



FEBRUARY 2020

For Love, Money or Status

An unhappy marriage is both the cause and the consequence of cheating. However, when it comes to infidelity China's wealthy seem to be leading the way, and an unhappy marriage is not always the cause.

Having a mistress is viewed as a symbol of socioeconomic status. Pressure to demonstrate masculine potency in business and politics means that for many businessmen or officials, *not* having a mistress could be viewed as a form of ineptitude. Keeping a mistress can become very expensive so those on a humble income might think twice. But for those with plenty in their eWallet, the temptation to commit adultery can be intense.

Cheating hasn't always been illicit. It was not so long ago that having concubines was lawful and viewed as a mark of status in Chinese culture. When the People's Republic of China was formed women were demanding change and the 1950 Marriage Law was adopted.



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It ended the feudal marriage system and monogamy became law. However, in Hong Kong, it wasn't until 1971 that concubinage became illegal.

When the West's sexual liberation movement (1960s-80s) eventually reached China, it saw a return of some of the old practices, especially in the big cities. It was even common for well-off Taiwanese, Macau or Hong Kong businessmen to have an entire second family on the mainland.

It needs to be explained here that in China there are two categories of 'other' woman; "*xiaosan*," meaning a "third party" (similar to the traditional mistress) and "*ernai*," meaning a second woman. *Ernai* are usually women of rural background or low status willing to be kept by a wealthy older man. He may set her up in an apartment with a monthly allowance, and some *ernai* have families with their 'sugar daddy'.

Both types of woman are costly in their own right.

Ernai are generally accepting of their position and are not motivated to separate their partner from his legal wife but funding their apartment and monthly stipend is expensive. Their offspring are illegitimate and without a family planning certificate a child may struggle to get a household registration which allocates rights to schooling and other

state benefits.

A relationship with a *xiaosan* on the other hand is sustained on emotion rather than by financial arrangement. She is more likely to want her partner to divorce his wife. A *xiaosan* could cost him his marriage and his family.

To curb this modern day concubinage the Marriage Law was amended in 2003 to outlaw cohabitation of a married person with any third party. Despite this, infidelity is a social phenomenon that is getting worse rather than better.

After discovering a husband's affair, Chinese wives seldom divorce, they would rather stay in the relationship for their children and reputation. In many cases the betrayal and disloyalty leaves these women desperately lonely, unhappy and vulnerable.

Recently Professor Pan Suiming, a social sexology expert who has conducted a twenty-year survey of China's sexual relationships, made a shocking announcement. In an interview with China's Portrait Magazine he said that 1 in every 7.5 wives in the country has cheated on their partner, and the rate is the highest in the world.


According to Prof Pan, some 13.3 percent of wives have had one or more affairs, and the rate for husbands is more than twice that. He claimed that one in three men in China has cheated on their wife at least once.

The Tujia

One of China's larger minority groups is the Tujia who have a population of around 9.7 million. They live in the mountains at the juncture of the Chongqing Municipality and the provinces of Hubei, Hunan and Guizhou. The region is known for its iconic towering rock formations and stunning waterfalls. Tujia are predominantly farmers.

Nowadays the Tujia are ethnically indistinguishable from the Han Chinese through intermarriage and uptake of Han customs. Only around 170,000 still speak their Tujia language. Even though they have no written script they have a rich oral history stretching back over 2000 years. Song, dance and musical drama have been used to pass on this history and some of the Tujia epics even take as long as six days to play out!

The meaning of the name Tujia means "original inhabitants". It's said they descend from the Ba people who were conquered by the Qin dynasty in 316 BC.



Today Tujia arts and embroidery still incorporate the Ba motifs of the snake and white tiger. It's also suggested they descend from the Wuman people, who may have been ancestors of the Yi minority. There are language similarities between the Tujia and Yi. With compulsory education today, all young Tujia can speak Mandarin.

