"Breaking the silence is sometimes also called ‘breaking the ice,’” He Congpei starts the two-day training programme for AIDS prevention in Luquan County. “Have all of you seen ice before?” In subtropical Yunnan, this is not natural, but most of the dark peasant faces nod. Yes, they have seen ice before - but what is this ‘al-zibing’ [“AIDS-illness”] they were summoned here for?

A quick survey at the beginning of the class reveals that of the dozens of church leaders present, some had not heard of AIDS before being invited to the training programme, and those who do know a little bit more describe it as a “sexually transmitted disease.” Nobody can pinpoint symptoms or describe safe forms of contact with HIV-infected persons.

Amity runs a number of AIDS prevention programmes in Yunnan Province, addressing typical risk groups as well as the general population. Supported by German development service EED, Amity has already spent 5 million RMB [US$ 625,000 approx.] on AIDS prevention in four of Yunnan’s counties, and in the big cities, about 80% of the population now know about AIDS. However, much remains to do in the countryside, and this is where “training of trainers” programmes, such as this workshop for church leaders, come in.

Protect yourself, care for others

“And now we come to a topic not mentioned on our schedule,” smiles He, “condoms.” Some nervous shuffling and coughing ensues. It slowly emerges that there are some in the group who have heard of condoms, but never seen one. Although He and his colleague Shao En have gone to lengths to approach the topic in a careful and sensitive way (this being day two of the workshop), some of the women are palpably embarrassed. In general, however, women prove to be the more daring of participants over these two days, learning fast and volunteering answers.

Apart from giving basic information enabling participants to protect themselves, the programme emphasizes the need to care for AIDS patients rather than stigmatizing them. Sooner or later some of these church leaders or their congregations will come in touch with HIV infected persons. Apart from practical aspects regarding safe contact with patients, suggestions for counselling are given, such as “be prepared for hard work,” “keep on learning about AIDS,” “express sympathy to the patient to open the way for conversation,” “listen well,” and “have total respect for the confidential nature of the counselling situation.”

The possibility of prolonging patients’
lives with retroviral drugs is only briefly mentioned. After all, the 30,000 RMB (US$3,750) required per year of treatment are an “astronomical figure” in the Chinese countryside, as one participant put it. For those who fall ill with AIDS, simple care seeking to relieve the symptoms is all they can hope for. But even this very basic care can make a huge difference. On my previous visit to Yunnan, I had met a group of HIV-infected young men, one of whom already looked quite frail and was so depressed that he hardly talked at all. “How is he doing?” I ask, fearing to hear that he is bedridden and weak. “Oh, he is much better,” I am told. “He has cheered up tremendously and has started to talk more.”

The training programme takes place only shortly after the SARS outbreak, and it is interesting to see how many people bring it up in private conversations. About one quarter of the students have heard of this illness. It becomes clear: There are channels to relay important health information to the grassroots, but how to achieve the same for AIDS?

As a popular tourism destination, Yunnan has got its share of prostitution. Drug consumption is also rampant in the province. They may or may not have seen snow and ice before, but most of the group nod when He Congpei asks them whether they have seen people using drugs. In this southwestern Chinese province with its estimated 50,000 HIV infected people, even for those outside typical risk groups such as sex workers, drug users and homosexuals, the threat of HIV-transmission is very real. In many hospitals, especially small rural clinics, blood supplies and equipment such as needles may only be insufficiently screened or sterilized.

**Snowball effect in the subtropics**

With 100 students representing 65 churches, the class is much bigger than usual. “Normally, we strictly limit the number of participants to thirty, so that we can work more in small groups,” explains Shao En from Amity’s Medical and Health Division. Together with her colleague He Congpei, she has run similar training programmes in a number of locations. The advantage of a big class is, of course, that the prevention message will probably reach hundreds of people at the grassroots.

Students in the class range from 20-something girls, giggling somewhat embarrassedly when certain topics come up, to an 89-year-old preacher. All of them are actively involved in their congregations as leaders of choirs, women’s groups, or evangelists, and they are expected to organize further training programmes on a smaller scale upon their return to their home churches. Most of those present can read and write a little, but even though presentations rely heavily on images and the spoken word, one respondent writes in his final evaluation: “Many of us here do not have much schooling. Please use more pictures in the next class.” They all receive posters and videos to take back for their home audiences.

The students have come from villages and townships all over the county, some of them travelling half a day over bad mountain roads to participate in the training programme. Many of them belong to China’s minority nationalities, some of the women have even donned ethnic dress for this special occasion.

“How do you intend to spread the message to your congregation back home?” I ask Li Chaoxiu. The 35-year-old mother of two already has an idea: “I work in our women’s group. I plan to organize some AIDS-related activity for our women.”

Not everybody is optimistic that the information gained over the past two days will be easy to relay to their friends and neighbours in church back home. “Many people in our church are quite old. If I talk about things like sex, they will have prejudices,” Zhang Yingguan says. Zhang leads the choir in his home village Jixiu, a poor settlement with around 20% Christian population. “Besides, people in Jixiu are so poor, they cannot even treat a common cold. How shall they ever think about prevention?” he adds, leaving it somewhat unclear whether he himself sees AIDS prevention as a real possibility or just one more nuisance in a life regularly threatened by poor health and malnutrition.

Similar prevention programmes have already been run in conjunction with other churches. Zhang Benmei, an Yi minority national and pastor from Kunming Christian Council, is very supportive: “[In other places] before the training, they used to think that AIDS didn’t have anything to do with them. But after the class, they realize that there are also other ways of transmission than sex.”

