Amity's Understanding of Relationships with Overseas Organisations

As China opens up to the outside world, many church and church-related organizations abroad are establishing cultural, educational and social service programs in China, in relation to existing Chinese institutions and local governments. These programs include the granting of scholarships, sponsorship of language teachers, exchanges in medical and technical personnel, supply of up-to-date medical or educational equipment, and the offering of donations.

The Board of the Amity Foundation is thankful for all links established between overseas church-related organizations and Chinese institutions serving to promote China's modernization and international understanding. The Board also appreciates that these organizations inform the China Christian Council of their involvement in China's education, health, medicine and other social services. The China Christian Council and Amity will, after receiving the prospectuses of these programs, do their best to help these organizations in a consultative capacity and in other ways which may be desirable.

The Amity Foundation proposes the following principles for overseas church organizations that are relating to Chinese institutions:

1. The organization or sponsoring agency should be in general sympathy with China's socialist modernization.
2. It should be willing to abide by the laws and customs of the People's Republic of China for activities conducted in China. It should be open and aboveboard on the nature, purpose and perspective of its work in China.
3. It should respect the Three-Self principle of the Chinese churches. Christians from overseas are welcome to attend services of worship and meet with Chinese Christians. Out of respect for the Three-Self principle of the Chinese church, they should not engage in activities of a proselytizing nature.

The Amity Foundation is opposed to the random distribution of Christian literature, fund-raising for church building and other work, the use of funds for the training of Chinese church workers at home and abroad and similar practices which are carried on without the expressed consent of proper Chinese church authorities.

It is unfortunate that there are still a number of Christian groups overseas which use language teaching or the offer of technical assistance as a cover for their clandestine activities. Such action is an offence to the Chinese people, and is opposed by Chinese Christians. The Amity Foundation is grateful to friends who feel obliged to inform it of such activities.

The Amity Foundation has been created on the initiative of Chinese Christians for the purpose of promoting health, education and social service projects in China. Amity appreciates the willingness and readiness of Christians abroad to relate to the work of the Amity Foundation. On the basis of the above-mentioned principles, Amity welcomes overseas help and support and is grateful for all the help and support it has been receiving from church, church-related and non-church organizations overseas.

Out of respect for the autonomy and the self-support principle of the church in China, contributions to the Amity Foundation will not go towards the work of evangelism and church-building of Chinese Christians.

As a non-governmental and non-church organization, Amity represents a new form of Christian involvement in Chinese society. There are at least two distinctive features of such newness. First, the initiative for the Amity Foundation came from within China; all projects are identified, designed, studied and evaluated in consultation with Chinese specialists according to local needs and conditions. Second, Amity represents a form of cooperation between Christians and non-Christians, including Chinese Communists, to work together for the good of the people. By making contributions to the humanitarian welfare of the Chinese people without religious discrimination, the Amity Foundation also makes Christian involvement and participation in China's social development more widely known to the Chinese people and to people the world over.

January 1, 1987
Amity Nutrition Project

Visitors to the Amity Foundation’s nutrition project are often amazed at the great variety and attractiveness of the food prepared by the trainees under the instruction of their teachers and experienced chefs. They are more amazed when told that even vegetarians would have no trouble eating most of the dishes, pastry, and Chinese-style cakes. Nutritious and hygienic, inexpensive and easy to make, nice to look at and taste, they are not only appealing to children but to adults as well — including overseas visitors.

Amity’s nutrition project began in October 1985 with a competent partner, the Gulou (Drum Tower) Hospital, one of the biggest in Nanjing. The program was aimed at giving a more nutritious diet to children, especially to those who eat meals at kindergartens.

The trainees were cooks from 18 different kindergartens in Nanjing or the suburban area. In the one-year program, they took several courses such as “Food Selection”, “General Nutrition”, “Childhood Nutrition”, “Cookery”, “Pastry Making” as well as “Canteen Service”. Their teachers include medical doctors, teachers from institutions of higher learning, professionals from public health departments and experienced chefs from restaurants. Theory was combined with practice. The trainees were required to spend a great deal of the time working in Drum Tower Hospital’s special canteen.

During the year, they also made investigations into kitchens of selected nurseries and kindergartens to learn how to improve children’s health through a more balanced diet. As a result, they came to see some general problems existing in many kindergartens, such as an uneven and inconsistent supply of protein, vitamins and inorganic salts; an inability to make full use of fresh vegetables; deficiency in canteen management; and lack of the cooking skills necessary to tempt children’s appetites.

After a year’s intensive program, which ended in October 1986, the trainees are now able to design diets for children of different age groups and those with special needs. Most of the trainees have now mastered the skills of making foods to the liking of children. They have learned to stuff minced meat into tomatoes decorated with green leaves, make dumplings into the shape of fish, and fashion pastry to look like toy rabbits. These foods all look so pretty that sometimes visitors hesitate to put such artistic creations into their mouths.

As the first project of its kind in Nanjing, the nutrition program gained the interest and support of people from all walks of life. It also attracted the attention of the municipal government as well as the news media. There are altogether more than 2000 kindergartens or nurseries in Nanjing enrolling around 150,000 pre-school children. The fact that knowledge of childhood nutrition is now so much in demand is undoubtedly of special significance.

Project Director, Dr. Gan Kezhao, a dietitian at the Gulou Hospital since her graduation from the former Jiangyin Women’s College, was obviously very proud of this class. She said: “I love my work. Nutrition as a science was neglected for long years for reasons known to us all. Now with rising living standards in China, people are gradually recognizing its importance. However, lacking proper knowledge, people tend to judge nutrition in terms of the food’s market value. That is why some parents feed their children too much chocolate. Children represent the future. In China today as in the government and child families, the question of childhood nutrition must call for special attention.”

