



The Journey to TRANSFORMATION

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is a transformed community?

In contrast to other fine support organizations, The Sentinel Group has elected to adopt a fairly high definitional standard. We do this because transformation is such a powerful word. Once it is employed as a description, there is little else for a community to aspire to. This is why we try to limit its application to those situations where it is truly warranted. For the term transformation to be properly applied to a community, change should be evident not only in the lives of its inhabitants, but also in the fabric of its institutions. In the end, it is dramatic social, political, and even ecological renewal that sets these cases apart from common experience. Here, then, is our definition of a transformed community:

- ♦ A neighborhood, city or nation whose values and institutions have been overrun by the grace and presence of God
- ♦ A place where divine fire has not merely been summoned, it has fallen
- ♦ A society in which natural evolutionary change has been disrupted by invasive supernatural power
- ♦ A culture that has been impacted comprehensively and undeniably by the Kingdom of God
- ♦ A location where kingdom values are celebrated publicly and passed on to future generations

What is the Journey to Transformation (JTT)?

The Journey to Transformation is a twelve-month covenant process developed by The Sentinel Group to help revival-hungry communities prepare for the transforming presence of God. The process is the fruit of more than ten years of intensive observation inside hundreds of global success stories.

What is the difference between a process and a program?

In the simplest of terms, a program is a formula-based initiative that flows out of human planning whereas a process is a principle-driven journey that flows out of divine revelation. While there is nothing intrinsically wrong with programs, the best they can do is make a community better. But better is rarely enough. Transformation is a holistic approach that addresses both the *effects* of broken societies (dysfunctional relationships and institutions) and their *underlying cause* (unconfessed sin). Change agents must first become changed agents – and this requires a process in which truth is not only heard, but also *applied* in one's own life. Where a program is about doing, processes emphasize becoming.

What is a covenant process?

A covenant process is a commitment — not an experiment. In the Journey to Transformation process this commitment runs in two directions — between the community and The Sentinel Group, and (more importantly) between the community and God.

Why does the JTT process take 12 months?

The short answer is that this is about how long it takes for distracted people (especially Westerners) to focus. Much of the JTT process is devoted to conceptual realignment and behavioral detoxification. People need to start looking at revival from God's perspective — and that simply takes time. This said, there is nothing magic about 12 months. Many non-Western communities have reached their goal in less than 90 days.

Has this process proven successful in other communities?

While the Journey to Transformation process has debuted only recently in its present form, its essential elements have given rise to hundreds of transformed communities over this past decade. In fact, the success rate in several regions has been very close to 100 percent. We are pleased to have catalytic figures from many of these stories as a part of our JTT mentoring team.

Can there be multiple process communities within a larger city?

Yes. In fact we actively encourage city catalysts and coalitions to break their task down into smaller, more manageable increments. Depending on the makeup of the city, these target communities might comprise a campus, an ethnic enclave, or a specific zip code. Authentic transformation in a small neighborhood is more desirable (and contagious) than diluted results in a large metropolitan area.

What is the basis for selecting JTT process communities?

JTT process communities should be selected on the basis of existing spiritual hunger rather than demonstrable need. This is because God attaches himself first and foremost to *people* — not to problems. Your first order of business should be to identify communities that host spiritually-hungry individuals who have attracted God's favor and attention. This gives you a promising foundation on which to build.

How do I find others who share my desire for transforming revival?

A good place to start your search is at community prayer gatherings and public screenings of transformation documentaries. Compassion ministries can also offer good fishing grounds. Look for people whose lives manifest the five H's — hunger, humility, hiddenness, holiness and hopelessness. (This latter quality is referenced in Isaiah 57 and refers to individuals who have come to realize that unless God intervenes in the community's affairs the prospects of success are dim.)

What is the content and length of your inspirational documentaries?

Our standard documentaries range from 12 to 90 minutes in length and feature moving and often dramatic accounts of transformed lives and communities. In the near future we plan to enhance our menu with three new thematic "collections" — *Amazing Stories*, *Change Agents*, and *Global Themes*. Each of these collections will consist of five 20-minute stories.

How do I obtain transformation videos to show in my community?

Videos can be purchased from The Sentinel Group website (www.transformations.org) or by contacting a ministry agent in your area. A listing of these agents may be obtained by emailing us at JTT-Process@sentinelgroup.org. Prices vary according to format and location.

What is a FIRE Tour?

In English the FIRE Tour acronym stands for *Firsthand Inquiry into Revival Experience*. As the name suggests, these guided tours are designed to expose participants, in an up-close-and-personal way, to some of God's finest transformational handiwork. Tours last from 8-14 days and include a wide variety of destinations.

