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## **FEATURED ARTICLE**

**James Hudson Taylor III with Christ** (March 20, 2009, OMF International)

With a deep sense of thankfulness for the life of Dr. James Taylor, we bring news that he went to be with Christ early this morning the 20th of March 2009, in Hong Kong.

[http://www.omf.org/omf/us/about\\_omf/james\\_hudson\\_taylor\\_iii\\_with\\_christ](http://www.omf.org/omf/us/about_omf/james_hudson_taylor_iii_with_christ)

## **GOVERNMENT / POLITICS / FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**China appoints new Mideast envoy** (March 19, 2009, AFP)

China said Thursday it had appointed a new envoy to the Middle East in a bid to keep pushing for peace in the volatile region. Wu Sike, former ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, will replace Sun Bigan who has held the position for three years, foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang told reporters.

**China military trains first public relations team** (March 20, 2009, AP)

China's military is training propaganda teams for the first time to explain its actions to the outside world, as the traditionally insular and secretive force engages more with other countries' militaries and deploys its ships and personnel abroad. An initial class of 51 officers graduated this week in an effort to "raise the opinion-forming ability of the force's foreign propaganda team and advance the innovation and development of the military propaganda work," the official People's Liberation Army Daily reported Friday.

**China navy ships to visit Japan in 2009: state media** (March 20, 2009, AFP)

Chinese naval ships will visit Japan this year, state media reported on Friday, in the latest sign of warming relations between the two sides. The plan was mentioned in a press communique issued after a meeting in the Chinese capital between the defence ministers of the two traditional Asian rivals, China's official Xinhua news agency said. The brief report gave no other details from the communique, issued by Chinese defence chief Liang Guanglie and his Japanese counterpart Yasukazu Hamada.

**Tibetan monks held after China police attacked** (March 22, 2009, AFP)

Nearly 100 monks are being held in northwest China after an angry mob attacked a police station, state media said on Sunday, in the first reported major unrest in Tibetan-populated areas this year. The riot on Saturday by hundreds of people in Rabgya, a town in the mountains of Qinghai province, came less than two weeks after the 50th anniversary of a against Chinese rule in Tibet on March 10. Xinhua said several hundred people, including nearly 100 monks from the monastery, had taken part in the riot. A policeman at the Rabgya local government office refused to comment when contacted by AFP, and no one was available for comment at local police stations. The protesters assaulted policemen and government staff, some of whom were slightly injured, Xinhua said.

**China trying to disrupt U.S. military advantages, study says** (March 26, 2009, International Herald Tribune)

China is seeking technology and weapons to disrupt the traditional advantages of American forces, and secrecy surrounding its military creates the potential for miscalculation on both sides, according to a Pentagon study. The annual report from the Defense Department to Congress, "Military Power of the People's Republic of China 2009," catalogs efforts by China to supply its armed forces with weapons that can be used to intimidate and attack Taiwan and blunt the superiority of American naval and air power, at least near its territory.

#### **China fury at US military report** (March 26, 2009, BBC News)

Beijing has reacted angrily to a Pentagon report on China's military power, which claimed it was altering the military balance in Asia. Foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang called it a "gross distortion of the facts", the AFP news agency reports. In its annual report to Congress, the Pentagon said China was developing "disruptive" technologies for nuclear, space and cyber warfare. It could be used to enforce claims over disputed territories, the report said.

### **HEALTH**

#### **Team sent to check mystery illness** (March 21, 2009, Xinhua)

The Ministry of Health has dispatched a team to southwestern China's Yunnan Province to investigate the unexplained deaths of 12 people, who had all worked in quartz plants. The team arrived late Thursday in the Shui fu County of Zhaotong City, where, according to local sources, 12 villagers had died from a "strange disease" from October 2006 to December 2008. The dead had all worked at some stage in quartz processing plants in Guan'gou Village in Fengyang County, Chuzhou City, east China's Anhui Province, he said.

#### **Only one-third of Chinese diabetics aware of having disease** (March 23, 2009, eastday.com)

Only one-third of Chinese diabetics know they have the chronic disease, the Ministry of Health (MOH) said Friday. The International Diabetes Federation has estimated that China had 39.8 million diabetes patients in 2007 and will have about 59 million in 2025. The MOH said the number of urban diabetics had increased 39 percent in the past six years. China uses World Health Organization diagnostic criteria for diabetes.

