



Harmony with Relationships

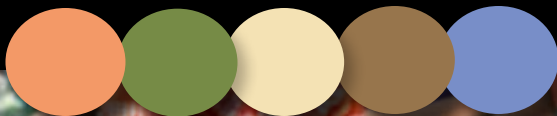


Harmony with the Environment

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Young children playing in Stone Town, Zanzibar

from the Editorial Team

Transformation is a process. It takes time, sometimes it takes a lot of time. Transformation can be bad but in the case of Community Health Evangelism (CHE), it is almost always good. In fact, it is *very good*.

It is amazing to see how many places and many ways that transformation takes place in communities and in the hearts of people who come to know the Savior. It reminds me of a popular Christian song by an artist whose name is **Lauren Daigle**. Singing to the Lord, she says “How colorful the many ways You meet us.” Scan the code to hear her sing *Kaleidoscope Jesus*.*



Transformation can happen at all levels as is seen in the article on page 4 called *A Framework for Transformational Development*.

There is a practical application story on how Transformational Development occurs starting on page 9.

A complete about-face turn-around is found in the story called *Omar’s Journey of Faith* on page 16.

*Atlantic Records, a Warner Music Group Co. 2023, *Kaleidoscope Jesus* written by Lauren Daigle, Mike Elizondo, Natile Hemby & Jason Ingram

In this issue we have *multiple real life stories* of transformation where you can see all the many places and ways people and communities have changed starting on page 11.

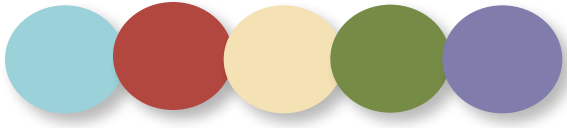
If you are a visual learner, there is a beautiful diagram on pages 20-21 to help you understand just how Medical Ambassadors and Community Health Evangelism progress.

On page 23 you will be challenged to take the ideas of transformation from your head to your heart.

Finally, be sure to read the story of Tim Barker, the man behind the Georgia Dome Implosion and his reasons for investing in not-for-profit organizations like Medical Ambassadors and starting the ROI Ministries, which evaluates the return on investments for mission agencies

Once again this is a phenomenal issue of *Healing Lives* and we are excited and glad to share it with you.

A Framework for Transformational Development



by Dr. Ravi I. Jayakaran, President
Medical Ambassadors International.

Transformational development can be defined as “progressive, permanent, God-intended change.” It is what God seeks for all the people He has created, and it is to this task He calls His followers. Transformational development, a concept deeply rooted in both physical and spiritual dimensions, is a holistic approach to fostering positive change in communities and individuals. This is the essence of Integral Mission. This article will explore the framework of transformational development, which operates at three levels:

1. **The Macro Level**
2. **The Micro Level**
3. **The Individual Level**

What many people—particularly Westerners—fail to understand is that transformational development requires divine Intervention at all three levels. You see, the Fall affected everything: micro and macro systems are deeply broken, and individuals are deeply broken. But the good news of the Gospel is God has not abandoned His world. On the contrary, through the power of His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ is “reconciling all things in heaven and earth.” (Colossians 1:19-20). To reconcile means to restore things to the way they are supposed to be, overturning the effects of the Fall at the individual, micro, and macro levels. This is the good news of the Gospel!

Reversing the comprehensive effects of the Fall requires divine Intervention. But God invites His people to participate in His reconciling mission! We are called and re-created to share the Gospel—the good news of the transforming power of Christ’s kingdom—through both restorative words and deeds (Luke 9:1-2). And we get to participate in this “Integral Mission” wherever Christ is at work...the macro, micro, and individual levels.

As mentioned above and can be seen in the transformational development framework on this page, this work is required at three levels. Healing of brokenness at the macro and micro levels is necessary in order to create a habitat in which people can flourish. But what many secular organizations fail to understand is that even if the micro and macro systems were made completely perfect, human beings still could not flourish. Why not? Because in addition to distorting our habitats, sin has impacted our hearts as well. As a result,

transformational development includes the Holy Spirit applying the power of Christ’s death and resurrection to our hearts, making us new creatures in Christ! For believers, “the old things have passed away and everything is new”. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

The following expands on all three levels of transformational development:

1. Transformational Influences at the Macro Level: The macro level of transformational development involves large-scale factors that can influence change across communities and nations. These include:

- a) **Macro Economics:** These are the broader economic policies and systems at the country level that can either facilitate or hinder community development. The growth of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of a nation or the lack thereof, can seriously impact how community development and transformation in that country occur. The macro-economic development of the region in which that country falls also has a strong influence. For instance, the Greater Mekong Sub-region of Cambodia has experienced significant growth in recent years, and this has added to the accelerated growth of that country’s economy.
- b) **Macro Politics:** The role of government, rule of law, and political structures are significant influences in shaping the environment in which communities operate. Political stability in a region helps the nations that are part of it focus on internal development rather than focusing on war and countering external aggression.
- c) **Communication Networks:** The impact of mass media and communication technologies in disseminating information and influencing public opinion is so significant, that though it is really a part of macro technology, it has been separated out as a separate influencer. Today, young people, even in the “majority world” have access to the internet through internet cafes and low-cost smart phones. They are not only aware of regional and global events but are disproportionately influenced by them.
- d) **Macro Technology:** Large-scale technological advancements significantly help in shaping societal changes. Today, even in remote areas, it’s encouraging

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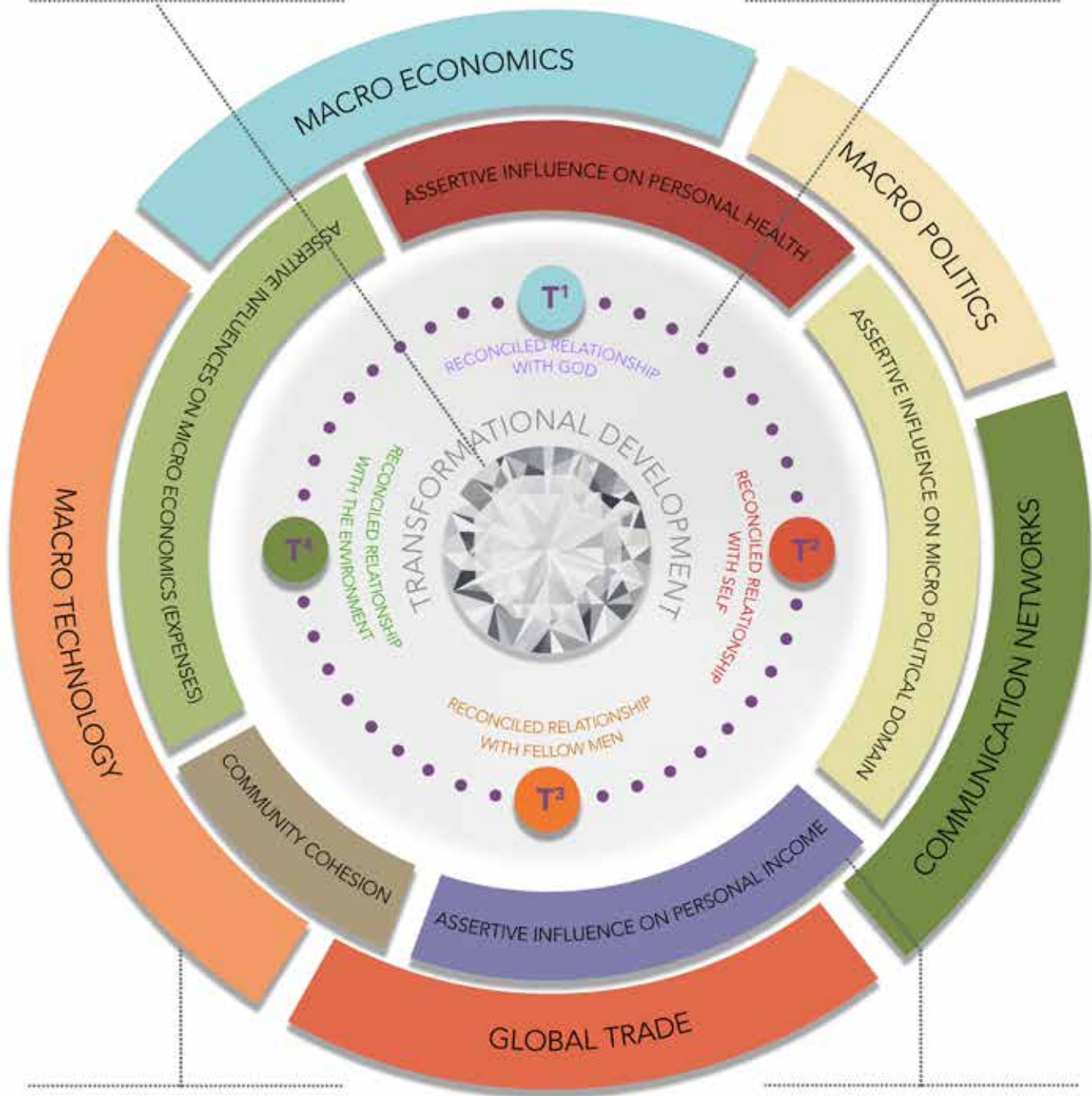