Is it mandatory that I participate in a FIRE Tour?

No, but the tours are highly recommended for anyone taking part in the JTT process. Few other experiences have the same capacity to move participants from nascent hope to confident expectancy.

Can JTT delegations choose their tour destination?

Yes, with certain limits. Given the complexities of running multiple tours a year, we find it necessary to arrange most of our destinations well in advance. This means that JTT delegations must make their selections from a preexisting menu of options — and spaces generally fill up on a first-come, first-served basis.

Can I participate in a FIRE Tour if I am not involved with a JTT process?

Although individual tours are possible (we usually offer one per year), the majority of our excursions are set aside for delegations from JTT process communities. Again, this is by design. Nothing beats a corporate experience.

When do I need to send in my tour deposit?

Typically we require deposits 100 days prior to the tour departure date. This allows us to hold hotel rooms and arrange other events on the ground. Although hotel accommodations are arranged by The Sentinel Group, flight bookings are made by individual travelers. (Be sure to check with us as we are often able to arrange discounted group fares.)

What is personal transformation?

Transformation can and does take place at multiple levels — including family, church, neighborhood, institution, city and nation. Before any of this can happen, however, we must be transformed ourselves. Among other things this process involves confessing our sin to God so that we may be forgiven (I John 1:9), and confessing our faults one to another that we might be healed (James 5:16). The Bible also makes it clear that unconfessed sin causes God to ignore our prayers (Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 58:4) — a condition that is obviously fatal to any attempt to summon his transforming favor. Personal transformation begins when our appetite for God's presence becomes more pronounced than any other hunger in our life (including the desire to preserve a false reputation).

Is it mandatory that I go through a personal transformation process?

Yes. If you are truly serious about wanting to prepare for transforming revival, there is simply no other way. At some point during the preparatory phase of the JTT process (the first six months) all participants are required to spend time in private soul searching and public confession. To insure these steps are taken properly, The Sentinel Group will put your delegation in touch with one of several pre-screened facilitator ministries. How long this process will take is contingent upon your level of hunger and transparency. Remember — every change agent must first become a changed agent. There are no shortcuts.

What are my options in selecting a personal transformation process?

At the moment we offer three options. The first is an excellent course called Living Free offered through the Sycamore Commission. Taught by longtime pastor Mike Riches, the course emphasizes the power of spiritual transactions in the form of repentance and forgiveness (www.sycamorecommission.org). The second choice is a three-day interactive seminar called Ancient Pathways that is offered by Family Foundation International. This option emphasizes the role of small group ministry and features the teaching of Craig Hill (www.familyfi.org). A final possibility is the UK-headquartered Ellel Ministries which offers a variety of schools, seminars and workshops through a worldwide network of bases. A supplemental personal transformation course called Ellel 365 is also available online in a variety of languages (www.ellelministries.org).

How do I sign up for a personal transformation process?

To begin with, this should be handled as a delegation, not individually. The idea is to go through this process as a group. Once you have determined which organization offers the best fit (something you can do by reviewing their respective websites or speaking with them directly), The Sentinel Group will then assist you with additional information or scheduling. There is a nominal fee for the seminars (a bit more for the longer Ellel school).

What is a transformation vanguard?

The activities embedded in the first half of the JTT process are designed to filter out individuals who are not yet prepared to embrace the cost of transforming revival. Those who remain at the end of this process are called the transformation vanguard. This is the group that will continue with the remaining process activities and serve as the catalyst for transformational breakthrough.

What is a Torchlight School?

The Torchlight School offers interactive training and application for the transformation vanguard in each JTT process community. Each participant is provided with a course workbook and over 60 hours of DVD-based teaching and testimonies. This material has been gleaned over 10 years of careful study and contains a healthy balance of Biblical exegesis and observational analysis. Nearly all of the course presenters are experienced practitioners from the front lines of the transformation movement. Students will typically gather once or twice a week in a local church to view and discuss the material.

How long does the Torchlight School last?

The Torchlight curriculum (also titled *The Journey to Transformation*) is laid out as a 12-week course. This is not a rigid timeframe, however, and each process community has the freedom to expedite or extend the course schedule.

Is there a limit on the number of people who can attend a school?

No, but we do require at least one facilitator for every 30 students — and always a minimum of two facilitators. In larger cities with multiple JTT process communities it is permissible to combine students into one Torchlight School (although this is not mandatory). We do, however, strongly urge school facilitators to break students into smaller groups for the post-lecture discussions and application time. Casual attendees are not permitted at the Torchlight Schools.

Is there a cost for the school?

