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Class: Global Engagement

Adopt a country

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Date: 02/27/2020

In preparation for this assignment, there were some struggles finding a country that I wanted to adopt. After carefully looking through the news and other various worldwide news sites; China came to mind. In the past few months China has been at the forefront of the news. Is this paper about the coronavirus? Not entirely, but it is a major world changing event occurring there now. Thinking back from previous classes, it baffled me that China is responsible for a lot of everyday items we use in American and all over the world. From the inventions of gunpowder, the compass, toilet paper, etc. China has been one of few countries who have made an impact in the world (positive or negative). According to (www.history.com/topics/china/china-timeline) “ 1050-1600 B.C. - The Shang dynasty was the earliest ruling dynasty of China to be established in recorded history, the Shang was headed by a tribal chief named Tan. The Shang era is marked by intellectual advances in astronomy and math.”

China is considered to be a country that is looked at as “great” for how diverse they are with allowing the freedom to express and freely choose their religious beliefs. There are many religions in China but, according to (www.china-embassy.org); there are 5 that are the most popular/dominant. The five religions include Buddhism (being the most dominant religion), Taoism, Islam, Catholicism, and Protestantism. I’m sure there are some that may disagree with the statement “China allowing the freedom of religion”. Christians have been persecuted in China just for wanting to be Christians. Christians are hiding and having churches underground just so they can practice Christianity. In my opinion to the above facts, I would argue that, if Christians were allowed to practice freely in China, maybe Christianity will in fact be the more dominant religion.

According to (<https://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/nationality/>) China is composed of 56 ethnic groups. “91.59% makes up the population of people who are from China; the remaining 8.41% consist of minorities/people that are not originally from china”. In the beginning China was not very receptive to outsiders. Throughout the years and with the change of leadership, China opened up their country to various ethnic groups and even shared their lands/properties with them.

The most current and active event taking place in China would be the corona virus. According to (www.theguardian.com/worldchina) this virus originated in animals. People who worked with live poultry are the ones who contracted the virus first. The WHO has declared the outbreak to be a public health emergency of international concern. The main reason why I picked China for this assignment, their current struggle can be felt across the globe. We must pray for their well being because China has been a major part of shaping this world’s technology society. It has been said plenty of times to me, “why are we concerned with this event if it doesn’t affect us”? It affects the entire world tremendously. Some countries rely heavily on trading with China but, because of this tragic event all trade from China has stopped until further notice. As of 03/02/2020, has received their first case on the corona virus, according to (Nygovecuomo). This has now reached a worldwide panic and is affecting lives across the world. A lot of people are panicking and afraid of the outcome.

After adopting this country, I realized that I should not only pray for American but, I should expand my horizons I prayer and pray for other’s as well. You may ask, “What will you pray for?”

1. **The Corona virus:** I would be wrong for me to say that this is just for China. When the corona virus first surfaced, it seemed to be a joke at first to some people. What seem to not affect us as a society, we seem ignore it. Now that this as reached the U.S and now in some of our cities, we want to panic. Why panic when we can pray? I pray now in Jesus name that what is meant for our evil, that Jesus turns it around for our good. "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."
~ **Isaiah 41:10**
2. **Christians:** According to (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019>), "Authorities in China are closing churches, jailing pastors and even rewriting scriptures". Christians are being forced to hide and have underground Churches to avoid being jailed or even killed. According to (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019>) "The government has orchestrated a campaign to turn Christianity into a fully domesticated religion". A Prayer of strength for the Christians in China is crucial. If I can recall correctly, there was a video we watched in class that was about Christians being persecuted in China. In the video it showed the preaching telling the people about another country where Christians were being slaughtered. The most that I appreciated about this part of the video is when they heard about this, they went out and began to pray for that country. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is **greater** than the one who is in the world. ~ **1 John 4:4**. Also, according to (<https://asiaharvest.org/>) "* Christian activity in China has been strictly monitored, due to the presence of tens of millions of facial- recognition cameras that have sprung up in every city and town, and now even in villages. The data from these cameras is

- fed into a massive computer network around the clock. Using 'artificial intelligence', alerts are sent to the police if the computers detect any suspicious activity, such as a group of Christians gathering at a location for worship or Bible study.
3. **The government:** After reading and seeing what is being done to Christians in China, that's enough for me to say that we need to pray that a change would take place. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders". ~ **Isaiah 9:6**. My opinion on this is that, we have to place the government back onto the shoulders of Jesus Christ. We can't change the government, on her can. Last year the **government announced new laws** designed to punish "illegal religion".
 4. **The economy:** It's no doubt that China economy has slowdown much more as new challenges arise. According to (<https://www.nytimes.com/>) "China's economic slowdown worsened in the July-to-September period, according to data released on Friday, as the trade war with the United States and a host of other problems leave Beijing struggling to meet its goals".
 5. **Freedom:** "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery". ~ **Galatians 5:1** It is important to me that we pray for freedom in China. It is the soul intention of Jesus Christ that we live in freedom and liberty. Some of us who call ourselves "Christians" have a hard time now worshipping God without persecution; imagine what they are going through everyday of their lives just to pray. They aren't even allowed to meet in public without the government seeking them out Via facial recognition cameras and

jailing them. America is built on liberty and some Christians won't open their mouth outside of church to speak to someone about Jesus.

There is no way as a Christian that I could turn my back on China. This country is responsible for a lot of the resources in this world today. What can I do to make a global impact in China? Pray. Get together with other Christian believers and pray for healing in China and across the world. Jesus never shied away from people because they were sick, in fact he went and touched them and they were healed. As a Christian believer, I desire to walk in this same power. I have heard from some people "China deserves this, good for them, God is punishing them." Etc. But. We should be taking these issues to God in prayer. After reading this paper I hope that your eyes were opened up. We should not only think about ourselves in prayer, we should think about others as well. People around the world are faced with challenges everyday just for wanting to serve Jesus Christ. They are spied on, jailed, tortured and even killed for it. How many can say, they will be jailed for serving Jesus? It's a hard decision to make. The Christians in have made their decision to serve Jesus even if it means their life. May seem crazy to some people but, when your face with that situation you really can't say it's crazy. "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" ~ **Romans 8:38-39**

