

Come

A Quarterly Evangelism and Discipleship Resource for Church Leaders & Jan-Mar 2017

& Go



**Come and See. Come and Follow. Come and Be With.
Go and Bear Fruit. Go and Make Disciples**

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SLM Personal Ministries Department

CONTRIBUTORS

Pastor Desmond James – President
 Dr. Wayne Knowles - Personal Ministries
 Dr. Mark Braithwaite – Family Ministries
 Pastor Charles Heskey – Stewardship Ministry

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By: Pastor Desmond James

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is God's chosen agency which he established for the special purpose of preaching the everlasting gospel to a dying world. It reminds us that God called us to reach people with the marvelous gospel and to introduce them to the amazing love of God. It seeks to present the Kingdom of God and this is a reality that we are always discovering anew.

The Mission Forms change but functions remain the same. To that end, the Church in Inter America has chosen "**Lord Transform Me**" (LTM) as the theme that will guide and drive its Mission-focus.

Therefore, for us in the South Leeward Mission, it must become the thematic thread that is woven into the fabric and every fiber of our being and doing. We must transmit it with our lips and demonstrate it in our lifestyles. As Spirit-led, Love-motivated, and Mission-driven people, it must be our prayer, inculcated into our lifestyle and strategically and intentionally integrated into our Mission planning... Our daily heart's cry must be, "**Lord Transform Me!**"

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we must be something before we can do something. Each member must seek a daily encounter with the Holy Spirit – agonize passionately and let our heart's cry be '**Lord Transform Me!**' Create in me a divine discontent with sameness! Make me a better pastor, a better preacher, a better Christian, a better member, a better person...!

Secondly, it must be a lifestyle – a bios, a way of life. Our talk must be parallel with our walk. Our belief must be displayed in our behavior. Our character must shape and influence our conduct and truth must be translated into lifestyle. The extraordinary change of the transformed life of the Christian must be a moral witness. Like the early Church, it must not only astound but attract. It must mirror the love and Christ-likeness for those who do not know God and, in beholding, men and women must become transformed.

But '**Lord Transform Me**' must not only be a prayer and a lifestyle, it must become a strategy. Christian citizenship is a mandate, not an option or an elective, for all who take seriously their call to discipleship by our Lord Jesus Christ. It is an imperative for **Total Membership Involvement (TMI)**. Every administrator, every director, every office worker, every pastor, every teacher, every ministry, every department, every institution, every member, every worker must become a change agent. Persons, plans, and programs must become purpose-driven and weaved into one ecclesiastical mosaic, choreographed by the Holy Spirit to engage in mission and ministry to make disciples of all men and women in the South Leeward Mission territory.

So, I challenge all to be transformed so that we can transform others. Let not '**Lord Transform Me**' be just another cliché or another program but may it define who we are, how we live and what we live for! May God bless you! May God bless the South Leeward Mission and may our collective battle cry forever be, "**Lord Transform Me!**"

TRANSFORMED BY THE LORD

By: Pastor Wayne Knowles



The parable of the Sower is a fitting imagery of spiritual **transformation**. In Matthew 13:1-23, Jesus told an amazing parable of a farmer who went out to sow seeds in his garden. He sowed seeds on the path (way side), on rocky ground and among thorns, and it was all lost; but when the seeds fell on good earth they grew, yielding thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold (v. 23)

Jesus told His disciples that the seed that was sown is the message of the Kingdom of God (v. 19). The types of soils represent the people, the human hearts, who make the decision about the message. They can be compared to the different kinds of soils who receive the seed (message of the Kingdom) who heard and considered the message. The good ground received the same seed (the word of God). It took root, grew, matured and produced the fruits in abundance.

1. When people do not receive and respond to the word with faith, their *opportunity* will be *stolen* by the evil one. Hence, The word of God is not given merely for us to admire and learn about Christ, but for us to pattern our lives after Him (*Come and See*).
2. When people do not receive the word of God with genuine thoughtfulness and faith, they will *quickly fall away* under external pressures. Only when Christian dedicate them selves to be like Christ can they truly stand against the wiles of the enemy (*Come and Follow*).

3. When people do not embrace the word of God whole heartedly, the things of this world will *eventually choke out* the message of the kingdom. The only antidote to the allurements of the world is a mature Christian who is learning daily about Christ and His mission. (*Come and Be with*).

4. When people hear and genuinely believe the word of God in their hearts, the message of the kingdom will gradually grow and produce results in them, in varying quantities (*Go and Bear Fruit*). The natural result of bearing fruit is to produce other fruit-bearing fruit trees. (*Go Make Disciples*)

Those who believe, like the disciples did, do not instantly understand it all. Eventually, stumbling disciples will become bold apostles, and that is not only called transformation, but conservation.

