A Few Words from Bishop Ting

The Amity Foundation is now two years old. Today we are even more convinced than two years ago that an organization such as ours, initiated by Chinese Christians but drawing support from friendly personages of renown in society, is just the thing for a time like this. Amity is seeking to serve China through educational and humanitarian means which are open to us but which do not infringe upon the self-support stance of the church in our country. From many perspectives—Chinese and international, church and non-church, human need and Christian commitment—Amity is making a contribution to society.

We do want to say how grateful we are for the support the Amity Foundation has been able to receive from groups and individuals, both in China and from overseas, both inside and outside of the church.

K.H. Ting
President

Amity Printing Press to Open Soon

Despite unusually heavy rain the building contractor has managed to keep to plan. The Amity Printing Press building will be sufficiently completed to allow the installation of the printing machinery to commence on June 25, 1987 as scheduled. The Tinson web offset printing machine which is especially designed for Bible production will be the first machine to be installed. This will be followed by the sheet fed printing machines and the binding equipment. Bible signatures are expected to start coming off the press by mid August and then completed Bibles by October. All machines are expected to be on line by the end of September.

Churches throughout China are waiting anxiously for an improved supply of Bibles which the Amity Printing Press will begin to deliver later this year. In addition to an order for 100,000 non-reference Chinese Union Version Bibles to be completed by the end of this year, the Amity Printing Press has received another order for 100,000 copies of the Chinese cross-reference Bible. This will be the first time in recent years that this edition has been published in China. The cross-reference Bible is being sought by people who engage in Bible study and those who have the responsibility of teaching from the Scriptures.

The China Christian Council has published over 2.3 million copies of the Bible and the New Testament with Psalms during the past 6 years.
Meeting of Amity Board

The Board of Directors of the Amity Foundation met in Nanjing on May 15 and 16. The first day was spent in discussion, reviewing the work of the Amity Foundation and making plans for the future. On the second day, the group visited the Nanjing Children's Welfare Center and the site of the Amity Printing Press. Members of the Board offered many good suggestions to the staff, as well as encouragement for the work which has already been done.

Honorary President Chen Yuckuang, who is 95 years old, compared the atmosphere of Amity to a warm spring breeze which cured his cold. He expressed the wish that this breeze could be spread more widely. Honorary President Kuang Yaming spoke on the working style and dedication which the Foundation and its staff must have. He joined others the next day in an inspection of the Amity Printing Press.

Introducing Hwa Nan Professional Women's College

Excerpts from a speech by Prof. Su Songzheng presented at the Amity Mid-year Teachers' Conference, Xiamen, Fujian Province, on January 15, 1987.

We are proud that our school is the first private women's college in China. It is a unique institution of higher learning based on the social needs of women and women's special qualities in China today. Our goal is to train Chinese women to make important contributions, to modernize China and to promote effective exchange between China and other countries.

For the purpose of training excellent and aspiring women leaders, our president, Dr. Yu Bao-sheng determined to serve the nation by education. In the beginning she raised money for Hwa Nan by contacting former Hwa Nan alumnas and friends of the college both in China and abroad. With limited funds, properties donated by alumnas and with support provided by provincial and municipal authorities, Hwa Nan began matriculation in the summer of 1985 and classes officially began that autumn. Two hundred thousand RMB had been raised to build a new school building with 12 classrooms and to purchase living quarters for our English teachers. More than 360 day-students attend Hwa Nan now.

The full-time teachers at Hwa Nan are mostly alumnae of the former Hwa Nan. They follow their college motto: "Having Received, I Will Give." Although they are in their advanced years they still conscientiously serve the new Hwa Nan. They receive a very low salary of not more than 70 RMB per month. They spend a great deal of time away from their families and grandchildren to build Hwa Nan.

There are four fields of study at Hwa Nan: Nutrition and Culinary Arts; Clothing and Design; Childhood Education and Counseling; and Applied English Language.

The curriculum of each department implements a work-study program combining classroom education with on-the-job experience and training. The Nutrition and Culinary Arts students operate a Hwa Nan-owned restaurant; Childhood Education and Counseling students practice their teaching skills in the College's affiliated kindergarten; Clothing and Design students train at local garment industries; and this year, English majors, who will be working predominantly in tourism fields, are making excursions to hotels and local tourist sites to practice their skills. These work-study programs cultivate greater expertise in the students and help finance the college by generating marketable products and services.

I would like you to hear some of the comments which students have made about their work experiences. One said, "We have received uncountable gains. This is not only a movement of part-work and part-study. The more important thing is that we've got in touch with society. We've learned what we can't learn in classes. This broadens our knowledge and helps us discover how to combine theory and practice." Another student commented, "This is the first time for us to earn money. How difficult it is! Besides the knowledge and skills we've learned, it has been important for us to overcome our fragile nature and the fear of facing difficult tasks."

