Eight Amazing Days in Asia

Written by Dr. Gary Tuck, Professor of Biblical Studies

We have been privileged, especially in the last 20-ish years, to travel to a number of places around the world. We spent 28 days backpacking around Europe … not in our 20’s or even our 30’s. We have been to Israel and other places where the apostles evangelized: Greece, Turkey, Italy. We spent a week in South America, including three days in a rough ‘resort’ on the Amazon and three weeks in New Zealand and Australia. We traveled coast-to-coast across Canada and have set foot in all 50 states.

So eight years ago my wife, Lynne, planned a trip to Tokyo and Beijing … which we finally took this past May. We spent three days in Tokyo, one day in Hong Kong, and four days in Beijing.

We had great weather the entire time, made all of our connections, saw everything we had put on our itinerary, enjoyed good health, and not once did we gag on the food! That’s the part I was most worried about.

One of the best parts of the trip was being with several missionaries on their turf: three in Tokyo, one in Hong Kong, and one in Beijing. (Shhh! They are actually English teachers. Wink.)

What a contrast between Japan and China! Boy, have they gone different directions since World War II. Japan was our enemy and China’s enemy. Japan became a free-market economic powerhouse, very friendly to the US; China became an undeclared enemy of the US, an atheist state, slaughtering its own people by the millions. So where do you think the Gospel found fertile soil?

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That was one of the amazing things I ‘knew’ before we went, but which somehow hadn’t hit me. Japan is open to missionaries and has freedom of religion. But the entire nation is almost impenetrable to the Gospel. China is officially atheist and brazenly persecutes Christians to this day, and occasionally, almost randomly. Christianity is expanding as fast there as almost anywhere in the world.

Missionaries in Japan work openly, but have had to devise extraordinarily creative strategies, as traditional evangelism and church planting have almost completely dried up. Still, the numeric results are miniscule. On the other hand, the only creativity Christians in China have had to devise are ways to sneak around to meet in groups. The Gospel gets out, people respond and the Church grows and grows.

Ken and Bola Taylor hosted us in Tokyo. Ken graduated from Western Seminary in Los Gatos about 15 years ago. I had had him in a number of classes. Now God has been doing some amazing things through them. They had been nightclub musicians in the Philippines before coming to the States around 1990. Here they became Christians, came to Western Seminary, graduated, then answered God’s call to go to Tokyo!

What is their creative ministry? Music, of course. But not like any ‘music ministry’ you ever saw. They generate choirs—about 50 now across the greater Tokyo area—to which the non-christian Japanese flock. (And they pay for the privilege of participating.) He teaches them to sing ‘American Black Gospel’, and twice a year they get all the choirs together for concerts attended by thousands. At every weekly 2-hour choir rehearsal the pastor of the local sponsoring church gives a devotional and leads in prayer. Every year there are a few converts.

Mark and Mary Esther Penner work with deaf Japanese. Their work is creating a translation of the Bible in Japanese sign language! That’s amazing. What’s the point? (After all, how many deaf Japanese are there? And how many already know how to read the Bible in Japanese?) The point is, that’s what God called them to do! They are reaching a few of God’s chosen ones.

John Gibbs is from the Silicon Valley, a Stanford grad, formerly a high powered

“something” in Apple. For some quirky reason he also studied Japanese. Then God brought him to Tokyo … and now he is writing Bible ‘Apps’ in Japanese. Seriously!

Ray Zimmerman (not his real name) was the Hebrew and Old Testament professor at Western Seminary. Yes, he was Steve’s (Korch) and Judi’s (Needham-Penrose) and my colleague, Carrie’s (Priest) and Dan’s (Ruiz) and Dan’s (Jackowitz) and Jeff’s (Mammen) Old Testament professor. God took him and wife, Laura (not her real name), to Singapore where he taught at Singapore Bible College and Seminary, and now for the last two years to Hong Kong, where he teaches a little bit. Mostly, he uses Hong Kong as a base for going to various secret groups in secret locations within a few hours of travel, mostly teaching pastors.

Then there are John and Mary (not their real names), friends of ours for many years in California churches, retired after 40-ish years of pastoring, teaching English to graduate students in a state university in Beijing. We met and lunched with some of their students who are new Christians. (Get it?)

Our God is amazing. He does His work without consulting our strategy braintrusts!
ALL CREDIT STUDENTS CHECK IN BY SEPT. 8!

Please note that all credit students will need to check in that they have read all of the syllabi for the classes they are registered for by September 8, the end of the first week of the fall semester. See course syllabi for instructions on who to report to.