Like the Yi, Tujia communities have priests called Timo (called Bimo by the Yi) who act as intermediaries between people and gods. They carry the history, legends and ancient rites and have the job of exorcising spirits and curing illnesses. The Tujia evoke the spirits of Fuxi and Nuwa - the first human beings according to Chinese legend. The ceremony includes supernatural feats such as climbing ladders of sharp

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knives and walking on hot coals or glass. Many Tujia dances are associated with ancestor worship, warding off evil spirits or sacrificial ceremonies. The most famous is the Baishou hand-waving dance. The 72 distinct movements that depict different daily activities have been passed down for generations. Today, a Baishou dance can attract up to 10,000 people who dance under the guidance of a Timo. In the modern generation spiritual beliefs have waned and for many seeking the help of a Timo, a totem or a god would only be considered in times of distress.

Food is never boring in a Tujia household.

Organ Harvesting

For over two decades the world has heard whispers of forced organ harvesting from executed prisoners in China. Now, the weight of evidence shows it has been conducted on an 'industrial' scale.

An early warning came when an investigative report was released by Canadian MP David Kilgour and human rights lawyer David Matas in 2006. The investigation was called

They love it hot, sweet, sour and spicy. Cured meats and pickled vegetables will always be served up and the meal may be finished with glutinous rice cakes and Chinese gooseberries.

Exchanging gifts of cured meat also plays a role in wedding traditions, as does "crying". Traditionally brides used to weep for some twenty days before the wedding, but now the tears are kept for the wedding day and the journey to the groom's house. But once she arrives at his home, the bride and groom race to the nuptial chamber, the winner tells all who will rule the roost.

Catholic and Protestant missionaries established a small number of churches, schools, and medical clinics among the Tujia at the end of the nineteenth century. Today it is estimated that there are between 13,000 and 30,000 Tujia Christians, a tiny proportion for such a large group.

for after allegations emerged that thousands of imprisoned Falun Gong practitioners were being killed for live organ harvesting at a northern Chinese hospital.

Falun Gong's combination of exercise and ethical teaching became popular in China and the community grew rapidly to 70-100 million by 1999. Although peaceful and derived from Chinese belief systems (it has Buddhist and Taoist

elements), the president at the time, Jiang Zemin, viewed their numbers as a threat. He labelled them an 'evil sect' and established the 610 Office to orchestrate a campaign of persecution and propaganda; banning Falun Gong outright after they staged a protest. Soon tens of thousands of practitioners were being incarcerated or sent to "re-education" centres.

When this began, there were around 150 transplant centres in China. Just 6-7 years later there were 600. It was widely understood these centres obtained organ supplies, including kidneys (sold for US\$60,000), livers (US\$130,000), corneas (US\$130,000) and hearts (US\$150,000) mainly from executed Falun Gong prisoners but also from Tibetans, house church Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities and political dissidents.

China had no voluntary donor scheme before 2013 and participation since has been low; only 2,766 in 2015 rising to just over 4,000 in 2016. 'Organ tourism' (foreigners paying to receive a transplant in China) was prohibited in 2009 and China claims it stopped using organs from executed prisoners after the beginning of 2015.

The Kilgour-Matas report (and later updated reports) examined hundreds of Chinese transplant hospitals, drawing on media reports, propaganda, medical journals, hospital websites (including many deleted webpages found in archive). They analysed



hospital revenue, bed counts, bed utilization rates, surgical personnel, training programs and state funding. The investigation revealed the Chinese regime is performing 60,000 to 100,000 transplants per year as opposed to 10,000 per year (the Chinese claim). Also to be considered are the organs required for research, training and repeat surgeries after organs had been rejected.

Chinese doctors and hospitals promise extraordinarily short waiting times for organs, signifying the grim fact that donors could be made available on demand. The wait times for a liver in China was 1-2 weeks compared with 32.5 months in Canada.

