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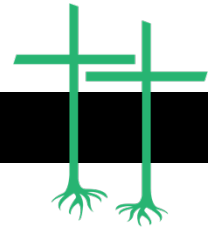
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# ROOTS TRANSFORMATION TEAM

## Our Vision for This Ministry Team



Roots Church is a network of house churches. One of our core values is that every believer is a minister. Every believer can share the gospel. Every believer can make disciples. Every believer can minister healing and prophetic words. Whatever the Holy Spirit wants to do, He can do with any believer He likes.

Nevertheless, we often encounter ministry situations where people feel over their heads. Sometimes the people to whom we're ministering have deep wounds in their hearts and spiritual oppression that the average believer might not know how to address. Our Senior Leadership Team wanted to establish a ministry where trained believers throughout our network would be available to help people walk through these weightier issues.

The Transformation Team does not replace the need for licensed Christian counselors or physicians. We are prayer ministers, not counselors or doctors. Our role is to address certain spiritual issues in a person's heart, and then we may refer the person to additional resources or professional help.

The goal is to have at least one member of the Transformation Team in every house church in our network, not counting the house church pastor. And we would love for all of our house church pastors to seek out training as well. This will significantly enhance the depth of ministry people are able to receive in our house churches, and we believe it will lead to countless people experiencing incredible freedom in Christ.

## OUR TERMINOLOGY

Certain prayer ministries at other churches sometimes use Greek words or other terms that may be foreign to the people receiving ministry. Even the term "inner healing" is inadequate because it communicates the idea that something is broken that needs to be fixed. In reality, something needs to go to the cross so the Holy Spirit can bring new life. This is why we favor words like "transformation."

For this reason, prayer sessions with members of the Transformation Team will be called Gospel Encounters. Everything we do is about experiencing a more complete application of the gospel, bringing death and rebirth to regions of the heart that have not yet surrendered to the Lord.

In practice, this might look like the following: Someone in your house church is struggling with an ongoing sin issue that they can't seem to overcome. You might ask, "Have you been to a

Gospel Encounter?” Or perhaps you might say, “We should set you up with our Transformation Team for a Gospel Encounter.” The language here serves a purpose of creating accurate expectation. The person isn’t looking for a mere “fixing” of their heart. They’re expecting an encounter with the gospel that brings transformation.

## OUR MINISTRY LOGO

Our logo depicts two crosses, one slightly above the other. At a simple level, these are two “t’s”—standing for “Transformation Team.” You’ll notice one “t” is providing some covering for the other. This is the prayer minister providing some spiritual guidance and care for the ministry recipient.

Everything we do in this ministry brings people to a deeper revelation and application of the cross and resurrection—transformation through death and rebirth.

## GOSPEL ENCOUNTERS

While the tools you’re learning in this training can be used anytime and in myriad situations, our Transformation Team also offers formal prayer ministry sessions called Gospel Encounters.

An official Gospel Encounter (covered by our insurance) happens when two trained ministers who have been approved as part of the team meet with an individual to seek victory over a specific sin issue.

In these sessions, the person will share the problem they’ve come to address. The prayer ministers listen carefully and ask questions, discerning gaps in the gospel—whether people they might need to forgive or lies they’ve come to believe. As the Holy Spirit illuminates the way, the group helps facilitate an encounter with God, bringing the gospel to deeper places in the person’s heart.

# ROOTS TRANSFORMATION TEAM

## How This Team Works



Members of the Transformation Team are scattered throughout the Roots Church Network. Uniting us is this shared training and a dedicated group in the church app (also available at [www.MyRoots.church](http://www.MyRoots.church)).

### ANYTIME THROUGHOUT OUR NETWORK

- Individuals can request a Gospel Encounter in our app.
- Our coordinator will field requests and post the need in a private group of all our Transformation Team members.
- Once 2 of our trained team members indicate that they are available at the times requested, the coordinator will connect them with the person to schedule a 2-hour session (usually only 90 minutes is actually needed, but it's wise to set aside the extra time).
- Note: A third participant can be included as an observer if they're being trained.

### AT HOUSE CHURCH MEETINGS

All the tools you learn in this training will be useful as you pray with others. Depending on how many Transformation Team members are in a house church, there may be opportunities or situations where a person needs special ministry, and those team members can spend some time with them—perhaps referring them to sign up for a Gospel Encounter if the need is beyond the scope of the time or setting available.

### AT ENCOUNTER NIGHT MEETINGS

Twice each month, our network gathers for a large meeting. Our culture will continue to be one where all believers are ministers. We regularly encourage people to minister to each other at the end of meetings. The Transformation Team is especially encouraged to look for opportunities during the ministry times. Use the tools you've learned as the Spirit leads.

