

CONNECTING TO CHINESE STUDENTS

Missions in China:

- Back to Jerusalem is the goal of the Chinese church to evangelize the unreached peoples from eastern provinces of China, westwards towards Jerusalem, they believe this is their integral role in fulfilling the Great Commission
- According to Opendoors, almost 1/3 of the international students in the U.S. are from China, and over 80% of them will return to China

A Unique Time to Share the Gospel with Chinese Students:

- China is growing economically and sending a lot of students to the U.S.
- After the communist party came to power, a lot of religions have been taken down, atheism has created a spiritual void in Chinese people's hearts
- The current social situation in China has also created a thirst in people's hearts

Three Distinctly Different Generations of Chinese

- Chinese born before 1980 (Pre-80s)
 - Conservative, not very open to the Gospel, they struggle with God's creation
 - They are pursuing success and the meaning of life, they are a generation in need of healing
 - Social justice is a good topic to touch their hearts, showing hospitality can be a good way to start a relationship with them, processing rationally about faith is very important to them
- Chinese born after 1980 and before 1990 (Post-80s)
 - More open-minded, faith situation is more diverse, but a lot of them are skeptical about communism and are still atheists
 - Due to the One-child policy students are more spoiled and self-centered, but also highly competitive under the pressure of their parents
 - More relational, so ministering to them can start with friendships and showing love, they are pursuing their identity and the meaning of life so talking about meaningful and deep issues is a good bridge to the gospel
- Chinese born after 1990 (Post-90s)
 - Most international students are in this category
 - Grew up in a thriving economy, they are high tech, open-minded, carefree, artistic, adventurous and relational, postmodernism has affected them a lot
 - Many are from broken families, have workaholic parents, and are raised by their grandparents
 - Faith wise, they are more diverse: they can be an atheist, agnostic, theistic or seek after mystical things, like horoscopes, fortune telling, etc.
 - They are a generation desperate for love and sincere relationships, so being sincere and their friends first is important
 - There are different ways to reach out to them: all kinds of activities, host families, music, arts and other creative activities, the use of media and the Internet is important

A Few Things to Remember:

- Be sensitive to: Chinese indirect communication, Shame/Honor culture, and their family
 - With the background of idol worship and atheism, they need healing and deliverance
 - Prepare them to go back home when you start to minister to them, help them to read and pray in their own languages and help them to find a Chinese church
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