

# A PLOWSHARES TRAVELING SEMINAR



## HONG KONG AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Human Rights, Economics, and the Role of the Church

May 24 – June 7, 2004

Plowshares' traveling seminar to Hong Kong and the People's Republic of China will examine the results of the historic 1997 return of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty. We will look at the impact on human rights, economic changes, and Christianity within China. Unique to this seminar will be close personal contact with members and leaders of Christian churches in Hong Kong and Mainland China.

The seminar will begin with an orientation in New York (JFK) and the flight to Hong Kong, now a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China. The cultural diversity of life in the former British colony, which functions as the center of capitalist-oriented trade with Asia and the U.S., serves as an important contrast to life in mainland China. Our hosts in Hong Kong will address the current political and economic implications of the transfer of Hong Kong sovereignty and the Taiwan independence movement for the mainland and Taiwan.

In mainland China, the group will meet with religious, government, and education leaders in Shanghai, Beijing, and Nanjing (Jiangsu Province). We will be the special guests of the Jiangsu International Cultural Exchange Centre and Nanjing Union Seminary. Bishop K.H. Ting, Dr. Han Wenzao, and the China Christian Council will be among our hosts. The delegation will visit a rural area where life is significantly different from that in the principal cities.

Even within the current Asian financial crisis, China continues to have the largest increase in gross national product (GNP) of any country in the world. One of China's primary challenges is its economic, political, and cultural relationship with the rest of the world, particularly the U.S.

**Dr. Robert A. Evans**, Executive Director of Plowshares Institute and leader of this short-term immersion experience has been Professor of Theology at Hartford and McCormick Seminaries and a visiting scholar and guest lecturer in colleges and universities on six continents. He has led more than forty previous traveling seminars at the invitation of civic, community, and religious leaders. Bob has done extensive research on human rights during more than ten previous trips to China and recently conducted workshops on conflict resolution with parliamentarians and civic leaders in Hong Kong, Taipei, Beijing, and Nanjing. He is the author and editor of several books and articles. Bob's most recent publication (with Ron Kraybill and Alice Frazer Evans) is *Peace Skills for Community Mediators*.

*Approximate cost: \$3,800 (includes tuition, room and board, and travel from New York)*

**For applications and additional information contact:**

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