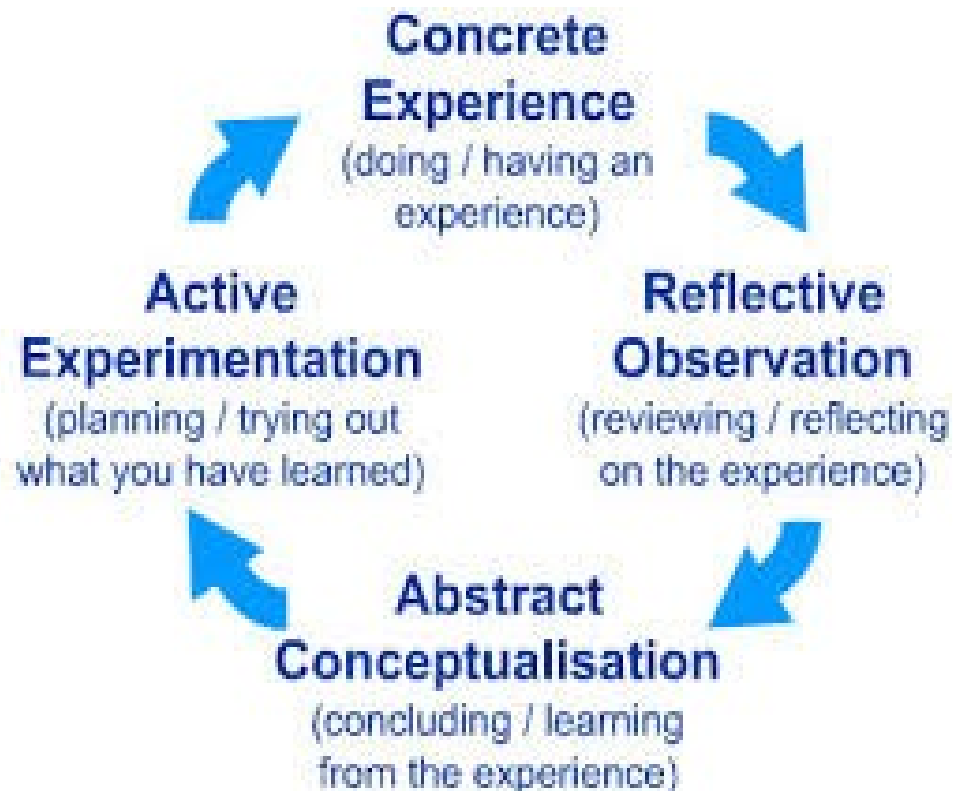# Gospel and Culture

Juba 7th May 2014

Introduction

- Mission among pastoralists:

  = challenges and disappointments will always be there

  … but there also very interesting stories of change!

- If we know the dynamics of change... we can build on them for evangelization

Introduction

- We can learn from stories of change

- If we know the dynamics of change... we can build on them for evangelization

- The process:

Concrete Experience
(doing / having an experience)

Reflective Observation
(reviewing / reflecting on the experience)

Abstract Conceptualisation
(concluding / learning from the experience)

Active Experimentation
(planning / trying out what you have learned)

Change Theory

- Evangelization requires change

- How does socio-cultural change take place?

- Three main ways:

  1. Emergent change

  2. Transformative change

  3. Projectable change

Emergent Change

- "We make our path by walking it"

