LEADING TRANSFORMATION #76:

MORAL VISION—MORAL VISION FRAMEWORK

The Moral Vision Framework provides 4 broad categories for organizing Moral Values. The categorization helps clarify possible constructive interrelationships among the values.

The four categories are:

1. God-centeredness

2. Personal Development

3. Cohesive and Effective Communities

4. Good Stewardship of Resources

GOD-CENTEREDNESS

The first category of God-centeredness is the heart of the framework. It provides the standard for differentiating right and positive from wrong and negative values. Why do we need God-centeredness as the hub for all the other values? If all values are relative, then there will not be a system for determining right from wrong values. What could be right for one, would be wrong for another. If values are essentially subjective and relative, then it becomes near impossible to align communities to common values. If communities cannot be rallied around common values, then values end up being valueless.

God is the only constant in life. He has the same character traits at all times and in all situations. These character traits—mercy, love, justice, righteousness, kindness, etc.—become the standard from which values are derived. Values that are based on these character traits of God are considered right and positive; and values that are opposite to them are wrong and negative. It is not enough to just name values. There can be differences in interpretation. Here again, the interpretations that are closer to the nature of God are more likely to be the right ones. God’s character therefore provides the constant for determining right and good moral values.

In effect, understanding the nature of God is fundamental to understanding and working with the right moral values, and consequently Moral Vision.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Values in this category have to do with the importance of individuality; and personal life and leadership development. Examples are Sacredness of human life, Positive Self-identity, and Personal and Public Integrity.

COHESIVE AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNITIES

Values in this category are oriented toward the building of healthy, peaceful, effective and prosperous communities. Examples are Sense of Community or Communality, Freedom, Justice, and Empowering Leadership.

STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

These values have to do with the good stewardship of natural and other material resources. Good stewardship involves adding value to existing resources such that they are able to bring the most benefit to individuals, communities, institutions and nations. Examples of these values include Productivity, Maximization and Excellence.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why is God relevant to Moral Vision?

2. How would you explain the significance of the interrelationships of the four categories of the Moral Vision Framework (i.e. God-centeredness, Personal Development, Cohesive and Effective Communities, and Good Stewardship of Resources)?