DIVINE INTERVENTION

THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST,
THE NEW CREATION HAS COME;THE
OLD HAS GONE, THE NEW IS HERE!
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

TRANSFORMATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

- RECONCILED RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
- RECONCILED RELATIONSHIP WITH SELF
- RECONCILED RELATIONSHIP WITH FELLOW MEN
- RECONCILED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ENVIRONMENT



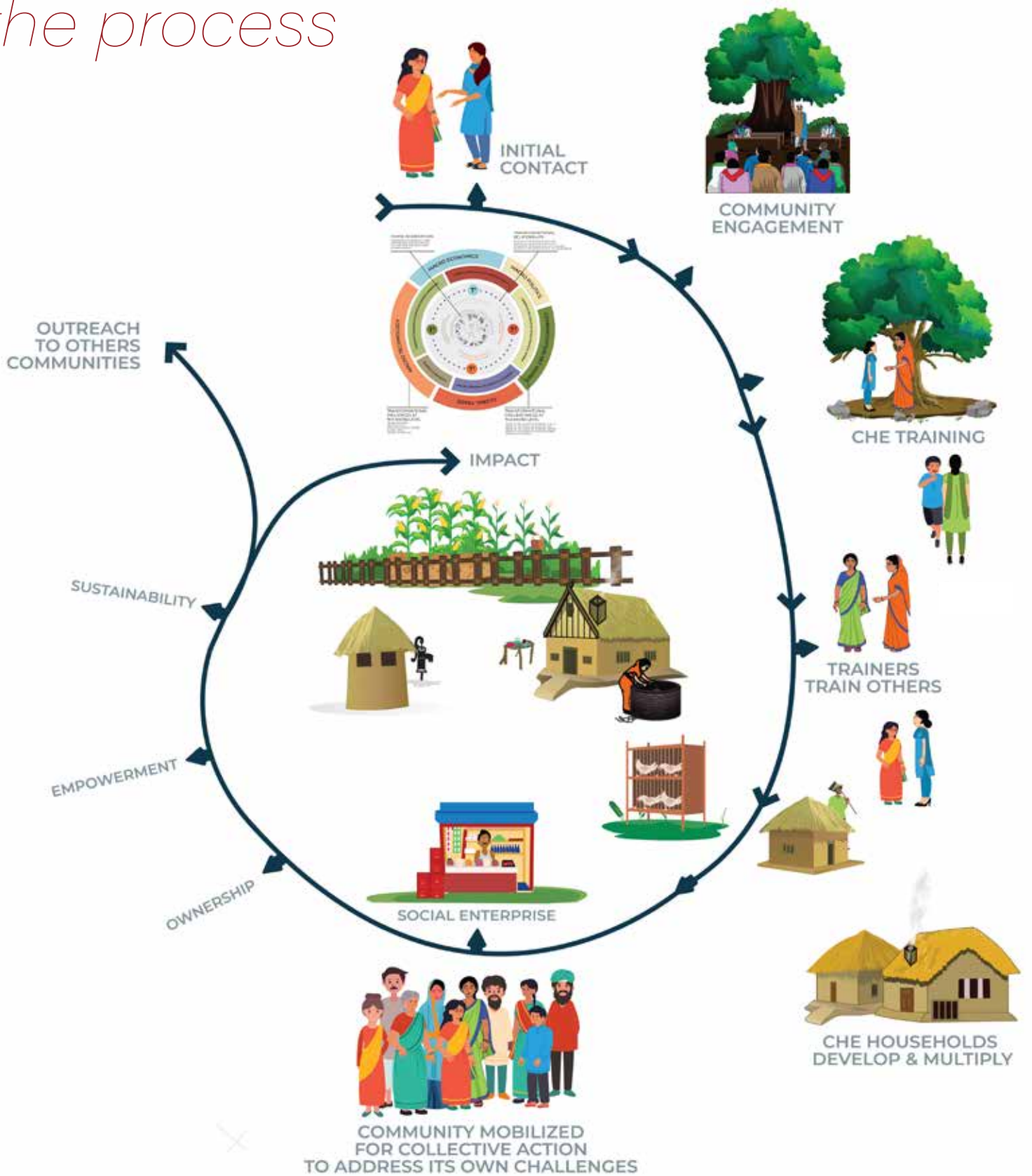
TRANSFORMATIONAL INFLUENCES AT THE MACRO LEVEL

- MACRO ECONOMICS
- MACRO POLITICS
- COMMUNICATION NETWORKS
- GLOBAL TRADE
- MACRO TECHNOLOGY

TRANSFORMATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE MICRO LEVEL

- ASSERTIVE INFLUENCES ON PERSONAL HEALTH
- ASSERTIVE INFLUENCES ON MICRO POLITICAL DOMAIN
- ASSERTIVE INFLUENCES ON PERSONAL INCOME
- ASSERTIVE INFLUENCES ON MICRO ECONOMICS (EXPENSES)
- COMMUNITY COHESION

the process



to see how apps relating to transportation, delivery and payment have become commonplace. These impact the way business is done both efficiently and safely.

e) **Global Trade:** The effects of international trade and market forces on local economies and livelihoods is well known, and Dr. Bryant Myers has powerfully highlighted the impact globalization has had on a variety of aspects of development, including the spread of the Gospel. (Engaging Globalization: Bryant L. Myers)

2. Transformational Circumstances at the Micro Level:

Changes at the community level (the micro level), have significant transformational development impact. It is important for change to take place at the macro level, but if that change doesn't get extended to the micro level, through the agency of NPOs (Not for Profit Organizations) and others, then individuals and communities will not reap its benefits. The trickle-down effect assumed from economic development, doesn't naturally flow down to the grassroots level; it must be facilitated. Key aspects that NPOs should focus on include:

- a) **Personal Health:** The individual's ability to proactively access, influence and maintain their own health.
- b) **Micro Political Domain:** The influence individuals have on local governance at the community level and their ability to influence it in their own favor.
- c) **Personal Income (revenue):** The ability of individuals to influence their own economic status through employment, entrepreneurship, or other means.
- d) **Micro Economics (expenses):** How individuals manage their finances, including spending in a way which generates surplus and facilitates a habit of saving.
- e) **Community Cohesion:** As communities become more transformed and more cohesive, the strength of relationships and collaboration makes the environment more conducive to greater equity in receiving the benefits from the changes noted above.

3. Transformation of Individuals: As individual hearts are transformed, human beings are called and re-created to express love in all relationships. In this light, transformed relationships are both an outcome of the transformational process and a means to achieving further transformation in all aspects of life. The Bible speaks of four key relationships that need healing:

- a) **Reconciliation with God:** A personal spiritual connection that brings about transformation evidenced by a deeper sense of purpose and understanding.
- b) **Reconciliation with Self:** Self-awareness, self-acceptance, and humble submission to the Holy Spirit leading to personal, spiritual, and holistic growth.
- c) **Reconciliation with Other People:** Those who have experienced reconciliation with God and self will be able to build harmonious and supportive relationships with others, resulting in flourishing lives.
- d) **Reconciliation with the Environment:** Human beings are called to care for the creation, not to exploit it.

Moreover, we are called to develop the creation through work that is glorifying to God and of service to humanity.