- **Learning from experience** and adapting to changing situations / environment

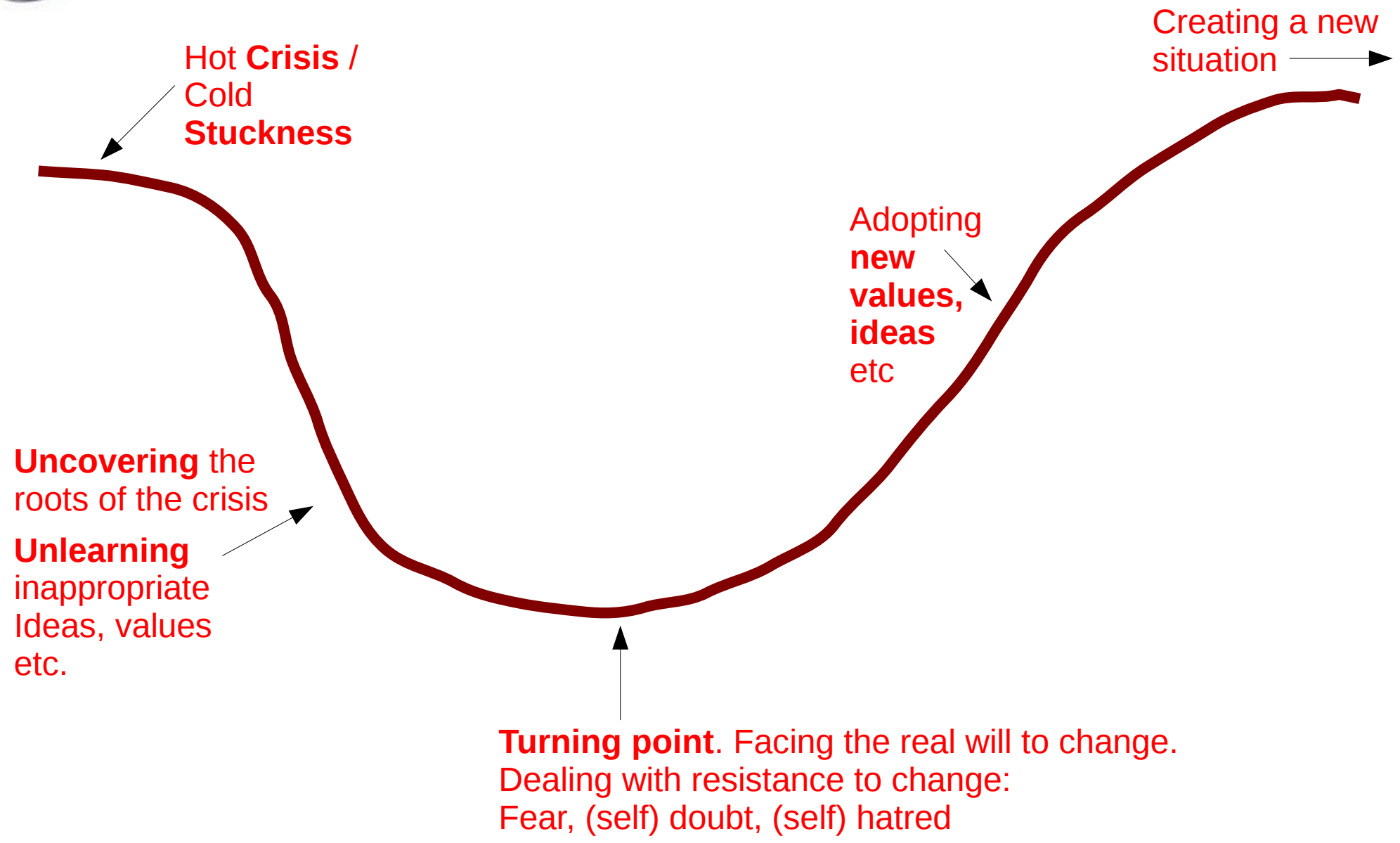- Trying to improve and enhance what we know and do

Transformative Change

- Setting: crisis or stuckness

- **Unlearning**: letting go of assumptions, identities & relationships that underpin the crisis and hold back resolution

- Adopting new values, ideas...

Transformative Change

Hot **Crisis** /
Cold
Stuckness

Creating a new
situation

Adopting
**new
values,
ideas**
etc

Uncovering the
roots of the crisis

Unlearning
inappropriate
Ideas, values
etc.

Turning point. Facing the real will to change.
Dealing with resistance to change:
Fear, (self) doubt, (self) hatred

Projectable Change

- "Working with a plan"

- Setting:
  = where problems, needs, possibilities are more visible

  = relatively stable conditions & relationsh.

