



Transform **WORLD** 2020

Global Leadership Summit 2014

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A Transformational Model in West Africa

In the conclusion to his book, *The Kingdom of God in Africa*, Mark Shaw asserts that Krio Christianity is a “transformational model witness to the kingdom” through its emphasis on the building of a Christianized society (p. 295).

This Krio Christianity is a movement which influenced the coastal areas of West Africa from Senegal to Nigeria. The movement was led by receptive slaves along with Blacks from Nova Scotia, Jamaica, and Britain who settled in these areas and created a society whose heart was the Christian faith and Western values made relevant to African society. The movement began in the 19th century and it continues in one way or another to the present in West Africa.

What was distinctive about Krio Christianity? Its intentions were to inject Christian religion and values into Africa by people of African ancestry with the goal of Christianizing Africa itself. To do this they emphasized education to produce a literate population, for the training of African pastors and evangelists, and for the creation of their own professional class including lawyers, doctors, and teachers. They formed churches which were shaped around Henry Venn’s principles of self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating.

The above was accomplished often by practicing Christianity outside of direct association with colonial administration or mission churches. Africans, like Krio Christians, were pioneers in the adaptation and assimilation of Christianity in their societies and created a distinctive African-based and African-created Christian culture. This evangelical momentum often extended beyond the towns and the direct control of colonial authorities into the countryside.

Now let’s look at a current model of transformation.

Bihar Addresses the Poverty Challenge of Transform 2020 with a Model Village by David Young Gil Lee

The Poverty Challenge Group of Transform 2020 is using the model village as its strategic catchword and Bihar, India is the location of the transformational model. The inspiration is from South Korea where the ideal Bong An village inspired the New Village Movement all over Korea. The hope is that what is happening in Bihar, India will expand to 45,000 villages in that state. “Indeed it would not be wrong to say that Bihar is not only India’s ‘worst case’ but it is at the same time the ‘test case’. What happens in Bihar will have a profound effect on the rest of India.” (Arbind N. Das in *The Republic of Bihar*)

Bihar, often identified as India’s poorest state, is located in north India south of Nepal and is crossed in its middle by the Ganges River. The Poverty Challenge group has developed a cooperative relationship with Global Hope Network International (GHNI), Canaan Farmer School, and Community Health Education/Evangelism (CHE) to start model villages as an incentive to rural transformation. The process began with the Transform World Bihar Summit on 15-17 January 2014. This conference under its elected leadership decided to select villages that could be models in clusters and also to establish continuous interaction and facilitation among those involved in this project to implement this model village concept and to keep it progressing. Now NGOs, churches, and denominations are prepared to cooperate and to mobilize resources to meet the needs identified by the communities themselves. The potential for the project is a major contribution to Transform 2020.

YOUR PARTICIPATION

If you are interested in participating in the discussions at the Global Summit from June 9-14 in Geneva, Switzerland and Macon, France, contact Ana Herlina, registrar at ana@bcs.org.sg. Registration is closed soon.

For those of you already registered please remember to forward your registration payment and flight itinerary.