

They Came to Save Strangers

Chinese People Help Rescue the Victims of an Earthquake

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I still can't forget the date, May 12, 2008. A huge earthquake hit Sichuan Province, China at about 2:00 PM. The magnitude of the earthquake was 7.9.

I watched TV to see what had happened. I saw that the soldiers got there as soon as possible. Because the roads were destroyed by the earthquake, they had to carry the tools and get there on foot. Planes brought help too. However, the planes could not land, so the soldiers and rescue workers had to use parachutes. The parachutists jumped out of the planes, facing unknown conditions; they risked death. No one seemed scared, they all had the same hope: to save people as soon as possible.

The survivors who escaped from the disaster also helped. They used their hands to dig. They tried to save people buried by the fallen buildings. It didn't matter if they knew the people they were trying to save. No matter who they were, they came together to save strangers.

A friend of mine went there to help too. Before he left, we prepared tents, food, medicines, and bottled water. We filled his car with these items. I hope

our efforts helped some people a little bit.

Those days, I felt very emotional. It was easy to cry. I was moved by the people who were buried under the ruins. They never stopped hoping for their futures. I was moved by the people who came to help. They did not give up. They kept on searching.

I remember there was a man whose name was Chen Jian. He was stuck



A rescue worker carries a survivor from a collapsed building in Sichuan province. The death toll from China's massive earthquake reached approximately 68,000.

under a floor slab for a long time, but he still hoped to have a great future with his wife. Finally, he was dug out, but it was too late. He did not survive. But I still can remember his words: “Life is good. I want to have a happy life with my wife.” My tears run out of my eyes. It was a disaster, but I am thankful that we have so many heroes.

Every time I think of those days, I can’t forget the heroes. They were all common people, but they were definitely heroes. I can feel the love among them, us, all the Chinese people. I can feel the strong belief: we can overcome the difficulties – however huge they might be.

Ever since the earthquake, I am more appreciative of what I have: my family, friends, and health. Be thankful for what you have. Help people when they need help. We are all members of this huge family. Wherever we come from, no matter what we do, love can help us become stronger.

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People carry a girl rescued from the rubble after more than ten hours' efforts. Many newly-built school buildings collapsed and many students were trapped.