

Transform4Life Newsletter, December 2020

Wishing you and your family Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this Advent season give us opportunities to receive strength and grace even as we live through difficult and uncertain days.

Here, as we write to you in the last month of the year 2020, we would like to share our experience in conducting programs online. Though we were forced by circumstances to embrace the online mode of operation, it has been a great experience. Nevertheless, we do miss talking to people in between sessions over a cup of coffee or in the evenings when the training was conducted as a residential program.

One of the challenges we thought we would encounter in online training is the level of connection that we would be able to achieve. This was a reasonably valid concern that we had at the beginning, but it has been laid to rest as we trained several batches of participants from around the world.

THE WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY: “Meditations for Troubled Times.” The session is preceded by a quick catch up by friends from around the world talking with great warmth. Interestingly, they have only known each other through these online meetings.

“Maybe in the bigger plan of God, I am part of this group.... The things I have learned and the notes I make are a great blessing. However, the fellowship with people, smiling faces from around the world – has been the top thing for me.”
“I really liked the story of Rahab and I ask myself do I really know my God.”

I have just quoted two of the participants from the time of sharing on 29th November when we concluded the weekly Bible Study. We are looking forward to restarting in the New Year.

ONLINE ALIVE TRAINING:

“The sessions are really good and I'm looking forward to the rest of the sessions.” This feedback was given by a Batch 4 participant right after Week 2. She was guided to the training by a participant in the 2nd Batch.

Talking about the second batch of Online ALIVE Training that just concluded two weeks ago. After the final session got over, the participants were unwilling to leave the meeting. It is an online classroom, every single person is connected from their homes, but they were so unwilling to leave the Zoom meeting. Are we able to achieve connection with participants in an online training program? Well, the answer should be clear by now.

The interesting thing about the 2nd Online Batch is that most of the participants are from a church in Melbourne. And as a church, they have decided to make Christ known in another nation using ALIVE as the methodology for their mission. What an amazing way to introduce the gospel to a nation by training people to walk with others towards healing.

ONLINE WORKSHOP:

We had scheduled an Online Workshop on 25th November to be led by an eminent resource person in Mental Health, Dr Kuruvilla George, who is also a member of our Board. The topic “Understanding Mental Illness and Suicide” received an overwhelming response, and we had to close the registration. We scheduled the same program on the 9th of December, and we could garner more than 75 registrations from several nations.

The first part of the session was on mental illness. After the session, we got questions like: *“How do we manage people who refuse to take treatment for mental illness?”* The second part of the session was on Suicide. Even during the registrations, we got a passionate letter from a person who said: *“I have been very much involved in suicide prevention over the past 31 years, working very closely with psychiatrists & clinical psychologists for the benefit of our clients who suffer from mental illness. I would be most grateful if I can join the workshop....”*

SAATHI (Fellow Traveller) PROJECT:

SAATHI aims to equip the teachers and parents to provide care and support to the emotionally wounded and hurting in the centres of learning. The preliminary survey for the project was done by the team. Many friends took time to connect with the schools in their sphere of influence. 82 schools were contacted, we got responses from 30. The results have only confirmed our assumptions that there is an overwhelming need for specialized training for teachers and parents to identify and care for the trauma victims.

Many of the administrators have expressed their willingness to partner with third party agencies to get this done.

The basic story is that even if the schools are having a mechanism to address these issues, they are simply inadequate or they lack the resources and expertise required. There is no doubt that this is indeed the window of opportunity for Transform4Life to make use of our research, resources, and trained facilitators.

You could be a part of this project as a Friend of SAATHI and you can introduce us to a school that you know. We are offering a free Introductory Workshop to reach out to the schools and give them a taste of what we have to offer.

We are grateful for the many generous friends who have supported us, and we request you to kindly consider supporting this project financially.

For more information and to contact us please write to: info@transform4life.org.au

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ALIVE Level 1 trainings – starting on 6th February; 13th March; and 17th April to be conducted on 10 consecutive Saturdays

- ALIVE Level 2 training – starting on January 6th for 5 Wednesdays and the second batch scheduled for January 30th for 10 Saturdays
- Being an Agent of Healing in a Time of Crisis training program starting on 14th January for 5 Thursdays
- Online Workshop on Leadership by Dr Varghese Philip to be held on 20th January

We count on you to make these programs known to your friends.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Requesting your kind prayers for the programs scheduled for the new year.
- Kindly uphold the SAATHI project as we prepare the content for the training and reach out to schools for conducting the introductory session.
- The financial needs of SAATHI project and the other training programs.
- All the participants to be catalysts of healing in their community.
- T4L teams and the board members especially as we look forward and plan for next 5 years or more.

WE WISH YOU A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS SEASON AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR – 2021.

Transform4Life Team.