In 2018 an independent people's China Tribunal was conducted to consider the evidence and determine if any criminal offences have been committed by state or state-approved bodies/

organisations in China concerning forced organ harvesting. On its international panel were eminent lawyers, transplant experts and human rights experts. It was chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice, QC, who led the prosecution of Slobodan Milošević, former President of Serbia, at the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

In its Final Judgement it declared, “**The Tribunal has had no evidence that the significant infrastructure associated with China’s transplanted industry**

has been dismantled and, absent a satisfactory explanation as to the source of readily available organs, concludes that forced organ harvesting continues till today.”

In regard to the current mass detention of Uyghurs, the Tribunal had evidence of medical testing on a scale that could allow them, amongst other uses, to become an ‘organ bank’. The Tribunal concluded that “Commission of Crimes Against Humanity against the Falun Gong and Uyghurs has been proved beyond reasonable doubt.”

Generations of the Future

The oldest members of Generation Z (born 1998-2016) turn 22 this year and at this age, according to Chinese law, they are now legally old enough to marry and start a family. Young women from GenZ had a head start; they could lawfully marry at age 20. Even though it’s legal, most GenZs won’t rush into marriage until they have finished their education and have found a job at around 25.

During their lifetime GenZ have seen books and paper give way to screens and devices. They themselves have been called the “restless generation”, “iGen”, “Dotcom Kids” and “screen-agers”.

They have lived a large portion of their life on social media and are more educated, more news-wise and connected than any previous generation. Born under

the One Child Policy they will have benefited from the focused support of their family.

They have a strong sense of pride because they grew up in an era when China had already become a strong global power. They are more individualistic, wanting to distinguish themselves. For them modernisation no longer means Westernisation and they see China as leading the way. In their lifespan the nation has changed from manufacturing and imitative to innovation. Creating opportunities for their family, human rights and environmental care are important issues for China’s GenZers. But GenZ is not a completely ‘new, improved model’ of humanity. They test well academically, yet they can be lacking in their critical thinking.

PRAYER POINTERS

For Love, Money or Status

Praise God for His wisdom, His moral values and His righteousness. They are a pure path for all who trust in them.

Pray that Christian role models will be lifted up in China who can challenge and change the culture of infidelity.

Pray that Professor Pan Suiming's survey results will convict the nation to make a change.

Pray that that pressure on men in business to have a mistress will become a public discussion and can be addressed.

The Tujia

Pray that Tujia Christians will be strengthened in their faith so they can be good witnesses for Christ.

Pray for the Tujia community to be fully delivered from the influence of evil spirits and pray they will hunger to know the Holy Spirit of Christ.

Pray that Han Christians will share the gospel with the Tujia people and that fear of spirits will not inhibit Tujia from listening to the message of Christ.

Organ Harvesting

Praise God that forced organ harvesting is coming to light and can no longer be hidden.

Pray for those in China, and elsewhere, that are trying to stop forced organ harvesting.

Pray for religious, ethnic and political prisoners who are at risk of becoming 'commodities.'

Pray for repentance, mercy and healing in the land of China.



PRAYER POINTERS

Generations of the Future

Pray that Christian role models will be raised up for China's youth.

Pray that more overseas churches will reach out to Chinese youth who are travelling and staying overseas.

Pray that young Generation Z parents will have wisdom in how to raise their children in a digital age.

Ask God to provide 'new wine' for those ministering to these generations of the future.

Kidnapped by Technology

Ask the Lord for wisdom on how to pray about this issue.

Pray for the parents and leaders in China who will need to make decisions around the ethics and application of this science.

Pray that future generations will not be 'kidnapped' by technology.

9 Years for Pastor Wang Yi

Pray for Pastor Wang Yi, his wife and his family, that they will experience the peace of God in this situation.

Pray that the words of Pastor Wang Yi will continue to speak to many about the Living God.

Pray that the Lord will encourage and strengthen those in the church suffering ongoing persecution.