#### **China clears Johnson & Johnson baby products** (March 21, 2009, AP)

The State Food and Drug Administration said Saturday it found no evidence that Johnson & Johnson baby products made in China contain potential carcinogens as alleged by an activist group. The Shanghai Food and Drug Administration found no contamination by formaldehyde, or 1,4-dioxane, in 33 products including 14 bath or sanitary-related items sold by the company's Shanghai branch, the watchdog said on its Web site. The State Food and Drug Administration will continue to closely monitor the situation and do testing in a timely manner, it said.

#### **2 China officials fired over disease reporting** (March 23, 2009, AP)

Two Chinese health officials have been fired for mismanagement in the reporting of hand, foot and mouth disease and investigators are looking into a possible cover-up, state media said Monday. China Central Television reported that the two officials in Minquan County lost their jobs following a preliminary investigation by the Health Ministry. It did not elaborate on how they mismanaged reporting of the data. The investigation follows a news report last week by China National Radio that medical staff at the county's hospital had apparently falsified medical histories to hide a large number of cases suffered in the area.

### **EDUCATION / CULTURE**

### **China sends 180,000 students overseas in 2008** (March 26, 2009, Xinhua)

A record high of 179,800 Chinese students went abroad for overseas study in 2008. That figure was revealed Wednesday by Zhang Xiuqin, an official in charge of international cooperation with the Ministry of Education. Zhang said the number of Chinese studying abroad has increased since 2004 due to stable growth of the national economy, a flexible policy for going overseas and a surging demand to receive education. The ministry does not have detailed information about Chinese students' destinations for overseas studies. Meanwhile, the number of Chinese returning home after overseas studies in 2008 reached 69,300. That's a 55.95 percent increase from 2007, according to the ministry. Ministry statistics show that from 1978 to the end of 2008, more than 1.39 million Chinese studied abroad, of those, 390,000 returned home.

## **SOCIETY / LIFE**

### **State executions 'almost double'** (March 24, 2009, BBC News)

The number of state executions almost doubled last year worldwide, with China accounting for nearly three-quarters of the total, Amnesty International says. In its annual survey, the group says 2,390 people were put to death in 2008, up from 1,252 in 2007. Of those, 1,718 people (72%) were executed in China. Another 8,864 people were sentenced to death, up from 3,347 in 2007.

### **China's rural migrant workers top 225 million** (March 25, 2009, Xinhua)

China, the world largest agriculture country in terms of farming population, has 225.42 million rural migrant workers as of 2008, according to statistic from the National Statistics Bureau (NBS) on Wednesday. Among all the migrant workers, 62.3 percent or 140.41 million were working outside their home county, while the other 37.7 percent or, 85.01 million, worked in their hometowns. Migrant workers from the central areas accounted for 37.6 percent of the 140.41 million ones. Other 32.7 percent and 29.7 percent were from the western and eastern regions, respectively. The NBS said 70 million migrant workers went back to hometowns before February. Currently, 56 million have returned to the cities, 45 million have found jobs, and the other 11 million are still unemployed.

### **1 dead, 9 injured in Hainan village clashes** (March 26, 2009, Xinhua)

One villager was killed and nine others injured in continuous clashes between two feuding villages in the southernmost province of Hainan, sources said Wednesday. The fight between residents of the Baoshang and Gancheng villages in Dongfang City started Monday night. A clash at around 1:30 p.m. Wednesday left one dead and six others injured.

### **Beijing salaries rise** (March 26, 2009, china.org.cn)

The average annual salary in Beijing reached 44,715 yuan (US\$6,545) in 2008, representing an increase of 12 percent from 39,867 yuan (US\$5,835) in the previous year, according to the Beijing Statistics Bureau. Many citizens cast doubts on the figure released yesterday, saying the figure was much higher than they expected and claiming that most of them were paid below the average level.

### **More than 140,000 Chinese mainlanders visit Taiwan in nine months** (March 25, 2009, Xinhua)

More than 140,000 Chinese mainland tourists visited Taiwan from July last year to March 19, a spokeswoman with the State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office said at a press conference Wednesday. The daily number of mainland visitors to the island on organized trips reached about 1,500 at the beginning of March, Fan Liqing said.

### **China 'blocks YouTube video site'** (March 24, 2009, BBC News)

China is reported to have blocked the YouTube video-sharing website because it has been carrying video of soldiers beating monks and other Tibetans. The date and location of the footage, posted by a Tibetan

exile group, cannot be ascertained. A Chinese government spokesman would not confirm whether YouTube had indeed been blocked. China has a history of blocking websites which carry messages it views as politically unacceptable. In most of China, YouTube has suddenly become inaccessible.

