

# PRIORITIZING THE NEED FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN CHURCH GROWTH

Dear friends and colleagues in His vineyard,

Greetings from Transform World - Family Sphere!



Yesterday I received a forward through WhatsApp on the "Crisis of Faith. in UK" where the under 40 populations by 2021 census data are becoming "non-religious". So the majority faith in UK has shifted from being "Christian" to a faithless and godless generation. Is this trend worrying us as Christian leaders? While we have mission movements trying to close the gap between the reached and the unreached people groups, the "reached ones" are becoming a godless generation. There is an issue at hand to address by the Church. Traditionally "church growth" is a subject that is

discussed behind closed doors at conferences and strategy meetings for professionals in mission to be engaged. But I think the framework that God has ordained for the mission of God to be accomplished naturally is through every home that knows the Lord.

The mission of Christ is to be understood by every Christian family and has to be intentionally passed down to the next generation. The 12 apostles our Lord sent indeed had a role to play in reaching the unreached and making disciples. But the recording of Luke in the Acts of the Apostle mentions many ordinary laities taking the gospel of Jesus as "households" to others. Mission needs to overflow from every Christian home. The family of every believer is a mission centre and a strategic location for the gospel's spread.

In my research with families across India to assess the impact of teaching the concept of "missional families." Based on my book, I was surprised to find that prior to the study, many of them had not recognised their role to suffer for the gospel's sake as a call to all believers. They thought this was a call to a selected few who were called to be "missionaries" or " Church pastors". Similarly, many homes lacked basic family worship, but as a result of teaching and guiding families, 92% of them started to have family prayers and shared their exciting experiences. Many became aware of their need to connect with their neighbours and be a witness in their place of work after the study. The study was an eye-opener as many long for such discipleship teaching, and they confessed that their local church had not taught them about it. So, the need of the hour is to empower homes and engage them in the vision of building His Kingdom.

To make every Church understand its call to family discipleship and resource the Church to equip the saints, the Transform World Family sphere has initiated many initiatives. Three booklets as conversation starters and guides for pastors and leaders are available for download at [www.globalfamilychallenge.com](http://www.globalfamilychallenge.com). These resources are good starting points for leaders to initiate a conversation to bring a change in church culture, where the members begin to feel responsible for the faith formation of their family members. I'm also posting an article I wrote for the WEA news based on our workshop at WCC General Assembly in Germany. in Sept 2022.

This article highlights many studies carried out across the globe on faith decline. They all recognise the need for families to be involved in faith formation.

Regular training for pastors and leaders to help change their Church culture from " Church Centred faith spirituality to a Home Centred faith spirituality" is a need of the hour. It can be made available for those in need by trained resource people. For those who need professional training in family ministry at preventive and curative levels, courses are available at affordable prices through online platforms. One of the new courses offered is a certificate in family life coaches for churches. Please take a look at [www.uimfrti.org](http://www.uimfrti.org). We are in a time when global resources from all global ministries are now available for the global Church. It's time to see "family ministry" not as an optional extra to build His Kingdom but as an integral component to see Churches thrive and grow through the partnership of every home to fulfil God's agenda.

The faith decline of UK and other nations may have many reasons, but I'm of the strong opinion the framework that God has established for faith to be passed on is "family", which sadly has been ignored. The Church did not empower the homes to do the needful but instead took on the mantle of passing faith when the job was primarily given to the family.

Please feel free to contact me for any assistance, and. let us do it together so that we can help nations from moving in the direction of the UK!

<https://worldea.org/news/20485/growing-faith-in-the-context-of-faith-decline-concerns-of-the-global-church/>

With a sense of urgency,

In the battle for families,

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