



The Art of Gentle Revolution

By Major Daryl Crowden

INTRODUCTION

Being an agent of change can be an addictive behaviour, the more you see the more you want. Two warnings:

- Being (so called) 'successful' at change can be an amazing ego builder – it can give you a big head. Don't seek change, or the position of change agent for what you can get out of it – you'll fail. And always remember:
- I change no one – God changes people and people change themselves, I am at best a facilitator, a conduit through which God works. Always keep that in the forefront of your mind, because there will be times when you enjoy the glory!

1. DEFINE CHANGE Spiritual (Conversion)

In the context in which we are speaking this week, change is essentially the act of putting aside one position and adopting another. It can be anything from small stuff – like changing clothes, or hair style or colour – to changing jobs, countries, lifestyles.

For the sake of time, (since its limited) I want to suggest to you that what we want to talk about ultimately in our context of church, or TSA, is deep, spiritual change – and traditionally we have called that **CONVERSION**.

Conversion is the ultimate goal! It's the essential foundation for TSA's mission imperatives – to grow dynamic disciples and to increase numbers of soldiers - it's a change of allegiance or relationship from 'whatever' to God.

How do we change people – or how can we be part of God's process of change?

2. THE GOAL: CHRIST LIKENESS - 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

The glory of God revealed in and through the new covenant.
If the Old Covenant resulted in such glory that people could not look at Moses even though he was veiled, can you imagine how amazing the glory of the new covenant would be (2:8)?

Imagine what it would be like if verse 18 was actually a reality – that you and I reflected the glory of the "Lord with uncovered faces".

Have you ever looked into the eyes of someone who has just got it? Have you ever seen that look that says, “Yes! I understand! I know! And I’m going to change because of it!”?

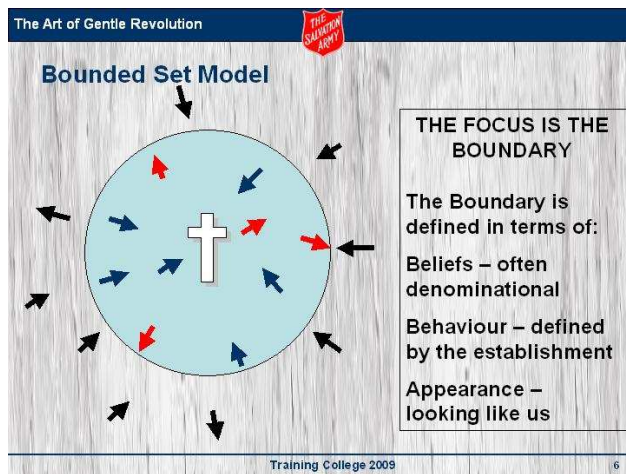
When a person turns to the Lord they have that look – the look of recognition, freedom, transformation – it’s a look that says ‘the knowledge has finally drowned the soul; now I know.’

Being transformed into the likeness of God by the Spirit. When you “see the glory of God come down” that’s an awesome experience. And it doesn’t just happen at a specific moment of conversion – it happens in all kinds of situations – some even apparently secular, irreligious occasions.

3. Bounded Set Model

The Focus is the Boundary
The Boundary is defined in terms of

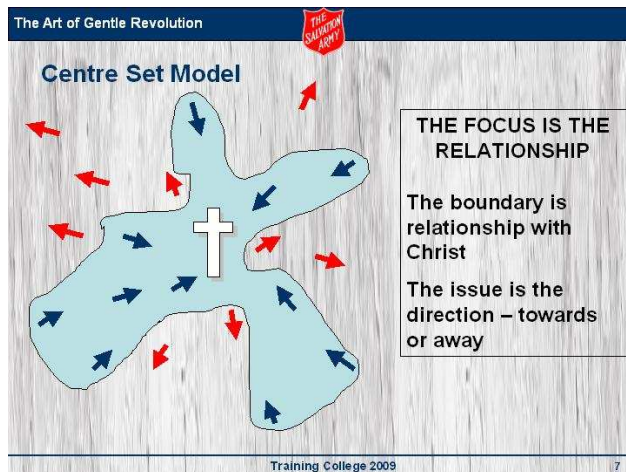
- Beliefs – often denominational
- Behaviour – defined by the establishment
- Appearance – looking like us



Open Set Model

The Focus is The Relationship

- The boundary is defined in terms of relationship to Christ
- The issue is the direction the person is moving – towards or away from Christ



Modified Engel Scale.