**Facelift for major route** (March 22, 2009, Xinhua)

A facelift of Beijing's main east-west artery, Chang'an Avenue, due to take five months started on Friday night. The project will spruce up the thoroughfare ahead of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China on October 1. Work will be done daily from 11pm to 5am to minimize traffic disruptions, said Wang Zhaorong, spokesman for the Beijing Municipal Committee of Communications.

**China building memorial park for 'Flying Tigers'** (March 23, 2009, AFP)

China is building a memorial park to commemorate the "Flying Tigers," the American airmen who fought on the Chinese side against Japan's World War Two invasion, state media said Monday. The park near the tourist town of Guilin in the south of the country will include the Yangtang airfield used by the Flying Tigers nearly 70 years ago, Xinhua news agency said. The 23-million-dollar park will include a museum, a monument and replicas of the war-time command post and barracks, the report said.

**ENVIRONMENT / SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY**

**4.3-magnitude quake rattles NE China** (March 20, 2009, Xinhua)

An earthquake measuring 4.3 on the Richter Scale jolted Siping City of northeastern Jilin Province at 2:48 p.m. Friday, according to China's seismological network. The quake was detected at 43.4 degrees north latitude and 124.9 degrees east longitude, at the junction of the Yitong Manchu Autonomous County and the Gongzhuling City.

**BUSINESS / ECONOMICS / TRADE**

**China wants to restructure auto industry** (March 21, 2009, AFP)

China said Saturday it wanted to boost its auto industry by reducing the number of companies in the sector through mergers and promoting two or three carmakers to become the dominant players. The State Council, or cabinet, said in a statement on its website dated late Friday that by 2011, it wanted to cut the number of major domestic automakers, who are responsible for 90 percent of domestic sales and output, from 14 to 10. Under the scheme, two or three companies would be the industry heavyweights, capable of producing more than two million units a year, while four or five others would have annual output capacity of one million units.

**Official says China to continue buying US debt** (March 23, 2009, AP)

China will continue buying U.S. government debt while paying close attention to possible fluctuations in the value of those assets, a vice governor of Beijing's central bank said Monday. China is Washington's biggest foreign creditor, holding an estimated \$1 trillion in U.S. government debt. A weaker dollar would erode the value of those assets. Hu's comments follow remarks earlier this month from Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao that he was "a little bit worried" about China's holdings of U.S. government debt. Wen called on the U.S. to honor its commitments, remain credit-worthy, and ensure the safety of Chinese assets.

**China suggests switch from dollar** (March 24, 2009, BBC News)

China's central bank has called for a new global reserve currency run by the International Monetary Fund to replace the US dollar. Central bank governor Zhou Xiaochuan did not explicitly mention the dollar, but said the crisis showed the dangers of relying on one currency. With the world's largest currency reserves of \$2tn, China is the biggest holder of dollar assets. Its leaders have often complained about the dollar's volatility.

## LINKS TO DETAILED ARTICLES AND ANALYSIS

### **A Catholic Church of China** (March 23, 2009, La Stampa, by Francesco Sisci)

The normalization of ties between the Holy See, head of the largest unified religion of the world, and China, the most populous country on Earth, registered progresses in recent years and months. However, the distance between the parties remains significant.

[http://www.lastampa.it/web/cmstp/tmplrubriche/giornalisti/grubrica.asp?ID\\_blog=98&ID\\_articolo=343&ID\\_sezione=437&sezione=](http://www.lastampa.it/web/cmstp/tmplrubriche/giornalisti/grubrica.asp?ID_blog=98&ID_articolo=343&ID_sezione=437&sezione=)

### **An Ancient Culture, Bulldozed Away** (March 24, 2009, The Washington Post, by Maureen Fan)

For hundreds of years, Uighur shopkeepers have been selling bread and firewood along the edges of Kashgar's old town to families whose ancestors bought their traditional mud-brick homes with gold coin and handed them down through the generations.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/23/AR2009032302935.html>

### **A time for muscle-flexing** (May 19, 2009, The Economist)

As Western economies flounder, China sees a chance to assert itself—carefully.

