionally, and socially.
- People participating and/or initiating community-wide projects for the greater good of the city.
- Service opportunities created for everyone to engage in, within their comfort level.
- Crime, graffiti, and abuse will decrease with improvement of living conditions in the neighborhood.
- Physical health is improved in all areas of people's lives.
- People will be better able to earn a living.
- Creating and nurturing socially entrepreneurial missions, nonprofits and other programs within the city.

Desired Outcomes for Local Churches Using NT

- People coming to and growing in Christ and reaching out wholistically in word and deed.
- Church plants birthed out of NT.
- Churches growing in ethnic and cultural diversity; reflecting the neighborhood and uniting brothers and sisters from every tribe and tongue.
- Helping church members strengthen their faith by growing their hearts through hands-on missions.

Commitment and Sacrifice with NT

What's True

Neighborhood Transformation (NT), using Christian Asset Based Community Development works, however you have to be willing to pay the price. Do not embark on NT without "counting the cost". Some things to keep in mind, if you want to be successful in NT:

- NT takes time.
- NT means putting the agenda of the community above yours.
- NT is relational, not transactional. Success is measured in changed relationships, not transactions.
- NT means you actively work to fade yourself into the background. Your focus is helping others do things for themselves.
- NT takes years of focused, deliberate relationship and the embrace of Jesus' attitude about the grain of wheat (unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it cannot multiply).

How CNT Can Assist You, At Whatever Stage You Are At

- Just beginning, you are interested in reaching out to a neighborhood,
- You have been building relationships and ready to move on
- You are at the neighborhood organizing stage
- Help members of your church or city in understanding poverty and its impact in the city.
- Help you look at what your church is currently doing.
- Help you know if you are ready to begin to become involved in transforming a neighborhood.
- Act as a catalyst to help you get started and equipping your people to do it on their own.
- Assist you in choosing your target neighborhood.
- Do a weekend training (12 hours) for people who may become neighborhood trainers.
- Coach you on an on-going basis in implementing your plan.
- Assist you in identifying assets in the neighborhood, found in people, informal groups, non-profits and institutions, local place and businesses.
- Provide over 2500 lesson plans with 75 lesson plan manuals from which neighborhood trainers can choose the lessons that the neighborhood might want to learn.
- Provide you with our 30+ years of international experience and eight years in North America city settings in eradicating poverty.

Does this approach and these tools appear to have any benefit to your ministry? If so, please contact Stan Rowland stan@neighborhoodtransformation.net. More information can be found at www.neighborhoodtransformation.net or at <http://urbancheguy.wordpress.com/>



Knowing and Loving Neighbors—Creating Community—Transforming Neighborhoods