For 2017 and beyond, the South Leeward Mission (SLM) is on a quest to assist each member to experience spiritual transformation. We are intentionally focusing on five strategic steps to help all our members experience such growth. These are **Come and See, Come and Follow, Come and Be With, Go and Bear fruit and Go and Make disciples**. As Jesus led His disciples from being fishermen to disciple-makers we endeavor to use His method to help us bring true success to our churches (MH. 143). *In this first quarter, we will be focusing on having each member recommit to the first step **Come and See**.*

BE TRANSFORMED!

INTRODUCTION

In **Romans 2: 1-2**, Paul makes the following plea regarding transforming our lives:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, [which is] your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what [is] that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

As we consider this text, several questions come to mind...

1. What does it mean to be transformed?
2. What is the goal of transformation?
3. What should motivate us to undergo transformation?
4. What does one do in order to experience transformation?

Let us start with the first question - "What does it mean to be transformed?"

I. THE DEFINITION OF TRANSFORMATION

The Greek word is **metamorphoo** (met-am or-fo'-o). Lit., **"to change into another form"** (Vine's). From which comes the word "metamorphosis." This is used to describe a change of form (e.g., when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly).

In the NT, this word is used to describe:

a. What happened to Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration – *Let us read Matthew 17: 1-2. Here, Jesus was changed into a glorified being.*

b. It also describes what is to happen to Christians in their service to God. *Let us read Romans 12:1-2. We are to be changed into the image of Christ. Amen!*

But this leads us to our second question - "What is the goal of transformation?"

II. THE GOAL OF TRANSFORMATION IS:

A. TO BECOME LIKE CHRIST...

Paul declared that we are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory (2 Cor. 3: 18). Such transformation was always in God's plan for all believers (Rom. 8: 29). Spiritual transformation, therefore, is not only God's plan, but it's the purpose that God places on every believer's life. Hence, as disciples of Christ, every believer is expected to become like His Master (Luke 6: 40). We are to put off the old man and put on the new man which is the image of Christ (Col. 3: 9-10). Every believer should make this their life's goal. *Is this your goal to become like Christ? Are we really serious about spiritual change?*

B. TO LIVE LIKE CHRIST...

The second goal of transformation is to live like Christ. This means that we must present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy, and acceptable to God. Let us read Hebrews 10: 5 and see what example Jesus left us. Jesus gave himself sacrificially. Paul admonishes us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices (Romans. 12: 1). That means we are not half-dead. It means that we are useful in the cause of God. Hence, being like Jesus requires our all. Giving our life physically, socially, and spiritually to Christ. In all these things we must die to Christ so that He can live in us (Gal. 2: 20).

We are not just ghost workers in His vineyard. We cannot just come to church and go home and do nothing – nothing to change our lives and nothing to change the life of others. God wants all of us to be transformed into the image of Christ.

Such is the goal of being transformed; indeed, it is the goal of being a Christian! *So why do many never experience the transformation God offers?*

III. MOTIVATION FOR TRANSFORMATION

It should be the mercies of God towards us that motivates us to be transformed. In our text, Paul appealed to transformation based on God's mercies. *Let us read it again – Romans 12:1*). Has God been merciful to you? He has been more than merciful to me. My whole life has been lived based on the mercies of God. From my sleeping to waking hours, God has been merciful to me. What about you today? Has He been merciful to you?

Paul embraced the mercies of God and was motivated to be transformed daily. He said – God freed me from Sin (Rom. 6: 6-18); gave me the gift of eternal life (Rom. 6: 23); gave me peace with God's peace (Rom. 5:1); Gave me access to the grace of God (Rom. 5: 2); and above all saved me from the wrath of God to come (Rom. 5: 9). **God's mercy must move us to repent and seek transformation!** *How many of us are willing to let the mercies of God and the love of Christ motivate us to seek transformation? Show by raising hands!*

IV. THE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION

It is important to recognize in our text, that transformation is a passive process. It said, “be transformed” (Rom. 2:2). By passive we mean something that someone does to you or for you, not something you do for yourself. This simply means that we cannot change ourselves by our own strength or meritorious works. Paul vividly illustrated his dilemma prior to his conversion. He was powerless to change himself (Rom. 7:14-24). Therefore all of us who bear the name of Christ, **must submit to God's working in us and on us!**

Ellen G. White said, *“We must learn in the school of Christ. Nothing but his righteousness can entitle us to **one** of the blessings of the covenant of grace. We have long desired and tried to obtain these blessings, but have not received them, because we have cherished the idea that we could do something to make ourselves worthy of them.... We must not trust at all to ourselves nor to our good works; but when as erring, sinful beings we come to Christ, we may find rest in his love”* (GW, (1892 edition), pp. 411-415).

