



The Process of Transition

By Graham Cooke

The world around us is full of change. These changes are not just technological. Keeping pace with man's inventiveness is amazingly difficult. No sooner does a breakthrough piece of engineering hit the market than it is made smaller, more compact, and more powerful. Whatever you buy is out of date before you learn how to use it properly.

Transition is an adventure. But it is an adventure into the unknown with all the attendant risks that the uncharted can formulate around us. Change provokes our hearts because it challenges the status quo. It makes us feel uneasy and vulnerable because it takes us into territory where we have never before been. We are happy to talk about Abraham going out without knowing where he was going, simply trusting God to get him there (see Hebrews 11:8). However, when it is our turn to make the journey of faith, it is a different matter. God has His own road maps for times such as these. The old ones are useless to us, and the new ones are filled out as we go.

Every change involves a letting go of one thing to reach out for what is next. It is death by installments—the slow death of our mind-sets, our attitudes, perceptions, and paradigms with apparently nothing obvious to take their place. That is, we only see the replacement concept as we journey. We don't just see it, though; we experience it. Sometimes our experience is first, and we go through something that we understand only in retrospect. It is important therefore, if we are to journey with the Lord into new lands, that we build in time to reflect and review where we are and where we have come from. Our road map to faith must be kept up to date and relevant for anyone else coming after us.

Pioneers draw the maps; they seldom enjoy them! Every day's journey into the new is accomplished by a slow and, at times, painful letting go of the old. There is a death process to be worked through in transition. Future fruit comes from present death (see John 12:24).

The Holy Spirit will, if we allow Him, teach us how to be present to the moment with God. There is a God-consciousness that is so compelling that we need never worry again. There is a peace so profound that it is unshakable. There is a rest in God so potent that the enemy fears it. (Rest is a weapon against evil.)

In order to be alive to God in this way, we must surrender to Him and to everything He brings. He allows in His wisdom what He could easily prevent by His power. The dying daily that is Paul's description involves a death-to-self process. Change is the pivotal point of that process. If you enjoy God's life, you cannot fear change. Where He is present, resistance has died.

Death, the understanding of change, liberates us to experience the adventure of new things. We welcome the risk because His life fizzes in our bloodstream. He sparkles with new gifts, new realms, fresh anointing, and different challenges to faith and love.

His great power will pitch us into battle with no thought but that His great love will shield us from the enemy. He is careful and carefree at the same time. Change is an opportunity to grow more like Him and to

If you enjoy
God's life,
you cannot
fear change.



Lutheran Renewal

(Independent of North Heights Lutheran Church)

Telephone: 651-490-1517 • Fax: 651-486-2865

2701 Rice Street • St. Paul MN 55113-2200

www.LutheranRenewal.org • ilrc@aol.com

Alliance of Renewal Churches

www.arcusa.org • 651-486-4808

The Master's Institute

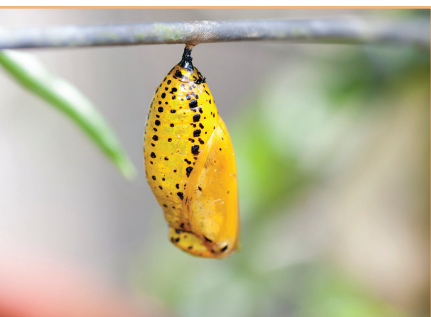
www.themastersinstitute.org • 651-765-9756

continue the sampling of all He has to offer. He Himself never changes; that is part of His beauty. He is so utterly faithful and unchanging that we always know exactly where we are in His heart.

He wants to impart the same unchanging nature to us so that we can partake of this aspect of His divine nature. Though unchanging in Himself, He causes ceaseless change round about Him. To know Him is to be changed by Him. He loves the journey that we are on. He has carefully thought through all the stages that we will experience. Death and life combine in Him. Unchanging changeableness is part of His mystique. Find meaning in Him, and you will understand your journey so much better. Everything begins and ends in Him, the Alpha and Omega of change.

The inevitability of change is made enjoyable by His presence. As we submit to each process, our appreciation of the journey grows and our faith increases. Change comes from within. Everything that God does in us comes from the inside to the outside. That is why our inward development is more important than the outward circumstances. If we give the Lord Jesus the ground He requires on the inside of our life, then each present set of external challenges shall diminish, if not disappear.

We will be excited about change because we are excited about the Lord. Our road map is being drawn as we experience life in Christ. If we keep hitting the same landmarks in our life, it is because we have probably resisted change from within.



Change helps us grow, and growth is part of life. Without challenge there is nothing to overcome, so faith cannot grow. This lack of expectation creates smallness in mind and heart.

