LEADING TRANSFORMATION #3

DEFINING HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT  
The goal of Transformation is HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT. In order to clarify the vision for Transforming Leadership it is important to sharpen our understanding of what the end result will look like. When transformation takes place, there is a dynamic and progressive holistic development that affects positively all spheres of society—spiritual, emotional, intellectual, social and material.

Popular contemporary understandings of development place emphasis on economic, scientific and technological development. In other words, development is usually focused on what governments and citizens want to have. Little attention is given to who the citizens would want to become. As a result, we have a lot of cases in which citizens of communities and nations that have seen infrastructural economic and technological advancement are still seeking meaning to life. It is not a mere coincidence that the highest suicide rates are in countries that are considered part of the First World because of their comparatively higher levels of development. First World countries also share in the sharp social divides among different races and classes.

There is need for a new development paradigm. Development must have as its foundation a MORAL VISION that is based on intentionally selected MORAL VALUES. The vision of who we want to become should be the foundation for what we want to have. No community or nation can develop whilst her citizens are living and leading with conflicting values.

Moral values in turn are based on VIRTUES. Three examples of virtues from which moral values can be derived are love, righteousness and justice. This makes virtues and godly character the essential foundation for holistic development in communities and societies.