

Episode 058

Transforming Lives Together

- In 2024 our theme was INFLUENCE: Transforming Lives Everywhere
- In 2025 we are expanding upon it. To INFLUENCE: Transforming Lives Together.

WHY TRANSFORMING LIVES EVERYWHERE?

- This Vision 2030 slogan captures the essence and impact of the Great Commission concisely, memorably.
- It is about making it personal, tangible, relatable. It is about each person's life. It is about the multitude's lives.
- It is about making a huge difference in people's lives. Saving from brokenness, sin and destruction to wholeness, holiness and eternal life. It is about bringing hope, bringing change for eternity, transforming each person's life in Christ.
- Saving souls is critical to get them to heaven. But it is not enough! What God really wants is disciples. People whose lives have been and continuing to be transformed! To be more like Christ!
- It is about bringing the transforming impact to those near to us and those far. It is about making an impact from local to global. It is about impacting lives wherever we are and everywhere God sends us.
- That is what Transforming Lives Everywhere is about.
- How do we do this?
- Through our 3 Priorities. We are Transforming Lives Everywhere by the 3 priorities of Win Souls, Make Disciples, Plant Churches. These are strategic priorities. If we faithfully carry out these basics, we will in essence be fulfilling the Great Commission.
- These are key phrases which we should use everywhere. It is key HIM Global slogans.



WHY TRANSFORMING LIVES TOGETHER?

- It is about uniting together to more effectively make Transforming Lives Everywhere happen.

a. United together is Biblical

- God desires unity. Indeed, God Himself is united as 3 Persons yet 1. The very nature of God is united.
- God then created the Church. Church is diverse in its multitudes yet created by God to be One Church, One Body. We are a long way from unity in the Body yet. But God will bring it to past.
- Scriptures shows us that God desires unity, He commands unity and blesses unity.

b. United together is Family

- Family brings another dimension to being in unity together.
- Godhead is a family. Notice God gave Himself the Triune names of Father and Son which are family-based. Though not fully because God did not use Mother, but Holy Spirit. Godhead is a family but more than a family.
- God is building the Church, a spiritual family. Father and children. 1 John 3:1 (NIV) See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
- Galatians 6:10 (NIV) Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.
- Ephesians 2:19 (NIV) Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household...
- Local church is to be a family - this year we will have a series on The Family of Church. We want to cultivate the perspective that we are family. Think like a family, feel like a family, act like a family. Value the family. Treat the church like family.



That is why I prefer to refer to church as family. I want to encourage us to use the language of family because we must have the mentality of family.

- What is involved in developing this family?
- As part of that, we must answer the question, “What is family really like?” We must model family as a church. Model it as individual families. You can see the Scriptural instructions about loving one another, helping, supporting, forgiving, giving, etc etc. Same values, same principles throughout. This is something special, something very biblical. Something we are living out reasonably well. But I hope we will see develop further. So we are having a sermon series on Family Matters.

c. United together in life groups

- We must help our people appreciate and distinguish that there are sub-groups within a vast family. Illustrate with huge families like mine. We have the Wilson & Lai Ling family. Then we have the immediate Lim and Choong families. Then we have our cousins and their families. So it is in the spiritual family.
- It impacts practically on how we express our love and commitment to one another. Though for most people what matters the most is their life groups or unit and local church.
- That is why our life groups are the key backbone of Hope churches. Where the family atmosphere is most tangibly felt.
- Imagine when our people feel like their life group is their spiritual family where they Do Life Together, God's Way! Life groups are where genuine community happens. Where people can laugh and cry together. Where they travel through life together. Where they make their best friends even! Life group should be like their second family!
- Even former members occasionally still contact us to ask whether we have churches where they are.
- For this to happen our leaders have to align with God's perspective. And pursue making life groups family. Pursue making church family. Let's walk the talk!



What benefits are there in being family together?

d. United together gets Further

- Further because of strengths.
- Strength in numbers. As a church we can achieve more when we have greater numbers. Hands of Hope's community work is only possible because of the number of supporters, who give of their monies, volunteers hours and knowhow. That is one reason why we want to see our church grow numerically. We intend that HoH will expand its Pantry ministry by 50% to help more people. The various programs to assist more families and we are looking to develop a new program in 2025. We will continue with Christmas Fest and Christmas Hamper programs to bless those who need the support.
- It is through the church support that we are able to do amazing work in the mission field. Now Lance and Belle oversee some 400 churches in Africa. They are continuing to see new works moving into new countries there like Angola and South Africa.
- Our church is a key church for our entire movement. So the greater our strength, the greater we can lend our strength to the entire movement.
- Strength through increased diversity. Diversity in terms of race, culture, demographics, life experiences, skills. It means as a church we can do broader things like crossing to reach more cultures. Do more activities, programs which require greater range of knowledge and skills.
- Strength through increased specialisation. It means people can focus to specialise because there are big teams to carry the normal things. We need people with specialisations like counsellors who can go deeper in helping people work through their issues. We need people like lawyers who can help the church and even individuals into the more complex legal environment today. Like migration agents that we can trust - right now it is like the wild west in that area. We need more people who can specialise in deliverance ministry.



