



**Making followers of Jesus.
Helping communities thrive.**

Community Health Evangelism (CHE)

www.CHEnetwork.org

Transforming lives and Communities through the seamless integration of evangelism, discipleship, disease prevention, and community owned development

The CHE Strategy

Community Health Evangelism (CHE) is a Christ-centered educational program that equips communities to identify issues and mobilize resources to achieve positive, sustainable change. Lives and communities are transformed as people come to Christ and work together to address local needs. CHE is being used by hundreds of Christian churches and organizations across the globe.

Community Health Evangelism (CHE) is wholistic, seamlessly integrating evangelism and discipleship with community health and development. Through CHE ministries, individuals become followers of Jesus and communities are lifted out of cycles of poverty and disease.

Different CHE models have emerged as a result of adapting the strategy to local contexts on every continent, and in every major religious and political environment. These include community based, church initiated, church based, family based, school based, clinic based, and government initiated approaches. CHE has been adapted for urban slums as well as rural villages. Among the poor in urban North America, CHE is being done under the banner of "Neighborhood Transformation". Any one of these models can be used by local churches around the world to engage with their communities.

The CHE Purpose

The purpose of CHE work is to exalt Christ in every aspect of life. We seek to be obedient to everything Christ commanded, including both the great commission and the great commandment (Matthew 28:19,20; 22:36-38) and to reflect the depth and breadth of His kingdom plan. Church planting, disease prevention, and poverty alleviation are all intended outcomes of CHE work.

Our strategy includes church planting, disease prevention, and poverty alleviation, but our purpose is much deeper. Our purpose is a transformation in lives and communities that is as deep as the human heart, and as broad as the whole range

of the human experience in the world God made. Through our work, Jesus is recognized as Lord over all creation, and our development activities bring glory to God by reflecting the depth and breadth of His Kingdom plan.

The Outcomes of CHE Work

The success of a CHE program can be measured by the following transformational indicators. ***These are the outcomes that we consistently see in mature CHE programs around the world:***

1. **Shared vision:** The community sees a better future and has hope that it can be achieved.
2. **Leadership:** Godly Christian leaders are positioned and equipped to lead the community toward the accomplishment of its vision.
3. **Ownership:** People are taking responsibility for their own health and well being.
4. **Cooperation:** People are united and working together for the common good.
5. **Volunteers:** Significant numbers of people are taking initiative and acting sacrificially to meet the legitimate needs of others.
6. **Dignity:** People have recovered their identity as made in the image of God and their vocation as stewards of creation. Instead of being controlled or victimized by their environment, they are stewards of it.
7. **Learning, Skill, and Resources:** People are equipped to identify needs and resources, put together a plan, and mobilize volunteers to accomplish their vision. People are continually reflecting on what is happening in order to learn how to be more effective.
8. **Christian Community and Witness:** Believers are meeting together for fellowship, prayer, Bible study and worship, and are sharing Christ with their neighbors in word and deed.

Once the above outcomes are achieved, we begin to see the full impact of our work. Churches are established and strengthened, health improves, and economies become more productive. Peace, justice, compassion, and righteousness are witnessed in the community and God is glorified.

Implementing a CHE Program

CHE is implemented in a series of Steps:

Step 1: Casting a Vision for Wholistic Ministry in a Country or an Area: CHE Coordinators do vision seminars with leaders from churches, missions, faith based organizations, and governments. Alliances are formed, plans made, workers recruited and funding secured.

Step 2: Equipping the CHE Team: CHE Coordinators train a team of three or four national Christians, equipping them to implement Community Health Evangelism programs in multiple communities. CHE Coordinators visit the teams they train periodically and continue to mentor and coach the teams through the course of the development process.

Step 3: Community Awareness and Organization: The CHE team works with leaders in the community to raise awareness of need and opportunity, and to unite the community with a common vision for a better quality of life. The community elects representatives to serve on a development committee.