The Art of Gentle Revolution 

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- 12 No God framework
- 11 Experience of Emptiness
- 10 God Framework
- 9 Vague awareness and belief in God
- 8 Wondering if God can be known
- 7 Aware of Jesus
- 6 Interested in Jesus
- 5 Experience of Christian love
- 4 Aware of the basic facts of the gospel
- 3 Aware of personal need
- 2 Grasp the implication of the gospel
- 1 Challenged to respond personally
- 0 Repentance and faith**
- +1 Holy Spirit and 'baptism'
- +2 Functioning member of local Church
- +3 Continuing growth in character, lifestyle & service
- +4 Part of Team Leadership

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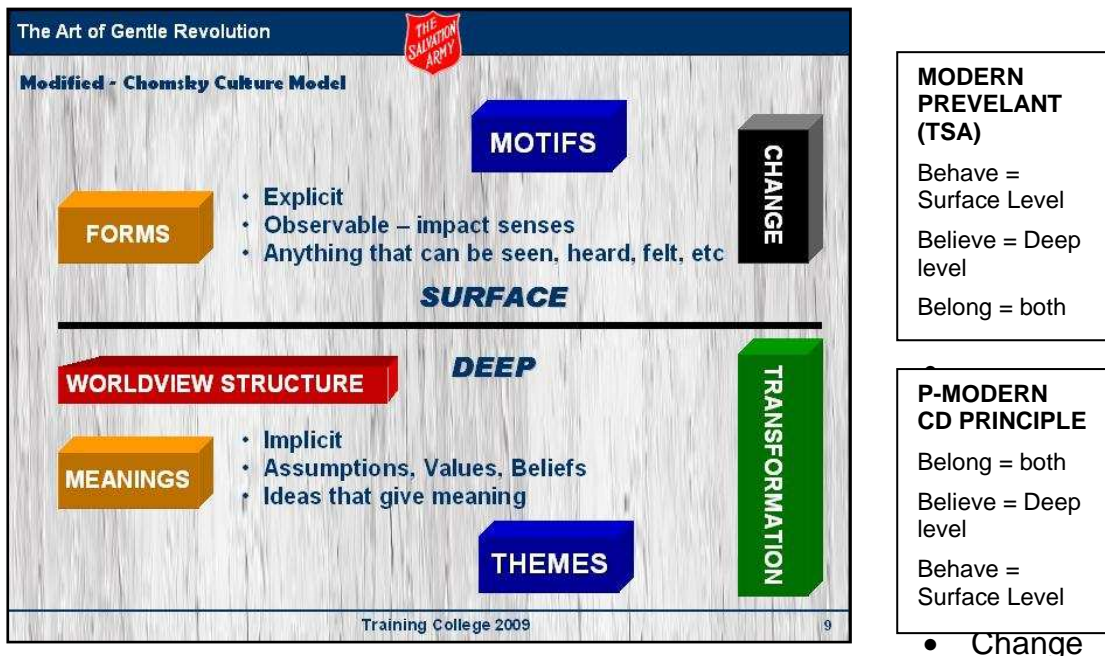
5. CHOMSKY'S MODEL

Distinction Between Change & Transformation

TSA has a good reputation for changing people. As a church we are reputed to have an excellent success rate when it comes to converting people. We, and the church in general, are good at changing people – we are good at putting people in uniforms (of what ever kind) – we are good at including them in 'groups' – getting them to clean up their language: but we are not so good at soul level transformation!

Having said all I have about change, I want to suggest that it is not actually change that we want, it's TRANSFORMATION. And I don't think it's just a matter of words...

Modified Chomsky...



occurs at the surface level. Change occurs in form (clothes, image...) and does not necessarily impact on the deep level.

- Transformation occurs in the deep level. It is soul/spirit level change. Transformation is a change of ideas/beliefs/meaning that results in a change of form, attitude, habit, etc...

Romans 12:2

Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God - what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.

What God is looking for is TRANSFORMATION:

- Change happens easily, quickly, cheaply!
- Transformation is usually hard, slow and costly!

5. TAKING SIDES

Insider/Outsider/Alongsider

There are three ways, as agents of transformation we can engage others: Insider, Outsider, or Alongsider.

Insider – (enculturation)

You are an insider and member of the community by birth only

Outsider – (acculturation)

Often an 'expert' – but not someone that is a member of the community, or group.

Alongsider – (conculturation [my word])

Often the best we can hope for. An outsider who is invited to live/walk alongside – it is a person that accepts and is accepted by a second culture.

An outsider/alongsider will not/can not be a change agent. These people can only ever be advocates for change. Sustainable change/transformation is driven locally and occurs in the deep level and is implemented by the person themselves or someone they trust.

5. GOD'S GOAL

God looks at the heart - 1 Samuel 16:7

Stop judging by mere appearances - John 17:24

God's Goal is heart transformation – because it is in changing the heart, enlivening the spirit and stirring the soul that a revolution will begin and be sustained.

Transformed people will revolutionise and transform their families, their friends and their community.

But we have to be careful when we judge others, as we will, and remember that just because they don't look like us doesn't mean they aren't on God's or our side.