On rare occasions, the person speaking that night may request the Transformation Team specifically to minister—especially if the topic leads to ministry that might be beyond the scope of what most people in the room are equipped to offer.

## DURING A GOSPEL-ENCOUNTER

Ministry generally happens most effectively when only one person is directing the session. As two or three Team members minister together, one person should be identified as the point-person who will direct the prayer session. This person could be the most experienced of the group, or it could be someone who needs the experience (when another, more experienced team member is present to offer support).

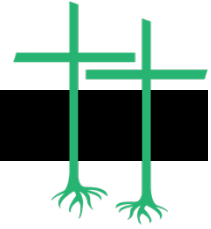
The Transformation Team Coordinator (or a designated assistant) will assign who should be the point-person. If this isn't possible, Team members are encouraged to prayerfully determine among themselves who will facilitate the Gospel Encounter.

Those who are not the point-person should have a note pad and pen ready, writing down their thoughts and either waiting until the point-person asks for their input or possibly passing a note to the point-person. This helps avoid a scenario where the ministry recipient feels pulled in two or more directions. There are often multiple ministry paths to the same gospel goal, and the point-person has the discretion of which path to take. If he or she ever feels stumped, the assistant(s) in the room are there to offer insights and ideas.

If breakthrough doesn't happen in the first session and a clear path to breakthrough in a future session isn't clear, Team members are encouraged to recommend a second Gospel Encounter with some more experienced ministers, and the request can be brought back to the Transformation Team group in our church app.

# ROOTS TRANSFORMATION TEAM

## Expectations for Prayer Ministers



Members of our Transformation Team represent the Roots Church Network and are therefore expected to be regular participants in a house church who subscribe to our statements of faith and core values (RootsAG.org > About > Our Values & Beliefs).

For this reason, we want all our team members to be Mission Partners. If you are not yet a Roots Church Mission Partner, please sign up before this 10-week training is finished. You can find a link in our app or on our web site (RootsAG.org > More > Mission Partners). Our board, which approves new Mission Partners, meets every other month, and the next meeting is coming soon. So please sign up as soon as you're able.

### GOSPEL-CENTERED MINISTRY

There is a tendency for people to learn the tools taught in this training and yet forget that the purpose is application of the gospel. The tools do not bring transformation to people; the gospel does. The tools are merely targeted ways of applying the gospel to certain areas of a person's life.

Most of the time, simple proclamation of the gospel is all that is needed to destroy strongholds and renew the mind. If we forget this, then we may overcomplicate ministry by trying to use precision tools when general application is needed. As you learn the tools taught in this training, be careful not to lose the simplicity of the message: union with Christ in His death, resurrection, and ascension to the right hand of the Father.

### THE HEART OF THE PRAYER MINISTER

**Humility.** Scripture tells us that “knowledge puffs up while love builds up.” There is no value in knowing the material of this class if it is not used to love others. Additionally, our knowledge of certain ministry tools ought not make us prideful—only confident. Choose to maintain a heart-posture of childlike curiosity, wonder, and discovery. Continue to admit how much still needs to be learned, and keep seeking growth long after completing this training.

**Authenticity.** As prayer ministers, there is a temptation to want people to think we're somehow better than them. In truth, only the grace of God keeps us from being in exactly the same condition as the person to whom we minister. Our openness about our own shortcomings and the weakness of our flesh can help others see their own potential in ministry. At the same

time, we need to be authentic about the truth of sin, righteousness, and judgment. The way we share about our shortcomings ought not give people license to sin. We do not shrug off sin; we crucify it. Be real about your weaknesses and clear about the solution offered in the gospel.

**Communion with the Lord.** Your personal prayer life matters. Your relationship with God needs to extend well beyond a business partnership. We do not relate to God only for the sake of effective ministry. But we also know that the most effective ministry will flow from a person who knows God intimately, is clothed in His power, and is sensitive to His voice. We expect our Transformation Team to spend regular time in prayer, worship, and reading the Scriptures.

**Freedom from fault-finding.** One of the challenges in this ministry is how eager we become to use the tools we learn. As a result, we may start searching for targets, seeing needs in people that might not actually exist. Our goal is not to figure out who in our house churches have various problems. Our goal is to love. Be careful that you do not allow your heart to enter a place where you look down on others for not being as healed and whole as you are. This was the sin of the pharisee in Luke 18:9–14.

