

EVERYTHING IS STARTED FROM PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

God's Message:

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.
(Romans 12:2)

*A successful person is someone who is able to lay a strong foundation with the stones that
other people throw to him. (David Brinkley)*

Transformation is a process that must be started from ourselves and then spread and influence our family, the city where we live in, our nation and finally all the nations. There is a step that we have to go through. Transformation will not go to the nations if we do not experience that transformation in our life.

Let us learn from the story below. Once there was a young and very ambitious king who had a dream: before he reached the age of 70 years old – the time when he had to resign from his position and give the throne to the crown prince, his kingdom must have reached a total transformation toward a better condition. The better condition here means that poor people become richer, dry and barren land become fertile, the wild society become better and controlled society, etc.

When the king reached the age of 40, his dream was still far away from reality. Because it's difficult for him to change the whole kingdom, the king changed his dream: for the rest of his life, he would like to change his city to be a better city. But when he reached the age of 50, everything in his city was still the same; there was no change at all. The king did not want to give up so easily, so he made another target: if he could not change his city, he would like to change his family by the age of 60 years old.

This time his hope was not successful too. It's very difficult to ask his family members to change for the better. Finally the king realized that in order to change another person, he himself must have changed. So he decided that by the age of 70 years old, his own life must have changed for the better. Unfortunately one day before his 70th birthday, the king died. Of course there was no other chance for the king to change other people around him in the cemetery complex.

We learn from the story above that we should never dream to “transform our country” before we ourselves have “transformed our life.” Our country's transformation is not our own desire; it is also God's desire. From transformation history in the Old Testament and New Testament we know that before God used His servants to become the agent of transformation for their family, their city, their nation and even other nations, they themselves had been transformed by God.

For 40 years, Moses, when he was still the prince of Egypt with all of its valor and facilities said, “*I am something.*” But he failed to transform Israelites with his own way. After killed an Egyptian he ran away from Egypt in fear. For the next 40 years in the desert, Moses experienced God's transformation and he was able to say, “*I am nothing.*” Finally in the next 40 years Moses was used by God to be the agent of transformation

for his nation in an amazing way. After being a successful agent of transformation for his nation, Moses confessed that *“God is everything.”*

Nehemiah, Daniel, Elijah, Joseph and other people in the Bible experienced the same process. Before being an agent of transformation for their own country, they have experienced personal transformation.

So, before we pray to God asking Him to guide us and give us our country’s transformation, let us pray to have our personal life transformed. Churches have to invite their congregations to view transformation as a lifestyle, and not as a program. Start from ourselves. If we are transformed, our community will be transformed too – and transformation in community will soon spread to our nation.

Essence:

Transformation must be started from personal transformation. Churches have to invite their congregations to view transformation as a lifestyle, and not as a program.

Reflection:

Do we view transformation as a weird word and slogan that has no impact at all?

Commitment:

I want to experience personal transformation while the nation is being transformed.

*Taken from the book “Transformation Journey”
By Dr. Ir. Niko Njotorahardjo & Iman Santoso Ph.D*