"Practice is the sole criterion of truth." We have just begun to realize our goals at Hwa Nan and would greatly appreciate the continued support at home and abroad, compromises from institutions of higher learning, comrades from the provincial and municipal governments, and friends from various fields who are concerned with education. Thank you!

Amity Teachers' Mid-year Conference

In January of this year, more than fifty Amity teachers met in Xiamen for a mid-year conference, along with Amity staff, Chinese colleagues and several other foreign teachers. The conference included presentations by Amity staff, workshops on teaching methods, discussions of problems and concerns, as well as opportunities for sightseeing, worship and relaxation.

Mr. Han Wenzao, Amity General Secretary, gave a brief update on recent developments. He told how various aspects of the work are growing, including new opportunities in health and welfare work. He reported that the pollution project has been successfully tested and it promises to make a significant contribution to the control of industrial pollution.

In addition to staff presentations, there was a special session on Hwa Nan Women's College in Fuzhou. This is typical of the sort of school that Amity aims to support — new, small and lacking resources, but with an innovative programme that is making a real contribution to society.

Amity teachers spoke of their experiences and problems they had encountered. These included communication difficulties with colleagues and administrators; the relationship of qualifications and experience to particular job situations; and a variety of difficulties in particular living situations. Overall, however, the teachers were enthusiastic about their work, and many Chinese colleagues reported that they were making real contributions.

The Xiamen conference in many ways resembled a family gathering, because Amity feels like a family and therein lies one of its major strengths. Amity teachers are good examples of the type of contribution which Christians from overseas can make to Chinese society.

As the second semester draws to a close, some Amity teachers will be returning home, while others will be travelling in China before returning to teach for another year. The third group of Amity teachers will be arriving in late August, and some of them will be serving in new areas, including Jiangxi, Xinjiang and Shandong.
Interview with Ding Yenren: Excerpts
Educational Consultant, the Amity Foundation

by Jack Cuff
Amity teacher at He Hai University

-- Ting Yen Ren --

**Question:** Amity teachers are usually sponsored by church boards or mission-sending groups. In short, though they cannot publicly function as such, they see themselves as missionaries, do they not?

**Answer:** The service of the Amity Foundation to China's modernization does make Christianity better known among the Chinese people. Amity teachers from abroad contribute greatly in this respect. But Amity teachers are not missionaries. In fact they are not necessarily all Christians. They come to China as volunteers, experts and, above all, friends, who are to devote a part of their life to the welfare of a third-world people. So they are welcomed by Chinese people—both those who believe in Christianity and those who don't. Out of respect for the autonomy and three-self principle of the church in China, we do not regard our teachers as or expect them to be any new kind of missionary.

**Q:** What specific guidelines do you offer the teachers to live and work in this ambivalent situation of an openly non-religious society such as China?

**A:** I don't think teachers with Christian belief need to make much of our "openly non-religious society" as something so different from a less openly non-religious society. They could just be themselves. They should feel free to go to church and have fellowship with local Christians. Out of respect for the Chinese Christians' wish to make the church in China self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating so as to live down its Western image, teachers are not to attempt to evangelize the Chinese people. But this does not mean that in the classroom they are to refrain from making any mention of Christianity or using materials having to do with religion.

**Q:** How does the Chinese government look upon overseas Christians, with Christian motivation, working in China?

**A:** I don't think government officials generally think highly of Christianity. But engaged in the drive for the Four Modernizations, they do appreciate the service which Chinese and overseas Christians are offering to society, just as we appreciate the good work the government has been doing for the people. The top concern shared by all of us, Christians and non-Christians alike, is to rid our society of its semi-feudal, semi-colonial past. We seek to create a socialism that is not only modernized and advanced materially and culturally, but one which is also truly democratic and caring for all. The government's primary interest is in our contribution, not our motivation.

**Q:** Amity is an ecumenical body with Catholics, Protestants and others among its participants. Are there common worship services? Do you see Amity as an experiment in Christian unity?

**A:** Since Amity is not a church organization, it is ecumenical primarily in the sense of its being "universal" or "worldwide". Our board and staff include Christians as well as non-Christians. Amity teachers who are Christians usually attend Chinese services. In Nanjing, which has the third largest concentration of foreign teachers in China, there is an English worship and fellowship meeting every other week. It was organized by a few Amity teachers but many non-Amity English-speaking foreign teachers and students of various denominational backgrounds also attend.

**Q:** Are there harmonious relations between teachers of varying religious backgrounds? Do all abide by the three-self principles?

**A:** Amity teachers are generally supportive of Chinese Christians' three-self principle. The teachers came to China for the purpose of serving the people. This is a common ground on which harmonious relations can develop.

**Q:** Would Amity hope to see other "more religious" results from its teachers project, such as more conversions or church participation among the people, or is it satisfied with simply raising the English proficiency level among students?

