



July 2011

Dear Friends:

Being a Kingdom businessman with a transformation heart requires a sensitive ear to Heaven and a relationship with the risen Lord, which is NEVER boring! Early this month I had a sticky situation at a large event that took place in a nearby city. My sound company supplied sound and lights on 2 stages, but the turnout was so low the organizers had trouble paying their bills. While being told that the money was not available to pay up, I recall thinking, "How I act at this tense moment toward this human being really matters to God." The Bible says to put away bitterness, rage, anger, malice and slander so those options were off-the-table. I recalled the Luke 10 model: "Speak peace, eat and drink with the people (keep and don't break fellowship), heal the sick (pray and invite God into what hurts) and declare "the Kingdom of God is near." After stating an adjusted set of expectations, the organizer, his dear wife and I prayed together. Taking this approach allowed me to make room for God, honor people, practice patience, state clearly what was needed and even pastor the difficulty with prayer and kindness. God took care of our needs. Hmmm... "Seek first His Kingdom.... and all these things...."

This lifestyle is known as Prayer Evangelism, and it's a great way to treat everyone, not just those you are "reaching out" to. It's "talking to God about your neighbor before talking to your neighbor about God." It's inviting God into everything and watching Him bring His Kingdom (righteousness, peace and joy) there. See Luke 10: 5-9.

FERTILE GROUND

Some of you may recall that a few months back Simpson University gave us the honor to share in 5 of their "ministry practicum" classes. In early May, I was thanking their spiritual formation director for that opportunity when he surprised me by saying that the student outreach coordinator position would be OPENING for 2011-12 year. They hoped to hire someone who knew Simpson's culture (I am alumni) and was familiar with the city (hmmm??!!) to help mobilize the students into serving and transforming the city! (Sounds like ME, eh?) The goal of this part time position is to help students find ways to serve the city, off campus, with understanding for impact! Seemed like a "win-win." After a series of interviews, this position was offered to me last week. I look forward to sharing Prayer Evangelism principles and paradigms of transformation with the student body and shaping them for marketplace ministry. Thus, Redding Transformation can sow into Simpson and vice-versa as it is a paid position and fills in a 'budget shortfall' we experience each month at Redding Transformation, PTL. Pray for favor, wisdom and influence at this new 10 month position.

God is guiding and providing! Through our sound company and the charter school position Karen has, we are both able to further transformation and pay our bills in this tighter economic climate. This

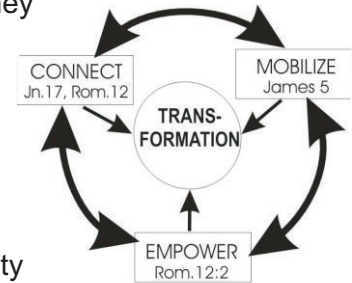
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means that RT is now a non-profit organization with 2 part time staff who both have jobs in Redding's marketplace. We enjoy the opportunity to model and embody what we preach. As supporters of other organizations dependent on generous giving, we are quite aware of the refrain about 'needing donations.' We praise God for granting us creative ways to flourish in lean times and we are glad to be tent-making and ministering without dichotomizing.

DEFINITION & PLANNING

Karen and I participated in a non-profit strategic / business planning webinar this month. It has launched some very healthy assessment. God is calling us TO DEFINE and LEAD at a NEW LEVEL at this 7 year point. Part of defining meant diagramming a THEORY of CHANGE. This simple diagram shows 3 main objectives that help us make TRANSFORMATION tangible: they are CONNECT, MOBILIZE and EMPOWER. All 3 are needed to complete the circle. In the past, we have put more resources toward Connecting and Mobilizing, so it was action heavy and relationally driven but we lacked in the arena of explanation and empowering people with vision and training. It's now time to emphasize *the WHY* in all we do since many people watch with admiration or jump in with us to serve the community but don't totally understand the motives or implications that are driving the activity. The mindset of the Church here is being renewed, especially regarding community transformation and the role of the Body to initiate and lead in that. For this reason, we want to continue to share / instill / impart / and nurture the transformation mindset which feeds into proactive action and positive, purposeful connections so that more and more action + testimony flows. Bringing Ed Silviso last month was a huge kick start to this 'training / envisioning' piece.



SUMMER SNAPSHOTS

Compass: Compass Care Services now has its own non-profit corporate status and will gradually become known as Shining Care. We've had the honor of hosting Compass, focused on transforming social services, under our umbrella for the past 2 years. Congratulations Shining Care!

South County Transformation: SCT is teaming up with Anderson Cottonwood Christian Assistance (ACCA) for the 3rd year in a row to provide back-to-school clothes, shoes and backpacks to students in need. The shopping spree is scheduled for Saturday, August 6 at 7AM at the Anderson Wal-Mart. Who wants in?

Grace in Motion: We have responded to needs of people when asked, which has meant serving about once a quarter. The biggest difficulty we have with Grace in Motion is finding appropriate opportunities to help! Keep your eyes open!

Finances: Income has decreased dramatically (everywhere it seems) leaving us with a monthly shortfall of approximately \$2000.

Fair Parking Fundraiser: On June 15th 30 helpers covered 3 parking lots for 12 hours to net \$1500. Our appreciation is infinite!

Ed Silviso impact: The series of meetings we hosted here mid-May is yielding good fruits. We will say more about this as the conversations firm up into concrete actions.

Leadership: Natalia and I are being mentored in leadership growth by a couple that has training and experience in the marketplace. We are studying a leadership book, asking hard questions and gleaning from others!

LOOKING AHEAD

As we take time this summer to discern the Lord's leading for this new season, we are entering into a series of coaching meetings for our team and working toward developing a robust, multifaceted network for business transformers. Watch for dates of training events to as we expand in our efforts to empower other with the principles of transformation.

Yours in Christ,

Jon + Natalia
Jon and Natalia Thompson