Transition is about the discovery and connection of the inner man of the heart toward God (see Eph. 3:13-21). It is about discovering the rest of God (see Heb. 4) and being at peace in Him. It is restoring our relational paradigm with Almighty God. It is about breakthrough into an inner place of the spirit and learning how to remain there. Your inner man is the restful presence of Jesus in the external turmoil of your surroundings (see Mk. 4: 36- 39).

This is the opportunity that God is giving to us in the crisis of transition. He is holding out the very process of inward change and development. In crisis, we put our

lives firmly into His care and we obey Him implicitly! Crisis, transition, and process open a door on a personal and corporate level for the people of God to come to know Him, experience Him, and be changed by Him. Crisis is the door of inward opportunity opening through the danger of external circumstances.

The Spirit searches all things in our lives and enables us to know the mind of the Lord (revelation) as well as to experience what God wants to give us in the situation (see I Cor. 2: 10-16).

He wants us to go through the door of opportunity...

Many times the storm breaks over us and we are unprepared for it. If we are used to living from our spirit, we can retreat there to our secret place and wait patiently for God. If we have not fully learned that discipline of grace, we may succumb to worry and fear. Then we will be tossed to and fro by circumstances and unsundered thought-processes. The inner man of the spirit is the anchor for the soul.

Here, in our distress, the kindness of God will reveal itself to us. He really wants us to succeed in crisis. He wants us to go through the door of opportunity and not be sidetracked by the difficulty in the situation. He will give us a second opportunity to succeed.

On a personal level, we may be going through tough circumstances that we are failing to process internally. We need to look and listen for the sweet voice of reason to come to us. It may come in a sermon, through a book we are reading, by a Scripture we are studying, from a prayer we receive in ministry, in a letter or card, through a prophetic word, or just in a telephone call from a concerned friend. The point, is, it will come! Many times, we miss it because our soul wants to hear only about deliverance, so we sift every word and discard those not compatible with our soulish desires. The inward man knows that process is the key to all God's dealing with His people. Life is a journey. A friend of mine, Mary Dennison, once told me, "Don't get so hung up on your destination that you forget to enjoy the journey!"



Graham Cooke will be presenting his new seminar, **"The Art of Thinking Brilliantly"** at the February 1-2, 2013, Equipping Conference. See the back page for registration information.

(Taken from **A Divine Confrontation** by Graham Cooke, copyright 1999, used by permission of Destiny Image Publishers; 167 Walnut Bottom Road; Shippensburg, PA 17257; 800-722-6774; www.destinyimage.com)



Transition (tran-zish-en), n. a passing from one place or activity to another. One just happened at Lutheran Renewal (LR).

I once told the Lutheran Renewal board, "I enjoy what I am doing with pastors, congregations, leaders, traveling, hosting conferences. If you gave me what I really want to do, it would be working with young adults." I started meeting with students at Luther Seminary soon after I arrived in the Twin Cities. We started The Master's Institute a few years later, which gave more opportunities to work with young people. The ARC came a year later to connect with all ages, pastors and congregations. In 2005 Karen and I launched Communitas, a young adult meeting in our home. Seven years later it is still going strong, discipling and sending forth radical kingdom workers. Two years ago we started an inter-generational house church. And a dream of over thirty years was fulfilled August 24, 2012, when we started a young adult school called The Harvest Project. I can say two months in that it is working!

The board and staff of LR were more than understanding when we have founded ministries outside of the primary vision of Lutheran Renewal. A year ago I explained to the board that our hearts were increasingly turning to the next generation. After a year of discussion with the board and staff, and consultation with Mark Herringshaw, a former LR board member and close friend of the LR team, we started an implementation process.

From the Lutheran Renewal Staff:

We are extremely grateful for the 17 years that Paul has served as Director at Lutheran Renewal. During that time, thousands of lives have been impacted by the Holy Spirit and have come into a deeper relationship with the Lord. Paul has led LR with integrity, honor, and unwavering commitment to the lordship of Christ. He has also been a wonderful friend and partner in this part of the vineyard called "Lutheran Renewal." We are thankful for Paul's leadership, vision, friendship and humor during these years.

We affirm his new direction with Harvest Communities and we are excited to see what the Lord is going to do during this next season of his life and ministry.

Meanwhile, the leadership of Lutheran Renewal looks forward to walking with the Spirit in the days ahead. There

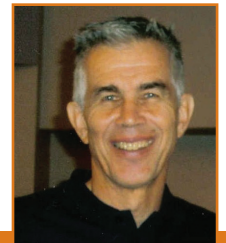
I resigned from Lutheran Renewal with deep thankfulness to God for seventeen wonderful years of ministry, effective October 1, 2012, in order to focus primary attention on raising up and releasing young people into their God-appointed destiny. Leaders in the Twin Cities who know us have said that we could hardly be more strategic.

