

Trends and Issues Talk February 15, 2018 605.475.6333 Code: 848671

Introduction

- The world is changing fast and the rate of change will only get faster; but not all things change at the same rate of change; how do you keep up... you cannot (unless small world)
- We learn how to filter out the noise of change that is not helping to us do better/more; but God's Word is so critical to keeping perspective on what is important and what is not!
- Following Jesus in what he has for me to do today (read: serious significant prayer each morning) is a great strategy for keeping up with what Jesus thinks I will need that day; isn't that what Jesus taught and modeled for us?!
- We do have to keep reading and being open to learning new things—setting aside time each week to do so (schedule reading time on your calendar like an appointment)—because that is part of being faithful to what Jesus called us to do as missionaries!
- Moving from a unipolar world to a multi-polar world (Fred Markert's talk at NC); Christianity grows fastest and best in a unipolar world... multipolar worlds lead to wars
- BRICS – Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (up and comers)—something to watch as the world stage is changing... there are a number of hungry-for-power leaders out there
- We read that Christianity is shrinking in the U.S.—not true! Harvard and Indiana U study by sociologists found mainline groups shrinking but independent Bible believing groups are growing like crazy, so Christianity is growing in the U.S.

Nationalization of countries and the changing attitudes of students coming from there

- Brexit, China (militarization of man-made islands in the South China Sea to extend Chinese power over neighbors), Putin (aggression in Ukraine and annexation of the area called Crimea, also in Syria), and Trump election in the U.S. are all examples
- On the domestic front, Gideon Rachman [a *Financial Times* journalist and author of *Easternization: Asia's Rise and America's Decline*] writes, this global rebalancing is marked by a trend toward heightened nationalism under strongman leaders. Examples include Indian prime minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalism, Xi Jinping's "Chinese Dream," Vladimir Putin's resurgent Russia, and, yes, "America First" under Donald Trump. Rachman says "expanding economies feed growing military budgets, enabling nations that have chafed under Western global leadership to correct what they view as the wrongs of history. The decades-long quest for interdependence that characterized the post-World War II era is now giving way to the politics of raw power." [US National security Chief said "World war is more likely than most people realize" yesterday in a congressional hearing that was televised.]
- "The question of whether and how the Americans should resist Chinese ambitions in the Asia-Pacific region is," according to Rachman, "likely to be the most critical issue in international relations in the coming decades, since it pits the world's two most powerful nations against each other." [China sees the primary obstacle to their taking their rightful place as the middle kingdom—between heaven and earth—being the United States.]
- The changes aren't just taking place "out there"; the forces redrawing the global landscape have profound influence domestically as well. What happens in Beijing or Shanghai *does* matter in Minneapolis and Chicago and Denver. [Dr. Brent Fulton]
- India kicked out 40,000 NGOs (Compassion among them) and many missionaries as the country became more focused on being Hindu nation with "no room for Christianity"

- How might this shift toward nationalism impact the local campus?
 - More students only hang out socially with members of their ethnic group
 - Less likely to buy into the multiculturalism marketed by campus deans
 - Not as interested in staying in the U.S. after graduation... so they can take their degree and go help the motherland
 - More available to being agents of their country [spying while here; *more later*]
 - Less open to relationships with Americans (students or community volunteers)
 - More argumentative and sensitive to perceived insults about their country
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- What do we do in light of these potential changes in student openness?
 - ***Prayer is the key***; God opens the hearts of who he wills to work in; the Lord will show us who he wants us to work with
 - Focus on some of the ethnic groups which are not experiencing as much renewed nationalism and who do not have the support structures that Chinese/Indians have
 - Increasingly focus on student-led ministry where we serve in the background equipping and envisioning the student leaders without as much of an up-front role (so we as Americans are not an issue seen seeking to control what students do)
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China and Chinese Students

- After the last Communist Congress this past fall, Xi Jinping's power now equals or exceeds Chairman Mao's; he consolidated all police and military power under himself
- Aggressive attempt to limit foreign (primarily Western) influences/influencers access to China—2017 new NGO law and 2018 new religion law [friend training pastors in China now emphasizes the house-church model and limits the number to 8 before the group splits off a group] [Derrah believes the Lord is increasing the rate of expansion of Christianity in China by this move away from large church groups to house churches]
- China's use of technology in people control is amazing...
 - Chinese students in U.S. universities getting a call from their parents not to believe something their professor said the previous day in class about China
 - Australian journalist gets call in hotel room 90 minutes after incident at bus stop
 - Australian professors censored about lecture material deemed critical of China by Chinese authorities or Australian book publishers pulling books about China
 - Online publishers forced to remove access to hundreds of articles available online that are critical of something in China—one caved then changed, another caved
- Use of CSSA (Chinese Student and Scholars Association) on campus plus the Confucian Study Centers (read \$s given to the university by China) on campus to spy on Chinese students and to protest university actions considered contrary to China's interests (e.g., letting the Dali Lama speak at a university in Southern California).
- WhatsApp was shut down in China; WeChat is government monitored
- Pay scales for high tech positions are now almost equal in China and the U.S., so many more Chinese students are returning home after study (mixed with the difficulty of getting H-1B visas in the U.S. now).
- Some Chinese student's parents are spending \$10K to \$1 million paid to intermediaries to get their child in the Ivy League and the most prestigious U.S. universities
- China skipped credit cards and moved the populace from a cash-society to a smart-phone payment system (at the Zhengzhou Airport this past summer we could not buy food as they did not take cash in the food court! Only WeChat Pay or Alibaba Pay!)