While we are called to communicate the Gospel in both words and deeds, ultimately transformation requires the reconciling work of Jesus Christ at all three levels. In this light, truly transformational development is, at its core, a spiritual process rooted in the power of Christ's death and resurrection. It is a process rooted in the Triune God's unending love...In His desire that people "should not perish but should enjoy abundant life." (2 Peter 3:9; John 10:10)

While NPOs and catalysts for change play an important role in being at the cutting edge of community transformation, it is important to recognize that God is the author and finisher of transformational development. Ultimately, He and He alone is the one who can bring about lasting and meaningful change at all three levels.

Conclusion: We recognize the framework for transformational development integrates both tangible and spiritual dimensions. It recognizes the importance of economic, political, and social factors, the role of individual and community agency, the centrality of reconciled relationships at all levels, and, most importantly, the profound impact of divine intervention. This holistic approach underscores the belief that for transformation to be truly effective and enduring, it must encompass every aspect of human experience; physical, spiritual, and relational.

Dr. Ravi I. Jayakaran has over four decades of leadership experience in international poverty reduction and strategic programming. He is the President of Medical Ambassadors International and the Catalyst for Integral Mission for the Lausanne Movement.

Dr. Jayakaran has worked in senior management positions in the corporate sector, International NGOs including World Vision International, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). He has lived and worked long-term in India, Cambodia, China, and the US and provided technical support in more than 23 countries.

Ravi and his wife Vimla came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal savior while they were in university. Besides their engagement with Integral Mission, they are actively involved with their local church, small group and Christian Counseling. Ravi and Vimla celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary in May of 2023. They have two sons, Amit and Rohit, who also know and love the Lord. They are both married and live with their families in Maine and Dubai respectively. Ravi and Vimla currently live in Ripon, California.





Togolese woman works at the market.

Applying the Framework for Transformational Development



by Dr. Brian Fikkert

“A year ago, I was a high-priestess of the snake goddess. My family was in crisis, and my children were sick and hungry.” The woman speaking these words stands at the back of a church in an extremely poor village in rural Togo, a small West African nation that ranks near the bottom of the world in nearly every socio-economic category except for one: voodoo.

The woman, whose name is Amina, goes on to explain that she and her husband were spiraling downwards, regularly mutilating themselves to appease demonic forces, drinking themselves into stupors with the local brew, and trying to survive through a variety of immoral, income-generating activities.

Why is Amina's family poor?

This is a profoundly important question, for the way that we diagnose the causes of poverty determines the solutions that we propose. We've got to get the diagnosis correct.

So why is Amina's family poor? At first glance the answer seems obvious...Amina and her husband are enslaved to sin. This is certainly true. Every human being is a sinner, and certain types of sins often lead to material poverty. As a result, as Dr. Ravi Jayakaran explains in his article in this issue, Amina and her family need more than money, clean water, medical attention, and malaria nets. They need transformed hearts. They need to be set free from their sinful natures and become new creatures in Christ.

But there are other reasons for the poverty of Amina's family as well. As Dr. Jayakaran's framework for transformational development describes, the family is living in a habitat that has been deeply damaged by both macro and micro factors operating for many centuries.

At the macro level, the list of issues is numerous: the enduring legacies of the slave trade and colonialism, the volatile and sometimes exploitative global economic system, climate change, abusive national leaders, failed government policies...The list is endless. Amina and her husband have zero influence over any of these macro factors, yet their lives are deeply impacted by all of them. Among other things, these macro factors have contributed to a habitat in which there are few economic opportunities,

in which personal despair is understandable, and in which people grasp for just a little bit of control over their lives... including turning to alcohol and voodoo in futile attempts to cope with the uncontrollable.

The list of issues at the micro level is daunting as well: corrupt local politicians and village chiefs, exploitive police officers, teachers who don't show up to teach, moneylenders who exploit the vulnerable, crop purchasers who take advantage of small farmers...Again, the list is endless. And while individuals are always responsible for their own sins, it's not hard to understand why Amina and her husband are turning to various coping mechanisms.

Indeed, the Fall has had devastating impacts at all three levels: individual, micro, and macro. The situation seems hopeless, but it's not. And the reason there's hope is due to the answer to a second question: Why did Jesus come to earth?

Many Western Christians answer this question in “legal” terms: “Jesus came to die on the cross in my place, paying the penalty for my sins so that I no longer face eternal punishment.” That is completely true! Believers' sins are nailed to the cross, so we bear them no more. Praise the Lord! But there is even more good news to the Gospel...

Jesus came to declare and to demonstrate the reality of His kingdom (Luke 4:43; 7:18-23). The Gospel in all its fullness is the good news that through the power of His death and resurrection, Jesus is reconciling all things in heaven and on earth, overcoming all the effects of sin at the individual, micro, and macro levels (Colossians 1:19-20). And amazingly, Jesus invites His people to join in His mission, declaring and demonstrating the comprehensive scope of the Gospel wherever the curse is found. This is “integral mission.”

Kossi, a young man who lives in a village near Amina's, decided to go on mission with Jesus. Through an approach that is often used as part of Community Health Evangelism, Kossi started a savings group ministry in Amina's village. Kossi helped the extremely poor villagers to form a very simple credit union in which they save and lend their own money to one another, providing them with the capital they need to start small businesses, to pay for medical care, and to deal with emergencies. Savings groups are not a

continued on next page

major intervention, but they have provided just enough positive change at the micro level to enable Amina and her husband to achieve greater economic stability.

In addition, Kossi used the savings group meetings for evangelism and discipleship, explaining to participants that Jesus could set them free from their personal sins, from the power of demonic forces, and from brokenness in the micro and macro habitat. While complete reconciliation awaits the second coming of Christ, progress in the here and now is possible.

Amina explains, “As a result of Kossi’s work here, my husband and I have been able to start small businesses, and there is now food on the table. And Jesus has delivered us from bondage to the snake goddess and to our sins. We are free!”

Then the village chief stands up to speak, “We had never heard the name of Jesus until Kossi came here several years ago. He helped us use our own resources to be productive. He helped us understand who we are. And he helped us to forsake the witchcraft our ancestors practiced for generations. Over half our village has come to Christ, and we built this church with our own resources. I believe it’s only a matter of time before the rest of our village turns to Jesus as well.”

All of creation groans, waiting for the complete transformation that only Christ can bring (Romans 8:18-22).

But there is also a “now” to Christ’s kingdom, so progress is possible at the individual, micro, and even macro levels. And as Amina’s family has experienced, sometimes that progress is enough to make a dramatic difference in the present, even as they wait, along with the rest of God’s people, for full transformation in the future.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

Dr. Brian Fikkert is the Founder and President of the Chalmers Center for Economic Development at Covenant College (www.chalmers.org), where he also serves as a Professor of Economics and Community Development. Brian’s career has focused on poverty alleviation at both the macro and micro levels. Brian has published articles in both leading academic and popular journals and has co-authored numerous books including: *Becoming Whole: Why the Opposite of Poverty Isn’t the American Dream* (Moody 2019); *From Dependence to Dignity: How to Alleviate Poverty through Church-Centered Microfinance* (Zondervan 2015); *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself* (Moody 2009).



School children drinking water from a village pond due to insufficient fresh water, Sundarban-India. MAI works diligently to help communities prepare for disasters and improve their conditions in order to avert these types of situations.

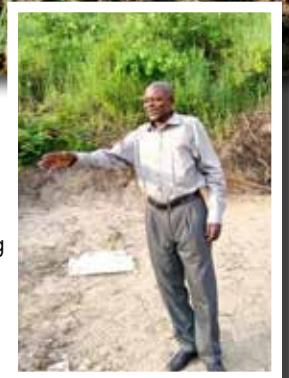


The **IMPACT** of CHE

The following are real life stories from around the world as testimony to the wholistic transformational effect of Community Health Evangelism.

The **IMPACT** of **CHE** on **ERNEST**

by Dr. Nzuzi Mukawa
Regional Coordinator, Central Africa



Mr. Ernest is a state agent and civil servant. For several years he worked for his country. Yet, despite his loyal service, Mr Ernest experienced many difficulties as he tried to feed his family and pay for his children's school fees.

He wondered, ... "What else can I do? I am a Christian, a sanitation technician and a manager. I give the best of myself, but my income is not enough, through no fault of my own."

