



Shifts in Society, Changes in Theological Education: *Chungking Theological Seminary*¹

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Shifts in Society, Changes in Theological Education

1. Theology students are becoming older and more experienced.
2. Experiential learning is expected by more students.
3. Postmodern thinking is affecting students and congregations.
4. Churches are increasing faster than extensively educated pastors.
5. Costs of education for ministry becoming a limitation.
6. Extension education and distance learning are demanded; consequently campus-based education is changing.
7. Intercultural skills are urgently needed for multi-cultural congregations.
8. Relationships and comparisons with other religions demanding more attention.

Recommendations for More Effective Seminaries:

1. All **faculty** are involved in church ministry, not just teaching and writing.
2. All **students** are involved in church ministry **before** and **during** seminary education.
3. All faculty-student relationships are based upon shared ministry experiences.
4. All **intellectual** learning tasks are coupled with **experiential** and **spiritual** learning tasks.
5. Seminary education becomes **lifelong learning**. (Not limited to preparation for ministry; but continues as continuing education across the minister's career.)

¹ Ted Ward. Shifts in Society, Changes in Theological Education. Prepared for Discussions at Chungking Theological Seminary, June 1998