1 Samuel 16:7

the LORD says, "Pay no attention to how tall and handsome he is. I have rejected him, because I do not judge as people judge. They look at the outward appearance" [the changes in habit, clothes, language] "but I look at the heart" [the change in belief, idea, value which result in the other].

Transformed people look like Jesus and the world recognises that 'look'.

John 17:22-23

²²I gave them the same glory you gave me, so that they may be one, just as you and I are one: ²³I in them and you in me, so that they may be completely one, in order that the world may know that you sent me and that you love them as you love me.

Christians are Outsiders! We are all born Insiders but by our decision to follow God we become Outsiders – we don't belong to the world. But... to transform others, to fulfil God's commission of being agents of transformation, we must become Alongsiders (in the world but not of the world)

John 15:19

If you belonged to the world, then the world would love you as its own. But I chose you from this world, and you do not belong to it; that is why the world hates you.

2 Corinthians 10:3

It is true that we live in the world, but we do not fight from worldly motives.

1 John 2:15

Do not love the world or anything that belongs to the world. If you love the world, you do not love the Father.

8. BENEDICTION (Michael Leunig)

God help us to change.
To change ourselves and to change our world.
To know the need for it.
To deal with the pain of it.
To feel the joy of it.
To undertake the journey
 without understanding the destination.
The art of gentle revolution.
Amen.



INSIDER (ENCULTURATION)	ALONGSIDER (CONCULTURATION)	OUTSIDER (ACCULTURATION)
<p>Born <i>An insider is born into the community: from birth the values, ideas and beliefs indelibly inform the life script</i></p> <p>Question of Prior Trust (QPT) <i>There is an innate social capital (including trust) that comes with birth. (It can be lost with 'sin'.)</i></p> <p>Home Community / Life</p> <p>Indigenous Voice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By birth a member of the community • Has an indigenous voice <p>Influencer / Change Agent <i>Respected Insider is best advocate and agent of change.</i></p> <p>Change <i>Indigenous, Process, Example, Trust,</i></p> <p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous: culture / language / beliefs / world view • Acts accordingly • Lives accordingly • THINKS locally <p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnocentrism • Cultural protectivism • Community & historical investment • Blind Adherence to Creation/Public myth <p>Values Model <i>Collectivism / Family / Acceptance</i></p> <p>The Salvation Army</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical – 'life' missionaries • Identify, equip and empower influential insiders • Recognise & celebrate the indigenous voice <p>Indigenous Development & Aid Agents</p>	<p>Invited <i>An outsider becomes an alongsider by intentional commitment to the host, by earning respect and by invitation to journey</i></p> <p>Question of Prior Trust (QPT) <i>Trust (and respect) is earned – it does not come with 'contract' - but it remains indispensable to influence</i></p> <p>Long Term / Chosen Commitment / Life</p> <p>Incarnational Voice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes on the lifestyle and culture of the host: language, food, appearance – but not as a means to an end. • Earn the right to have a voice <p>Influencer / Change Agent <i>Respected Alongsider can advocate for change, but best results remain in partnership with an insider</i></p> <p>Change <i>Indigenous Partnership, Facilitation, Process, Trust,</i></p> <p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invited Indigenous: lives the culture / language / beliefs / world view • Acts accordingly • Lives accordingly <p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted ethnocentrism • Protective of adopted culture & community • Tension: multiple cultural paradigms • Tension: multiple agenda <p>Values Model <i>Change / Family / Acceptance / Collectivism</i></p> <p>The Salvation Army</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders must begin by recognition of 'host' capacities • Leaders must commit to existing cultural mores – listen / commit / earn respect and trust (not demand) • Best scenario for Officer – Officers will never be insiders! <p>Development Agencies (Community Ministries)</p>	<p>Forced / Tourist <i>An outsider remains divorced from the heart of the host community.</i></p> <p>Question of Prior Trust (QPT) <i>Trust (and respect) is earned – it does not come with 'contract' - but it remains indispensable to influence.</i></p> <p>Short 'Fixed' Term / Contract</p> <p>External / Alien / (Objective) Voice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May eat the food and even speak the language – but remains 'deliberately' divorced from the culture. • Partner with an indigenous voice <p>Influencer / Change Agent <i>Outsider can only force change from position – often unsustainable – at best is a consultant.</i></p> <p>Change <i>Force, Agenda, Facilitation, Partnership</i></p> <p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectively external • Observes 'error' / problem and is able to challenge • Observes and challenges cultural 'blind spots' • Observes & Defines capacities <p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda / Contract driven • Lack or rate of change • Inability to influence • Bull in a China Shop <p>Values Model <i>Detachment / Elitism / Individualism</i></p> <p>The Salvation Army</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trains to be outsiders • Perpetuates outsiders by short term appointments • Leaders assume need/agenda without input from 'host' & without recognition of 'host' capacities <p>Aid Agencies (TSA Officers!)</p>

As you have sent me into the world, so also have I sent them into the world. (John 17:18)