Approved Amity Projects

for 1988-89

NEW AMITY PROJECTS

- Medical College development.
- Rural Clinics.
- Rural Medical Personnel Training.
- Rural Fishraising.
- Special Normal School.
- Home Health Care.
- Artificial Limbs Factory.
- Rural Development for She minority County.

Existing Amity Projects

- Amity Teachers' Project
- Other Amity Projects
Approved Amity Projects for 1988-89

The Amity Foundation has approved projects in twelve different areas for 1988-89 (see map). These include new initiatives in rural development, social welfare, education and health services in five provinces and one municipality. Among these new opportunities for project assistance are:

—Support for Rural Development in Jingning County, Zhejiang: An autonomous district of the She minority, this is one of the poorest counties in China. After a careful field study conducted by the economics department of Nanjing University, Amity has identified several areas for project support: the construction of a classroom building and dormitory for Minority Middle School; construction of an in-patient clinic for Jingning County Hospital; support for the expansion of Jingning Edible Fungus Production Factory (see following story).

—Rural Fish Raising in Huanghuan Village, Jiangsu: Located in an economically underdeveloped area of northern Jiangsu, this village has begun a project to tap local resources and improve fish production. Amity wishes to support this ongoing endeavor as a model form of collective self-development.

—Development Assistance for Bingzhou Medical College, Shandong: This is the only medical college which has a special program for the training of students with handicapping conditions in China. In the belief that there has been inadequate attention to educational opportunities for the handicapped, Amity has chosen to support the efforts of this college to develop its rehabilitation facilities and teaching aids. Further information on these and other projects may be obtained by writing directly to the Amity Foundation in Nanjing.

Mushroom Growing and the She Minority

Why is Amity interested in mushroom growing in Jingning County?

For more than 800 years, mushroom and fungus growing has been a way of life for many residents of the She minority in Jingning Autonomous County, and any approach to local development must take this into account. Today, an estimated 10,000 peasants are skilled mushroom growers. The natural woodland and forest surroundings of this mountainous region make mushrooms a prime industry; the material on which mushrooms are grown are low quality trees cut down each year to keep the surrounding forests growing. The wood-fiber medium, used to cultivate mushrooms, is obviously very cheap and easily obtainable.

“We have devised the Amity Foundation as what we consider to be the most appropriate form for social Christian witness at this stage in our history. It is a people’s organization, not a church organization; and that makes it more acceptable to the Chinese. But it is initiated by Christians, and so is a means by which we as Chinese can do certain things that China needs, and we as Christians can do these things to make Christian presence more widely felt and appreciated.

“That is the evangelistic significance of the Amity Foundation. And whatever help Christians abroad can give the Amity Foundation objectively strengthens Christian witness in China. I don't think that kind of help will restore any Western image for the church in China.”

From an interview with K.H. Ting in One World, April, 1988.

Last year, She Minority mushroom farmers produced over 50,000 kg of mushroom and fungus for consumption in China and Southeast Asia. Despite this output, Jingning County remains one of the poorest counties in China with a per capita income of less than two hundred yuan. To enhance the production of mushrooms, the Amity Foundation has approved two specific emphases in its rural development proposal for Jingning County: 1.) The expansion of the Jingning Edible Fungus Production Factory; and, 2.) the upgrading of dehydration facilities in local mushroom processing plants.

Poor transportation makes it very difficult for mushroom farmers to transport fresh products to town for proper dehydration processing. Because it is imperative to process fresh mushrooms as quickly as possible in order to avoid spoilage, modern dehydration equipment for local processing is crucial if quality products for export are expected.

All Amity projects are carefully selected to make best use of existing resources and initiatives. By supporting mushroom farming in She Minority County, the Amity Foundation seeks to utilize local resources and existing initiatives to assist with local rural self-development.
"My Heart Is Chinese"

The Abes with their students

“I came here to work, to teach my students Japanese. You should not try to separate me from my forty students,” said the stocky, bespectacled, gray-haired man, with the same stubbornness he had shown at the beginning of the conversation.