- In life group similar benefits are available with unity. Outreach is easier when the life group works together. Connecting with people is always easier through community. Have you ever sat alone with someone new and trying to make conversation? Usually it can get awkward because you run out of things to talk about. But when there is a group, it is so much easier. Diversity of people can mean that you can connect at different points of intersection.
- Through life group it means the increased ability to assimilate, to support, to mature, to equip happens easier because different people can take on different roles.
- So please help our life groups do life together, God's way. Helping one another, working together in unity so they can impact more lives!
- Last year we saw about 50 people come to Christ. I still want to believe that we can see 100 people each year coming to Christ! I want to see more mentors and leaders rise up to help people to grow spiritually.
- Further because of resilience
- Community always increases resilience. Recently the hostages taken by Hamas started returning. It was observed that those who were left to themselves were in worse condition than those who were kept in small groups.
- Life groups help our people have greater resilience when they go through the ups and downs of life, spiritual warfare, etc.
- A new Filipino couple recently had their newborn but unfortunately their baby has a lot of health issues. I am so touched to hear of many people rising up to help them financially, through prayer, etc. This is what family is about.
- That is why we also encourage leaders who have community. You need that. Make sure you have your community!
- Further through multiplication



- The Kingdom of God grows strongly when God's people multiply. Through multiplying disciples, which is a key means. Complemented with life groups that grow and multiply! Then we get the benefits of multiplying yet retaining community. Retaining the benefits of groups of people together.
- That is why as a church we will focus a lot more on multiplying life groups. Joshua will share more about this.

e. United together by common alignment.

- We must go deeper in understanding how we can be united together as a family.
- If someone says this is my church family. What does it actually mean to them? Because it can mean very different things to different people. Let me illustrate by using familiar concepts of family.
- A natural family is one related by blood, marriage and adoption.
- A functional family has decent relationship between members.
- An impacting family have common alignment such as mission, values, culture, etc.
- Ps. Kobchai Chirathivat and Central Group of Thailand one of the largest conglomerates in Thailand with businesses in over 10 nations, including Europe. Shopping centres, retail, hotels, restaurants, real estate, finance. Its claims they have created over 220,000 jobs.
- Let me suggest that an impacting church/heavenly family needs these 3 key ingredients:
- Familial connections such as spiritual history. Saved in church, grew up in church, matured or equipped in church, etc. Unfortunately, many do not give weight to these anymore.
- In the Kingdom of God, when we are saved, we gain familial connections through Christ. That is why we can say we are a spiritual family together to entire Body of Christ. Like me to the huge Khoo clan from my mother's side.



- Relational connections such as personal relationships and commitments or perhaps personal covenant. These friendships are important to majority of Christians.
- In Kingdom of God, that is why God desires to build relationship with us personally. That is why relationships we build mean a lot. That is why I have been building relationships with key leaders of movements.
- Alignment connection through common mission, theology, values, ministry philosophy, covenant, etc. This is where a local church, or group of churches become more effective. Alignment.
- That is why we have membership covenant. Basically, we agree to join hearts together in familial where we will build our spiritual history together. In relationship, as we determine to deepen our connection together and alignment that we may serve effectively together.
- That is why one of our HIM core values is Covenantal relationships. God operates by covenant. So should God's people, God's church.
- In today's society, covenant holds no real meaning. Marriages break ups. Partnerships break up. Church members leave. Churches leave movements. Instead of fighting to keep covenant, people just drop out.
- What matters most is people who covenant authentically in their hearts. Membership covenant helps to flesh that out in a basic way to make it more tangible, but the real measure is the heart commitment.
- This year we hope to build some of this understanding deeper amongst our leaders and members. Because we believe it is important to relate covenantally. So that the familial, relational and alignment connections are brought together strongly to be an impacting family.





CONCLUSIONS

- Let's Transform Lives Together. Because it is Bible, it is God's idea. Because it is family.
- Let's be united together to transform lives everywhere. Let's do it as a family, through our life groups. Let's look to the Lord to see it come to pass powerfully in our church.
- Let's believe the Lord that we can see our life groups thrive, every one of them. That our people can experience love, community, hope, support. That lives will be transformed because of our life groups. That our life groups can be impacting and multiply!



Discussion Questions

These questions could be done personally or as part of a group discussion.

1. What has inspired you about the concept of church as a family from this podcast? Discuss.
2. 3 concepts about family: familial, functional, impacting were introduced and shown to be important to a Kingdom church family. What are your thoughts?
3. It was explained that a united family gets further due to greater strength in numbers, diversity, specialisation, resilience, ability to multiply etc. What aspect was helpful to you?

Actionable Steps

Following questions are to prompt us on suitable actions. Importantly, come up with steps you will take to make progress. Give them datelines and priority.

1. What are some specific steps you can take to develop a deeper family atmosphere in your group?
2. Identify 1 or 2 strengths that you wish your group to develop in line with this podcast. Plan a 3 month action plan.





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