An eight-person delegation from the Amity Foundation visited Western Europe between October 15 and November 10, 1987. Headed by Mr. Han Wenzao, Amity General Secretary, the delegation visited partner organizations and social service agencies in West Germany, Holland and Sweden. Members of the delegation included Christians and non-Christians from the board and staff of the Amity Foundation, as well as two representatives from Amity-supported social service agencies.

The highlight of the visit was a consultation with some twenty European denominational and ecumenical agencies in Hamburg on October 26 and 27. In the working paper on relationships between Amity and European partner organizations approved at this meeting, it was stated: “All partners are finding that they have much to learn from one another. In Europe the various churches and denominations are learning to cooperate in partnership and sharing. Through the creation of the Amity Foundation, we increasingly recognize the importance of Christian co-operation with non-Christians in reconstructing our societies.” The Hamburg meeting afforded opportunities for formal and informal interpretation of the work of the Amity Foundation, and furthered the process of dialogue, consultation and cooperation between European agencies and Amity.

The delegation also visited more than twenty different social service institutions specializing in work with the deaf, the mute, education for the disabled, rehabilitation for the handicapped, and the development of artificial limbs. Commenting on what they had learned during these visits, Amity staff member Ms. Tan Lijing said: “Although we cannot afford to provide our disabled brothers and sisters in China with the same kind of facilities, we can learn from the spirit of their work to render heart-felt service to the people of China.”

The Amity delegation was warmly received everywhere they went, and is grateful for European friends in making this visit possible.

Criteria for Amity Project Support

The Amity Foundation carries on a careful process of selection for projects to be approved for funding or support. Amity consultants or liaison division staff usually visit the institution to assess the project with those who might be assisting in its implementation. As a project progresses, there is an ongoing process of consultation with Amity representatives.

The Amity Foundation has established five criteria for project selection:

1. The receiving institution should have competent leadership for carrying out and overseeing the project.
2. The project should be of a creative and pioneering nature, benefiting a large number of people, and with a multiplying effect.
3. The project should receive positive recommendations by specialists in the field, including Amity consultants.
4. There is assurance that the project has or will have basic facilities, adequate personnel and careful planning.
5. Help should be of a limited time frame and not create dependency.

Overseas organizations which are interested in supporting a project in a particular area should write to the Amity Foundation in Nanjing.
Amity Printing Press Dedicated on December 5th

The Amity Printing Press, Nanjing, China, was officially opened on December 5th. The Amity Printing Press specializes in book production and quality color printing, incorporating the latest technology.

Amity printing press will give priority to the printing of Bibles and other publications entrusted by church organizations. It will also print other materials in conformity with Amity’s goal to serve the community in general.

The press has been set up by the Amity Foundation, a Chinese social service foundation with projects in the People’s Republic of China. The press was constructed in cooperation with the Jiangning County Industrial Corporation and with the wholehearted support of the Jiangsu Provincial Government, Nanjing Municipality and the Jiangning County authorities.

Bible societies from around the world have donated the money needed for the machinery, training of personnel and start-up capital through the United Bible Societies. Funding for the press building has been provided by the Finance Bureau of Jiangning County and the Nanjing Construction Bank.

The construction of the 6,000 square meter building began on November 8, 1986, on undeveloped land and was ready for occupation by June 1987. Installation of the machines began in July and by September 13, printing commenced for the first Bible order. By November 12, 10,000 complete Bibles have been printed.

To build and establish a large-scale, modern printing press in less than one year on undeveloped land is an extraordinary achievement. This would be a great accomplishment anywhere in the world.

Looking back we see that several things contributed to this “miracle”.

Opening Speech by Bishop K. H. Ting at the Dedication

Today's formal dedication of the Amity Printing Press is a joyous occasion. We are grateful to all who supported this endeavor, both in China and from overseas, and we especially wish to thank the United Bible Societies and member societies from every nation; the national, Jiangsu Provincial, Nanjing city and Jiangning county people’s government; and the workers and cadres who exerted their efforts in the preparatory building process. This factory is a product of the prayers and efforts of many people from within China and from overseas, both within and without the Christian fold, and we thank you all.

The Amity Printing Press is run by the Amity Foundation in co-operation with the Jiangning Industrial Corporation. The Amity Foundation is a co-operative endeavor between Chinese Christians and non-Christian personages, a people’s organization dedicated to the task of building up China. In initiating the Amity Foundation, Chinese Christians had several things in mind:

(1) As Chinese citizens, we wished to contribute what we could to meeting people’s needs in the areas of health, education, and social service.