Pray for Xi Jinping and the authorities, who do not know the consequences what they are doing.



Chinese Church Support Ministries

Seeking to serve, strengthen
and support the church and
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Their moral objectivity can be weak despite having strong opinions. They are materialistic – surveys indicate 50% find their happiness in what they can buy. But increasingly Gen Z are finding their value in experiences, like travel, more than products. “Face” is played out on their public profile which must always be perceived as happy, beautiful and successful. GenZ are careful what they post on social media.

Just as GenZ reach the age of marriage and parenthood, Generation Alpha are reaching their first decade. These children are those born after the year 2010 and they have never known life without technology. 2010 was the same year WeChat and the iPad were launched, and for many of these babies a tablet became a pacifier in their cots.

To connect with these “digital natives” there are some tips to consider. Even though face-to-face time is vital, they will have big demands on their young lives and are time poor. They may appear as self-absorbed phone addicts with



fleeting attention spans, but the reality is, they rely on technology to maximize their time so be careful not to hijack this. If possible, meet them on their platforms. Communication needs to be quick, concise and authentic.

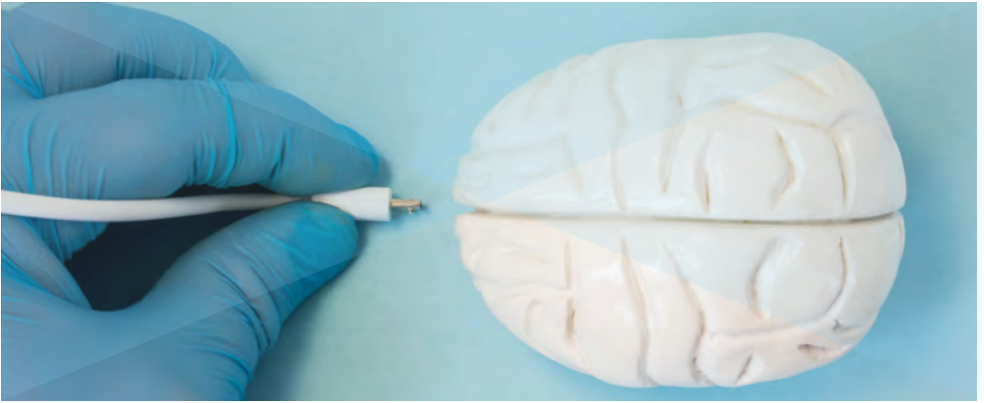
Being inundated with an overflow of fake news and propaganda they may find it hard to trust. Friends will need to take time to earn this. Alphas are pelted with divergent ideas from a young age without having the necessary maturity or time to weigh them over. Role models will play an important part of their development, especially role models that can share a biblical perspective on life, relationships, money and material possessions.

Kidnapped by Technology

Who would have dreamed, at the turn of last century, of the marvellous inventions we have come to take for granted? In the last two hundred years the world has been introduced to electricity, motor vehicles, robots, radio, satellites, cell phones, television,

internet and even cashless shopping.

As Generation Z now reach maturity and become the next generation of parents, they will set the boundaries for their children. They will determine how these children interact with technology



and what limits need to be set to protect their young families. What they accept and adopt in the rearing and education of their children will have great influence on the future of the world. As they embark into the wonderful and frightening world of parenting, their predecessors in Generation Y (also known as Millennials) are already grappling with how to parent their “digital native” offspring, Generation Alpha.

The subject became the theme of discussion at Asia’s Boao Forum last year. Boao Forums first began in 2002 as a platform for leaders from government, business and academia to share their vision on the most pressing issues. In the past the forum has addressed such important topics as China’s entry into the World Trade Organization, as well as Southeast Asia’s economic crisis during the 1990s.