It is therefore important to understand that when joined with faith and repentance, baptism becomes the starting point in which true transformation can take place!

The process of transformation is really quite simple. We must set our minds on the things above in order to have our minds renewed. This includes meditating on God and His word, communicating with God regularly through prayer, assembling with the believers frequently in worship, and focusing our minds on Jesus and what He has done for us. *It is only when our minds are renewed, that it becomes possible to put off the old man with its sins, and put on the new man that is patterned after the example of Christ.*

Modern studies have shown that we become what we think. We can change attitudes and behaviors by filling our minds with positive thoughts and images. Nevertheless, in our efforts, we are not alone. God is at work in us to help us become more like Him (Eph. 1: 6; 2: 12-13). So, **what hinders many Christians?** If it is so easy to be transformed, why do many Christians remain unchanged? It is because of what they feast their minds on. You see, they **become** what they think, and what they think upon is not **becoming**. They spend more time watching and listening to things of the devil than reading the things of the Spirit. Hence, our behavior and attitudes are but a reflection of what goes into our minds!

Conclusion and Appeal - We have been called by God to be transformed into the image of Christ. God gives us all the motivation that we need through His love and grace. He gives us all the opportunities we need to start a new by setting our minds on things above. How many of us are willing to allow God to do this brain surgery on us today? Let us say yes to God's goodness and in so doing make good use of the mercies of God. **Be changed! Be transformed! If you are serious about your transformation please raise your hand!**

SLM Personal Ministries Department

SLM Lifestyle of Discipleship

Every Member Transformation (Five levels of Commitment)

A. Each Existing Believer (from inside to out)

1. *Come and See* (Personal spiritual connection to Christ)
2. *Come and Follow* (Commitment to Christ and His church - SDA church and its beliefs)
3. *Come and Be With* (Dedication to growth in spiritual knowledge, gifts and ministry abilities)
4. *Go and Bear Fruits* (Share your faith through corporate or personal plan)
5. *Go and Make Disciples* (Grow and mature those we baptize = conservation)



B. From Unbelievers to mature members (from outside in to inside out)

1. *Come and See* ... (Learning about Christ) UNBELIEVERS
2. *Come and Follow* .. (Accepting Christ and committing to Christ) NEW BELIEVERS
3. *Come and Be With* .. (Ministering for Christ)
4. *Go and Bear Fruit* ... (Winning Souls for Christ)
5. *Go and Make Disciples* ... (Make soul-winners for Christ)



C. Schedule for Monthly Emphasis (2017)

1. **January to March (3 Months)** -- Come and See
2. **April to May (2 Months)** -- Come and Follow (Consecration and commitment to SDA church and its beliefs)
3. **June to August (3 Months)** -- Come and Be with
4. **September to October (2 Months)** -- Go and Bear fruits
5. **November to December (2 Months)** -- Go and Make Disciples



CHURCH
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2017



Am I Seeing Jesus?

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life. 1John 1: 1(KJV)

The testimony of John the beloved Apostle concerning Jesus should also be ours today. Like John, we should be able to declare to the world that we have a close and intimate relationship with Jesus. **Seeing Jesus amounts to having such an intimate relationship with God.**

In today's technological era we have found ways to build relationships through social media – Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, WhatsApp (my favorite), Websites, Phone calls, etc. Social media help us to stay connected, by sharing memories and messages with loved ones and friends. It is amazing! However, when we examine John's testimony about Jesus, it goes much deeper than the relationships built on social media. It is more personal and more intimate, and it is not limited by time or space.

John declared four things about this relationship that he had with Jesus. These relationship pointers give us a good idea as to what it means to **see** Jesus. **Seeing** Jesus includes:

1. *Knowing Him* who is from the beginning.
2. *Hearing Him* whose love is everlasting.
3. *Seeing Him* who died in my place for my sins.
4. *Touching him* who lives so that I will live again.

Knowing God Better – *It is about scheduling daily time with God* for studying His word; for meditating on His attributes, names and workings; for praying to Him; and for praising Him. *How many of us would like to have such a close relationship with Jesus? Show hands.* (Now count the hands and ask for commitment).

