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CHOSEN SEMINARY

COLLEGE OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES, RESEARCH & CHAPLAINCY

Formally Known As: Chosen Christian Theological Seminary

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TREMENDOUS ACADEMY, ALAFIA STREET, OFF BAWA ROAD, BEHIND UNIQUE HOSPITAL/OLD DANKE, SIMILOLUWA, ADO-EKITI, EKITI STATE, NIGERIA

COURSE: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION-BTP102

COURSE OUTLINE

MODULE 1: TWO VISIONS OF CHANGE
MODULE 2: UNDERSTANDING THE BATTLEFIELD
MODULE 3: STOP COUNTING PROBLEMS, START COUNTING TREASURES!
MODULE 4: THE TOOLS OF THE FIGHT – PART 1
MODULE 5: THE TOOLS OF THE FIGHT – PART 2
MODULE 6: FIGHTING IN DIFFERENT TERRAIN
MODULE 7: WHO LEADS THE CHANGE?
MODULE 8: THE MONEY QUESTION
MODULE 9: THE MIRROR TEST (The Most Important Module)
MODULE 10: WORKSHOP YOUR BATTLE PLAN
MODULE 11: HOW DO WE KNOW WE ARE WINNING?

THIS IS THE OFFICIAL HANDOUT PRODUCED BY CHOSEN SEMINARY

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This Copy of Handout belongs to:

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Welcome, future changemakers!

This is not just another course. This is a call. A call to see your community not as it is, but as it could be. We are surrounded by problems – no light, bad roads, water scarcity, young people with no work. Everyone sees these problems. But few people see the **POWER** that is already present to change them.

This course is a journey. We will move from just talking about problems to understanding the hidden forces that cause them. We will move from waiting for government to discovering the strength in our own hands and minds. We will learn how real, deep change – **SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION** – happens.

Get ready to think differently. Get ready to be challenged. Get ready to build.

WHAT IS THIS COURSE ABOUT?

Let's break down the big title:

- **COMMUNITY:** This is you. Your family, your street, your village, your social media group, your people. It is where you belong.
- **DEVELOPMENT:** This is not just government building roads. True development is when every person in the community can live a full, healthy, and dignified life. It means having choices and power over your own future.
- **SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION:** This is the ***BIG CHANGE***. It is not just putting a small plaster on a big wound. It is changing the system that created the wound in the first place. It is moving from oppression to freedom, from silence to voice, from poverty to shared wealth.

<u>Imagine This:</u>

- **Charity:** Giving a hungry child one meal.
- **Development:** Teaching the child's family how to farm or run a small business.
- **Social Transformation:** Asking WHY the family is hungry when there is plenty of land. Organising the community to demand their rights to that land. Changing the laws so no family goes hungry again.

This course is about learning how to do the third one.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

By the end of this journey, you will be able to:

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1. SEE BEYOND THE SURFACE: You will understand the real, root causes of suffering in communities. You will learn to ask "Why?" five times until you find the true problem.

2. SPOT THE POWER: You will know how to map out who has power in a situation. You will learn to see the invisible power that makes people say "That is how it has always been."

3. FIND THE GOLD IN THE DIRT: You will stop only looking at what a community lacks (Needs). You will learn to see all the amazing skills, relationships, and resources it already has (Assets). Every community has gold hidden inside it.

4. BUILD A REAL PLAN: You will learn how to work with people, not for them. You will design a practical plan for change that the community owns and leads.

5. KNOW YOURSELF: You will think deeply about your own position. Are you an insider or outsider? What power do you carry? How can you work in a community without becoming a "Small God"?

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED (PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT)

Forget long, boring exams! Here, you will be judged by your ability to THINK and DO. Your final mark will come from:

1. MY REFLECTION JOURNAL (20 MARKS)

· What is it? Your personal diary for this course. After every class, you will write one page.

· What will you write? "What shocked me today?" "What idea gave me light?" "How does this connect to my own village?" "What question is burning in my mind?"

· This is not for the lecturer. It is for YOU. To track your own transformation.

2. CLASS BATTLES AND FACILITATION (15 MARKS)

· What is it? Your voice in class. We will have heated debates! You must speak. You must listen deeply. Once, you will help lead a small group discussion.

· We are not fighting each other. We are fighting lazy thinking.

3. THE POWER AND TREASURE MAP (20 MARKS)

· What is it? A 8-10 page report on a community you know (your hometown, your campus area).

