

Interaction Paper - Rynkiewich Chapter 11 “Migration, Diaspora, and Transnationalism”

This chapter discussed the topics of migration, diaspora, and transnationalism, which all related to the people moving to a new country or to the city. Creolization is a term referring to the process by which elements of different cultures are blended to create a new culture. Such as assimilation, acculturation, culture-loss, culture mixing, the process is not culture destruction or loss, but culture-building. A diaspora community is composed of people who have migrated from their homeland and settled in a new place, who have taken the time and trouble to form a separate community there, and who still maintain connections with the homeland. Their second generation learns a combination or a hybrid culture. The third generation becomes more fully identified with the new setting, but they often return, in story or in fact, to the old setting to recapture the cultural symbols for their identity. The aspects of technology and economy might be adapted quickly, politics and social relations slower, and religion and worldview slowest.

My parents are migrants who moved from mainland China to Taiwan before they are married. After a 40 years period they lived in Taiwan, some Taiwanese treated them as outsiders, because they do not speak Taiwanese. Then we immigrated to the U.S., however, we are still treated as a minority group here. From skin color, language spoken, people will have bias on your ethnic identity. It is a long process to get used to a new culture and to get along with your neighbors.

Two questions for further engaging this topic: 1. How can church ministry be done properly while the community is constantly changing? 2. How is faith maintained as people shift environments?