



FREEDOM TO LEAD INTERNATIONAL[®]

JULY 2026

The Mission of Transformation

Recently, the *Freedom to Lead* team was meeting in person with one of our biggest South Asian partners. He was telling us about **a growing ministry of 4,000 Christian leaders in a predominantly Muslim nation** that is about the size of Iowa. Now just imagine if 165 million people lived in Iowa. **This ministry colleague has selected 12 leaders from this country to be part of a leadership development program offered by *Freedom to Lead*.** Together, we spent several hours strategizing how the influence of these 12 leaders could trickle down to the 4,000 through program transference and mentoring. No matter how many ways we could figure it, on paper it didn't feel like a realistic outcome - not without resorting to churning out numbers like a machine. If you've been around long enough, you'll know that the "machine model" we've inherited from our church culture's consumer-driven operating system goes against the kind of Christ-centered "rice field leaders" that we at FTL are trying to develop.

Ultimately, the desire of our colleague's heart is a noble one: cultural transformation in a nation that desperately needs Jesus. He recognizes that healthy leaders with a deep love for the Word of God is the way to get there. FTL's commitment to "*building leaders and changing communities*" is the reason he has chosen to partner with us.

We are together on mission to transform a nation.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

We come from a western culture that prides itself on big numbers because big numbers communicate the powerful movement of the Holy Spirit as we fight the battle against spiritual darkness. *Freedom to Lead* just did the math, and we've been working with roughly **29,600 leaders** over the years, which is a conservative estimate. **We may never know the true impact on the hundreds of thousands of churches and communities that these leaders have reached.** To God be the glory! There is nothing inherently wrong in celebrating the big numbers.

There also isn't anything wrong with having a **robust strategy of multiplication.** FTL's methodology, program, and strategy work in tandem to produce the kind of activity that is worth talking about. But we didn't start out by focusing on how to reach the thousands as quickly and as efficiently as possible by giving as many trainings as we could. **We started out by focusing on the 12.**



**Multiply your impact
by investing in a
leader today!**

freedomtolead.net/donate



Jesus' strategy to reach the entire world was to focus on the 12 because Jesus was in the business of developing people. Until the 12 were truly transformed by an encounter with the living, breathing, walking God-incarnate, nothing that followed would have mattered. Those 12 weren't just trained to lead like Jesus. Those 12 were deeply influenced from having walked with him for **years**. Jesus' mission became a deep part of their DNA, to the point that they owned the mission long after Jesus left this earth. They couldn't help but pass it on to the next generation and the generation after that.

The thousands would follow because these 12 had been transformed.

Our encouragement for our South Asia partner who is set out to transform a nation is to continue in the business of people development. The thousands will follow. At Freedom to Lead, we've witnessed God at work in this way time and time again. And if Jesus has something to teach us, what can we do for the 12?

BEHIND EVERY THRIVING CHURCH IS A LEADER WHO WAS GIVEN THE FREEDOM TO LEAD WELL. WE INVITE YOU TO BE PART OF TRANSFORMING THE NATIONS, BEGINNING WITH THE 12.

Together On Mission,

Michelle Sessoms
CEO, Freedom to Lead International®

**Learn how your investment of \$50 or \$100 per month
could transform a leader today!**

freedomtolead.net

Freedom to Lead
P.O. Box 3
Cary, NC 27512



Come Follow Us Online!

Facebook: freedomtoleadinternational

Instagram: @freedomtolead

Website: freedomtolead.net