

## **Transformational Ministry**

### **By Bob Young**

This study is about what can happen, and what actually is happening, when ministers around the world apply the principles of transformational ministry in the local ministry context to change themselves, their churches, their communities, their society, and the world.

I present five new paradigms—new ways of thinking—that will stretch you farther than you've been stretched before... going beyond revival ministry to the principles and actions that transform lives, beyond ministry limited to a local church context to ministry to communities and ministry to the world.

You will have to decide how well I accomplish my purpose, but my intent is to provide a "how-to manual for transformational ministry."

I am confident that transformation can occur in the lives of both church members and the unchurched in our workplaces, neighborhoods, communities, cities, and nations. I am equally confident that genuine ministry in all of its potential value and influence occurs when lives are touched and changed. Transformational ministry is about changed lives and communities.

Stories of transformation abound from government leaders, business owners, employees, and others in the "real-world" marketplace.

### **Introduction**

I didn't start ministry with transformation in mind; I started with ministry/evangelism in mind. I have worked full-time with a limited number of churches: Dierks, 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Plymouth, Lansing, Ft. Gibson, McAlester.

Ministry that matters: I began with 3 tenures of 2 years each, I was learning what I was doing. Then I spent 20 years in two churches (12+8) before I began working in Christian universities. Included in my time with the universities were interim ministries and a couple of briefer tenures at McAlester.

I have met two kinds of people in my ministry. I want to be like both.

- Transformed people:
  - Cootsie Davis
  - Bill Bennett
  - Bob Pollard
  - Hardins
  - Brannons, prayer groups
- Transforming people:
  - Wayne and Betty Smith
  - 15<sup>th</sup> Street elders
  - Maurice Hall
  - Ed Tarrant
  - Fort Gibson elders
  - My professors (Howard Norton)

### **TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRY INVOLVES FIVE THINGS**

#### **First, transformed Ministers**

When did I start ministering? Penalosa—consider the influence of Maurice Hall.

I was being transformed, little by little.

By contacts with other transformed people [An interest in missions]

By the experiences of ministry [Dorothy Rooks story]

By the hurts of people: Chavez, abortion, mixed marriage

Campus, broken families, hurts, deaths (Karl and Cheryl, Karl's sister in Chicago plane crash)

E. L. and Carolyn

## **Second, transformed churches**

Busing/evangelism at Plymouth

Missions at Lansing

→Church transformation requires vision, vitality, appropriate processes, discipline/accountability

→Sharing a vision, getting down to the commitment. I did not understand this until Lansing. I find it interesting that the vision was unstated in Lansing but it happened anyway

→In Fort Gibson, we learned how to state the vision, and to put certain elements in place, but it was in some senses more difficult, because the vision was more objective and less subjective

## **Third, transformed communities**

Lansing, weddings, visitors, busing, parenting classes, missions

Ft Gibson

## **Fourth, transformed people**

Students at OVU—Darrell Henderson, Dorn Muscar, Jason Manning....

People in churches—Steve and Sondra Hardin

Students at OC

## **Fifth, transforming the world—one life at a time**

Starfish story, old but true

The stories of some of the Baxter students

## **TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRY AND FIVE DYNAMIC TENSIONS THAT TRANSFORM**

### **HOW? The tensions of dynamics that transform; these are examples of “both/and”**

- Control or empowerment: ad-ministry as vital to ministry, freeing rather than controlling. We must learn to give permission rather than direction, to seek creativity vs. compliance, to celebrate innovation rather than institutionalism
- We must appreciate the tension between deductive and inductive planning, between order and chaos
- We must understand continuous and discontinuous change
- We must learn to minister in the gap: that is, between what was, what is, and what can be (creative tension), new realities
- Team or Lone Ranger: will we facilitate the ministry of the few, or the church as a team; we must study and understand the relationships between independence, dependence, and interdependence

## **TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRY IS FOCUSED**

**Transformational ministry, and all of the spiritual life, is about finding your personal niche, place, purpose**

ONE CENTRAL FOCAL POINT.....God at the Center

What is God’s plan, what is your purpose, what is your plan?

THREE ORIENTING RELATIONAL POINTS.....Associations/Relationships/Connections: God, Family, Friends

Where are your connections, where do you fit into the church?

THREE PRINCIPLES—GUIDING PASSION.....Serve, Work, Rest

What is your passion, where is your enthusiasm?

THREE APPLICATIONS.....Stewardships: Stuff, Opportunities-Time, Body

What are your aptitudes and abilities?