- 2 Orientations:
  = problem solving
  = imaginative visioning

Scope Schedule
Resources
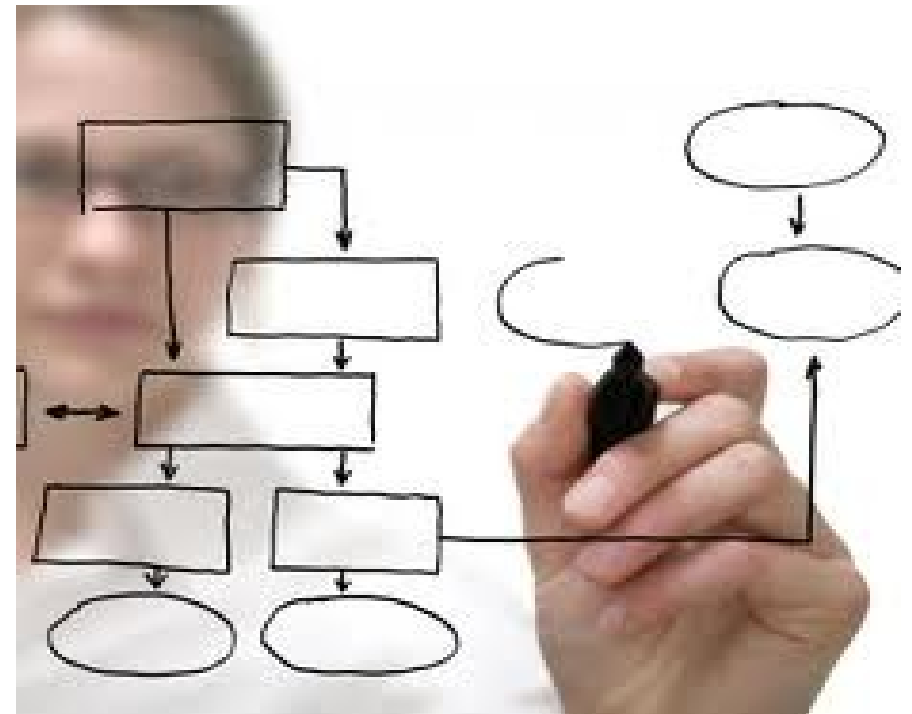
Interconnecting changes

- Very often the three types of change are interconnected

- But one aspect is generally dominant

- One form of change may pave the way for another one to succeed it

Dimensions of social change

	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL
L A N O S R E P / **O C**	**PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION** = Individual (multiple) identities = Personal mindsets = Emotions and feelings = Development of the Self	**TRANSFORMING RELATIONSHIPS** = Relational habits = Behaviour = Dialogic interaction with the social and political environment
	TRANSFORMING COLLECTIVE PATTERNS OF ACTION & THINKING = Collective id. and culture = Collect. behaviour & thinking = Shared understanding	**TRANSFORMING STRUCTURES** = Structural institutions of society (Constitutions, Laws...) = Public policies = Legal and judiciary procedures

Implications for evangelization

- **Emptgent change** ⟶ **Accompanying learning**

  = Understand what people are undergoing, their tensions, their socio-cultural context, what is happening...

  = Raise critical consciousness of emerging identities, relationships, dignity and self-confidence