After attending trainings in Community Health Evangelism (CHE) as well as other training options, Mr. Ernest began to realize he had more resources than he knew! He had tangible resources of undeveloped land and intangible resources of time and skills and management ability. These resources could be put to use in generating additional income for his family's needs.

So, Mr. Ernest took his large portion of undeveloped land and on it he built a pig farm with a new building which acts as a pigsty. He also developed a chicken farm.

Today, Mr. Ernest is proud of his new businesses, which allow him to earn more income. His goal now is growth. He started with one sow; he now has around thirty animals and plans to reach eighty by the end of the year.

He knows God has provided for his needs!

Not **RELIEF** but **UNIFIED EFFORT**

by N.S.
Regional Coordinator
Southeast Asia and West Pacific



Emu, from Soe, West Timor, had heard about a program called Community Health Empowerment (CHE) and longed to attend the Training of Trainers seminars that would equip him to bring change to his own community. Finally, the opportunity arose and what he learned changed his way of thinking. It gave him a new mind-set and paradigm on how to serve. Previously, he had focused only on the spiritual aspect of ministry but through CHE he learned to serve holistically. He tried to share the vision of CHE with one drought-stricken community, but the people found it difficult to open up their minds; they thought it was impossible to find clean water in their arid and hilly area.

Finally, God opened the way. In 2021, Emu independently took the initiative. There were six families who were willing, under his direction, to try drilling for water. To everyone's surprise, they succeeded in finding water! Other community members started asking how to get water. "Isn't it difficult to get water in a hilly place?" asked community pessimists. Responding to the community, who found it hard to change and wanted something instantly, Emu thought the water could be sold to them, and he could earn some income. But the plan was canceled because he was reminded that, as the follower of Jesus, he is called to be a blessing to the community through his skills and knowledge, not to get something for himself.

Although it was not easy to share the vision of the CHE program with the community, Emu did not give up. He started to share the CHE principles with the community leaders—like owning the improvements that are made or learning about God and His love, along with learning about community development. Then he asked the leaders to invite the community to get involved. There were 21 families who committed to participate. They learned that the program is holistic, focused on development not relief, and that it is the community that must be actively involved in solving its own

problems. Many people were interested in joining because these shared lessons were simple to understand. Emu involved other NGOs who use the CHE method to collaborate on the project.

CHE lessons were taught to open people's mind-sets about local resources, their needs, and how they could conduct projects to ensure they had a clean water supply. Eventually there were 90 families who joined in the CHE project. People were made aware that they had potential and strength. The community proactively contributed by providing stones, sand, food, and labor, all of which were voluntarily provided. Emu and his team provided equipment for drilling. At last count, the drilled wells have serviced 120 homes, and there are also 60 fish ponds and around 30 vegetable gardens! Due to this CHE project, we can see unity among local churches, government agencies, and communities, working together to bring transformation.

Clean water changes other aspects

Emu watched with delight as churches and other organizations began to collaborate on using water to solve other problems. They are currently getting training in catfish cultivation and other skills from a consulting partner's CHE trainer. Slowly but surely economic problems, ill-health and nutritional needs are starting to be resolved, as fish cultivation and better agricultural practices are implemented. It is hoped that this successful well drilling project will have a long-term impact on increasing people's welfare, reducing stunted growth, and improving family nutrition.

The vital thing that should not be forgotten is they can find the true source of living Water in Jesus Christ.





From **SLAVERY** to **FREEDOM**

by Charlotte D.
CHE Coordinator, Central Asia



In a South-Central Asian village, families toiled tirelessly making bricks for a landowner. Each day, from young children to the elderly, they molded bricks, earning a mere \$1 per day. Collecting mud in wheelbarrows, molding bricks, drying them under the scorching sun, and baking them in a kiln were their daily routines. When a child should have been in school, they joined their family's labor force due to financial constraints, resulting in a low literacy rate and vulnerability to exploitation.

The landowners held power over them, offering loans for medical needs but keeping accounts that often grew insurmountable, passing them on to the next generation. Some men even resorted to selling their kidneys on the black market to pay off debts. Some Western organizations have attempted to liberate them with financial aid, but these villagers lack the skills and education to secure alternative employment.

Two women, survivors of abuse, sought help regarding this widespread issue. An organization introduced Community Health Evangelism (CHE) and the Integral Disciple Making Movement (IDMM) to the community. Led by a pastor who repaired air conditioners, the local team gradually introduced the brick-makers to the concepts of ownership and development.

Sewing classes for girls and literacy programs for young men started, and proceeds reduced family loans. Health lessons and kitchen gardens improved nutrition, and the initiative "Safe Sister" protected women from abuse, gaining support from both Muslims and Christians.

In 2019, the community transitioned to IDMM, forming small groups that studied the Bible and health. They recognized

their role as ministers of reconciliation, actively sharing the gospel and engaging in acts of love.

By 2020, 23 discovery groups had formed with hub leaders helping to expand the initiative. Three sewing centers empowered young women, freeing them from brick kiln labor. Adult literacy and children's programs flourished. One woman from another faith became a follower of Christ, sharing the gospel with fellow kiln workers. Over 1,140 nominal Christians and seven from another faith were baptized. The team expanded to new districts, using skills training and literacy programs to open doors.

Through God's guidance, the villagers transformed their lives. Families started businesses, gained financial independence, and shared their success stories. They emphasized that their liberation came through knowledge, God's grace, and community support, rather than external financial aid.

In a remarkable turn of events, Ijaz, born into a brick-kiln labor family, initially hesitated but eventually sent his wife and sister to learn sewing. The women's newfound skills allowed them to pay off their family's debt, improve their children's health, and secure a better future. They have a dream to purchase land and build their own home. Seventeen families like Ijaz's have come out of the debt bondage.

When I returned to the village in 2023 it had changed drastically. The shadow of the brick kiln no longer cast despair, but the radiance of Jesus' light illuminated the faces of believers. The woman who had shared her story of abuse now embraced hope and transformation- God has started healing her broken life. God's glory shone through the profound change in this once-oppressed community.

Omar's JOURNEY to FAITH

Story shared by MAI's East Africa correspondents.

*Names and locations in this story have been changed.

Omar* grew up in a religious family in a like-minded community of East Africa. He attended a school where children, mainly boys, learn from an early age the laws of the father of their faith and how to behave as a good follower. Scientific topics were not the primary focus at his school. Omar is from an unreached people group within the region.

As Omar grew up, he had so many questions concerning the book of his faith. But he was not allowed to ask questions, because his job was to believe everything he was taught and not to question anything (otherwise he would not be a good believer in his religion). Over time, his questions grew more numerous, and he felt very uncomfortable about his faith.

Some of his confusion centered on these things:

- In his religious books he read all the stories about Jesus' life, His death and resurrection. He also read that Jesus spoke as an infant from the cradle; Omar thought that was very strange.
- The fact that the founder of his faith did not know what would happen to him after death really disturbed Omar. In his book, the founder says, "I am not something original among the messengers, nor do I know what will be done with me or with you. I only follow that which is revealed to me, and I am nothing but one who comes with a clear warning."

Other teachings Omar received were:

- Stealing from Christians is justified, and using their wealth is not a sin.
- At the same time, stealing from fellow believers in his faith led to very harsh punishment.
- This was quite contrary to what Omar and his friends observed and discussed as teenagers. They discovered if you steal from a Christian home there's a high possibility that the owner would forgive you, but not so if you stole from the home of a member of your own faith.

These teachings and questions so disturbed Omar that he searched for truth, and he was later set free when he found Jesus to be the way, the truth and the life.

In the year 2003, Omar met a group of health workers, who were working with an NGO in his area. One of them listened to him, and Omar finally found someone to whom he could ask all his questions. His name was Skayo*. Omar had known this man since his adolescence because Skayo had once worked at their local dispensary and at one point cared for Omar's late mother who was suffering from tuberculosis. Skayo was able to explain so much to him. Omar finally understood that Jesus is the Son of God, and Omar became born again—a committed follower of Christ. Skayo became his mentor.

Omar was still afraid of sharing his decision to let go of his old faith and to become a Christian. He hid his decision even from his wife. About one-and-a-half years after his conversion, and after a three-day prayer and fasting period with Skayo, he plucked up his courage and shared his decision with his wife, Aisha*. A year later, after several Bible studies with the missionary team in their area, Aisha also became a believer.