Step 4: Training and Mobilizing Volunteers: The CHE team trains the development committee and equips these elected representatives to manage the development process in their village. Volunteers are recruited from the community and trained by the CHE team to visit homes sharing God's Word while meeting felt needs. These volunteers may teach about immunization and then escort the families to a clinic to get their children immunized, or teach about good nutrition and help the families dig kitchen gardens, or teach about the importance of clean water and help families with ways to sanitize their drinking water. An infrastructure of relationships is established through which information can flow. Changes are introduced one topic at a time.

Step 5: Capacity Building and Church Planting: The CHE team continues to mentor and coach the committee, assisting them in a continual process of identifying problems, researching solutions, finding resources, making plans, recruiting volunteers, and evaluating results. Self help groups are formed for livelihood, economic, and agricultural development. People who come to Christ are disciplined in new life groups and churches are established with a vision and plan for wholistic ministry. Church and community work together for wholistic development and the church is recognized as a transforming agent in its community.

Step 6: Multiplication: The CHE team moves to another community to repeat the process in nearby communities. The CHE team multiplies itself by equipping selected committee members and volunteers as trainers. These volunteers join with a member of the original CHE team in reaching out to a neighboring community.

CHE Curriculum

CHE training materials enable CHE workers to equip and mobilize communities to solve their own problems using local resources. The CHE curriculum is a collection of best practices from around the world condensed into simple participatory lesson plans that can be taught in the community. Lesson plans are made available in MS Word format so they can easily be adapted to the context. The latest lesson plan DVD contains more than 10,000 documents including lesson plans, stories, picture books, teaching aids, surveys, and tools for monitoring and evaluation. The material is arranged on the DVD to walk step by step through the whole CHE process.

Building Successful Ministries

There is inherently more risk involved in funding human development achieved by volunteers than in building a well with paid workers. There is also much greater reward!

Successful CHE workers understand the risks that are involved and develop strategies for mitigating those risks and ensuring success. The key is having the

flexibility to go where God is moving. Successful CHE workers don't push the rope, but respond where there is pull. This requires three things:

1. **Casting vision broadly.** Workers are always connecting with new people, facilitating dialogue, and articulating the principles of successful wholistic community based development.
2. **Selecting partners and sites carefully:** Workers know what is necessary for success and choose their involvements accordingly.
3. **Training and Capacity Building:** Once partners or communities have been chosen, workers are equipped to train, coach, and equip others.

Doing CHE successfully requires that ministers know how to cast vision, champion alliances, identify needs and resources, facilitate learning, and empower people and communities through training and capacity building. The more of these kinds of people we can mobilize, and the longer we can keep them in the field, the greater the impact.

Helping Each other Get the Job Done: The Global CHE Network

The Global CHE Network is an association of people and organizations using the CHE strategy around the world. The goal of our collaboration is to strengthen each individual ministry and expand the CHE movement. We network together to share useful ideas and best practices, encourage each other, coordinate efforts, and optimize the use of limited resources.

The network provides a large pool of resources from which all members draw. By coordinating our efforts with a determination to build up each other's ministries and expand the CHE movement, we gain access to ideas and resources. We also create new opportunities to do together what no one of us could achieve alone.

Activities of the network include:

Research and Curriculum Development: Through its network of hundreds of organizations, the Global CHE Network identifies best practices and develops materials for use by teams from collaborating organizations around the world.

Training and Leadership Development: Collaborating organizations and network coordinators conduct seminars around the globe equipping partners and staff to implement Community Health Evangelism ministries in targeted communities. Members of the network also provide CHE internships in various places around the world aimed at equipping CHE coordinators to give oversight to the work of the movement.

Collaboration and Exchange of Ideas: The Global CHE Network aims to equip as many mission organizations, churches, and non-government organizations as possible for effective wholistic ministry, and to bring them together to share resources and plan strategically for the greatest possible impact. This is achieved through alliances, working group meetings, conferences, and the CHE International Network website.

For more information about how you can join the network, go to www.chenetwork.org.