  = Ask questions and bring to light what people have and can build on

  = Use appreciative inquiry, action learning, etc.
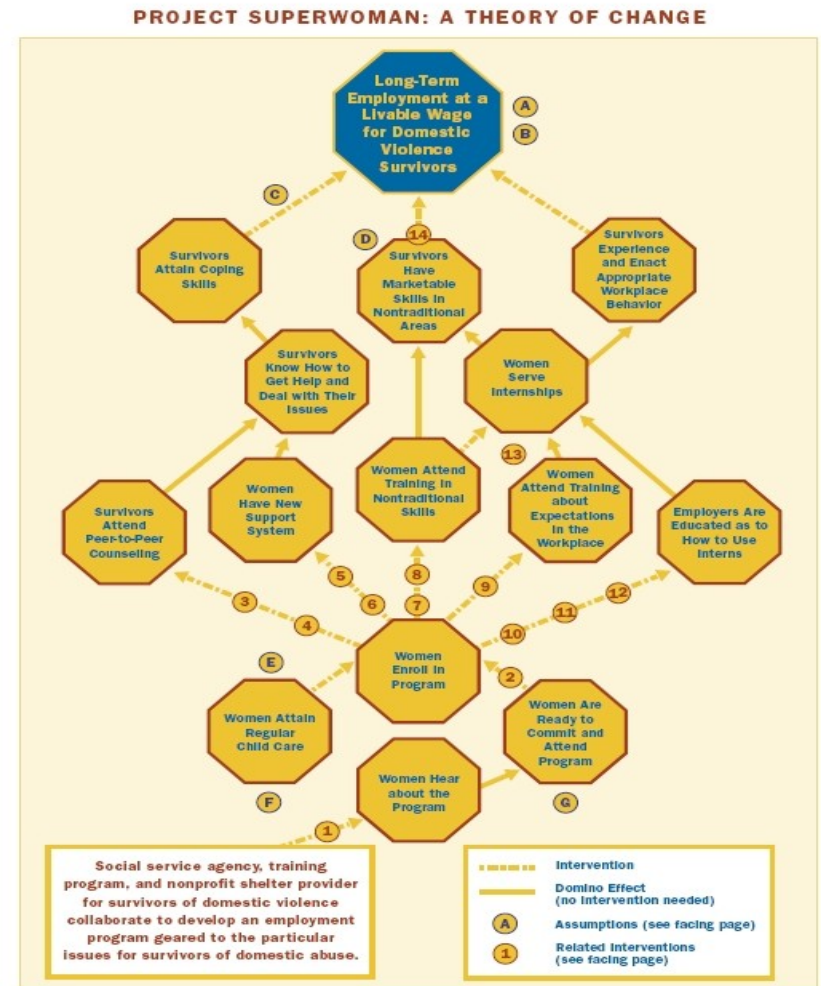
Implications for evangelization

- Transformative change ➡️ Facilitating unlearning thru the Pastoral Cycle

= Insertion: Identify stuckness / crisis

= Analysis: revealing underlying attitudes, assumptions, beliefs, and root causes of the crisis

= Th. Reflection: unlearning inadequate values, assumptions, beliefs... and embracing new identity, new relationships

= Action: planning a new situation and acting

Implications for evangelization

- **Projectable change** ➡ **Strategic vision and plan**

  = Understanding patterns and trends (social analysis)

  = Developing a vision of change

  = Identifying the preconditions of change (pathway)

  = Define strategies to achieve them

  = Plan activities to implement strategies

PROJECT SUPERWOMAN: A THEORY OF CHANGE

Implications for evangelization

TRANSFORMING SELF

= Self-reflection in context on exper.

= Reflective practice

= Recognition and mgt of multiple ID

= ID & modification of one's mindset

= Theological reflection

TRANSFORMING RELATIONSHIPS

= Multi-stakeholders encounters

= Spaces of dialogue

= Confllict resolution & transf.