**Bearing burdens.** In the Gospel Encounter, you are there to temporarily help the ministry recipient carry the weight of the struggles they've been facing. This happens through compassion, a listening ear, unwavering hope and faith, confidence in the Lord, encouragement, and prayer. You may find yourself feeling what the person feels. Allow this compassion to move your heart as you minister.

**Releasing burdens.** While you will help carry the person's burdens during the Gospel Encounter, it's important to release those burdens to the Lord when the ministry session is over. Trust Jesus to finish the work through the person's house church, pastor, and personal walk with Him.

**Confidentiality.** Ministers are expected to adhere to professional confidentiality standards. When someone signs up for an official Gospel Encounter, they will be shown a confidentiality agreement, indicating what to expect from the Team member. You will want to make yourself aware of this agreement and read it occasionally to remain in legal compliance.

**Washing Feet.** The Transformation Team is not a clique of spiritual elites. We are servants who honor others above ourselves. Jesus gave us the example of humbling Himself, taking the role of the lowest servant by washing His disciples' feet. Then He instructed those disciples to similarly wash each other's feet. The principle here is that we too adopt the posture of the lowest servant, making others around us feel like royalty.

**Power from the Holy Spirit.** We want all our prayer ministers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, with evidence of speaking in tongues. If you've not yet had this experience, you may still attend this training. You are simply encouraged to seek this power from heaven to accomplish the work God is inviting you into. We recommend reading "Chapter 5: Real Power" in *Rooted: Thriving in Your New Life* by Art Thomas. This resource is available as a free PDF on our web site



(RootsAG.org > Grow > How to Follow Jesus) or in print. Your house church pastor or anyone else in our ministry would be happy to answer your questions and pray with you.

## APPROPRIATE BOUNDARIES

**Gospel Encounters are not facilitated alone.** You're certainly free to minister any of the tools you learn in this class, even when alone. But a prayer session is not an official Roots Church Gospel Encounter (and thus covered by our insurance) unless two or three certified team members are present and the meeting is sanctioned by our Coordinator.

**When children are involved.** Nine times out of ten, the parents need ministry more than the children. If parents reach out wanting to schedule a Gospel Encounter for their child, we only accept such meetings after first walking the parents or primary caregivers through a Gospel Encounter and seeing what changes happen in the home.

**Prophetic maturity.** Our role is not to control, manipulate, or change a person's behavior by force or intimidation. For this reason, as a default, we do not give directive prophetic words in a Gospel Encounter. If we think we're hearing such a message, we need to be careful in how we convey it, not saying, "God says you must do this," but asking questions that help the person reach their own conclusions. If that's not working, you can say something like, "I'm not here to tell you what to do with your life, but I really feel in my heart that your best next move would be \_\_\_\_\_. Does that feel right to you?" This reminds the person to be discerning and not dependent, giving them agency and responsibility in their own decisions.

**Turn off your phone.** Show the person that they are the most important priority in the moment. Do not even use your phone to take notes, as this can sometimes be misconstrued as texting or checking social media.

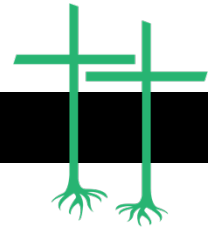
**Be a safe person.** Especially during Gospel Encounters, but also in all of life, be someone who follows the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Maintain a respectful attitude. Avoid yelling or screaming. Show compassion and love. Aim to convey Jesus' nature, not only His authority and power. And keep your "game-face" on; in other words, try not to appear shocked at anything a person (or demon) says. These personal standards will help the person feel safe and secure, allowing for much more openness and healing.

**Let pastors pastor.** You don't need to be the full solution to a person's life issues. As a member of the Transformation Team, you are only expected to provide very specific gospel ministry and perhaps refer the person to more wholistic help. Trust the person's pastor and house church to walk with them long-term. Do not take on a false burden for the person that is beyond the scope of your ministry responsibility. We are the body of Christ together, and you can trust others to provide additional help beyond the Gospel Encounter.



# ROOTS TRANSFORMATION TEAM

## How to Use This Handbook



- **SECTION 1:** Revisit this introduction from time to time so the vision and expectations remain fresh in your mind as you minister to people.
- **SECTION 2:** Use the training notes as reference tools, reminding you of things you learned in the training.
- **SECTION 3:** Glance over the ministry tools before a Gospel Encounter. If you ever forget how to apply a tool, read over that tool as a refresher.
- **SECTION 4:** The Ministry Roadmap shows you the default pattern to follow. Be led by the Holy Spirit. You may choose to have the Roadmap open during a Gospel Encounter to help you stay on track.
- **SECTION 5:** As you accumulate additional resources, you can add your own notes and materials here. This section begins with a list of recommended reading for those wanting to study deeper.