



Newsletter #2

Relevant findings of the Pew Research Center for our Summit this summer

Many of you will be familiar with the Pew Research Center which studies the intersection of religion and public policy. Two recent studies are particularly appropriate for our consultations this summer: a survey of religious hostilities around the world and an analysis of global Christianity. Each is instructive for us and a link to the full study is provided.

The study on religious hostilities indicates very sobering tendencies. Such as, the number of countries with religion-related terrorist violence has doubled over the last six years. The most common region for sectarian violence is the Middle East and North Africa. Perhaps most telling is the fact that almost three-quarters of the world's population lives where the overall levels of religious restrictions or hostilities are high. This study is very extensive with charts and graphs and may be found at:

<http://www.pewforum.org/2014/01/14/religious-hostilities-reach-six-year-high/>

Pew has also done a comprehensive demographic study of 200 countries which concludes that no single continent or region can indisputably claim to be the center of global Christianity. Also while Christians make up about a third of the world's population, as they did a century ago, the regional distribution of that population has changed dramatically. Again the full report contains many interactive maps and data tables for closer scrutiny. It can be located at:

<http://www.pewforum.org/2011/12/19/global-christianity-exec/>

These reports and others we will receive at the Summit indicate the immensity and circumstances of what we confront as we seek to transform our world by the end of the decade.

Report from China by Pastor Ezra Jin: "A Call to Change China"

Can the Church become the hope of Chinese society and be a source of power in transforming it? Prestigious scholar, Professor Peng Liu, has made penetrating comments on the current status and crises in Chinese society: "(It is a time in which) the economy is unprecedentedly prosperous, the environment is unprecedentedly deteriorated, the mind is unprecedentedly poor, the ideologies are unprecedentedly chaotic, the belief is unprecedentedly in a vacuum, and the morality is unprecedentedly depraved. Particularly, the crises of belief and morality permeate every corner of Chinese society. The consequences of these crises affect every Chinese and every layer of his or her life. " After systematically studying and analyzing different religions and ideologies in the context of China today, he points out that "so far in terms

of the capacity and effectiveness in solving these crises, presently no other religion or ideology can do better than Christianity in China”. Indeed, this is exactly why Jesus is building his Church in this world - -“you are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden”. (Matt 5:14)

“Mission as transformation,” as proposed by Dr. Luis Bush, is based on the Bible and fits the context of China today. The Gospel is to save the souls and build up the Church, but it is also to transform every part of the society. The Chinese church will send delegates to the symposium that will be held in Geneva in June 2014. We also plan to hold a sizable convention in March 2015 to discuss how we should engage the crises in ideologies, educations, wealth and poverty, social justice and missions. We want to actively transform the society with the Gospel. As our Lord Jesus said, “the kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough”. (Matt 13:33)

Reminder regarding registration and payment for our Leadership Summit 2014

The registration and payment deadline has been extended to 30 March 2014. For your convenience, we have set up online payment and are able to receive credit card payment.

To make payment by credit card, please click:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/global-leadership-summit-2014-of-transform-world-2020-registration-tickets-5184005500>

Our next newsletter for the Summit will include progress reports on some of our Challenges