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WINTER 2005 REPORT

SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

As I conduct teacher trainings for village school teachers and manage the building of village schools in one of the highest and most remote regions of the world, I ask myself the question, "Is there spiritual transformation taking place, or is my presence merely another secularizing influence?" I am not at liberty to openly teach my beliefs during trainings; however, over the past three years I have seen a spiritual transformation take place in my local colleague. The kind of transformation I am speaking of is not a power encounter or an over night, night-to-day difference; rather a change similar to the opening of a bud into a flower. When or how did it take place?

I was sitting on the lawn with my local colleague, Sharla*. Sharla had just switched off her cell phone after talking to her husband. She was angry: "I don't know if we will stay together much longer. I told him it's alright if we just get a divorce!" I have been married for ten years and know this particular scheme for arguing—see if he'll come groveling back to me if I threaten to leave. I knew Sharla had no intention of getting a divorce. She burst out into angry tears and asked me what I thought she should do.

*a pseudonym