Gan spent her 60th birthday at a party to entertain the Amity teachers in the early spring 1986. Insightful and energetic, she is director of the nutrition department of Gulou Hospital. Asked what she would do now that the first children’s nutrition program was over, she expressed her willingness to run more short-term classes. A 10-week program was held during the year for cooks from rural kindergartens. Gan grinned when one visitor complimented her by saying that he would like to be a patient in Gulou Hospital because of the delicious food. She replied, “We would appreciate having your continued support through the Amity Foundation.”

Amity will continue to be involved in programs concerned with childhood nutrition, a most important factor in the health of the children of China.

Foundation Laid for Amity Press

Mr. Dai Zhenguoy Discussing Plans for the Amity Printing Press

On November 8, the foundation stone for the Amity Printing Press was laid on a new location in Jiangning County. A complex of buildings is to be constructed on the 36,000 square meter site which is about nine kilometers from the Nanjing city centre.

The new facility is expected to provide an efficient base for the Amity Printing press. It will give priority to the printing of Bibles and other literature entrusted by church bodies in China. In addition, the press will print materials of general service to society.

Funds for the machinery, training of personnel and start-up costs are being raised by the United Bible Societies (UBS), a world-wide fellowship of Bible Societies.

Bishop K.H. Ting, President of the Amity Foundation, spoke at the foundation-laying ceremony. Expressing thanks to Chinese government organisations at various levels, and to the UBS, Bishop Ting said that the Amity Printing Press was “a model of cooperation between the people of China and people overseas.” In addition, “the Amity Printing Press also represents very close cooperation between Chinese Christians and people outside the Christian community,” he said.

“This printing press will give priority to the printing of Bibles,” Bishop Ting said. “I am a Christian and many who have participated in the Amity Foundation are Christians. Thus I am particularly glad that this press will enable the Bible to be more widely distributed in China.”

“The Bible is for Christians a very precious book because in the Bible we can read the Word that God has for humankind. Outside the church there are also many who are interested in the Bible.”
Bishop Ting continued: “Chairman Mao once said that without reading the Bible there is no way to understand the history and literature of many countries of the world. And in the world today there are one billion Christians — as many as we Chinese.

The Amity Printing Press will not only print Bibles but also other materials for society at large — materials consistent with the goals of the Amity Foundation. The fact that we shall print these materials is a means whereby Chinese Christians may bear witness, and it is a contribution to Chinese society.”

The Amity Foundation was set up in 1985 to promote education, welfare and cultural exchange in China. Since then, Amity has received support from sources both within China and overseas. Support for the Amity Printing Press has come not only from the United Bible Societies and Jiangning County, but also from the provincial government of Jiangsu Province and from the central government.

Mayor Xu of Nanjing, who was also at the ceremony, emphasized that the printing press would give priority to the printing of Bibles and other materials of service to society. Congratulating the Amity Foundation, he said that the printing press “signifies the friendship and joint efforts of people of many countries”.

The head of the United Front Work Department of Jiangsu Province said that the laying of the foundation stone showed that the Amity Foundation had entered a new stage. “I believe that the Amity Printing Press will have a great future,” he said. “Our country, in its new policy of openness, is carrying out educational reforms, technical reforms, industrial reforms, and now political reforms. Our country practices freedom of religion. We believe that there is a common interest between those who believe in religion and those who do not — the building up of our nation. We are glad that the Amity Foundation has been making contributions to society and to welfare work,” he added.

Also emphasizing that Bibles would have priority at the printing press was the magistrate of Jiangning County. On behalf of the country’s 750,000 people he expressed his “thanks and gratitude to the United Bible Societies and the Amity Foundation who have made this printing press possible.”

Mr. Dai Zhengguo, who is in charge of the construction of the press, reported that the Jiangning Industrial Corporation had allocated 23 people — engineers, technicians, accountants and administrators — to head the construction project. Mr. Dai said the aim was to have the buildings completed by the end of June 1987, so that machinery could then begin to be installed.

### Amity Teachers

The Amity Foundation now has 53 teachers, one nurse and one medical doctor working in the provinces of Jiangsu, Fujian and Zhejiang, as well as the municipality of Shanghai. The teachers are offering courses in English, German and Japanese at 36 different universities and institutions of higher learning, and they are supported by 14 different church-related sponsoring agencies in nine countries.

At their orientation meeting in Nanjing last August, several teachers expressed their joy and appreciation for the warm welcome they received. They said they looked forward to being able to learn, teach and share with the Chinese people. Since then, several teachers have written to report on their life and work, and some of these responses have been circulated in an informal newsletter which is entitled AMITY TEACHERS.

Henry and Katie Nelson are the first medical personnel from overseas to work at the Number One People’s Hospital in Zhenjiang. Katie writes from Zhenjiang:

“Henry and I are very comfortably settled and are being extremely well cared for. We enjoy worshipping at the Fu Yin Tang, and with a full house every Sunday. We are both working on lectures, and I am teaching English twelve hours per week. We have good help with our study of Chinese and are struggling to understand the local dialect.”

Christiane Boucqut, who is sponsored by the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, is teaching at the Nanjing School of Foreign Languages. She wrote in October about her experience in the local Catholic church:

“On Sundays I go to church on my bike, a twenty minute ride... The first Sunday I went to church with a Filipino Amity teacher, we were graciously taken into the parish family by the Bishop, the parish priest, and the vice-chairman of the Jiangsu Patriotic Association. We had a grand reception and were warmly welcomed. In the church I am known as ‘Pao Mumu’ meaning Sr. Pao.”

Ben and Lisa Sells are the first foreign teachers at Huaiyin Teachers College in northern Jiangsu. Although there are the only two foreigners in the city, they seem to be getting along very well. Lisa is teaching courses in literature and intensive