This Young Leaders Boao roundtable, hosted by CCTV, was made up of thirteen young elites. Their forum

had the interesting title of “Alpha Kidnapped”. The panel members came from various countries and backgrounds including politics, internet tech, academia, banking /data analysis, media and filmmaking, but they all had this in common – they were Millennials and the proud parents of Alpha kids.

The panel host asked the guests four specific questions:

1. Do you think your child should learn on screen during kindergarten?
2. Do you agree that children who are in elementary school will open social media accounts?
3. If the technology to download knowledge or skills directly from a computer chip to our brains were to one day become viable, would you avail yourself of this option for your children?
4. Would you accept gene editing to let your child win at the starting line?

This last question,

concerning gene editing, is now likely to be a conversation at many dinner tables as gene editing recently hit in the news in China. But the third question concerning downloading from a computer chip to a human brain seems a little far-fetched for such a high-powered forum. Although remarkably, eight of the thirteen panel members (including 2 of the 3 Chinese representatives) were in favour of gene editing and downloading knowledge directly to their children's minds. Members from Pakistan, Malaysia, India, Thailand and Singapore were also all happy to adopt this technology. Those from the Phillipines, Indonesia, Cambodia and South Korea were not happy with the

concept.

As far-fetched as it may seem, linking the human brain to the digital world in real-time is no longer in the realm of fantasy. A large group of scientists and experts jointly authored their hypothesis and theory in the journal *Frontiers in Neuroscience* in March last year explaining that because of rapid advances in the field, they predict that in 20-30 years it's conceivable there will be a "Human Brain/Cloud Interface" (B/CI). Tiny nanorobots will mediate connections between the brain's neurons and synapses and the immense storage and processing power of the cloud.

9 Years for Pastor Wang Yi



On the 30th of December 2019 International Christian Concern (ICC) learned that Pastor Wang Yi from Early Rain Covenant Church (ERCC) in Sichuan had been sentenced to nine years in prison for "subversion of state power" and "illegal business operations" following a secret trial.

Based on the statement posted on the website of the Chengdu court in Sichuan, Pastor Wang has also been deprived of his political rights for three years and 50,000 yuan (\$7,160 USD) of

his personal property was confiscated. According to China Aid, Pastor Wang was tried on December 26, his wife Jiang Rong's birthday, at the Chengdu Intermediate Court.

"A large amount of plainclothes officials were stationed near the court, according to one witness who was detained and later released. Only government appointed lawyers were at the trial," the persecution watchdog stated. "No members of Pastor Wang's family or members of Early Rain Covenant Church were invited to the proceedings."

Wang's wife has been placed under house arrest along with her 12-year-

old son, with no access to the outside world. She was also detained for several months until she was released on bail last June.

Wang's lawyer, Zhang Peihong, who has been prevented from representing him, commented on Facebook today, "Woe to you, for you see evil as kindness and see kindness as evil. You are not sending a criminal to prison, [instead], you are crowning a righteous man."

A church leader who is a friend of Pastor Wang told ICC, "The reason why the authorities picked nine years for his imprisonment is so that when he comes out, he will lose influence. The government wants to use him as a scapegoat to warn other house church pastors not to do the same like him."

Pastor Wang is the last

person from ERCC who was sentenced, after elder Qin Derfu was sentenced to four years in prison for "illegal business" on the 29th November. Given the lack of rule of law in China, it is unlikely that Pastor Wang's sentence will be overturned.

He was detained last December along with his wife and more than 100 other ERCC members, many of whom have since been released on bail, but still placed under surveillance.

Gina Goh, ICC's Regional Manager for Southeast Asia, said, "The sentence of Pastor Wang Yi further proves that the Chinese government disregards religious freedom and is paranoid about Christians from house churches. The unfounded accusations against Pastor Wang Yi and the inhumane treatment of his wife and son are pure evil. The international community must rally behind Pastor Wang and condemn China for its ongoing persecution against Christians."

Source: www.persecution.org, International Christian Concern (ICC).



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