Transformative Evaluation
Core Belief

Frank G. Cookingham…October 2016
As Christians our purpose in life is to be Christ-like in all aspects of living, including our professions.

This is the core belief that justifies Transformative Evaluation practices and its focus on community development that is transformational.
Seek Evidence for Transformation

- The overall goal for a transformational development program is individual and social transformation.
- Increasing love for God and neighbor within the community is manifestation of moving towards this goal.
Seek Evidence for Individual Transformation

- Individual transformation involves releasing the person from whatever bondage is preventing him or her from realizing potential for abundant living instilled by God.
- What are examples of bondage?
- What are examples of evidence that someone has been released from bondage?
Seek Evidence for Social Transformation

- **Social transformation involves healing broken relationships to restore justice in all social institutions while honoring gifts within the culture that promote life over death.**
- **Enmity among groups is dissolved.**
Perspectives to Guide Search for Evidence

- Kingdom of God vision for success
- Holism practiced by practitioners and stakeholders
- Dynamics of sin and grace
- Just and loving relationships
Kingdom Vision

- The kingdom vision is at odds with worldly visions for a better future.
- SUCCESS from a kingdom perspective is steadfast faithfulness to God; it is acting out of Biblical love in every aspect of living.
- Thus, TE examines the lifestyle of development agents regarding how their presence in the community affects visioning of program participants.
- What do program participants and other stakeholders view as success; does their view change as they engage in TE?
Holism

- To be effective the transformational development (TD) agents need to have a holistic mindset. In particular their thinking and acting is grounded in the belief that spiritual realities are inseparably interwoven with day-to-day “ordinary” living.

- Instruments need to be developed to document the strength of different aspects of holism in development agents.
Holism (2)

- TE has a primary objective of enabling stakeholders to understand TD at a deeper level by examining evidence of transformation. It provokes reflection about what really matters in community development.

- An important finding is documented change in beliefs in different groups of stakeholders about what really matters at the beginning and end of the exercise.
Dynamics of Sin and Grace

- Understanding the local dynamics of sin and grace is central to both planning and implementation of community transformational development.

- Faith groups are encouraged to participate in community development processes to create opportunities for transformation.

- Thus, TE seeks evidence about the understanding of sin and grace in the community, and ways sin and grace are affecting development outcomes.
Just and Loving Relationships

- True vocation, being fully human, is rooted in loving and just relationships. Observable features of relationships in the family, among neighbors, between groups that differ in significant ways; these are evidence of transformative aspects of community development.

- Therefore, the evaluation should explore how people value themselves, family members, others in the community (especially those who are significantly different from them), the community as it nurtures its citizens, God, and the environment.

- Is love of God and neighbor increasing?
TE Core Belief

- As Christians our purpose in life is to be Christ-like in all aspects of living, including our professions.
- As Christ-like evaluators of community development we seek evidence in program planning and implementation related to (1) Kingdom vision for success, (2) Holism practiced by practitioners and stakeholders, (3) Dynamics of sin and grace, and (4) Just and loving relationships.
May your work in monitoring and evaluation bring you and others closer to God.
For further information...

- See posts at www.EvalFrank.com, especially the other five TE orientation slide presentations.