

**“You build man’s hearts and souls.
That’s even more important!”**

**Director General Wang Zheng Yao
China’s Ministry of Civil Affairs**



**Dr. David Wang (ActionLove China) & Rev. Jon Davis
(BICF) join hands to rebuild hearts and souls in China**

Sichuan Earthquake Special Report #4 by David Wang, 10 July 2008

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For the first month after the earthquake, Director General Wang Zhengyao averaged four hours of sleep every day. Mostly it was on a couch, or a folding chair, or “just in any tent I happened to be visiting.”

Wang was the Chief Coordinator of the unprecedented, massive Rescue & Relief efforts of the Sichuan earthquake. His most bold “Three Open” policy — Open to the World, Open to the Media, Open to the People — has won praises from around the world.



David Wang with Director General Wang in the Ministry of Civil Affairs, Donation Processing Centre

Three days ago, I visited him in his Beijing office. He greeted me with a hug: “I saw your ActionLove friends at the frontline. There were many of them. Their convoys of different cars, all painted with a cross, went everywhere delivering food and water.” The Director was obviously pleased that China’s Christians had come forward this time.

“Without the volunteers, in their hundreds of thousands, if not in millions, there would never have been the groundswell of charity spirit and activities in the country.”

Thus far, more than 50 billion yuan has been donated in China. “Still more are coming. Our Ministry is now facing a major challenge of properly and effectively managing the people’s trust,” Wang confessed.

My immediate offer was to process his staff and volunteers through the renowned Peter Drucker course on “Managing Non Profit Organizations and Charity Funds.” Besides managing donations, Wang’s Disaster Relief Department is also shouldering a 100 billion effort of the first three years’ Sichuan Reconstruction Stage 1.

“We need help! We need all kinds of help!” Wang was China’s first high-level official ever to appeal to the world openly and clearly for help. And now in person, he is again appealing to my friends.

To Senior Elder Jon Davis of Beijing International Christian Fellowship, he asked, “You can mobilize and send us your foreigners? In your Church, you must have all sorts of experts.” Of course, Pastor Jon has many experts. More than 20 rebuilding specialists are now ready to be launched.

To Elder Miao of Wenzhou house church, Wang first expressed his astonishment as he was checking through their donation records: “The receipts of your people’s gifts show that within days you church people gave more than 2.3 million yuan!”

Elder Miao then reported to the Director General that his son had just called from the epicenter of the earthquake to say that he has obtained official permission, and the land, to immediately start building a “Charity Supermarket” right in the worst affected village of Bei Chuan County, Lei Gu Zhen Village. When Wang heard this, he happily shouted, “*Tai Hao Le!* Wonderful! You Wenzhou Christians are so much ahead of everybody!”

In the next office, Wang showed us aerial photos taken by his surveillance planes. “For more than eight years of handling disasters and catastrophes in China, I’ve never seen anything like Sichuan. This devastation is by far the worst. It’s apocalyptic. The end of the world!”

Then the Director General admitted, “It has awakened the goodness and generosity of the whole country. Our top leaders, and people’s response has been laudable.”



Director General Wang thanking Elder Baozhi of Wenzhou house church for their love gifts.



Director General Wang showing us aerial photos of the devastation.

I shared with Director General Wang the two projects we are putting into action: “We want to immediately broadcast a children’s program, based on C.S. Lewis’ “Narnia” series. I want the children in their tents and prefab homes to again enjoy adventures, fun and laughter.”

Director General was literally in tears. He told us during his daily survey of the Rescue & Relief, his greatest joy was to see two children, amidst the

rubble, playing badminton. “We need to get our children playing and laughing again!”

“Secondly, we are training thousands of Christian counselors, not only to serve in Sichuan, but over time, in every city throughout China.” I shared with the Director our plan to establish “Community & Family Harmony Centres.” They are to deal with the day to day “mini-earthquakes” that are tearing up China. Amidst their rapid urbanization and development, marriages are shattering. Inter-generational relations are broken. Parenting is becoming most difficult with the one child policy. The poor are ever more marginalized.

“There are earthquakes ravaging our nation everyday. We want to train counselors to become neighborhood ‘Blessed are the Peace Makers’,” I made a pledge to the Director General.

The response from the Chief Coordinator of Rescue & Relief of the largest national catastrophe in modern China was clear and straight forward: “Rebuilding buildings and livelihoods is challenging. But we can do it. Your efforts to rebuild people’s hearts and souls are even more important!”

“Go! You get the Church involved and do as much as possible to rebuild man’s hearts and souls!”

But do it wisely and sensitively — that was his final advice.

Well, for Asian Outreach and ActionLove China, that is the only way we know how to do God’s work in China.



Giving water is good. Rebuilding their lives is vital.

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For information about partnering with, or supporting China’s Third Church, Asian Outreach China or its social services arm, ActionLove, please contact Helen Taylor: helent@asianoutreach.org