

Our Journey into Foresight

A Personal Essay

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From September 25-27, 2003, the School of Leadership Studies hosted Tom and Christine Sine on campus at Regent University, for the first annual futures conference for Christian leaders. This short essay by the Sines was circulated to participants beforehand. We encourage you to join us next year for our annual Foresight conference, as we hear from top futurists from the both the U.S. and around the world.



Tom Sine

On Earth Day 1970 James Dator, a futurist from the University of Hawaii, delivered the keynote address at Maui Community College where I was working as an administrator. In the vernacular of the day “I was blown away” by his challenging remarks. He spoke about not only the future of the environment but the future of everything... including cross-species genetic manipulation. His disturbing presentation became for me, over the next several weeks, a compelling sense of call to go back to school and study the future. By the fall of 1970 I relocated to Seattle and started a PhD in history at the University of Washington... with a minor in futures studies. While going to school I started a Seattle Chapter of the World Future Society that created the first anticipatory, participatory statewide futures process, involving the Brookings Institute, called Alternatives for Washington Process. In addition to doing futuring for Government, I worked as a consultant to the New Business Venture Division at Weyerhaeuser for a year and half in those early days. However, most of my time in recent years Christine and I spend consulting with Christian organizations like Tear Fund UK, Habitat for Humanity's international board and the Mennonite Central Committee plus speaking and writing for a number of different organizations. My books on a Christian response to the future include: *The Mustard Seed Conspiracy*, *Why Settle for More and Miss the Best*, *Wild Hope*, *Cease Fire: Searching for Sanity in America's Culture Wars*, *Mustard Seed Vs McWorld: Reinventing Life and Faith for the Future*, and co-authored with Christine, *Living on Purpose: Finding God's Best For Your Life*. My passion is not only to enable Christian leaders to lead with foresight but to also reawaken biblical imagination to create new ways to advance God's purposes in a rapidly changing world.

Christine Sine

In 1981 I left my private medical practice in Christchurch New Zealand to fly to Greece to join a team of people who were renovating an old Italian cruise liner to become a Christian hospital ship bringing health care to parts of the world where little is available. It took seven years to build the hospital on board the Mercy Ship the

Anastasis. Our first outreach was in Mexico. We have sailed to the South Pacific Islands, Central America. But most of our time has been spent working up and down the west coast of Africa doing cleft lip and palate, eye surgery and burn surgery. I also spent a few months working in the refugee camps in Thailand in the early 80s. As a consequence of designing and administering their program over 11 years I became a defacto futurist doing extensive research not only on global health care but all the many trends that impact the lives and communities of our poorest neighbors. I recently spoke at a Mennonite Central Committee conference on "The Future of AIDS," and at the last Urbana I spoke on "The Future of Medical Missions." Tom & I both speak and consult with a number of Christian organizations like World Relief or young leader groups in the UK like Culture Shift to enable them to find new ways creatively respond to the challenges of tomorrow's world. My newest book *Sacred Rhythms: Finding Peace in a Hectic World* is intended to enable Christians to discover how they can personally create a rhythm of life that enables them to live more fully and effectively in our turbulent world.

Tom and Christine Sine are leading evangelical futurists focusing on how to reinvent life and ministry for the 21st century. They believe in the power of purposeful lives and local intentional communities to incarnate Christ to the world. For over twenty-five years they have offered an alternative future of spirituality to the western church.

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