· **Part A: The Power Map:** Who makes decisions here? Who is suffering? Who has the money? Who has the respect? Draw the map of power.

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· **Part B: The Treasure Map:** What are the hidden treasures? List the skilled elders, the strong market women, the vibrant churches/mosques, the forgotten traditions, the youth with ideas. Find the gold.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED (CONTINUED)

1. THE BIG PROJECT – CHOOSE YOUR FIGHT! (35 MARKS)

This is the main work. You can choose Path A or Path B.

PATH A: THE GROUND FIGHT (Community Project)

· You will work in a small team with a real community group (we will connect you).

· Your job is to help them with a specific task they need. For example:

· Help a traders' association write a proposal for a micro-loan.

· Help a youth group do a survey on drug abuse in their area.

· Help a community design a plan to protect their water source.

· You will give them a useful tool, not empty talk.

· You will submit: The tool/report you made AND a 5-page story of your experience: What went well? What went wrong? What did the community teach you?

PATH B: THE CASE STUDY FIGHT (Learn from History)

· You will go deep into one powerful story of change from Nigeria or Africa.

· **Examples:** The #EndSARS movement. The Makoko floating school. The Aba women's riot of 1929. The Grameen Bank in Bangladesh.

· You will tear it apart and study it like a doctor. What was their strategy? How did they organise? What was their Theory of Change? Why did they win (or fail)?

· You will submit: A powerful 15-page report that tells the story and draws sharp lessons for today.

2. FINAL PRESENTATION – SHARE THE FIRE (10 MARKS)

· In the last week, you will stand before the class and present the key findings from your Big Project.

· You have 10 minutes. Make us feel it. Make us learn. Make us want to join you.

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MODULE 1: TWO VISIONS OF CHANGE

Charity vs. Transformation – The Great Confusion

The Scene: A community has no clean water. Women walk 5km daily.

· **Vision A (The Charity Vision):** A rich man donates a tanker of water. It lasts one week. The picture is in the newspaper. The man is praised. Next week, the women are walking again.

· **Vision B (The Development Vision):** An NGO comes and drills a borehole. They train a Water Committee. There is water for two years. Then the pump breaks. No one has money or skill to fix it. The project dies.

· **Vision C (The TRANSFORMATION Vision):** Organisers from the community gather the people. They ask: "Who is responsible for our water?" They study the local government budget. They discover money was given for water, but a politician stole it. They organise. They march to the council. They demand their right. They get their borehole, AND they now have the power to hold their leaders accountable forever.

This Module's Big Question:

Are you putting a small plaster on a big wound, or are you trying to cure the disease?

Activity: Look at three projects you know. Place them on this line:

PLASTER (Charity) ---------- MEDICINE (Development) ---------- CURE (Transformation)

Where do they fall?

MODULE 2: UNDERSTANDING THE BATTLEFIELD

The Hidden Rules of the Game

Problem: Young graduates in your area have no jobs.

Surface Reason:"No companies are here."

<u>Deeper Reason (after asking WHY 5 times):</u>

1. Why no jobs? Because no companies invest here.

2. Why no investment? Because the roads are bad and there is no steady light.

3. Why bad roads and no light? Because the local government money for infrastructure was mismanaged.

4. Why mismanaged? Because the leaders are not accountable to the people.

5. Why not accountable? Because the people are divided, afraid, and feel they have no power to change things.

AH! The real problem is not "**no jobs."** The real problem is broken leadership and a feeling of powerlessness.

This is called a ***ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS***. We must dig to the root.

The Three Faces of **POWER**:

1. Visible Power: The obvious one. The Oga in the big office who signs the paper. The local government chairman.

2. Hidden Power: The person who controls who gets to see the Oga. The godfather behind the politician. The "Man Know Man" system.

3. Invisible Power: The most dangerous one. It is inside our own minds. It makes the poor woman say "I am just a woman, I cannot speak." It makes the youth say "My vote will not change anything." It is the feeling that this suffering is normal.

Our first task is to make the **INVISIBLE** power **VISIBLE**. Then we can fight it.

MODULE 3: STOP COUNTING PROBLEMS, START COUNTING TREASURES!

The Revolutionary Idea of ABCD

For too long, outsiders have come to communities with a "Needs List."

· Needs Water

· Needs School

· Needs Clinic

· Needs Help

This makes a community look ***EMPTY, BROKEN, and WEAK.*** It turns people into BEGGARS waiting for salvation.

We reject this!

We use Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD). We start with a TREASURE LIST.