Hearing God – For many Christians today, hearing God speak to us appears to be a foreign language. However, the bible is replete with *ordinary* individuals who heard and responded to God speaking to them. These include Noah, Abraham, Moses, Samuel, Jeremiah, Paul, Philip, etc. God spoke to them through speech, impressions on their minds, His Scriptures, and actions He performed in their lives. Many Christians today also testify of hearing God speak to them. **It has always been God's intention to speak to ordinary people like you and me.** *What will you do to allow yourself to hear God speaking to you?*

Seeing God - The Apostle John testified about seeing Jesus physically. Though we may not see God physically now, we do see Him spiritually. Like the woman at the well (John 4), for us seeing God means spending time with Him so that we can have a closer connection with Him as a friend. *In this way we get to know Him better, learn His voice and feel His presence.*

Touching God – After Jesus' resurrection, all of the eleven apostles touched Him physically. Today we can touch Him spiritually. The Bible tells us that God is touched by our infirmities (Hebrews 4:15). **When we reach out to those who are marginalized in our communities we touch the heart of God.** Jesus, Himself, taught in Matthew 25:40 *"Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me"*(NASB). **We all need to see Jesus for ourselves!**

Personal Ministries Department - SLM

Seeing Christ Through Stewardship

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Matthew 25:14, 15(NKJV)

All of us who have accepted Christ’s lordship and are walking in partnership with God are required to be faithful to all His requirements. This is the true demonstration that we have seen Jesus for ourselves. Hence, God partners with us because He knows us and He can trust us with His resources. *The two-fold question is; Can God trust you today? Can He trust you right here and right now?*

In the parable of the talents recorded in Matthew 25:14-30 Jesus is the man travelling in the far country and we are the servants to whom He has *entrusted* talents, (resources) according to our own abilities. Paul reminds us that we are given gifts according to the grace given us (Roman 12:6-8).

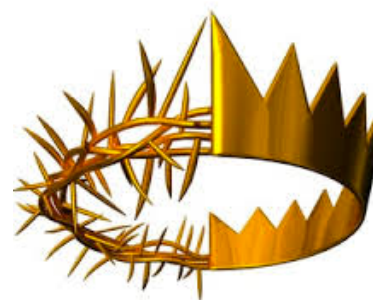
The resources or gifts *entrusted* to us are to be used to honor God, to build up His kingdom, unite us as one, solidify our faith, and restore in us His image. This privilege qualifies us as servants of God managing His affairs on Earth. Being servants, we must constantly give account of our stewardship. Jesus stands ready to guide us through the evaluation process. Hence, whether we are motivated to approach Him with our spiritual need (like the rich, young ruler) or He crosses paths with us (like the woman of Samaria), Jesus is willing to share His evaluation of our lives. The rich young ruler turned away in disgust while the woman of Samaria accepted the evaluation and received the water of life.

Jesus said. “All that the Father gives Me

Christian motives are fully acknowledged, and the conscience is awake to duty, when divine light makes impressions upon the heart and character, that selfishness is overcome, and the mind of Christ is exemplified. The Holy Spirit, working upon human hearts and characters, will expel all tendency to covetousness, to deceptive dealing. . . Counsels On Stewardship, p.313.

Come see Jesus in all you do to build up His kingdom and honor His name.

Pastor Charles Heskey
Stewardship Director - SLM



Depicted here are the two crowns of Jesus. The crown of thorns reminds us that He is our Saviour. The crown of victory (the kingly crown) reflects His lordship in heaven and on earth. With the first crown in mind, we give ourselves to Him in gratitude. With the second crown in mind, we submit ourselves completely to Him. Stewardship is therefore our rightful response to this Jesus. We give our all in response to His all. In addition, we are reminded that through His suffering, we find our salvation, and through His victory, we find our way to the crown that awaits us in Heaven!

(Adventiststewardship.com)

Seeing Christ Through Family Life?

What comes to mind when you think about the words, “Come and See” Christ (John 1: 38)? It is an invitation to come and see or observe Jesus for yourself. *We must know His ways and His will, but most importantly we must know Him. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ) (v. 41 NIV).* Family Ministries provide a beautiful and natural opportunity for one family member to connect with Christ and then to share his or her faith with other families.

Families in the church have an awesome opportunity to invite people to come and see Jesus, just as Andrew did, and just as John the Baptist did - in a very non-threatening way (John 1: 29, 41). Families can connect with other families in their neighborhoods because a neighborhood generally provides the environment for families to connect. Think about it! If you have children, then you can allow your children to play with other children in the neighborhood (supervised, of course), and once there are children there will also be parents. If you have a small backyard garden, you can share produce with neighbors. If your neighbor needs assistance with a particular tool that you may have, this is also an opportunity to connect and in a simple way, share the love of Jesus.

