



We Were Slaves. Now We Are Free!

I recently had the privilege of celebrating freedom in Christ with a community released from generations of bondage to physical slavery.

The celebration happened on the second day of a Million Village Consultation in a country that will remain unnamed. We visited a village engaged for transformational community development (TCD) in 2017. At that time, twenty-one families, about 150 people, lived in slavery to a landlord.

On the day of our visit, they celebrated their emancipation. Advocacy by a TCD trainer opened the door for their release. Collectively, they sold their jewelry and animals they paid off their “generational debt”, bought land and built a new settlement.

Their joy was irrepressible. One of our colleagues noted that “even the animals in the village seemed happy”. They named their new settlement “Hope Village”, and took great pride in their homes, their church, water and sanitation systems, and their community school where both boys and girls were receiving a Christian education. Every home in the community had declared for Christ.

Christian leaders from across the country listened intently as a community leader told their story: “We are all Christian now, and we are free! We are free to serve Jesus; free to put our children in school; and free to keep the fruit of our labor”. Word of their success spread, and three other villages welcomed CHE/TCD to their communities. A movement has begun.

These same leaders, moved by the transformation they saw in lives and communities began to imagine what it might be like if this were multiplied throughout their country and everyone in the country heard the news of these transformational movements. On the last day of the consultation, Christian leaders from the country adopted 240 villages with a commitment to train teams and send them there to do Christ centered community transformation.

I have written a book that explains the principles of Christ-Centered transformational community development. If you think this might apply in your context, click [here](#) and download a copy.

The testimony of these villagers is a great reminder that if the Son sets us free, we are free indeed. May the knowledge that we were once in bondage to sin, now bought with the blood of Christ, cause us a great sense of gratitude and understanding that we are free to serve Jesus and walk in obedience to the master who gave all for us.

Happy Easter,

Terry