- How might these trends in China and among Chinese students impact the local campus?
 - Students have more money and buy the services we used to provide for them when they first arrive here
 - Students travel at each of the breaks and are less interested in trips/activities we provide
 - Students are on a proscribed path to prosperity and success and don't value what we offer to them—everything is evaluated in terms of progressing their career
 - Students have little time for other things than studies or activities provided by the campus Chinese groups or local Chinese churches
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- What do we do in light of these factors in Chinese student life?
 - *Prayer again is the key*; God opens the hearts of who he wills to work in; the Lord will show us who he wants us to work with and draw them to us
 - Because what happens on campus gets back to Chinese authorities, we may need to do more discipleship in one-on-one settings, and recognize that students who attend our events might be monitored and reported to Chinese authorities
 - Be careful of content you send on WeChat, it is monitored
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It is possible that 50% of colleges and universities will close/merge in the next 10 years

- NOT the large and prestigious institutions who have endowments
- Univ's can't raise tuition fast enough (parents/students already balking at tuition/debt)
- States pulling back public institution monies due to tight state government budgets
- Demographics: available new U.S. college student population will be flat for the next decade (will not be growing)—so much more focus on recruiting
- Schools who have grown dependent upon growing international student populations will suffer as the number of students applying will flatten out (not keep increasing); the crushing of Intensive English Programs last year with the rapid reduction of Saudi and Brazilian students is an example (UNT laid off 14 of its 20 intensive English instructors)
- Thunderbird School of Int'l Management (tops in nation) bought by Arizona State Univ
- Small Christian colleges closing in record numbers (Grace Bible College in Omaha, Southern Bible College in Alabama, and Moody Bible problems)
- Peter Drucker predicted 20 years ago that this would happen, but we're just now seeing it
- How might this trend impact local campuses, and what do we do in light of these possible changes in campuses??
 - Change is happening and we have to adapt; reassigning staff? more partnership with other organizations?
 - We will probably have to get better at recruiting international students for our events and programs; may need to adjust what we are offering students (adding business seminars like CEO Global has done or offering life coaching for success)
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Campus safety issues will make it more difficult for non-students to get on campus

- Parents are concerned about the safety of their children on your campus (shootings 1/wk)
- DCCCD was totally unprepared for the shooter situation July 2016 that took the lives of 5 police officers and wounded 7 more; it shut down the college for weeks afterward
- Many times an ID is required to get into the exercise workout facility or library on campus now, but they are great place to meet students

- One university in Georgia is using facial recognition scanners in place of student IDs to get into buildings; is the day coming where we cannot get on campus or into the student union without a student or administrative ID; if your university issues non-student IDs to campus community volunteers you should get one!
- Consider signing up for one non-degree class per semester so you can get access to the university email and student campus organizations; the expense would be reimbursable
- Private schools have more ability to keep people off of the campus than public schools, but expect to see new and much more restrictive requirements on who can be on campus and enter buildings even at state universities
- How might this trend impact local campuses, and what do we do in light of these possible changes in campuses??
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Funding

- Unclear on the impact of the new tax law on charitable giving. I have seen estimates from making little difference to catastrophic. I go next week to the ECFA Seminar here on it
- Keeping relationships fresh will be critical—always has been *but more critical now*
 - Phone calls, prayer letters, emails, thank-you notes, text messages, etc.
 - What is your personal visitation schedule to see donors face-to-face?
 - Can you call one donor each day? One thank-you note (while watching the news)?
- Easier to move an existing minor donor to major donor than a non-donor to a donor
- How much fundraising do you expect to do for additional younger staff at your locale?
 - Post-college student debt averages \$20,000 now
 - Millennials struggle to have enough contacts to raise funding from by themselves
 - Developing a city fund and raising funding for that may be critical for your ministry future... **IF** you want to see the local ministry grow in number of staff
- How might this trend impact local campuses, and what do we do in light of these possible changes in campuses??
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Odds and ends

- “If you're not offering customer-centric, fluid, cross-platform experiences for your customers, you are sure to lose.” Expectations by students and your volunteers are rising in terms of your service management practices and skills. Expectations of easy access to you (by phone) and action on your part to help with whatever the need was are rising
- The baby boomers are retiring in massive numbers, they have money, skills, and time; they still want to change the world... but they are more careful who they partner with
- Learn life coaching skills and teach them to all of your team—both for student outreach and for returnee follow-up. This is very practical help everyone needs. Life coaching is the art of asking questions which affirm and motivate people to action. It also teaches them how to work more efficiently and effectively. [Life coaching is different from mentoring or counseling.]
- All of your communications should be optimized for smart phones—websites, blogs, group texting, etc.—because more and more of life will happen on our phones
- I chose not to get into tech trends as that will be a focus at NC2018
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