
March/April 2010

2010

3-2010

A taste of Liberty in China

Liberty University

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Recommended Citation

Liberty University, "A taste of Liberty in China" (2010). *March/April 2010*. 19.
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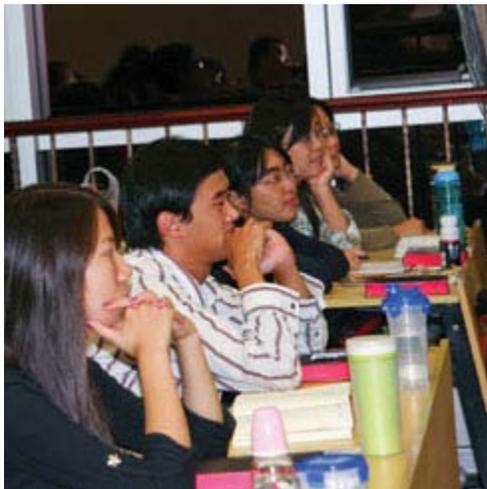
April 12, 2010 | Dr. Elmer Towns visits Fudan University to discuss exchange possibilities

As the giant Boeing airliner made its approach to the Shanghai International Airport in Shanghai, China, an unusual event was about to take place. Dr. Elmer Towns, Liberty University co-founder and dean of the School of Religion, was on board this particular aircraft in October as he had been invited by the Chinese government to present lectures on the prestigious campus of Fudan University.



Fudan University, located in Shanghai, was established in 1905. With an enrollment approaching 50,000 students — similar to that of Liberty’s resident and online numbers — it is ranked as one of the most prestigious universities in the world. Nearly 3,000 foreign students attend on a regular basis. The university has established relationships with some 200 universities and institutions in 30 countries. Fudan has also graduated some of the world’s leading executives and government figures.

The reason for the visit between Towns and Fudan professors was to discuss ideas on how to best allow for student exchanges between the two universities, as well as visits from professors. Towns said he met for two hours with professors and other faculty to discuss the potential relationship.



“It was a very open and harmonious discussion,” he said.

Towns also had an opportunity to present a lecture to the students titled, “The Church, the Body of Christ.”

“It was an extraordinary visit because a Communist nation invited an evangelical Christian to speak in a state-controlled university,” Towns said.

Fudan University comprises 17 full-time schools, 69 departments with 73 bachelor's degrees, 22 disciplines and 134 sub-disciplines authorized to confer Ph.D. degrees.