When other family members found out, they excluded Omar from their clan and family. He went through a series of persecutions, but God was faithful to preserve his life and that of his family. His brother-in-law and cousins tried to kill him, and even his own father tried to poison him. Omar and his family were alienated from the community. Though the disapproval still happens in subtle ways, they have been largely accepted back into the community now. One of his brothers-in-law, who once wanted to burn down Omar's house, later miraculously accepted Christ and is still sorry about his bad intentions. Omar was contracted by an organization to translate scripture and other materials. Due to the sensitivity of this work and the threats his family received, they decided to relocate temporarily to a different county where they could do the work in peace. His prayer is that the scriptures he translates will help his own community become transformed through God's Word.

Omar has always desired to be involved in wholistic community transformation because of the different challenges his community faces. Through interaction with Skayo, he learned about the Community Health Evangelism (CHE) program. He attended MAI's Training of Trainers CHE seminars, levels 1 and 2, and in 2023 he attended the 6-week CHE Internship program. Omar has decided to relocate back to his community and use the CHE strategy to bring change there. Omar still does farming in partnership with his brother-in-law and other friends. He has ensured a continuous relationship with his larger family and community, and in this way he is able to embody the gospel light as it shines through his life.

Nigerian boys using wooden tablets practicing Arabic.



Skayo's story about Omar:

When Omar came to us, we had just started building a mission center in the area. He approached me one evening as I was exiting the compound and requested to talk to me. We sat down on the side of the road. I still remember the exact spot where we sat. He said he wanted to know more about the Christian faith; he had doubts about what he had been taught as a child. I briefly shared the fundamentals of Christianity, especially about salvation through faith and not works.

I told him if he was interested, I could arrange for him to join a Bible study that could help him understand more. At the same time, I was reluctant to introduce him to the Bible study since I did not know his intentions; perhaps he was just looking for a clever way of getting a job at our construction site. However, he did agree to come to Bible studies at our home. He did this quietly so as not to raise any suspicion from his fellow countrymen. We went through a chronological Bible study for close to a year, using stories and selected Bible books. I remember the joy he had when he first received his own Bible. One evening, we invited him for dinner to meet a visiting group of youth from our sending church. It was at that dinner that he openly declared his faith in Christ, and it was such a joy!

By this time, he was married and had one daughter. He did not know what would happen to his family if his relatives and community learned of his newfound faith. Close to one-and-a-half years later, Omar decided to tell his wife. We fasted and prayed for three days before he did so. Amazingly, his wife was very gracious, and she commented that she had already observed a very positive change in Omar. We invited her to join the house Bible study and fellowship, which she did. A few months after she joined the study, she accepted Christ and was led to faith by a lady missionary colleague from the area. It was such a joy to embrace our first believing couple from the local people group.

Years have passed now, and Omar and his family are a model of Christ in the community. They are deeply trusted friends and very dear to us. They went through much persecution, but God has sustained them well in faith. They have a farm; and use this resource to minister to their countrymen; this has increased their acceptance back into their community.

Truly Omar and Aisha have been transformed and are now agents of transformation for their own people!

A SENSE of PEACE

by Dr. John Zhang
Sub-Regional Coordinator, NCAN

Seth is in his early 30s. He was born into a wealthy family; however, the wealth brought him little good. His parents divorced when he was young. Seth lived with an angry mother most of the time, visiting his father from time to time to request money for his living and tuition expenses. His father carried anger toward him, too.

Even as a young boy, Seth was told by his family that he was a nobody, that he deserved nothing from anyone, including love. Once his father tore up some new clothes that his mother had bought for him. He forced Seth to write down: "I don't deserve such new clothes" and to read it aloud to him. Seth didn't feel accepted by anyone or worthy to be loved. As he grew up, he started to hang around at the bars and tried to appeal to others by his good looks. He learned to smoke and became attracted to a homosexual lifestyle.

Ten years ago, Seth was diagnosed as HIV-positive at a church-facilitated blood checkup. The diagnosis sounded like a death sentence. Instead, it has become a turning point in Seth's life. In his desperation, he accepted Jesus as his Savior and was rescued.

Transformation happened in his relationship with his parents. When Seth found the Lord, he still felt unworthy to be loved, so he was shocked to learn God is love, and He loved Seth unconditionally. Seth came to realize his parents also loved him, but they didn't have the wisdom or understanding to

know how to love him in an honest relationship. But Seth does not hate them anymore. He and his mother used to stay isolated in their own rooms, talking only at mealtimes. Now Seth proactively makes conversation with his mother and shares his recent struggles with her. To his surprise, his mother understands him, and their relationship has changed for the better. Seth also apologized to his father for pursuing a past relationship with him only for money. His father also apologized to him for the wrongs he committed during Seth's childhood.

Despite these good changes, Seth still struggled with his addiction to smoking. Over the past ten years, he tried several times to quit, but with no success. Within days, he would fall back into his old habit no matter how hard he tried. Recently, he read a book on the total uselessness of his efforts to break this habit in his own strength. God loved him and would become his strength. Seth said a simple prayer to ask God to work on his smoking addiction. Soon he was excited to tell others that for the past 28 days, he had no longer struggled with smoking.

Seth has found peace with himself. As he is preparing for college exams, he is able to sit quietly at the library for the entire afternoon to study. It might sound easy to others, but for Seth, this sense of peace has been his life-long pursuit. He feels his whole life has been transformed!





A DIFFERENT CHURCH

by Hilma B. De León (Flor)
CHE Coordinator, Caribbean Sub-Region

(The name of the young man in this story has been changed for security reasons. Both the names of the community and the pastor do not appear for the same reason.)

In a CHE community in Cuba lives a young man named Wolkis. Despite being the son of a Christian woman, Wolkis never showed any interest in the Gospel. Judgmental church members pointed out that he was living without God, and that caused a rift between him and the church.

He was trapped in a life mired in alcohol, and he felt that no one cared about what might happen to him.

One day police officers came to the community looking for a delinquent. When they explained the crime to the neighbors, they responded, "The only one who could have done something like that is Wolkis Tatis!" He was near the church when the police found him, and they tried to put him in the patrol car. Wolkis, denying he committed the crime, ran to the church. The pastor (a CHE Facilitator) came out of the church and hugged him; he asked the police to allow him to take care of Wolkis. Other men from the church also surrounded him and interceded on his behalf, so the police agreed.

Today, Wolkis is in the church, has a relationship with Jesus and, in his testimony, he always says: "This is a different church."

theory of change

1 INPUTS

- Participatory learning
- Catalyzing and energizing teams
- Holy Spirit guided wisdom & prayer
- Culturally relevant technical expertise

ROOT CAUSE

Marginalized people are unable to progress out of poverty due to broken systems, relationship & mindsets.

2 ACTIVITIES

- Awareness and Engagement
- Seed Projects
- PLAs and Dream Mapping
- Equipping leaders and volunteers
- Asset-based community development
- Discipleship and capacity building



medical ambassadors

INTERNATIONAL®

healing lives...transforming communities

3

OUTPUTS

- Trained Volunteers
- Proactive, trained local leaders
- House to House capacity building
- Asset & Dream Maps
- Visible changes

5

IMPACTS

- Hope for the future
- Spiritual, physical and mental wellbeing
- Dignity and Purpose
- Interdependence & collaboration
- Resilience



4

OUTCOMES

- Water & Sanitation
- Wellness
- Food Security
- Education
- Income Generation and Livelihood Opportunities
- Active Fellowship of Believers

VISION
Community is a beacon of health resilience & an ongoing journey of transformation.

CLEAN WATER brings JOY

by Simeon Kaase
CHE Master Facilitator

Background Information

Giring ward is said to be the second largest ward in Jos-South in Central Nigeria. (The ward is an urban community and densely populated.) In this ward there are ten neighborhoods with ten village heads. At the heart of this community lies a facility known as “PHC (Primary Health Care) Giring,” with a health care annex built in neighboring Gwarandok.

The Real Issues

The source of water to PHC Giring had been cut off for more than four years when the well supplying water to the PHC was damaged. The challenges of a PHC operating without water cannot be overemphasized. It can promote infection in the hospital. Imagine a client becoming infected from the PHC simply because there was not enough water to keep the place clean. PHC Giring staff had to cross the road in search of water. Moved with compassion, the CHE Committee in Jos mobilized the community for action.

