

Implementing the Seven Principles of the PREVAIL Model for Building a Culture of Sustained Social Innovation

Building a culture of sustained social innovation will require implementing the PREVAIL model principles developed during this study (figure 16). This model informed the designing of the Light the Way Strategy (appendix D).

<p>PRESENCE</p>	<p>Presence is the key. At creation, God brought mankind into the reality he was to dominate. The Great Commission commands mankind to be present in the reality that needs changing. Creating transforming cultures requires interventions/intervenorers to be multi-dimensionally and multi-temporarily present, and short-term social experiments governed by artificial timeframes (e.g. electoral cycles) to be replaced by strategic interventions that can reconcile the demands of urgency and depth.</p>
<p>RELEVANT PRESENCE</p>	<p>To be present is to be relevant. Real connections which create social relevance require presence. It is important to add that in the 21st Century, virtual presence can be just as real and can be accomplished by remote participation in transcendent communities that have a common goal.</p>
<p>EXPLORING PRESENCE</p>	<p>The Apostle Paul’s idea of life as a continuous process of discovery applies not just to mankind’s spiritual journey, but to every dimension of human existence. In Eph. 3:13 he writes about “forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,” and in 2 Cor.3:18 he talks about moving “from glory to glory.” Strategic Interventions bring the Pauline exploring presence into the life of communities that need transformation.</p>
<p>VALIDATING PRESENCE</p>	<p>God responds to human suffering with validation of their humanity rather than affirmation. In the scriptures He does not accept the confession “I am human” as an excuse for failure, but as the reason to prevail, to hope, to continue dreaming and fighting. Validating presence makes people confident in their humanity, in the value of their own knowledge, skills and aspiration, and in their ability not just to survive, but to overcome and thrive.</p>
<p>ALLEVIATING PRESENCE</p>	<p>The alleviating presence of strategic interventions and intervenors reduces the pain and burden of suffering, of lack, and of pernicious problems to give people margin to innovate. It avoids entrenching clientelism and dependency or insensitive conditionality by being part of a holistic intervention strategy which, through its multi-dimensionality draws benefactors and beneficiaries into an equal partnership for change</p>
<p>INSPIRING PRESENCE</p>	<p>After World War II, Chancellor Konrad Adenauer’s inspiring leadership and the social innovation it unleashed powered a vanquished and despondent German nation to rise from ruin to become the second most dynamic economy in the world in less than a decade. In ancient times, David’s inspiring presence turned men who had been in distress, in debt, and discontented who had gathered to him as he fled from King Saul (1 Sam.22:1-2) into an army of valiant men. The inspiring presence of intervenors and strategic interventions must do the same in communities of need today.</p>
<p>LEVERAGING PRESENCE</p>	<p>3rd Century Greek mathematician Archimedes famously said concerning the power of leverage: “Give me a place to stand, and a lever long enough, and I will move the world.” Transformational leaders understand that it is because of leverage “The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favor to men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all” (Ecclesiastes 9:11.)</p>

Figure 1. Seven Principles of the Prevail Model of Social Change

The seven PREVAIL principles also emerged from reflecting on the Creation Mandate in Genesis 1, the power of the church in Matthew 16, and the Great Commission in Mark 16 and Matthew 28. According to Genesis 1, humankind was not only created to prevail, but was actually mandated by God to do the following.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:26-28)

Matthew 16 reveals that God designed His church to be a prevailing institution.

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (Matthew 16:18-20)

The Great Commission's charge is clear. Jesus says, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). According to the Matthew account, He says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). Based on the essence in both gospels, Jesus is telling His disciples to take their *prevailing presence* to the ends of the earth – to other nations – to establish *transcendent communities* called The Church, which the gates of Hades could not prevail against. Redeemed from sin, believers would then be able to fulfill the Creation Mandate. They would prevail as God intended them to, as He created them to, and as He instructed them to. The church as a community of believers would similarly prevail as God intended it to, as He created it to, as He instructed it to. I contend that the condition of Chiefdoms today reflects the failure of humankind to prevail, and that the greatest witness to

humankind will be when all aspects of the lives of those who profess faith in Him, including the majority of Chiefdom Citizens, confirm the whole, not just the first part of what Jesus said to be true: “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).