I thank God for the four great years working with Mary Ann Herzan who was both a highly gifted administrator and prayer warrior. Eric Bluhm was on the team both full and part time for eight years. What a joy he was to work with, and our friendship continues to this day.

I had once told Dan Siemens who came to a weekly leaders' meeting, "I would sure like to work with you sometime." God made that possible, and he joined LR just one year after I had. Denise came in 1998 and has worked as the administrator since then. It has been my delight to work with Dan and Denise all these years. We worked hard—and laughed a lot. They picked up the slack with my shortcomings and made these years a real adventure.

Meanwhile, it looks like Karen and I are here to stay, with four children who have bought homes within twenty minutes of us. If we're not working with young adults or visiting congregations, we're probably spending time with our grandkids!

With gratefulness,
Paul Anderson



If you would like to find out how you can support Paul's new venture, go to one of the Harvest Communities links below, or contact Paul directly.

Paul Anderson: panderon@aol.com

Communitas - <http://www.communitasmn.com>

Harvest Project - <http://theharvestprojectmn.com>

continues to be favor on the calling of Lutheran Renewal in regards to ministry at conferences and seminars; equipping of pastors, leaders, and individuals, both nationally and internationally; congregational missions; and communication in print and online.

A transition team under the leadership of Dan Siemens is working with the LR board to plan for and pray about the future leadership structure. Dan has been the fulltime Ministry Coordinator at LR for the past 16 years.

As we all know, there has never been a greater need for the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit than there is at this time!

Thank you for walking with us during this season of transition.

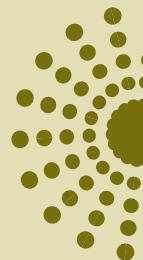
The Art of Thinking Brilliantly

Equipping Conference • February 1-2, 2013

Graham Cooke

Graham Cooke is a popular speaker around the world with a passion to empower the people of God to walk in their true identity. He is a powerful, revelatory communicator with a radiant idea of Jesus, himself and the Kingdom of God. His life and ministry are marked by his delightful, intimate, and unreserved two-way friendship with the Lord.

His new seminar, "The Art of Thinking Brilliantly" is one of his favorites. Much of the content in this seminar came as a result of lessons the Lord taught him during a severe illness. Graham has become a true friend to Lutheran Renewal and to this region, and we welcome him lovingly. See BrilliantPerspectives.com



Schedule

Friday, February 1

7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 2

9:30 a.m.

2:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Conference Cost

\$50. Deadline: January 21.

After January 21, on-site only: \$55.

The cost remains the same whether you attend one or all of the sessions. There are no free evening sessions. Check-in opens Friday at 5:30 p.m.

Conference Information

651-490-1517, ext. 13 or LutheranRenewal.org
(online registration available)

Conference Location

North Heights Lutheran Church

1700 Hwy 96 West; Arden Hills, MN 55112

Sponsoring Hotels

1. Hampton Inn - Shoreview

\$82 and \$89 plus tax

877-233-3194 • 651-482-0402

2.5 miles from conference site

2. Arden Hills Hotel

(formerly Super 8

Completely renovated)

\$64 plus tax

651-484-6557

2.5 miles from conference site

Mention *Lutheran Renewal* to receive the conference rate.

Live Streaming Unavailable

Order Conference Recordings:

Resurrection Communications

Phone: 612-269-1706 Toll-free:
888-809-0267

Website: www.ResurrectionC.com

Registration • February 1-2, 2013

- You may make copies of this form to share with others. One family per form, please.
- All sessions are open to paid registrants only. There are no free evening sessions.
- Sorry, childcare is not available.
- Confirmation letters will not be sent out after Jan. 21.
- On-site registration is welcome.

Please print.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

E-mail _____

Church _____

General Conference Payments

Received before January 21

Registration

_____ x \$50 = _____

after January 21, on-site only

On-site cost: \$55

Lunch Payments

_____ x \$8.00 = _____

Lunch tickets will not be sold on-site

Offering

Grand Total \$ _____

Payment Information

Mail payment and make checks payable to:

Lutheran Renewal

2701 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55113-2202

Sorry, no refunds.

Online Registration: www.LutheranRenewal.org

Credit card registration closes on January 21.

Sorry, but we cannot process phone or fax orders.

Confirmation letters will not be sent out after

January 21.

On-site registration is welcome.

