

The Passion of CRRS USA

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The August global economic statistics report that China has surpassed Japan as the second highest country in world's economy right behind the United States. This new finding surprised a lot of people in the West. You may ask the question why do we still need to be passionate in serving the educational needs, disaster relief work as well as cultural exchange in China?

Dr. Peter Xiao Zhao, a noted Chinese economist Professor, University of Science and Technology, Beijing known for his research on "Market Economies with Churches" versus "Market Economy Without Churches" made a presentation called "China is Back" at the Global Leadership Summit (Willow Creek Association in Chicago). He predicted (prior to this global economic statistics was made public) that Chinese economy will become the second highest in the world after the United States soon. He received a standing ovation when he concluded his presentation. He mentioned that China has a long way to go as compared to the United States and personal wealth will be manifested differently between the two countries. He also mentioned the "four world stages" where China will have some catching up to do as compared to the rest of the world.

The first stage is in economics, where China has grown in leaps and bounds catching up with the west where the wealthy are business people and they are located in the coastal areas where people in other areas continue to be very poor and backward. The second is politics, the third sports and the fourth faith. The question becomes: How are these issues connected if at all and can they relate to the ideals of CRRS USA? It will be important to quote Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Nobel Prize winner from Russia who spoke to Harvard graduates in 1978 on his observations of the United States: "The West has finally achieved the rights of man, and even to excess, but man's sense of responsibility to God and society has grown dimmer and dimmer... We have placed too much hope in politics and social reforms, only to find out that we are being deprived of our most precious possession: our spiritual life." The great pastor Billy Graham when he spoke to the council of YMCA in 1970's said that to change society was to "change men's hearts first." So the restoration of spiritual value of a citizen is the most important aspect of a nation and it is the foundation for the progress in economics, politics, sports and faith of a country. Needless to say, the economic downturns in the

West resulting from fraudulent financial practices on Wall Street, management schools in the West are increasing aware of the need to teach ethics and moral values in the training of future economic leaders. A case can be made where the foundations of ethics in the market place can be based on a system of value such as honesty; self-respect and responsibility, which make for good business as these were the pillars of the credit/banking (debt repayment) system in the west. I believe spiritual value gives character to a nation for the common good, it is the power that govern the soul of a good country.

I was trained in clinical psychology where patients with serious addiction disorders will find the strength in spirituality to recover through working the 12-steps of a recovery program such as AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), which is a faith-based program. We cannot underestimate the power of the spirit in a person's ethical development and maturity in defense of addictions, power and greed. The "optimism" found in healthy, happy people being researched by a new branch of study called "positive psychology" is actually the "practice of faith" in religious communities, the belief that things will be fine and will turn out for a purpose with the love of a benevolent creator.

CRRS USA has been investing in education for village students as well as teachers in the rural areas of Yunnan with an emphasis on the development of wholeness of a person with self-respect and good personal values. Our English training programs use English curriculum that enriches character, self-confidence, dignity of the teachers that we train from Malipo and Jinping. We believe in equal educational opportunity for all students including those from family that cannot afford to send their children to school or university. We are not only committed to the elite students but we are also concerned about special needs students, for whatever reason they could not continue to stay in school to do so. We believe poverty is not a reason for low self-esteem or lack of intelligence to do well in education. We encourage those who graduate to return to their counties to serve their communities and to give back to their country.

Yes, "China is Back" globally and it should merit its international status and it is about time. Our passion is to facilitate this process by serving the educational needs of the impoverished, marginalized and disadvantaged. We serve victims of disasters like the earthquake in Sichuan and the mudslide in Zhouqu; we strive to enrich cultural exchanges through the intellectual research between cultures as well as religions. We cannot do this alone and I would ask for your support financially as well as going on service trips with us. Let's contribute to the return of China in the global sense where there is a restoration in the Chinese soul.