Introductions to Missions

**Meeting**

I had interview with a friend who belongs to Han Chinese ethnic group. There are 56 nationalities in China. Since, the Han Chinese make up approximately 92% of the country's population, the remaining peoples are called national minorities. The spread of Christianity in China was largely determined by the development needs of Chinese civilization. The gradual loss of interest in “higher knowledge” in Chinese humanities became a brake on progress. The demonstration by Catholic scholars of their superiority in a number of natural and technical sciences forced some of the Chinese elite and the country's leadership to support Christianity in the late Middle Ages. This ethnic group is different because it has different rules and regulations. The Chinese culture is millenary and so rich that it has ended up influencing and shaping the cultures of its neighbors. Han is one of the oldest and most complex civilizations in the world. Chinese culture is several thousand years old. On Throughout the centuries it has been under significant influence of Confucianism, which was the official philosophy in the Imperial period, the board, and helped to form a clear bureaucratic system.

Native language of the majority Han Chinese - the Chinese, dialects that vary phonetically in huge limits, about as well, how and closely related, but completely independent one from the other Romance languages. Although in the dialectal split, orthographically dialects used almost alone and those same hieroglyphs. Chinese writing (common to all dialects) is a strong binding cultural element. For a thousand years, literary Chinese was used as a standard of writing., So the grammar and vocabulary are significant differences with different forms of spoken Chinese language.

My friend told me that for the Chinese, food is not just the satisfaction of hunger, but rather a ritual, a rite. So far in China, older people, instead of greetings, address each other with the phrase: “Neither chafanla ma?” - “Have you eaten already?”. And about the person who lost his job, they say: "He broke his cup of rice." In ancient China, among a number of palace ceremonies to which even the emperors submitted, a large part was occupied by rituals that are directly related to food and to what is connected with it. The order of serving dishes, the table setting, the clothes of the servants who waited at the table, the music played during the meal were strictly selected.

**ii. Reactions**: I am surprised by many of the events and clothing of Chinese. My friend told me that Chinese culture contains customs and traditions, music, dance, painting, language, cuisine, clothing and applied arts.

China is not only the birthplace of paper, but also of typography. It is here in the X century. The book was first printed, which is several centuries ahead of the first printed book in Europe - the Bible of John Guttenberg. With the beginning of typography in China there is a significant leap in the development of literature and scientific knowledge. Published many works in various areas of history, archeology, reflecting the great interest of the Chinese to their past. The wide distribution of typography contributes to the written consolidation of works of folk art.

The Chinese are one of the most difficult to understand nations, which strictly honors its traditions, customs, and rituals. However, if you follow the basic rules of behavior, you can feel that life in China is much more pleasant and easier than in many other countries of the world.

Chinese people are characterized by such qualities as diligence, patience, patriotism, politeness, perfect knowledge of etiquette.

China's national characteristics are expressed in the behavior and actions of its inhabitants. For the Chinese, courtesy and politeness are typical, they are not too emotional and can react with restraint to events. When meeting with the Chinese, a rather easy handshake and nod. However, the Chinese are not closed, but very sociable and will gladly enter into dialogue.

It is believed that modesty is one of the key qualities of a resident of China. They are very pleased with the praise, but the Chinese can react to it with restraint and even dryly.

**. What stimulated my reactions?**

My stimulated reactions are that it is vast culture. China is not only the birthplace of paper, but also of typography. I like the dishes of China. The dishes of the national Chinese cuisine include flour products, including noodles, noodles, all kinds of flat cakes, steamed bread (pampushki), Wonton, ears and sweet biscuits. A huge role in nutrition is played by vegetables: all sorts of cabbage, sweet potatoes, potatoes, radish of different varieties, green onion-batun, garlic, tomatoes, pepper, spinach, green bean pods are very popular. Particularly popular are the thick young leaves of bamboo boiled, side dishes and canned food.

iii. **My personal ministry prospects**: I believe the most difficult issue of Chinese culture is its language. I believe that Chinese language is the biggest barriers for the cross cultural relationship. China is not an expansionist country. It has not been particularly bellicose. Are you thinking about Tibet? Yes, but it was part of their territories long before the European incursion so there is a long debate there.

What I want to say is that the Chinese people are a people who look at their navels, to say the least. He has not been very interested in the outside world and his contacts have been sporadic, interested and often forced by the restless powers of Old Europe.

The best thing of Chinese culture is the civilization. In the 20th century, western construction technologies spread in China, especially in cities. Traditional Chinese buildings rarely exceed three floors, and the demands of urbanization have meant that modern Chinese cities have a western appearance. However, in the suburbs and villages are often still built on the traditional technologies.

**iv. Personal reflection:** From the interview, I learned that Chinese culture of all times developed in the context of various contradictions within the country, the establishment of domination and the enslavement of China by capitalist states. But even in such conditions, the development of culture is further developed.

The surviving material and literary sources allow us to trace the development of Chinese religious and philosophical views, the emergence of socio-political systems. We see the development of urban planning, architecture, plastic art; treasures of poetry and prose are created; there are significant works of art, including portrait painting; a nationwide form of theater is formed, and later a musical drama. The beauty of Chinese porcelain, embroidery, painted enamels, carvings made of stone, wood, ivory in its grace and artistic value claim to one of the leading places among similar products in the world. Significant were, of course, scientific achievements in the field of education, astronomy, magnetism, medicine, typography, etc. Success in economic development, expansion of external relations has been achieved.

The culture of China had a great influence on the development of the culture of the numerous neighboring peoples that inhabited the vast territories of later Mongolia, Tibet, Indo-China, Korea and Japan. Later on a large number of leading powers of the medieval world. Chinese culture has made a significant contribution to the development of world culture. Its originality, high artistic and moral value speak of creative talent and deep roots of the Chinese people.