Every Single Community has Assets:

· **Gifts of Individuals:** The retired teacher, the mechanic, the farmer with ancient seed knowledge, the good listener, the woman who can settle disputes.

· **Associations:** The age-grade union, the market women association, the mosque/church group, the football club, the farmers' cooperative.

· **Institutions:** The primary school (a building!), the town hall, the local pharmacy.

· **Physical Things:** Land, river, sunlight, old buildings.

· **Stories & Culture:** Our history of survival, our songs, our proverbs, our resilience.

Activity – The Treasure Map:

Draw a map of your street or village.Do not mark the bad things. Mark ONLY the treasures.

· Where does Auntie Peace live? (She is a treasure – she cares for everyone)

· Where is Mr. Segun's welding shed? (He is a treasure)

· Where does the youth meet to play football? (That space is a treasure)

· What local festival happens? (That culture is a treasure)

When a community sees its own treasure, it finds its own strength. The change must come from INSIDE.

MODULE 4: THE TOOLS OF THE FIGHT – PART 1

The Art of Listening (Not Talking)

The worst developer is the one who arrives with all the answers. Your first job is to SHUT UP AND LISTEN.

Tool 1: The Community Walk.

· Walk slowly. Observe. Greet people. Sit at the village square. Drink palm wine with them. Do not take notes immediately. Just be human.

· You are not a tourist. You are a learner.

Tool 2: The One-on-One Conversation.

· Find people. Listen to their story. Ask: "What is your hope for this community?" "What are you most proud of here?" "If you had a little power to change one thing, what would it be?"

· Build trust, one person at a time.

Tool 3: The Focus Group Discussion.

· Bring 6-8 similar people together (e.g., all young mothers, all motorcycle riders).

· Your job is to FACILITATE, not dominate. Ask one open question and let them talk. Make sure the quiet person speaks.

· **Rule:** No idea is stupid. Everyone's truth is valid.

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Remember: Information gathered WITH the people is powerful. Information gathered ON the people is useless.

MODULE 5: THE TOOLS OF THE FIGHT – PART 2

From Talk to Action – Building the Plan

Now we have listened. We have found the treasures. We have identified a root cause. What next?

Tool 4: The Theory of Change.

This is your battle plan.It connects your today actions to your tomorrow dream.

It fills in this statement:

"We believe that if we [DO THIS ACTION], then [THIS CHANGE] will happen, because [THIS REASON]. And this will lead us to our ULTIMATE GOAL of [BIG TRANSFORMATION]."

Example from a Water Project:

· Ultimate Goal: Our community controls its own clean water supply forever.

· We believe that if we... train 10 community members to repair water pumps and form a Water Committee...

· Then... our borehole will never be broken for more than 2 days...

· Because... we will have our own skilled people and saved money for parts.

· And this will lead to... women having more time for business, children being healthier, and the community knowing it can solve its own problems.

See the difference? It is logical. It is owned by the people. It builds power.

Tool 5: The Power Map.

Draw your issue in the centre(e.g., "No Health Centre").

· Who are the **DECISION MAKERS**? (Put them at the top – Governor, Commissioner)

· Who are the **INFLUENCERS**? (Put them around – Traditional ruler, Big Pastor, Media)

· Who are the **AFFECTED PEOPLE**? (Put them at the bottom – Pregnant women, families)

· Draw lines. Who influences who? This map shows you who to talk to and where to apply pressure.

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MODULE 6: FIGHTING IN DIFFERENT TERRAIN

City vs. Village

The fight is not the same everywhere.

IN THE CITY (Lagos, Abuja, P.H.):

· **The Enemy:** ***Gentrification***. A big company comes, chases everyone out, and builds expensive flats. The community is scattered.

· **The Fight:** "The Right to the City!" This means the city belongs to those who live and work in it, not just the rich. Organising tenants. Using the law. Protesting.

· **Example:** The struggle at Maroko in Lagos years ago. The fight for Oluwole market.

IN THE VILLAGE (Rural Areas):

· **The Enemy:** Land Grabbing. A big company or individual takes the community's ancestral land for mining or farming. The source of life is stolen.

· **The Fight:** "Food Sovereignty!" This means we have the right to control our own seeds, land, and water. Documenting land history. Using traditional governance. Forming cooperatives.

· **Example:** The Ogoni struggle in the Niger Delta. Many communities fighting herdsmen/farmers clashes.

The principle is the same: ORGANISE, DOCUMENT, DEMAND. But the tactics change with the land.

