

CHINA RESOURCE JOURNAL

Analysis of Current Trends in China



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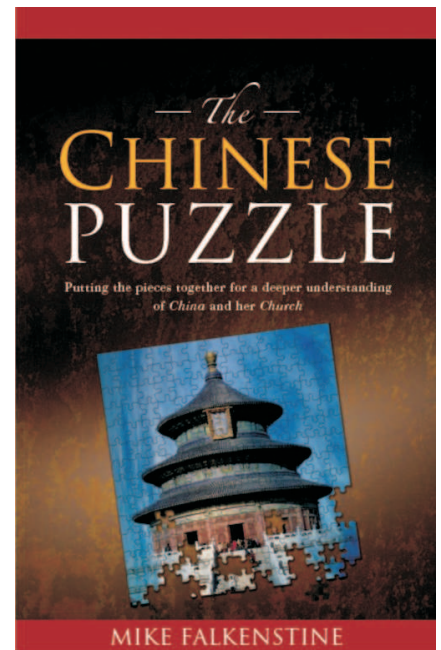
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THE RELEASE OF THE CHINESE PUZZLE!

After years of research and months of writing, Mike Falkenstine, our President and Founder has just released his first published book on China and her Church. His hope in writing the book is to give the Western church a more complete picture of China, her people and her Church. It is when we have a better picture that more effective ministry flows from the West to China. Here is a brief description of the book from Mike himself:

After many long months of writing and rewriting, my first book on China and her Church is now available through online retailers and from our office. In writing this book, I hope to give many people more pieces to the puzzle so that they may deepen their understanding of China and thereby Christianity in China. This may sound unusual, but a lot of my motivation for writing the book came from my conversations with people who clearly did not have the background information needed to understand modern day China. I have a deep heart to help the Western church understand China and her Church. As I'm sure you are already aware, China is experiencing some monumental, head-spinning changes, and even the most discerning China analyst may find it daunting to keep up. Information flows from multiple sources, and much of it seems contradictory; this doesn't facilitate our understanding of China and her church. There are also some in the West who pose as 'China Experts,' even though they haven't been to China in many years, they don't speak the Chinese language, and they are therefore functioning with old paradigms which foster old stereotypes of China. With many more pieces to the puzzle, I believe the Western church is able to pray more effectively for China, engage with what God is doing there, and see China from a much more balanced perspective. As we finish the first decade of the 21st century, the situation in China is ripe for increased Western engagement based on mutual understanding, and I hope this book serves as a catalyst to strengthen and deepen that understanding.



Chapter-By-Chapter Synopsis

I will attempt to clarify perceptions of China and her church in 7 Chapters. I've tried to keep this book short enough that one could read it on a North America to China flight, but long enough to cover the main points. By the time you get off the plane, you will have finished the book and will be ready to engage with China. In Chapter 1, we look at the history of Christianity in China and China's missionary past as a way not only to learn about the missionary effort in nineteenth century China, but I think there are very valuable lessons we can learn from this history as we engage in China today. It was the novelist George Santayana who in 1905 wrote, "Those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it."

In Chapter 2, we will look at the current trends that are changing China literally from the inside out. These changes and developments are important for our understanding of China. This may be a surprising chapter for many of you as you learn of some of the main groundbreaking efforts being undertaken in China.

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The Chinese people, as many of you know, have different social and moral standards than we do in the West and if we want to understand China, we need to understand how the Chinese differ in relationship building and social standards. In Chapter 3, we will also look at the Chinese view on legality and the Rule of Law.

Chapter 4 examines what I call the 'Persecution Myth,' the myth that Christians in China continue to be consistently persecuted for their faith in Christ. It is a myth because persecution is not happening as much as we may think and we in the West need to change our paradigm. It is widely known among those Westerners living in China and those working with the Chinese church that persecution is no longer the main story of the Church in China. We will also look at why the myth continues to persist and the organizations who don't want the myth to be killed.

For all Westerners who want to actively be involved in what God is doing in China, Chapter 5 will become your guidebook for involvement in China. New opportunities to work with transparency in China, a new 'industry standard' of engagement in China and a practical guide for getting started in China are all yours for the taking in this Chapter.

One of the other keys to our understanding of modern-day China is seeing China and life through the eyes of the Chinese themselves. With my work in the China Resource center, I'm talking to many Americans about China as I speak on China and her church. It's clear to me through these conversations that people's thoughts and perceptions about the lives of today's Chinese are inaccurate. In painting with very broad strokes, I hope in Chapter 6 to present useful information to clarify the overall picture of how the Chinese themselves view their government, life and democracy. My guess is that some of my findings will surprise you.

As you will find out through the pages of this book, I have been working with Chinese and in China for 20 years. In Chapter 7, I'll give you an overview of my work in China and introduce you to the work of the China Resource Center. I believe we have a great mission and I'm excited to be involved.

I must also note the two Appendixes, because I think they will be of great use to many of you. In Appendix A, I detail an effort I'm launching to bring you, the reader, into the fray of putting the pieces of The Chinese Puzzle together. I'm launching a blog (<http://chinesepuzzlebook.blogspot.com/>) that will give you the opportunity to give me feedback on the book and read additional comments from me about the book. I look forward to reading your input soon! Appendix B is the full text of the Ethical Foundations for China Service, which was created by a number of China ministry leaders as we came together at Fuller Seminary in June 2006 as a way to not only give us a standard by which to use in China, but also as a guide for other China-interested organizations and individuals. It is our hope that you may take the Foundations into your own organization and use it as a discussion starter and a point of dialogue about most effective practices in China.

The book is now available on Amazon.com or for those in the Denver area, you can come by our offices and pick up copies. This is great book for anyone interested in China or for those travelling to China. It is also a good book for either individual or group study. I'm looking forward to hearing from you all as you read The Chinese Puzzle!

In The Next Issue: Analysis of recent persecution stories in China

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We exist to serve the rapid growth and development of the Church in China, thereby equipping Chinese Christians to grow in their walk with Christ and effectively reach China for Christ.

For more information about CRC, ways you can partner with us, or to inquire about our speaking schedule, please contact us at 303-332-8884 or Mike@ChinaResourceCenter.org