ADDING AND DROPPING CLASSES - FALL 2012

The add deadlines for the fall semester have passed (except for registration for Distance Education session C courses by October 15), so any adds for credit courses will need to be made by academic petition. In regard to dropping classes and the refund schedule, please be aware that even if your class doesn’t meet the first week of the semester, every fall campus course technically begins September 4th and the drop deadlines and refund schedules apply accordingly. This is different than in past semesters, so if you have any questions, please contact Carrie Priest.

THE WIRE: BULLETIN BOARD FOR STUDENTS

In order to encourage student communication, Western has created the Wire, where students can post updates on coming events.

DISCOVER HOW TO HELP PEOPLE BECOME ALL GOD INTENDED

- thriving in life
- ready to take action
- awareness gained
- new vision
- strengths utilized more effectively
- faith in what God can do through us
- openness to new ideas, change, and growth
- results that are lasting and effective
- moving forward with maximized potential
- expanding the horizon of possibilities
- different from the inside out

DISCOVER COACHING

Wednesday, September 5
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

A free Western Seminary event.
Locaton: Western Seminary San Jose
469 El Camino Real, Ste. 205, Santa Clara 95050

PLEASE RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 3
with Lisa Mueller at mueller@westernseminary.edu
or (408) 356-6889 x 415

More info at http://westerncoaching.com

AMAZON DISCOUNTS FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

Did you know that Amazon gives discounts for eligible students? Generally, a .edu e-mail address is required, however you may be eligible if you’re able to provide proof of enrollment in at least one course at a college or university located in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia. You may be eligible to enroll in Amazon Student through this alternative process.

To provide proof of enrollment, please send an e-mail to amazon-student-verification@amazon.com from the e-mail address associated with your Amazon.com account. In the message, include one of the following:

- A scan of your student ID displaying the current term or an expiration date; just a
**GIVING TO WESTERN AT NO COST TO YOU!**
If you would like to help support the training mission of Western Seminary, please use the Amazon search link/widget beneath the Western Wave icon on the [Current Student page](#) to order your books and other products from Amazon.com. As an Amazon Associate, the Western Seminary system in Oregon and California benefits from each qualifying purchase - and all at no cost to you!

**INTERESTED IN A BOOK EXCHANGE?**
A current student developed a system for students (and alums) to exchange and sell used school books. If interested, check out the WIRE message board at the San Jose campus, which is located in the front lobby near the kitchen entrance.

**PERSPECTIVES CLASSES FOR SPRING 2013**
The planning for the Perspectives classes for spring 2013 is already in the works. The information won’t be up on the Perspectives website for awhile, but here is a head’s up. The Perspectives courses will be held at the Community Christian Church in Morgan Hill on Sunday evenings, beginning January 13, and one at Maranatha Christian Center in San Jose, beginning January 14. They may also have Tuesday classes at a Japanese church in San Lorenzo. For info about Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, please go to [www.perspectives.org](http://www.perspectives.org). Perspectives can count for graduate credit. For any questions, contact Carrie Priest.

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**CAMPUS NEWS (continued)**

Student ID number is not valid
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* A tuition bill for the current term with your name and your school’s name on it

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* Your major

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**An informational event for those who long to advance the gospel as**

**AUTHORS.**
**LIFE COACHES.**
**PASTORS.**
**SERVANTS.**
**THERAPISTS.**
**CHAPLAINS.**

**September 15**
- MFT Specific
**September 29**
- Ministry Specific
**October 13**
- Ministry & MFT

**SAN JOSE CAMPUS**
**11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

[REGISTER NOW](#)
DEVELOPING & DELIVERING
LIFE-CHANGING MESSAGES
(for women only)
Registration has already started!

Course code: PCW 515S
Meets on: October 5 & 6 and November 16 & 17
Time: 9am - 4:30pm
Credit hours: 2
Professor: Dr. Phyllis Bennett
Location: Western Seminary San Jose

If you’re a woman with a dream to speak to women, in particular, to teach them the Word of God, then PCW 515S is for YOU!

Come discover the essential elements needed to prepare and deliver biblically sound, relevant, and life-transforming messages for today’s women.
In this class you will:

➢ Discover one’s God-given uniqueness and its impact on the speaking arena.
➢ Understand the diversity of needs in one’s listening audience, particularly among women and how to meet them.
➢ Acquire exegetical and expository preaching skills needed for creating biblically sound messages.
➢ Locate and/or create life-transforming, strategically-placed illustrations by being alert to life.
➢ Learn to deliver messages with a clear and reachable purpose in a natural and effective manner.

APPLICATION DEADLINE
For audit (Use the Non-credit application) ..........Friday, September 28, 2012
Go to www.westernseminary.edu and “How to Apply” to download the application.
If you are a current student in a degree program, it’s not too late to register through S.I.S.
The fall application deadline has passed. New students will only be able to audit this course.