



Servant's Corner

December 2014

How Does Transformation Happen?

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

The mission of Love In the Name of Christ is “to mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ”. How are lives transformed? **God** does the transforming. No human enterprise, be it a church or Love INC can do that. But in His kindness, God allows us to participate in His work of transformation. Two human means He uses to transform lives are the proclamation of the gospel and redemptive personal relationships with Christians. Therefore our two goals for clients are: 1. Share the gospel. 2. Connect them with a Christian willing to develop a personal friendship with them.

When a client calls Love INC for help, God is giving us an opportunity to cooperate with the work He is doing in that person's life. We need to be good stewards of that opportunity. Our tendency is to think that the poor need our “stuff”. If that were the case, the way to eliminate poverty would be for the government to write bigger welfare checks. We all know that won't work. That is because poverty is not primarily a lack of material possessions but a mindset of hopelessness. A person trapped in poverty doesn't perceive that they have any options to change their situation. To hopeless people there's no more hope-inspiring news than the gospel.

The gospel penetrates when it is **incarnated**--wrapped up in the life of a person who cares. That's the model Jesus gave us. The Christmas story is that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14a NASB). The idea behind the word “dwelt” is that in the person of Jesus, God “pitched His tent” among us, He “moved into the neighborhood” (The Message).

Will Christmas 2014 be the time we move beyond giving a handout that makes us feel good but leaves the recipient trapped in poverty? **Will you create space in your life to befriend a person in need?**



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