(2) As Christians, we hoped that through the things we did, not only would more Chinese people know of the existence of Christianity, but that they would know that Christianity is
beneficial to the people and worthy of their respect and love.

(3) As a part of humankind and members of the church universal, we wanted to serve as a bridge for mutual exchange and sharing between peoples of different nations and members of different churches in order to promote world peace, friendship and justice.

(4) As members of the Chinese Church, we wished that Amyt's work would motivate Chinese Christians out of their love to have greater concern for the social witness of the gospel and actively participate in society.

The Amyt Printing Press will give priority to the printing of the Bible and other church literature as entrusted by church organizations.

The Bible is an important book for all of humanity. Chairman Mao said that unless one studied Christianity, there would be no way of understanding Western history, Western literature and Western philosophy. It is this Bible which is Christianity's scripture. We are most happy that today in China the intellectual world is increasingly giving the Bible the attention it deserves.

For us Christians, the Bible is an even more precious book: Along the road of human life, the Bible provides comfort for those who are distressed; hope for those who are disappointed; and encouragement for those who are weak. The Bible teaches us to oppose all forms of oppression and injustice, and it helps people to be humble, honest, upright, dependable and loving.

In today's world, one billion people have found in the Bible a Christ who is their object of devotion, a meaning and a power for living, a standard of ethics and sustenance for their spiritual life.

Since 1981, the Chinese Church has printed and distributed 2.9 million Bibles and New Testaments with Psalms. In China, the Bible is one of the books enjoying a large distribution. The establishment of the Amyt Printing Press will enable greater, more rapid, better, and less expensive printing of the Bible.

It is also very important that, in addition, this press will serve society in general in an enthusiastic and friendly way. We are prepared to offer rapid, inexpensive and satisfactory service for the printing of materials which are uplifting and consistent with the goals of the Amyt Foundation.

We know that China is engaged in a process of modernization. The reconstruction of the motherland is a slogan which strikes a responsive cord among the Chinese people. The people's cultural needs are growing day by day. They require ethical, scientific and literary reading materials. They need all kinds of textbooks and a large amount of writings which can fulfill, elevate and beautify their lives. It is wonderful that the Amyt Foundation and the Amyt Printing Press can make a contribution on this level.

We are very grateful that you are able to attend today's dedication ceremony of the Amyt Printing Press. I extend to you a warm welcome, especially for the many friends who have come a great distance.

The Christoffel Blindenmission at Work with Amyt

Blind children in China can become literate with Braille so that they can attend regular schools near their homes and study together with other children. With the help of the Amyt Foundation and its partner the Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM), Mr. Xu Bailun, a blind Beijing architect, will be able to provide tape recorders for blind children in Huai'an County and Yixing, Jiangsu Province. Then, they can learn putonghua or Mandarin on which the Chinese Braille is based.

This undertaking is part of the "golden key" project, which Mr. Xu has developed in exploring a way to make education accessible to all blind children. Mr. Xu approached the Amyt Foundation for assistance, and Amyt then contacted the Christoffel Blidenmission (CBM). Thirty-nine tape recorders for blind children in Huai'an and Yixing will be purchased for this pioneering project.

China has about 5 million blind people of whom 500,000 are children. However, as there are only a dozen specialized schools for blind children in the country, over 90 per cent of China's blind children are unable to receive schooling. It is Amyt's goal to assist programs that are aimed at providing more educational opportunities for the blind.

The Christoffel Blidenmission, also known as the Christian Blind Mission International, is an interdenominational Christian fellowship dedicated to the service of the poor, the sick, and the handicapped. In co-operation with the Amyt Foundation, CBM is engaged in medical and education projects in Jiangsu, Hunan, Sichuan, Hubei, Shanghai and Beijing. It has provided various kinds of basic eye instruments and equipment for ophthalmological departments of hospitals in many cities. Schools for the blind received educational equipment and teaching aids.

The Amyt Foundation is grateful for its partnership with CBM. In responding to the creative initiative of men and women such as Xu Bailun, this kind of partnership is building on the good work which has already begun in work with the blind in China.