The Solution/Intervention

The CHE Community Committee made an advocacy visit at a meeting of the ten traditional rulers and prominent

community people. The challenge at PHC Giring was shared with them. During discussions, one gentleman, Da Moses Rwang, volunteered to fix the damaged well. He did not waste time after his promise. Only two days later, the well had been repaired by a team of engineers for a modest price. The PHC is now wearing a new look of joy!

Specific Results/Outcome

This amazing turn of events has brought jubilation to the people of the Giring PHC. With the well producing abundant clean water, the staff are greatly relieved that they no longer have to cross the road in search of water and the patients no longer fear contracting infection in their local health facility. There is enough water to wash and clean hospital equipment, to keep the PHC fit for the patients, and to provide safety for the members of the staff. Life has changed for the better!

Hopes and Aspirations

The beneficiaries hope that, in time, access to the well will be expanded to supply water to the adjacent community. Advocacy is being made to extend the tap outside the PHC compound so the well's clean water will be made available to community members too.



Simeon Kaase is a master facilitator for CHE. He was trained in 2006 and came to know about the community through a partnership and research work with the Network of People With HIV AIDS (NEPWHAN). He is based in Jos, Nigeria.

Ideas in our Heads vs Actions from our Hearts

by Dayo Obaweya
Regional Coordinator, West Africa

How do we move ministry beyond ideas in our heads to actions that reveal Christ's true identity in our hearts?

In Community Health Evangelism (CHE) new ideas are often introduced in a role play. For example, suppose two trainers are talking:

Jos: Hi Dezi. I really loved the CHE training we had last year.

Dezi: *Hi Jos. I did as well. So how are you going about implementing what you learned?*

Jos: I have yet to make a move. I don't regularly think about it, nor am I making any attempt to reach out to people.

Dezi: *Do you really understand the concept of wholistic ministry?*

Jos: I think I do. It's just that I don't have the time for practical outreach, so I always pray and hope God will meet all the needs I see.

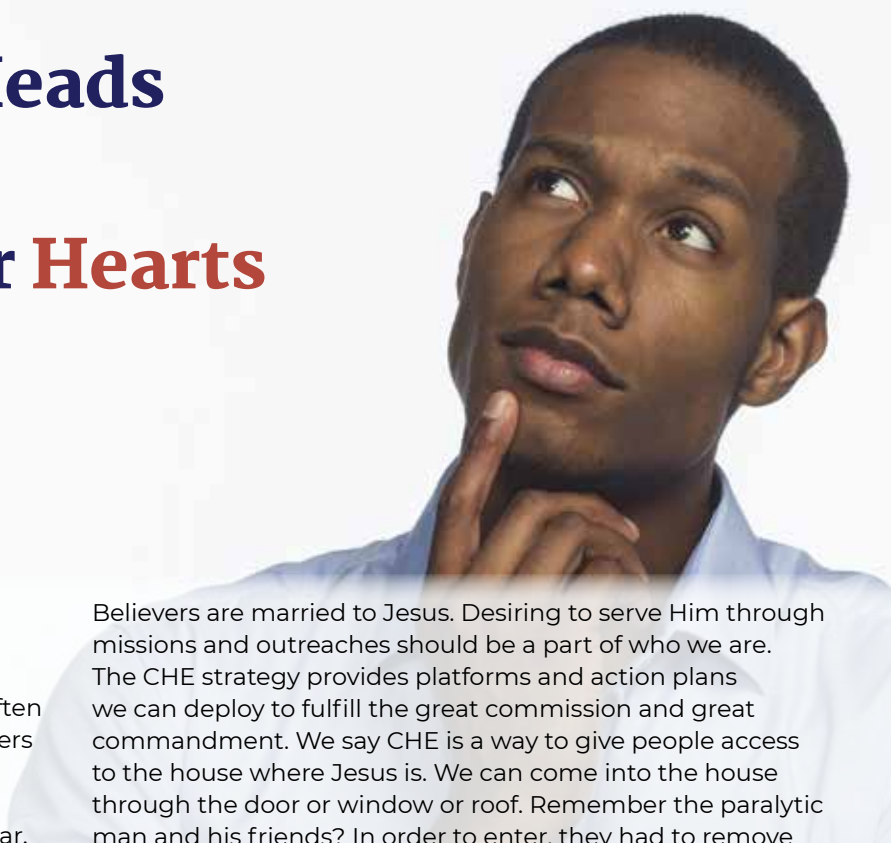
Dezi: *You need to make practical outreach a part of your life.*

Jos: How do I do that?

Many believers like Jos have heard the gospel but found it difficult to put wholistic evangelism and discipleship into practice. Evangelism that reaches out to both physical and spiritual needs should be a lifestyle, just like Dezi was saying to Jos. Jos was likely gradually losing interest in holistic evangelism. Without the reinforcements that comes from repeatedly putting into practice what he had learned, time was eroding his memory and beliefs.

CHE teaches how we as Christ-followers can imitate the life of Jesus while on earth. In the case of the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus was wholistic in His approach. He presented available resources, using physical water to illustrate spiritual water.

How can we use our head knowledge to get in touch with our hearts and minds? The Scriptures say we should love the Lord with all our heart, mind, and strength. True love is deeply rooted in our hearts. It is manifested in all we do if we are in love. I remember visiting my fiancée during courtship. I looked forward to each time I would be with her; sometimes the days apart seemed too long.



Believers are married to Jesus. Desiring to serve Him through missions and outreaches should be a part of who we are. The CHE strategy provides platforms and action plans we can deploy to fulfill the great commission and great commandment. We say CHE is a way to give people access to the house where Jesus is. We can come into the house through the door or window or roof. Remember the paralytic man and his friends? In order to enter, they had to remove the roofing tiles of the house where Jesus was teaching.

Their idea was conceived, planned, and executed because these friends were committed to doing anything to ensure their friend got to see Jesus. All their plans grew out of the relationship and identity that had grown commitment in their hearts. They may have even prayed in their hearts (the spiritual component) and for donated materials like hammers or crow bars (the physical components) to get the job done.

What can we as believers do to motivate each other to be committed to God's call on our hearts? Here are answers trainers hope to draw out from their audience:

1. Pray for each other.
2. Wake up daily asking the Lord to show us whom to share with during the day.
3. Organize group celebrations, inviting neighbors to discuss common challenges and brainstorm possible solutions.
4. Every believer should identify his/her talent and/or spiritual gift and use it to promote the work of God's Kingdom (1 Cor 7:17).
5. Be obedient to the commandment of Jesus in Mathew 28:18-20. Internalize what you read and hear in church services and fellowships.
6. Be determined to be a blessing to others through acts of service. It might be a seed project. Reach out to a group of people in a neighboring community to show love.
7. Act on the fact that the Kingdom of God needs to be demonstrated (James 3:13).

Contagious Transformation



Boys in a slum of La Mantanza, Argentina take turns jumping in polluted water.



Daniel Martinez

By Dr. Bibiana Mac Leod
Technical Advisor for Disaster Response, Orality & Special Projects

Daniel Martinez is an Argentine agronomist with PhD studies in Agricultural Sciences, which were interrupted when he went full time into missionary service. His wife Romina, his little daughter Catalina and unborn baby boy form the pastoral family serving in Sauzalito, Chaco, Argentina. In Daniel's community Wichí people worship alongside criollos, the local non-tribal residents.

Daniel invited MAI staff, Alexander and Bibiana Mac Leod, to visit a village where he has been working with a farmer's cooperative to introduce them to Community Health Evangelism (CHE). An amazing group of eager learners were waiting to hear the stories they brought, as well as telling the visitors their own stories, which helped them understand a bit more of the farmers' background.

Daniel learned about CHE through a training Bibiana presented in 2017, motivating him to participate in an internship in August 2018 in Dominican Republic and

Haiti. Now, as they drove through dusty roads in Northern Argentina on their way to Sauzalito, Bibiana wanted to learn more about Daniel's journey.

Bibiana asked, "What impressed you the most during your training in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, Dany?"

