

Wednesday, April 2

Psalm 25:6-10

God leads the humble

“A Teachable Spirit” Richard Osmer wrote the book by this title nearly two decades ago, citing a line from John Calvin as his prompt. It has hung with me as an apt description of who we are and what I seek to be in every situation. To be open, to be receptive, to be listening, to be aware is certainly the beginning. But it reaches further in being willing to change, take a different stance, adopt a new posture, behave a different way. My longstanding definition of ‘to learn’ is ‘to behave differently.’ Without a change in behavior, there is no learning.

It was about the same time that Peter Senge popularized the concept of ‘the learning organization’ building on the work of Donald Schon and Chris Argyris. Nowadays you can find theories, consultants, pamphlets, programs to turn yours into a learning organization.

Which being interpreted means, “God guides the humble.”

Recently the South China Morning Post (a Hong Kong newspaper) interviewed Yi Jun, a young student leader at Peking University. His conversion to Christianity is obvious in his changed behavior as he: rides 2 miles on his bike to get to a 5:30am prayer meeting, leads 3 different Bible studies (each 2-3 hours long) every week, uses one afternoon to get ready for a prayer meeting and more time to preach every Sunday.

Yi is serious about growing in the faith – and it’s not easy. He went to a Taoist temple for good luck on his grad exam and “God taught me a hard lesson; he cut exactly one point off my total score...and I failed to get enrolled. I deserved this harsh punishment.”

This student leader connects Christianity and the rise China’s economy: “The booming economy, in God’s eyes, is only an engine to propel the gospel.” Do we realize that the fastest-growing missionary work comes not from ‘the West’ but from financially-exploding South Korea? (The story of Yi Jun comes from Christian Century, April 8, 2008 issue, page 13, by Jason Byassee)

Yi is not only a Christian. He is a member of the Communist Party and is considering an entry into politics, wondering “if it is God’s will that I enter government to push forward China’s Christianizing process.” Gee, God, can I understand this? Can I learn? Am I humble, Do I see a pro-growth, capitalist, communist Chinese Christian as one of my friends in Christ? one of God’s chosen people? one of the two billion members of Christ’s body around the world? God, lead me to be humble.

A Way to Pray – a body prayer

- Starting with the feet, flex each muscle slowly & release
- Finish with the eyes, the ears, the forehead, the scalp
- Starting with the US, picture each group of Christians

- Follow with each continent: N America, S America, Africa, Australia, Europe, Asia – finish in China
- Offer all these pieces of the body of Christ to God
- Offer all these pieces of your body to God
- Thank you, God, for what you make from dust.