

Submission for the IAMS Conference 2020

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Paper Title:

Lonely Path on the Snow Mountain: *A Practitioner's Reflection on Ministering to the Poor and Vulnerable in a Sinicized Tibet 2005-2020*

Abstract

This paper focuses on Christian mission in Tibet (Ü-tsang, Amdo, and Khampa regions) of China from 2005-2020. In a personal reflection format I (a Tibetan Christian missionary leader) present my 15 years of fighting for genuine religious freedom in Tibet (for Tibetans to freely believe in and follow Jesus without persecution from the government and their own people), education for girls, and life skill for women in the face of formidable opposition of Tibetan Buddhism, Chinese Communism, and liberal Christian missiology. From the present-day official persecution and sinicization of religions I as a practitioner researcher offer a narrative and an analysis of Christian missional implication, strategic ramification, social activism and mission in China in general but Tibet in particular. Using three Non-profitable Organisations (NPO) and two Business as Mission (BAM) cases, I present a comparative analysis of missional strategies of NPO versus BAM in a rapidly changing political landscape of Tibet. My paper will trace NPO's steady road to demise as *the* strategy for missionary social activists under president Hu Jintao's rule, to the rapid ascension of BAM as one of the workable strategies under president Xi Jinping. My observation invites readers to reflect on two questions: 1. What is the most appropriate strategic response for Christians to carry on mission and social activism in Tibet today? 2. What are some spiritual legacies non-Tibetan missionaries leave behind among the poor and vulnerable as of 2020?

(232 words)