= Exchange experiences

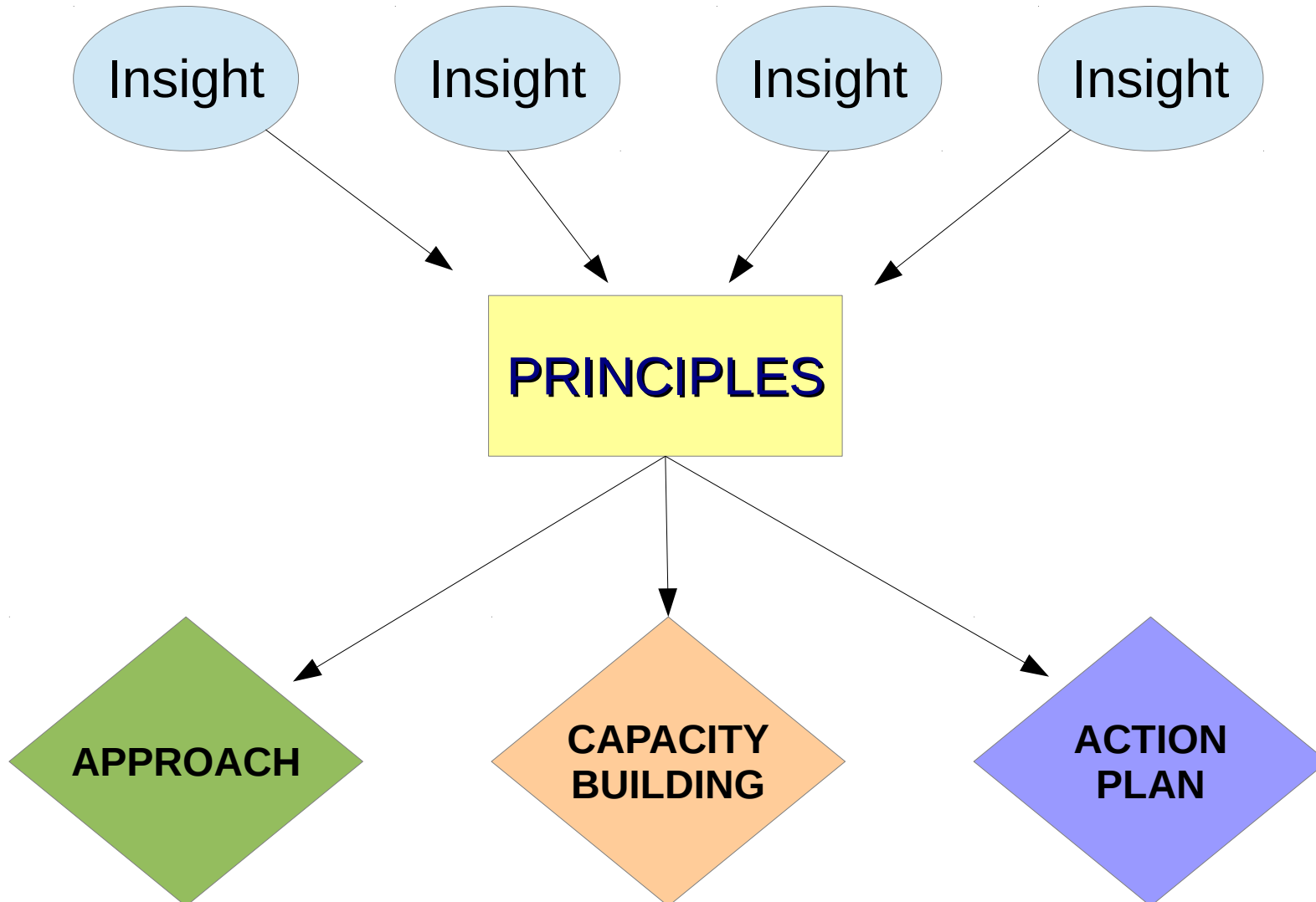= Participatory processes

TRANSFORMING CULTURAL PATTERNS

= Raising critical consciousness

= Education

= Socialization process

TRANSFORMING SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

= Advocacy

= Educational, health, econ. reforms

= Civic education

= Peace building

Grounded theory

Insight → Insight → Insight → Insight → **PRINCIPLES**

PRINCIPLES → **APPROACH** / **CAPACITY BUILDING** / **ACTION PLAN**

Emerging principles

- What are the major insights about change in relation to: Gospel and traditional values?

- What other most significant insights can you associate with these?

- Conceptualize your insights by defining up to 5 general principles to guide our ministry

Gospel & Culture

- Suggest how the principles we identified can guide a dialogue between gospel and culture for:

  = transforming self

  = transforming relationships

  = transforming cultural patterns

  = transforming social institutions

Gospel & Culture

- For each suggestion, possibly describe:

  = entry point

  = objective of intervention

  = typical activities

  = tools and resources

  = ways of reflection