[http://www.economist.com/printedition/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=13326082](http://www.economist.com/printedition/displaystory.cfm?story_id=13326082)

### **How China sees the world** (March 19, 2009 edition, The Economist)

It is an ill wind that blows no one any good. For many in China even the buffeting by the gale that has hit the global economy has a bracing message. The rise of China over the past three decades has been astonishing. But it has lacked the one feature it needed fully to satisfy the ultranationalist fringe: an accompanying decline of the West.

[http://www.economist.com/printedition/displayStory.cfm?Story\\_ID=13326106](http://www.economist.com/printedition/displayStory.cfm?Story_ID=13326106)

### **Artist Defies Web Censors in a Rebuke of China** (March 19, 2009, The New York Times, by David Barboza)

One of China's most prominent and provocative artists is challenging the government to end what he calls its cover-up of incompetence in managing the response to an earthquake last May in Sichuan Province that killed more than 80,000 people.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/20/world/asia/20quake.html>

### **China quake school toll stirs grim findings, anger** (March 22, 2009, Reuters, by Christopher Buckley)

China's effort to erase public anger over the many schools destroyed by a vast earthquake last year is facing a new campaign for answers and troubling findings that classrooms suffered far worse than government offices.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20090322/wl\\_nm/us\\_china\\_quake](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20090322/wl_nm/us_china_quake)

### **China targets an academic culture of cut-and-paste** (March 23, 2009, The Christian Science Monitor, by Peter Ford)

After a scandal highlighting rampant plagiarism, the government tries to rein it in – and a new generation of teachers trained abroad could help.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/0323/p01s01-woap.html>

### **Is Drywall the Next Chinese Import Scandal?** (March 23, 2009, Time, by Tim Padgett)

Beck is among hundreds of homeowners in Florida alleging that toxic levels of chemical pollutants like sulfur are issuing from contaminated drywall made in some Chinese factories.

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1887059,00.html>

**Benefits of Taiwan's door to China fade** (March 23, 2009, The Los Angeles Times, by Don Lee)

For two decades Taiwanese flocked to China. Many struck it rich. They opened factories, invested in real estate and speculated on currency. Many took advantage of their common use of Mandarin and comparatively better English to broker deals and snatch good jobs in the booming mainland. Those days are over.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fi-taiwanecon23-2009mar23,0,4462380.story>

**Russian economic fall hits hard in China's border outpost** (March 19, 2009, McClatchy Newspapers, by Tim Johnson)

The receding economic tide is part of a larger cycle in Sino-Russian relations, which have vacillated from friendship to acrimony and back to friendship over the past half-century.

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/64395.html>

**As Chinese Investments in Africa Drop, Hope Sinks** (March 25, 2009, The New York Times, by Lydia Polgreen)

As global commodity prices have plummeted and several of China's African partners have stumbled deeper into chaos, China has backed away from some of its riskiest and most aggressive plans, looking for the same guarantees that Western companies have long sought for their investments: economic and political stability.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/26/world/africa/26chinaafrica.html?hp>

## **BLOG POSTS**

**Goodbye Koreatown** (March 20, 2009, Danwei)

Beijing and Shanghai are home to tens of thousands of Korean nationals whose lives and businesses have been hit hard by the snowball effect of the downturn. The Korean won's decline against the RMB forced many Korean businesses to scale back or close down, and drove up the relative price of education in China. An exodus of failed business owners, out-of-work foreign employees, and foreign students left shops and services competing for a substantially smaller Korean population, and has driven many of them out of business, too.

[http://www.danwei.org/magazines/korean\\_businesses\\_pull\\_out.php](http://www.danwei.org/magazines/korean_businesses_pull_out.php)

**Yes, we have no computers** (March 21, 2009, China Rises)

I got a very interesting email from a regular reader of this blog. He lives in Zhengzhou in Henan Province, and recently had an unusual experience trying to buy a computer.

<http://washingtonbureau.typepad.com/china/2009/03/yes-we-have-no-computers.html>

**China WFOE. Do It Right Or Your Money Never Leaves.** (March 22, 2009, China Law Blog)

I have a speech I give to American lawyers that focuses on the mistakes they tend to make in advising their clients regarding China. One of the foremost is the failure to account for business expenditures in such a way so that they can qualify as expenditures that apply towards the minimum required capital for forming a wholly foreign owned entity (WFOE).