Each student must purchase a curriculum (complete with DVDs, binder and workbook). In the United States the cost for this package is \$350 (less than \$7 per DVD), and orders may be placed through The Sentinel Group (email us at JTT-Process@sentinelgroup.org). To obtain curriculum materials in other countries or languages you will need to contact our regional agents. (Don't know who these people are? Simply contact our staff at the email address listed above. They will be happy to supply you with any information you require).

What is a Torchlight Facilitator?

Torchlight facilitators are responsible for leading the discussion and application time at the end of each DVD presentation during the Torchlight School. These people are critically important to the success of the process.

How are Torchlight Facilitators selected and trained?

Given their important role in the Torchlight Schools, facilitators should be selected carefully. To assist with this process we have developed a document entitled "Choosing a Torchlight Facilitator" that is included with the Process Evaluation and Review Kit (PERK) sent out to each community considering the JTT process. Once facilitators are selected, their next step is to attend a week-long Facilitators' Seminar held at various locations throughout the year. This seminar, which is mandatory, will familiarize them with the Torchlight course material and process.

What is The Watch?

Once the transformation vanguard in a community has successfully navigated the Torchlight School and a subsequent three-month application season, it is time for "The Watch." This capstone event in the Journey to Transformation process is designed to help nudge the community toward the transformation "tipping point." A highlight of this special time is an intimate week of prayer and interactive fellowship with several Torchlight faculty members. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend quality time with some of the world's most experienced transformation catalysts — all in a local setting. Some of these individuals will remain behind for an additional month to stand in prayer with the transformation vanguard.

How quickly will transforming revival arrive once we have completed the JTT?

Although it is not possible to offer a precise timeframe, our research shows that it is very often a short term proposition. Indeed, many historical and contemporary revivals have blossomed within 30 days after a community has sincerely addressed all of God's expressed requirements. The exact approach that God will take to the community is also unpredictable — although it will surely be tailored to prevailing attitudes, needs and circumstances.

Where does evangelism fit into the JTT process?

The arc of the Journey to Transformation process extends over three distinct phases — the Invitation Phase (where we summon God's presence), the Visitation Phase (where we experience God's Power), and the Transformation Phase (where we steward God's handiwork). Evangelism is relevant and proper at any time, but especially during the season of God's visitation. There will be a strong consciousness of God's power and presence in the community during this period, making conditions ripe for spiritual harvest.

How long will transformation last and can anything be done to sustain it?

God's blessings will continue to rest upon a community until it stops fulfilling the conditions that originally attracted those blessings. Historically, most transforming revivals tend to burn brightly for three to five years, and then slowly begin to diminish. This is not predictive, however, and there are plenty of exceptions. Certain present-day communities have kept revival fires burning for 15 years. The Moravians maintained their victory for more than a century.

Should I participate in the JTT process if my church or ministry is opposed?

Your best move is to delay participation and try to get to the bottom of your church's opposition. Ask them to explain their reservations (in as much detail as possible) and then see if you can reasonably address these concerns. It may be that their objections are based on incomplete information or false assumptions. Sometimes all your leader needs is a thoughtful phone call or an outline of the training curriculum. Find people who want to pray and pray with them. Unity is an important revival tripwire, but it is not essential that this unity extend to every church in the community.

Can I join the JTT process in midstream?

Although the final decision in the matter will be left up to local catalysts and facilitators, we generally consider this bad practice. This is especially true when the individual concerned is looking for a spiritual shortcut. God offers no rewards for partial obedience or limited commitments. At the same time, we acknowledge that lateness does not always reflect a lack of spiritual hunger or discipline. Sometimes people just missed the announcement. The Torchlight School offers the most practical cut off point. Integrating with the process any later becomes awkward, and even counterproductive.

How do we raise the funding for JTT activities?

Fees differ depending on where in the world you live, so be sure to check with us to find out exactly what your financial obligations are. If the totals are beyond your present capacity, you might consider presenting the vision to your local church (if you are not a pastor), or to Christian businesses in your area. You can also send out a letter to friends and family. If none of these options make sense in your situation, take the matter before God in prayer.

Who else is involved with the JTT process?

Though still in its infancy, the JTT process has already managed to attract scores of participant communities throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean. Others are being added weekly as they learn about the process through global networks such as the International Fellowship of Transformation Partners (IFTP).

Whom do I contact if I need more information?

Initial inquiries should be directed to Lucy Ross at JTT-Process@sentinelgroup.org. Follow-up inquiries within the United States will be handled by Mr. Steve Loopstra, while international locations will be serviced by our global liaison, Mr. Charles Barbosa.