Dany responded: "One of the things that caught my attention is how God was using these tools of development with those sensitive to the challenge, and the tools were walking with Haitian feet. In remote and difficult-to-access places, where the government does not reach them, the level of local organization and desire to improve moves people to renewed strength through CHE. CHE was like that puzzle piece that fit perfectly with their desire to grow and see their communities transformed by Jesus."



Indigenous children during a food distribution in the slum of Los Jesuitas, Argentina

As the pickup truck drove the last 275 km of dirt roads, sometimes muddy, but able to move forward, Bibiana wanted to know more of his testimony, encouraged by his account:

Dany said: “I was able to witness a clear example of CHE. It helped me visualize the power of these tools. I saw local trainers working with their communities, adopting CHE as a lifestyle, well equipped to help their own people to tackle problems with facilitation techniques they had learned. They were so professional! I saw such poverty and scarcity, but God had a plan for them, and they realized they could reach their full potential, solving common problems, like safe drinking water, good nutrition, fish farming and growing nutritional moringa trees with remarkable health properties.”

Bibiana asked: “Why do you think it will work here in Chaco, Argentina?”

Dany responded: “I believe in this tool because I could see it at work with the 1000-Days Program, which deals with nutrition for children in the first 1000 days of life. I saw levels

of malnutrition improving through awareness, monitoring of children, and training of birth attendants. Though I hear that today Haiti is going through a crisis due to violence and social chaos, I know that CHE is a mitigating factor in this famine. When God spoke to me through my last day of internship, praying and preparing a “Big Hairy Goal” (as we called the exercise of setting up a dream for your life),

I recall there was a thought of serving among the Wichi and for them to reach out to other oral learners. Transformational development in Haiti was a trigger for me to think that God can do it here too.”

**CHE
was like the
puzzle piece
that fit.**

Daniel is leading the first CHE initiative among Wichi people, and Bibiana hopes to help him adapt the material for oral learners in this specific context. Bible translators, farmers, nurses and teachers, both Wichi and criollos, have received their first training during the month of February 2024 with the hope of future

expansion to new territories in Argentina. Due to Daniel's obedience, he and his family have become agents of a contagious hope for transformation!

God's Hidden Work

by Maggie Conrad (that's an alias - read and you'll know why)

We can't always share the impact of Medical Ambassadors International (MAI) on lives and communities. We try, but increasingly, it's just too risky to let you in on many of the stories. And these real-life stories are SO good. Our God's goodness is beyond comprehension – everywhere, of course! Sometimes I wonder if He does some of His best work in unseen places, without publicity and fanfare. Seems like our Jesus, doesn't it?

Let me try to share what I can with you about a place that has given me great fear and deep joy. I have had the immeasurable privilege of responding to a crucial need in this primitive and foreboding place, perhaps better described as treacherous and frequently catastrophic. Our partnering community development workers were seeing success using CHE methods. Yet, the communities kept requesting more help as they were most grieved by how many mothers and babies were dying from childbirth-related causes. Though the men seemed harsh in this culture, they cared deeply about the survival of their wives and families.



Momentous effort led to the birth of appropriate lessons designed for pre-literate adults, using culturally-appropriate CHE methodology in the local language. With in-person training sessions, mentoring, creative revisions, prayer, significant on-the-ground cooperation, and local leadership, not only were lives saved, but a movement happened. It required great prayer effort. It was grass roots, not high-level medical care. That was and is still needed. This was essentially first aid for pregnancy and childbirth. But simple changes can save a lot of lives. There seemed to be a movement of God that saved the lives of mothers and babies. With such great need regionally, the movement spread far and wide. Stunningly positive results were easily seen. Others were unseen, but eternal. A huge difference was

made in the lives of many, through the ongoing efforts of the local people.

But now the situation has changed for the worse. Terrible things have happened. And yet, unbelievably, God-like things continue to take place under the surface – like shining flashlights into pitch-black underground caves. Who would think that good could flourish in such a place? Then we remember our Almighty, Omniscient, Compassionate God who hears the prayers of His children. His light shines ever more brightly in darkness. This place is no exception. Babies' and mothers' lives are continuing to be saved. Brave souls are carrying on. Hope is being found.

I wish I could tell you more. The evil that man is capable of is appalling. I don't understand all the reasons these people have suffered and struggled. They live in a stronghold of the enemy of God. Yet, God is there in the blackness. He does not leave His children alone. The mercy and grace of God is beyond measure. Only heaven will reveal what God has done. I wait with great anticipation to find out, and to meet those who encountered hope, those who prayed, those who gave, and those who served.

“For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known” (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Thank you for participating in this privilege with us! Please continue! We're in this together!

Rejoicing with hope,
Midwife Maggie





Medical Ambassadors International and Community Health Evangelism

healing lives...transforming communities

40

COUNTRIES
WHERE
WE WORK
DIRECTLY

35

COUNTRIES
WHERE WE
PARTNER

3.08 M

POPULATION
IMPACTED

2K

MAI
COMMUNITIES
PRACTICING
CHE

52K+

WORLDWIDE
CHE
VOLUNTEERS

*Ugandan children washing
pots outdoors after school.*

TIM BARKER

the man behind the scenes of the Georgia Dome implosion

SCAN the QR code to view the GEORGIA DOME IMPLOSION Video



Tim Barker started his career imploding enormous structures and is one of the world's few experts who specialize in overseeing this whole process. How did he get involved in strategic kingdom-building?

While working through college, Tim Barker, who towered over his friends at 6'6", realized he understood construction structures well. He knew what held buildings up and how to bring them down when they were old, without damaging the neighboring structures. This knowledge gave him multiple opportunities. He was soon sought out to work for the largest demolition contractors in the world. Ultimately he became the owner's representative to help them choose and manage the best demolition and implosion contractors.

This soon brought him influence and standing in his industry, and for all practical purposes, would have been his journey if it hadn't been for a friend who asked him if that was what he wanted to be known for. A timely question indeed, for it launched him to make positive financial investments into people's lives in ways that would matter forever. Tim soon started using the revenue from his consulting business to invest in not-for-profit organizations that did the most to help others.

It wasn't long before Tim launched into another quest as he searched for not-for-profit organizations that provide the highest return on investment (ROI) or, said another way, the most significant lasting impact for each dollar given. When we give to an organization, how do we know what is their ROI for the Kingdom of God? There was no such study available. So, Tim got together with experts on impact evaluation, and those who advised on philanthropic investment and ROI Ministries were born.

Tim's focus and the launch of ROI ministries testify to his contribution to building the Kingdom of God. The following is an article by Tim Barker, Founder and Executive Director of ROI Ministries.org.

Why don't we give more for God's Kingdom? I believe there are three main reasons:

- We lack confidence that our gifts are well stewarded.
- We don't know which ministries to give to.
- There is a lack of visibility for measuring Kingdom impact among NGOs.