MODULE 7: WHO LEADS THE CHANGE?

The Faces of Leadership

Transformation needs leaders. But not the "Oga at the Top" kind.

· **The Quiet Leader:** The woman who, without title, settles disputes and knows everyone's story. Her weapon: WISDOM.

· **The Fire Leader:** The youth who asks the sharp questions and is not afraid. His weapon: COURAGE.

· **The Bridge Leader:** The person who can speak the language of the elders and the youth, of the community and the government. Her weapon: TRANSLATION.

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Special Focus: WOMEN.

In many communities,women are the pillars, but they are silenced. True transformation MUST empower women. When a woman gains income, the whole family eats better, children go to school. Women's groups are some of the most powerful forces for change in Nigeria (e.g., Market Women Associations).

Your Task: In your community project, identify these quiet leaders. Listen to them. Support them. Do not become the new "Oga" they depend on.

MODULE 8: THE MONEY QUESTION

Building Wealth, Not Waiting for Aid.

Chasing donor money is not a strategy. It makes you a slave to their ideas. We must build COMMUNITY WEALTH.

What does this look like?

1. Cooperatives: People pulling their money together. A Farmers' Co-op can buy seeds cheaper and sell crops for more. A Savings Co-op (Esusu/Adashe) gives people small loans without bank stress.

2. Social Enterprise: A business that solves a problem. Example: A company that installs cheap solar lights and hires youth to maintain them. Profit goes back into the community.

3. Community Land Trust: The community owns the land together. No single person can sell it to outsiders. They lease it for housing or farming. This kills land grabbing forever.

Think of money as a TOOL for freedom, not as a GOAL.

MODULE 9: THE MIRROR TEST (The Most Important Module)

Who Are You in This Fight?

This is deep, personal work. You must look in the mirror.

Questions of Positionality:

· Are you from this community? (Insider) Or from outside? (Outsider)

· What is your education level? Your family wealth? Your tribe? Your religion?

· All these things give you a certain POWER and a certain BLINDNESS.

The Three Dangerous Roles:

1. The Saviour: "I have come from the university to rescue you poor people." This is arrogance. It kills dignity. DON'T BE THIS.

2. The Ally: "I stand with you in your fight." This is good, but sometimes safe.

3. The Accomplice: "I will use my privilege and skills to help you, but YOU lead. I will stand beside you in the struggle, even if it risks my own comfort." THIS IS THE GOAL.

Activity: Write Your Positionality Statement.

"I am a[your background]. Because of this, I can easily see...[list your strengths]. Because of this, I may fail to see...[list your blind spots]. In working with communities, I will consciously...[list your personal rules to avoid being a Saviour]."

If you fail this test, you can do more harm than good.

MODULE 10: WORKSHOP YOUR BATTLE PLAN

Clinic Sessions

These weeks are for DOING.

· You will meet in your project teams.

· The lecturer and classmates will be your "Council of Elders."

· You will present your problem, your treasure map, your power analysis, and your draft Theory of Change.

· We will ask you tough questions to make your plan stronger.

· This is where the real learning happens – in the struggle to make your idea clear and practical.

Use this time! Do not disappear.

MODULE 11: HOW DO WE KNOW WE ARE WINNING?

Measuring the Unmeasurable

How do you measure HOPE? How do you measure COURAGE? How do you measure POWER?

Traditional measuring only counts things: "We built one health centre."

We must also measure the SOFT CHANGES:

· **Before:** "We cannot talk to the council chairman."

· **After:** "We marched to the council and presented our demand."

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· That is VICTORY!

The Tool: Most Significant Change Stories.

At the end of a project,gather the people. Ask one question:

"From all that has happened, what do you think was the MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE for you, personally?"

Listen to their stories. The old man who says "My son now listens to my advice in meetings." The woman who says "I spoke in public for the first time." These stories are the true measure of transformation.

CONCLUSION: YOUR CHARGE

Carrying the Fire

This course is ending. The real work is just beginning.

You now have new eyes. You will see problems and immediately ask "What is the root cause?" You will see a poor community and immediately ask "What are their treasures?"

You have new tools. The Power Map. The Treasure Map. The Theory of Change.

You have a new mirror. To check your own heart and motives.

Do not go and become just another NGO worker writing reports in an air-conditioned office. Go to the field. Listen. Organise. Support. Build.

The transformation of Nigeria will not come from Abuja. It will come from thousands of communities, led by their own people, using their own power, building their own future.

You can be a midwife to that future. Start now.

End of Course Handout.

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