

What Is A Transformed Nation?*

Part II.

There are various ways to answer that question, depending on which lens you are using. As we approach this topic we do well to adopt the watchword "transformed and always transforming" to remind us that transformation is a process and not realized in fullness until Jesus comes.

We have discussed the first 12 lenses of transformation in previous newsletter. Below are the second 12 lenses of transformation.

13. **Kairos Lens:** a nation transformed is one in which a servant of God recognizes God's appointed hour/kairos moment for change and becomes a catalytic agent. He/she makes the most of the catalytic/crisis/kairos, 'God appointed moment' of human challenge and divine opportunity. In the New Testament, "God's appointed/approved time"

(Mark 1:15). Anglican Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane of Cape Town, South Africa describes this phenomenon as "When regular time ("kronos") gives way to a spirit-filled moment in history and a new sense of timetakes over." Dr. Os Guinness writes, "The hour which is God-given moment of destiny not to be shrunk from but seized with decisiveness, the floodtide of opportunity and demand in which the unseen waters of future surge down to the present."

14. **U.N. Lens:** a nation transformed can be identified when a nation ranks high on the human development index. The human development index is based on wealth, life expectancy and education and such factors as human freedom, dignity and human agency; that is, the role of people in development. For each of the six years of the twenty-first century, Norway has come out on top.
15. **Transformational Indicator Lens:** a nation transformed indicator lens, produced by Joshua Project II, provides a picture of spiritual and social transformation from a composite view of the spiritual, humanitarian and behavioral indicators.
16. **Market Place Lens:** a nation transformed through Kingdom business ventures. See, *"God is at Work: Transforming People and Nations Through Business"*, by Ken Eldred.
17. **Leadership Lens:** a nation transformed has transformational leadership. Harvard Business School's leadership and change guru, Dr. John Kotter www.johnkotter.com has created a fable for change called "Our Iceberg is Melting," www.ouricebergismelting.com to show that change occurs when the stage is set, the guiding team decides what to do and then makes it happen. It involves the following steps: (1) Create a sense of urgency, (2) Pull together the guiding team, (3) Develop the vision and change strategy, (4) Communicate for understanding and buy-in, (5) Empower others to act, (6) Produce short-term wins, (7) Don't let up, (8) Create a new culture.

Former Singaporean Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew, is an example. He is called, "the man who built Singapore."

18. **The Spheres Lens:** a nation transformed is one that has experienced the application of a Biblical Worldview to each of the eight main spheres of society. The main spheres/areas/domains of human life and society are: the arts, business, Church, media, education, family, governance, and health. This is the call by Jesus to the disciples, *"Go therefore and make disciple of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* (Mat 28:19-20)
19. **Church Lens:** a nation transformed through the Body of Christ. The Church of Jesus Christ, as the community of the Kingdom, is God's primary instrument of transformation. The case can be made regarding the Kampala Pentecostal Church being a primary agent of transformation in Uganda.
- CV Mattews of India presents a bird's eye-view of the contributions made by Christian Church especially in the realm of ideas and values. The foundational materials used in building a nation are not bricks and mortars, nor a strong treasury, nor a strong army nor an inexhaustible and formidable arsenal.
20. **Ideas Lens:** a nation transformed by a set of ideas. As Stephen McDowell, President of Provident Foundation has written, "every nation is built upon a set of ideas or presuppositions that are rooted in the faith of the people; hence, all nations have religious foundation. The transforming set of ideas include: (1) The Christian Idea of God and Theology, (2) The Christian Idea of Man, (3) The Christian Idea of the Family, (4) The Christian Idea of Truth, (5) The Christian Idea of Creation and History, (6) The Christian Idea of Government, (7) The Christian Idea of Education."
21. **Methodological Lens:** a nation in which servants of God have asked and answered three practical questions. To work meaningfully toward the transformation of any community you need to know: (1) Where your community is now, (2) Where your community will be tomorrow and (3) What needs to change; what things need to go and what needs to come in order to be transformed. Case studies in Uganda with John Mulinde who made this observation. Case study of the Philippines.
22. **The Stream Lens:** a nation having experience the streams of transformation. There are eight notable streams of transformation as observable in the case of Indonesia as follows: Major streams of transformation for the healing of the nations include the Revivalist Stream, characterized by divine visitation and revival; the Saturation Church Planting Stream establishing vital, churches in every sphere of society as salt and light with the love, truth and saving power of Jesus Christ; The Transformational Development Stream creating a better future for the poor in sustainable development among communities; The Transformational Prayer Stream praying out God's heart for the cities and the nations of the world, the City Transformation Stream as it builds on the foundation of vital, biblical churches to mobilize God's people on a mission to cities; the marketplace stream, the worship stream transforming the worshipper and the church ushering in the Back to Jerusalem Movement prepare the way for the Lord of Glory.
23. **The Stages Lens:** a nation that has gone through the stages of transformation. (1) Realization of Crisis/Need/Deficit, (2) Revelation from God to His servant, (3) Repentance, (4) Revival/refreshing of the spirit, (5) Renewal of the mind, (6) Reproduction of transformational leaders, (7) Reconciliation of all things to God. This is the operational phase in which a renewed Christian minority on God's agenda

acts as salt and light wherever they are, repositioning their lives and the organizations they serve in all spheres of society to align with God's purpose of reconciling all things to Himself, (8) Restoration/Transformation. Biblical transformation can be defined as the process of restoration to God's intentions of all that was broken when man rebelled against God in the Fall. Case Study of Norway.

24. **The Poetical Lens:** a nation transformed in the imagination of a creative Christian mind.

- When the mind is without fear and the head is held high
- Where words come out from the depth of truth
- Where rain falls in its season the weather is predictable (without drought or floods)
- Where the land has been healed and plants and the trees yield their fruit in season
- Where families own their own homes, land and assets to generate sufficient household food security
- Where children are healthy and free from dangerous illness
- Where mothers and fathers not only love the Lord but each other and their children and teach them to love the Lord
- Where wages are fair and just
- Where the council of elders in each village and community is able to resolve all disputes justly at their own level.

The Jesus Way: a nation transformed is one in which catalytic leadership have implemented the Jesus way of doing things. For example, in South Korea, Kim Yong Ki was instrumental transforming South Korea. The new approach to transformation of South Korea was expressed by three words: work, service on the love of the neighbor, and work on the love of the soil.

** The following is an extemporaneous lecture given by Dr. Luis Bush during the launch of Transform World Connections Singapore on 12th June 2007*