Excerpts from Mr. Luo Guanzong's Speech at the Hamburg Consultation

"one of the messages which Amyt seeks to convey is concern for society and service to society. Amyt has only just begun, and because we have limited human and material resources, the service which we do is quite small in comparison with other voluntary social service organizations. But through our efforts, we have already begun to receive recognition in China, and we have confidence that we will be able to do our work even better.

China has already established a certain foundation for the process of economic reform, openness to the outside world and enlivening the economy, and we are now preparing for the reform of political structures. The purpose is to go one step further in developing democratization in national political life, so as to enhance the people's initiative and participation in politics. Only in this way can we meet the requirements for continuing economic reform be met. I feel that the development and liveliness of NGOs in China over the last few years also correspond to the demands for the reform of the economic structure. They also reflect socialist democratization. Or, to put it the other way around, the continuing development and liveliness of NGOs in China helps to promote the reform of the economic structure and the democratization of political structures. Practice shows that there is a relationship of mutual promotion and enhancement between the activities of NGOs and structural reform. This has received the support and encouragement of the Chinese people, including us Chinese Christians."

Mr. Luo is a Board Member of the Amyt Foundation and Vice-Chairperson of the Chinese Christian Three-Self Patriotic Movement
Han Wenzao Speaks at Yang Centre

In September, Mr. Han Wenzao was invited to speak at the Twenty-sixth Anniversary Celebration of the Yang Memorial Social Service Centre in Hong Kong. After introducing Amity’s work in social service, he spoke on the wide and varying support which Amity has received over the last three years:

“The Amity Foundation has received support from within China and from overseas, from inside and outside the church, from individuals and organizations which support our goals. Increasing importance has been attached to the work of the Amity Foundation in the last two years, as support from relevant government organizations has facilitated our work. Amity does not have a large amount of money. If our foundation depended upon the amount of money which we have on deposit, then Amity would have to be called a foundation without a foundation. But Amity has a more precious foundation in the goodwill which we have received from friends within China and from overseas.”

News in Brief

Funds Received by Amity for Heilongjiang Relief Effort

In response to the special emergency project for the relief and rehabilitation of disaster victims of the forest fire in Heilongjiang province, the Amity Foundation has received donations from China and around the world amounting to nearly RMB 516,000. In addition, Amity has channeled donations-in-kind to the broader relief effort. More than 56,000 people were left homeless by the fire which also claimed hundreds of lives and caused extensive damage to China’s forests. The Amity Foundation is no longer requesting funds for this project.

Christian Medical Commission Team Visits China

Drs. Erinda Senturias and David Hilton representing The Christian Medical Commission of the World Council of Churches visited China in July of this year. The team exchanged experiences with Chinese colleagues on primary health care and consulted with Amity representatives on current and future health care projects.

Short Term Training Programs

The Amity Foundation has recently helped to organize short term training programs for childcare workers in Nanjing. In cooperation with the Yang Memorial Centre, Hong Kong, and the Wheatridge Foundation from the USA, three different programs have been offered in conjunction with the Nanjing Children’s Rehabilitation Center. These programs provide good opportunities for intensive staff training at institutions which engage in creative work with disabled children. Information on other opportunities for this type of program are available from the Amity Foundation.

Third Amity Teacher Orientation Held

The Third Orientation for new Amity Teachers was held in Nanjing in late August. In the current academic year, there are eighty seven teachers from ten countries working in Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, Shandong and Jiangxi provinces, as well as the municipality of Shanghai. Assigned to more than forty different institutions of higher learning, the teachers are offering courses in English, German and Japanese. The teachers have developed an informal newsletter—The Amity Echo—which serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions.

A mid-year teachers conference is scheduled for late January in Xiamen. It will include general presentations on China’s reform, panel discussions and workshops on language teaching. Following this conference, there will be a meeting with representatives of overseas sponsoring agencies in order to evaluate the first three years of the Amity Teachers Project and plan for future co-operation.

Television Coverage in USA

The Amity Foundation received national television coverage in the United States through the United Methodist Communication program “Catch the Spirit”. The special program was aimed at introducing an American audience to Christianity in China, including the work and witness of Christians in the Amity Foundation. The television crew filmed various Amity-related projects in Nanjing, including Amity’s new printing press. Entitled “The Spirit is Alive in China”, the special program was aired on December 12 on CBN Cable network.

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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Funding for the work of the Amity Foundation will depend upon sources, both Chinese and foreign, religious and nonreligious, individual and organizational. The

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