Abstract

"Man is incurably religious." This statement of Wolfhart Pannenberg reflects this German's theologian view on the inseparable relationship between Man and religion.

Indeed, the study of religion is important because it helps to provide a understanding of what the population believe religiously and how these beliefs affect their way of living as well as the society on the whole.

For Singapore, being a nation with a diversity of religions and racial groups, there is a greater need for different religions to co-exist in harmony. Studies of the changing patterns of the religious beliefs of its people thus become indispensable. This is especially so for the Chinese population since they make up a high proportion of the total population of Singapore.

This paper attempts to study the religious beliefs of Chinese in Singapore for the past 30 years. Statistical data of each religion's population would be based on the 3 population census conducted by the government, namely that of 1980, 1990 and 2000.

In this paper, not only will there be statistical analysis of data, but also a study of how Chinese religious beliefs affect the working of the society and vice-versa. All these discussions will be done within a historical framework.