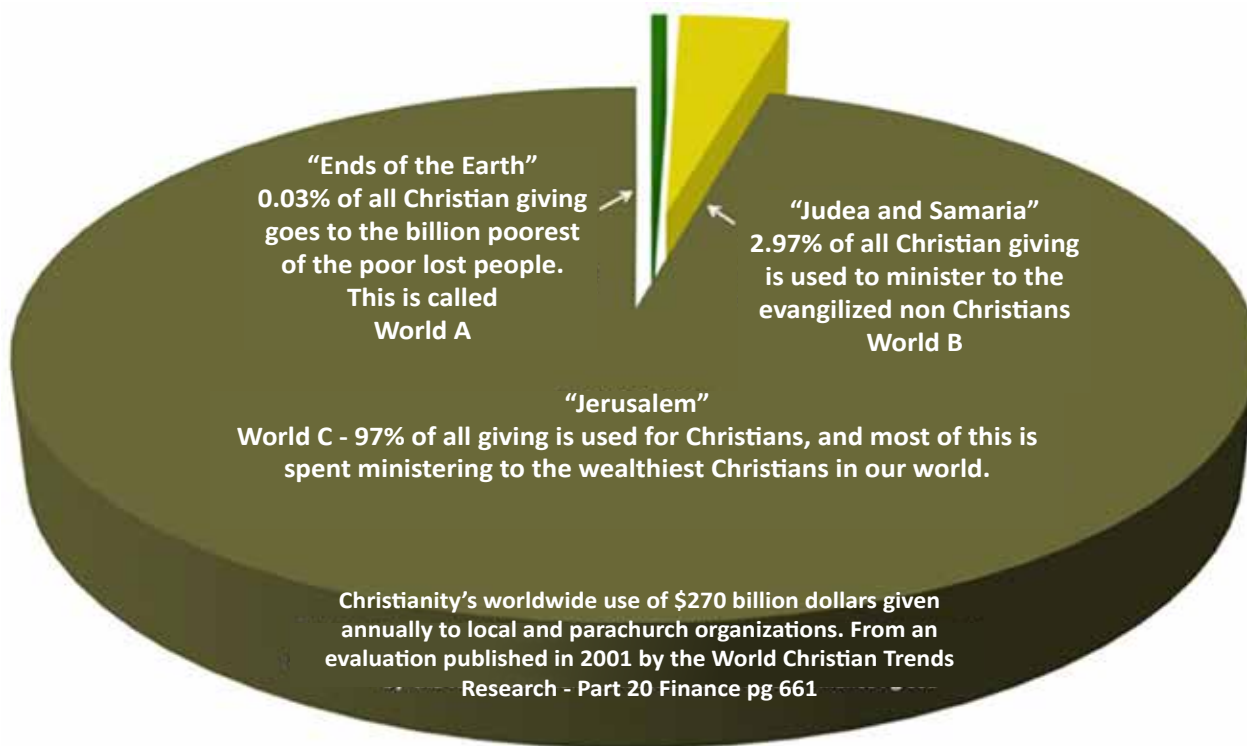
This is why I partnered with a group of kingdom-minded people to start the ROI (Return on Investment for the Kingdom) ministry.

ROI MINISTRY Addresses ALL of the above CONCERNS

As much as 97% of worldwide giving is used to minister to Christians. Only a minute percent is utilized to attend to the billions of lost and poor in the world. To compound this injustice, the most effective ministries in the world receive this pittance though they address the lost and poor in the places of greatest need. Intuitively, the most significant impact per dollar occurs where the dollar is most urgently needed.

In Scripture, Jesus is highly concerned with how we treat our neighbors. To be a good neighbor, it is pertinent that we attend to those in great need (as seen in the story of the Good Samaritan). May we not be so busy doing "God's work" we neglect to see those who desperately need help and Christ.

continued on next page



One of the most collaborative and exhaustive research projects ever done reveals the Church's use of God's resources. Data was gathered from hundreds of Christian professors, researchers, ministry, and denominational leaders, including some of the most respected Christians in the world (Paul Eshleman, Director of Jesus Film Project; Patrick Johnstone, author of Operation World; and the late Ralph D. Winter, Ph.D., Founder of US Center of World Missions). Of all global Christian ministry resources given annually, this chart shows the location and identity of those who receive these resources. (Research from 2001*)

- 0.03% of all Christian giving makes it to the billions of the world's poorest, lost people (shown in this pie chart as World A).
- 2.97% of all Christian giving is used to minister to evangelized non-Christians (shown in this pie chart as World B).
- 97% of all Christian giving is used to minister to Christians. Most of this is used to minister to the wealthiest Christians (shown in this pie chart as World C).

Acts 1:8 records Jesus' final command, His famous last words of instruction to us today: we are to be "witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth." Sadly, the numbers on the pie chart do not reflect the spirit of Jesus' command. Instead, we see a mere .03% is making it to the ends of the earth (the lost and poorest of the poor, the "least of these").

Who Are The "Least Of These"

A billion+ people depicted in World A? Jesus answered this same question in the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37: They are our Biblical neighbors; they are most often the overlooked, the very poor, beaten mentally and physically



and at times naked, robbed and left for dead. Yet they only receive 1/3 of 1% of all ministry dollars.

Where Are We To Minister?



Next door, next county, next state, and ethnic group. However, Jesus' most significant emphasis was on the "ends of the earth" since these were His most dramatic last words while He ascended from earth into heaven. Most notably, our very last words are the most important. Jesus had thousands of years to think about His last words. He gives us the final and most important instructions in the most dramatic "stage-left" exit (recorded in Acts 1:8) as He tells us we will also get the help we need to do this. This helper is the Holy Spirit.

What Are We To Do?

"Preach the good news to the poor," as Jesus did, meeting both spiritual and physical needs. The world says this is foolish and manipulative in our good deeds, but it's the best thing we can do to help others with their physical needs. Psalm 37:25 says, "I was young, and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread." Jesus says in Matt 6:25-33 that if we seek Him first, then all these other things (food and clothing) will be added to this. Jesus has to be first and foremost in all the good things we do for others. So we teach people to love God, knowing He will also provide what He knows they need.



So if we followed God's instruction and Jesus' teaching by ministering to the "least of these," what would we discover? We'd find much more than what the research shows at 300 times greater results overall: at the "ends of the earth." We found 30,000 times greater results than those receiving the least resources through our Top 10 ministries. This proves what

Jesus said: "Where The harvest is ripe, but the workers are few."

The Giving Solution: Generosity

Jesus not only told us WHO our neighbors are in the Good Samaritan; He showed us WHAT to do when He came to "preach the good news to the poor"; and He showed us WHERE to go in His most famous and dramatic last words of instruction...to the "ends of the earth." By following God's instruction and Jesus' example, we discover 30,000 times greater results! Enter any dollar amount, no matter how little you think you can afford, to invest in God's Kingdom and see the 30,000 times greater results as compared to where most Christian giving occurs today.

Solution: GOD+YOU+OTHERS

One of the greatest biblical principles is GOD+YOU+OTHERS, a relationship trio with lasting fulfillment. Certainly, there are times when the Holy Spirit leads us to give solely from our hearts out of obedience to His prompting; but did you know it's no less holy to use your mind in this process? When the people asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was, He quoted Deuteronomy 6:5, saying, we are to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves – but Jesus added "mind" to this verse. "We are to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves" (Matthew 22:37 and Mark 12:30).

How exciting for marketplace Christians to discover that we can use our minds not only to make a living but also to love and serve God and MANY others forever! How we wisely give is as important as what we give – God calls us to give with a cheerful, obedient heart after providing for our #1 God-given ministry, our family, and our local Church.

It is a great joy for me to write this article for the Healing Lives magazine, issued by Medical Ambassadors International. This organization has been on ROI Ministries' Top Ten list for the last six consecutive years! Medical Ambassadors has found that it is both more effective and less expensive to meet spiritual and physical needs together. This may be true because meeting more needs inspires more local volunteers, and because this is the way Jesus showed His disciples to love their neighbors.

Tim Barker, Founder and Executive Director, ROI Ministries

Tim and his wife, Tina Barker, have five children and make their home in Woodstock, Georgia



Recommended Reading on Transformational Development

Engaging Globalization, The Poor, Christian Mission and Our Hyperconnected World

by Bryant Myers

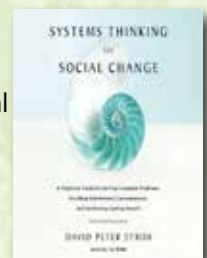
Dr. Myers is a scholar with the long experience of a practitioner at World Vision. This book provides an accessible understanding of the complexities of globalization that touch on so many facets of our world. It also discusses what this means for the poor and points to a response for the church.



Systems Thinking for Social Change

by David Peter Stroh

Systems thinking applied to transformational development offers a set of tools and principles for complex social problems. It takes into account multiple stakeholders and their dynamic relationships for bringing about desired change.



When Helping Hurts

by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

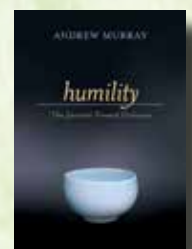
Corbett and Fikkert offer a lens for critical thinking on the intentions and outcomes of those that want to help others. Questions and commentary provide an important aid for the important consideration of one's ultimate effectiveness.



Humility

by Andrew Murray

In this classic, Murray describes humility as the foundation by which God is able to work in and through his creatures. In the work of transformational development, as in all other work, the divine work of God is what matters.



Brian Dowd has graciously compiled the above reading list. He is the owner and President of the leadership development company Next Step Coach and is Co-Managing Partner of The Barnabas Group in Sacramento, a community of Kingdom-minded business leaders who help solve the business problems of ministries.



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