**A:** Doing well in teaching and thus raising the English proficiency level of Chinese students is a good enough contribution to the Amity Foundation's effort to serve China. I think that this in itself will strengthen the witness of the Chinese church. It would be counter-productive if we expect Amity teachers from abroad to engage themselves in direct evangelism among Chinese.

**Q:** How many teachers were in the first project?

**A:** We started with 22 in 1985-86. The second year there were 55 and this year we expect over 70.

**Q:** Are there any limits to your further expansion?

**A:** I hope more teachers will be working in areas and schools that have difficulty in getting teachers from abroad. However, we have to pursue this goal slowly due to two factors: 1. Amity is still a very young institution and we have insufficient experience and staff to work with teachers if they are spread out over vast areas in China; 2. many schools do not have the facilities and personnel that are necessary for receiving teachers from abroad.

**Q:** What are some of the problems that Amity teachers encounter?

**A:** This year we have teachers working in Huaiyin and Nantong. They are really pioneers in that they are the first foreigners in over thirty years to work there. Life has not been easy for them, nor has it been easy for those who are working as the only foreign teachers on a campus. Not many people can handle a situation in which practically no one else understands his or her language. In the coming school year we are planning to send teachers to three cities in Jiangxi, to Shandong, and to Urumqi in Xinjiang Province. We hope more people will find it possible to volunteer for positions like these.

**Q:** Will Amity be affected by recent criticisms of Western political influences?

**A:** It has been made explicit by the Communist Party that the criticism of "bourgeois liberalization" will be limited to the departments and members of the Party and will not involve other political parties, religious circles, or intellectuals in general. So it is not going to affect the work of the Amity Foundation. As a matter of fact, Amity's projects, including the printing press and the one on pollution control, are going ahead as usual. And, as I have said, we are planning to send more teachers to more provinces this coming fall.
In the period between January 26, 1986 and March 31, 1987, the Amity Foundation received from abroad contributions of more than US$ 400,000. In addition, we have received numerous donations in kind, including equipment for hospitals and welfare centers. We are pleased to report that of the contributions received for medical and social service more than 98% have gone directly towards project support.

The Amity Foundation also wishes to express its gratitude for the support we have received from within China. We extend our thanks to the many Chinese individuals and church, educational, governmental and social service organizations that have contributed their support in so many ways, from monetary donations and the secondment of personnel, to the use of facilities and the hospitality extended to Amity teachers and visitors.

The Amity Foundation wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the contributions and support received from the following individuals and organizations from overseas. Any mistakes or omissions in this listing, if any, are sincerely regretted.

**Organizations**
- American Baptist(Visitor Group)
- American Lutheran Church
- ANDRA (Seventh Day Adventists)
- Anglican Diocese of Hong Kong & Macao
- Australian Council of Churches
- Basel Mission
- British Council of Churches
- Canada China Programme of the Canadian Council of Churches
- Caritas, Hong Kong
- China Educational Exchange
- Christian Conference of Asia
- Church of Sweden Mission
- Cooperative Services International
- Dienst Over Grenzen
- Evangelical Lutheran Church, Switzerland
- Evangelische Missionwerk
- Friends of the Church in China
- Hong Kong Baptist(Visitor Group)
- I.C.M. Sisters
- Japanese Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Kowloon Union Church, HK
- Lutheran Fellowship, Hong Kong
- MECA
- Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
- Messenian Central Committee
- National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA
- Parkridge Center
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Skoienes U-Landsbygden
- St. John's Cathedral, Hong Kong
- Swedish Missionary Council

**Individuals**
- The United Church of Canada
- United Bible Societies
- United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia
- University of Dublin / Trinity College
- Verband der Stadt Züricherschulen
- Vereenigte Evangelische Mission

**Emergency Appeal for Heilongjiang**

The Amity Foundation has set up a special emergency fund for the relief and rehabilitation of disaster victims of the recent forest fire in Heilongjiang Province. This fire in China's Northeast has caused extensive damage, and it has already claimed hundreds of lives. Many people have been left injured and homeless, and there has been great loss of property and forest lands. Amity invites contributions from organizations from around the world to help in relief and rehabilitation efforts for Heilongjiang.

*The Amity Newsletter is prepared by the staff of the Amity Foundation*

The Amity Newsletter is distributed free of charge and will be issued two or three times a year. If you would like to receive the newsletter, or if you desire further information on any of our projects, please feel free to write.

Funding for the work of the Amity Foundation will depend upon sources, both Chinese and foreign, religious and non-religious, individual and organizational. The Amity Foundation is not a church organization, and contributions will not go towards the work of evangelism and church building of Chinese Christians. Inquiries concerning the possibilities of new project initiatives are welcomed, as are contributions for the direct support of the Amity Foundation. Checks or bank drafts made payable to the Amity Foundation may be sent to the Nanjing Office.

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