Listen to what E.G White says, “The greatest evidence of the power of Christianity that can be presented to the world is a well-ordered, well-disciplined family. This will recommend the truth as nothing else can, for it is a living witness of its practical power upon the heart” (Adventist Home p.32). Whether single parent, extended, nuclear or just you and your cat (smile), your family can be an awesome witness for Jesus. As neighbors in the community become recipients of your kindness, it will provide a positive picture of Jesus.

How can I be more actively involved in connecting people to Jesus? Family Life is on everyone’s mind these days. People are always interested in learning new skills, for example,

how to be better parents, how to improve intimacy in marriage, how to do a family budget, or how to deal with conflict. You can ask your Family Ministries leader or Pastor to organize seminars in one of these areas and then invite community members to come and receive the free information.

Another great idea is to plan an evening of prayer for children around exam time and invite parents and children to come for a short evening of prayer. Be careful not to make it too long (25 – 30 minutes would be fine) and be sure to begin and end on time and also make sure that it is well planned.

If you have developed a good rapport with a family in your neighborhood and you’re comfortable enough to invite them over for evening worship, here is a good idea you could use with them. Ask each family member to bring to family worship something that comforts them when they are tired, sick, or worried. Perhaps it’s a favorite blanket, a hot drink, a soft toy, aromatic lotion, etc. Read Isaiah 40:1-2. Talk together about the comfort that comes from knowing that God has reconciled the whole world to Himself in Jesus Christ and that you are part of that world brought back into the family of God.

Remember, “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, Follow Me”(Gospel Workers p.363).

Our ultimate desire then, is to see people connected to Jesus and follow Him. So let us build a family chain from home to home. *As you embrace Jesus as your Savior, lovingly invite your family and your neighbors to see Christ as well. Why not ask Jesus **today** to help you to be effective at reaching people for Him though your own family?*

Pastor Mark Braithwaite
Family Ministries Director - SLM

These Men Have Been With Jesus?

In Acts 3, we find Peter and John going to the temple to worship. Just outside the temple gate sat a beggar who had been crippled from birth. This man had never walked a step in his life. When he saw Peter and John, he asked them for alms. Peter answered him, “Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee” (Acts 3:6). Peter then prayed for the beggar, saying, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk” (3:6). Instantly, the man was healed! In utter joy, he began running through the temple, jumping and shouting, “Jesus healed me!”

Everyone in the temple marveled at the sight because they recognized the man as the cripple. When Peter and John saw the crowds gathering, they began preaching Christ. Thousands were saved. Yet, while Peter and John were preaching, the synagogue rulers “came upon them, being grieved” (Acts 4:1–2). These high and mighty men asked the disciples, “By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?” (4:7). Peter was emboldened by the Holy Ghost. He answered the rulers, “His name is Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the man you crucified just three weeks ago. God raised him from the dead. And now He is the power that healed this man. No one can be saved by any other name. You’ll be lost if you don’t call on Christ’s name.” See Acts 4:10–12 (*The Cross and the Switchblade*).

The rulers sat stunned. Scripture says, “They marvelled [admired them]; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus” (4:13). The phrase *took knowledge* comes from a root word meaning “known by some distinguishing mark.” What was this mark that distinguished Peter and John? *It was the presence of Jesus. They had Christ’s own likeness and Spirit.*

Those who spend time with Jesus can’t get enough of him. Their hearts continually cry out to

know the Master better, to draw closer to Him, to grow in the knowledge of his ways.

As followers of Jesus Christ, as Christians, we are called to be distinctive in the world, to declare our faith and demonstrate the change that Jesus has made in our lives to outsiders, to the majority of people in this community who never come near our churches and fellowships. And that’s a powerful theme which underlies so much of the teaching of the New Testament. Having spent time with Jesus, the disciples were never the same again.

1. Their lives have been changed by Jesus (Matthew 4: 17-19).
2. They learned from Jesus (Matthew 5).
3. They Lived like Jesus
4. They spoke about Jesus
5. They spoke with Jesus

Learn from Jesus by reading the Bible, live like Jesus, talk with Him and about Him. Maybe then your friends, colleagues, and family may begin to take note that you, too, have been with Jesus. *And let us encourage each other in it as we share our stories and experiences, as we speak with one another about what a great Saviour we follow.* Is this true in your life? Do you spend time with Jesus? Can others see and hear this in your life? Does your love for Him flow naturally through your speech and your actions?

If you are a follower of Jesus, then God has invited you into the Great Commission! You play an integral role in spreading the Gospel! Let me encourage you to make it a priority to spend time with Jesus, to know Him. Read the Bible daily, pray purposefully.

Personal Ministries Department - SLM