[http://www.chinalawblog.com/2009/03/china\\_wfoe\\_do\\_it\\_right\\_or\\_your.html](http://www.chinalawblog.com/2009/03/china_wfoe_do_it_right_or_your.html)

**As China shouts its line on Tibet, is anybody listening?** (March 24, 2009, China Media Project)

Tibet is a touchy tinderbox of a subject — not to mention an incredibly complex one — and so we have long avoided mention of the “T” word on our project Website. Sifting through Chinese news coverage, however, is our *raison d'être* at the China Media Project. And as we've gone about minding our daily business in recent days, the headlines have doggedly clamored for our attention:

<http://cmp.hku.hk/2009/03/24/1527/>

**On contemporary China** (March 25, 2009, The China Beat)

It's no small task to sum up the work of 53 separate authors but I gave it a go last Friday at the Virginia Festival of the Book when I spoke about *China in 2008*... Here's a quick list to give you a sense of some of the issues that the audience raised (and since I don't have access to the C-Span broadcast, I'm going to have to wing it from memory).

<http://thechinabeat.blogspot.com/2009/03/on-contemporary-china.html>

**Mocking the censors** (March 24, 2009, China Rises)

Many Chinese youth are apathetic when it comes to politics. After all, what change could possibly be in the offing?

<http://washingtonbureau.typepad.com/china/2009/03/mocking-the-censors.html>

**Why China's Block On YouTube Is Backfiring** (March 25, 2009, Time's China Blog)

When I first began reporting on China in 2003, the blocking of specific sites wasn't usually a big story. But that's changed in recent years, and posts about what sites are blocked or unblocked can attract huge amounts of web traffic. I can't say precisely why this has changed, but I have a few theories.

<http://china.blogs.time.com/2009/03/25/why-chinas-block-on-youtube-is-backfiring/>

**The Legal Basics On Starting A China Business. Clinical Testing As Example.** (March 25, 2009, China Law Blog)

But nearly everything in this email applies with equal force to nearly all businesses, particularly service businesses, seeking to get off on the proper legal foot in China. This email sets out the essential big three for doing just about any business right in China: 1) Proper entity registration; 2) Proper HR/employee protections; and 3) Intellectual property protection.

[http://www.chinalawblog.com/2009/03/the\\_basics\\_on\\_getting\\_started.html](http://www.chinalawblog.com/2009/03/the_basics_on_getting_started.html)

**Communists turn to Confucius** (March 20, 2009, James Reynolds' China)

This week, it was announced that Chow Yun-Fat is to star as Confucius in a state-backed film to mark the 60th anniversary of Communist rule in October. A recent book about Confucius' teachings has sold more than 10 million copies.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/jamesreynolds/2009/03/communists\\_turn\\_to\\_confucius.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/jamesreynolds/2009/03/communists_turn_to_confucius.html)

**LINKS IN CHINESE**

**成都震后首个复活节 必胜客与灾区小朋友齐分享** (March 26, 2009, Gospel Times)

[http://www.gospeltimes.cn/news/2009\\_03\\_26/4553.htm](http://www.gospeltimes.cn/news/2009_03_26/4553.htm)

**LINKS FOR RESEARCHERS**

**China Rises Again – Part I** (March 29, 2009, Yale Global, by Wang Gungyu)

China is getting ready for a fourth rise in its two millennia of history, but managing it may bring bigger challenges to its leaders than the past three delivered.

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=12154>

**Hong Kong's political future: 50 years without change-and then what?** (China Elections and Governance)

Today, more than a decade has passed and international public opinion still deems Hong Kong's transfer from British to Chinese rule a good job well done.

<http://www.chinaelections.net/NewsInfo.asp?NewsID=20046>

**Will the Chinese Communist Party Survive the Crisis?** (March 12, 2009, Carnegie Endowment, by Minxin Pei)

Until recently, most leading China watchers thought the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) had become remarkably resilient. Through learning and adaptation, it seemed, the world's largest and most powerful one-party regime had become politically nimble and skillful enough to overcome difficulties that would have overwhelmed lesser autocratic rulers.

<http://carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=22847&prog=zch>

**Why China wants creativity** (March 12, 2009, Creative Economy)

What does the “creative economy” mean in China and how might it be developed, asks MICHAEL KEANE.

[http://www.creative.org.au/webboard/results.shtml?filename\\_num=267648](http://www.creative.org.au/webboard/results.shtml?filename_num=267648)

## **RESOURCES**

**He Qi** (March 21, 2009, Reformation 21 blog)

The Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College currently features a show of art by the contemporary Chinese artist He Qi (pronounced huh-chee). He Qi's vibrant paintings (color on paper) feature scenes from the stories of the Old and New Testament.