Sitting with him, his Chinese colleague and friend seemed to be at a loss, not knowing how to convince this old man that teaching twenty-two hours a week was far above the normal workload, even for a teacher much younger than he. This same point had repeatedly been made by school officials, Amity staff and other Chinese colleagues.

The man is Mr. Abe Yoshiko, and he is otherwise not a difficult person. Under the auspices of the Amity Foundation, Mr. Abe and his wife came to Hehai University in September, 1987. They are the first teachers from abroad to work in Changzhou, a fast-growing city in southern Jiangsu. The newly-founded school is actually located 15 km. from downtown. If shopping, food selection, hot water supply, and heating in the apartment are all constant problems, the Abes seem not to mind.

Shortly after the start of classes, Mr. Abe began teaching twenty-two hours a week. He turned his office hours into teaching time so that, in his words, he could “spend as much time with students as possible.” In the following semester, the school deliberately reduced both his teaching load and his office hours. But Abe, as he is called in his school, soon learned how to get around this obstacle: he organized a weekly Japanese Evening in his apartment. In this way, Abe thinks students can learn even more than they do in regular classroom settings.

Mrs. Abe had never worked in Japan after her marriage, but she too is deeply involved in teaching and tutoring students and young teachers. This is not to say that the Abes are superman and superwoman with inexhaustible energy and physical strength. Word on campus is that they have slept through several films despite their interest in the plots. They also decided to stop at the foot of the mountain in Yixing despite their often expressed wish to hike it.

Abe spent much of his childhood in China as his parents were forced to migrate to Japanese occupied Northeast China half a century ago. He learned his Chinese from the poor Chinese country boys and girls he played with. As the Japanese military adventure went downhill, Abe was drafted into the army when he was barely seventeen. Only a month later, Japan surrendered and he was put in prison camps, first in Siberia and then in Northeast China before he was finally sent back to Japan.

“I cry whenever I think of the atrocities committed in China. This should never happen again,” he said. Abe has expressed the same thoughts to his students, colleagues, and fellow Christians in the church he regularly attends in Changzhou. When their son came all the way from Japan to visit, Abe encouraged him to make the half-day trip to visit the Memorial Hall of the 1937 Nanjing Massacre. “History,” said Abe, “should be remembered by people of later generations.”

In remembering this tragic past, Abe hopes that it will never be repeated. Dedicated to Sino-Japanese friendship, Mr. Abe became a board member of the Maizuru chapter of the Sino-Japanese Peoples’ Friendship Association, and a teacher of Chinese language and culture in Kyoto. And today he is a teacher of Japanese language in the People’s Republic of China, the land to which he feels he owes much.

Asking why he has come back to China, Abe’s answer is plain and simple. “Sino-Japanese friendship, that’s why I am here.”
The Amity Foundation's Mid-year Teachers' Meeting was held in Xiamen in January. More than one-hundred-fifty participants attended the meeting, including eighty-five Amity teachers, representatives from overseas church-related sponsoring agencies, Chinese educators and officials from provincial education commissions, as well as Amity board and staff representatives. After the three-day gathering, a separate personnel meeting was held to discuss plans for future co-operation with representatives from American, British, Canadian and Dutch sponsoring agencies.

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Dr. Billy Graham, the world renowned Christian evangelist, visited the Amity Printing Press on April 21, and watched the production of the Chinese Bible in progress. Dr. Graham was very impressed that so much had been accomplished in such a short period of time. He said, "I have heard so much about this project but to really comprehend its meaning, I had to see it ....... thanks be to God."

Amity General Secretary Mr. Han Wenzao told Dr. Graham that 245,000 Bibles had already been printed, in addition to the

Billy Graham and Han Wenzao at the Amity Printing Press

The Amity Foundation has been created on the initiative of Chinese Christians for the purpose of promoting health, education and welfare in the People's Republic of China. It is an independent Chinese voluntary organization in which people from all walks of life may participate. Amity represents a new form of Chinese Christian involvement in society, through which Chinese Christians are joining hands with friends from around the world to serve the needs of China's modernization.

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

Funding for the work of the Amity Foundation is from sources, both Chinese and foreign, religious and nonreligious, individual and organizational. The Amity Foundation is not a church organization, and funding does not go towards church finance. 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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