Checking back into my hotel in Kunming next to the “Green Lake” tourist hot spot, I get a call to my room, which is interrupted when the caller hears a female voice answering the phone. Presumably this was only the usual offer for “massage”. I just hope the unknown girl out there has also got the message.
Amity Board Meets, Elects New General Secretary

Theresa Carino

Qiu Zhonghui was unanimously elected the new General Secretary of Amity at its recent Board of Directors meeting held 5th August 2003 in Nanjing. Qiu has been with Amity since 1992. He served as the Director of the Rural Development Division and was one of Amity's Associate General Secretaries.

During the meeting, the Board of Directors officially accepted the resignation of Dr. Wenzao Han from his position as General Secretary, a position he has held since Amity's inception in 1985. Dr. Han, who underwent bypass surgery in 2001, cited health reasons for stepping down. He remains as Vice-President of Amity. Two other board members were made vice-presidents of Amity, bringing the number to five. Apart from Dr. Han, the Vice-Presidents of Amity are Chen Suiheng, Weng Zhenjin, Wang Juzhen and Stephen Ting.

Presbyterian Ji Jianhong, Chair of the National TSPM and Rev. Cao Shengjie, President of the China Christian Council were both welcomed as new board members of Amity. They praised Dr. Han for his contributions to Amity.

The detailed work report for 2001 and 2002 presented by Dr. Han was well received by the board. With China's entry into the WTO, some board members saw the need to further develop the NGO sector. Emphasizing Amity's pioneering role, they felt that Amity could contribute to this by undertaking more model projects and blazing new trails for NGOs in China. It was suggested that Amity consider expanding its work in environmental preservation, for example reducing desertification, or in working with the elderly, given China's aging population. There was a proposal to bring in experts in rural agriculture, not only teachers, from overseas to raise China's standards.

Beneficiaries become benefactors

Other board members noted that Amity had accomplished much with very limited personnel. The compassion and commitment of Amity staff have touched those they work with and helped change attitudes at the grassroots level. In Lijiang, one board member had personally observed how those who received Amity's support had begun to help neighboring counties, "transmitting Amity's love."

Stephen Ting noted that much remains to be done in China with regard to poverty alleviation and it was important for Amity to improve project management, monitoring and evaluation. Amity should work closely with the church and be a bridge between church and society. Prof. Xu Rulei suggested that perhaps Amity's mission and accomplishments should be communicated to Christians in China in a "theological language" they can understand.

Much concern was expressed about the need for Amity to improve its promotional work, especially within China. This could be done through organized tours to Amity projects, more exposure in local and national media and the production of better promotional materials.

Both Bishop Ting and Dr. Han expressed their appreciation for the contributions of the Amity Hong Kong office in promotional work. Bishop Ting was particularly pleased that the Hong Kong office had done work in support of both Amity and the China Christian Council. Board members gave the Amity Hong Kong Office a hearty round of applause.

As new board members, Presbyterian Ji and Rev. Cao join other outstanding Christian leaders on Amity's board. Led by Bishop K. H. Ting, who is the President of the Board, these include Rev. Bao Jayuan, Rev. Chen Zemin, Rev. Deng Fucun, Rev. Gao Ying, Dr. Wenzao Han, Mr. Luo Guanzong, Mr. Shen Derong, Stephen Ting Yen-ren, Ms. Wang Juzhen and Prof. Xu Rulei. Archbishop Peter Kwong of the Hong Kong Sheng Gonghui was present at the board meeting as an advisor.

Other members of the Amity Board are Mr. Chen Suiheng, Mr. Dai Shuhe, Mdm. Fang Fei, Mdm. Shen Peirong, Mr. Weng Zhenjin, Mr. Wu Rong, Mdm. Xu Jingcan, Mdm. Zhang Ye, Mr. Zhou Jiacai. Cao Hongming and Wang Bingshi were invited to be Amity's new advisors.

Those advisers and board members who were not present at this meeting include Prof. Zhou Yongxin, Mdm. Gao Shaohua, Rev. Peng Cui'an, Prof. Qu Qinyue and Prof. Zhu Chuanyi.
"Love is what unites us..."

Theresa Carino

The day after he had been elected General Secretary of Amity, Qiu Zhonghui welcomed me warmly at the top floor of the Amity Foundation's headquarters in Nanjing. This had been his office for many years in his previous capacity as Director of the Rural Development Division and Associate General Secretary of Amity. Becoming General Secretary of one of China's earliest and largest NGOs is no meager challenge. "I feel confident facing the challenge," Qiu said and broke into a boyish grin. Quiet and unassuming, Qiu has been a prime mover in expanding Amity's rural development work, especially in the poorer, western provinces.

Born in Kunshan near Suzhou in 1955, Qiu finished primary school in 1966 at a critical juncture in China's contemporary history - the beginning of the Cultural Revolution. Like many of his generation, Qiu suffered serious disruptions to his life and education during this period. He graduated from middle school in 1973 after being forced to stay home for two years between 1966 and 1968. He spent half a year in railroad construction, carrying stones before becoming a worker in a Kunshan chemical factory for five years during the Cultural Revolution.

It was only in 1978 that Qiu was given the opportunity to study at the Nanjing Institute of Education from which he graduated as a teacher of English. There, he developed a keen interest in religion, especially Christianity, and translated books from English to Chinese that included "Religion and the Rise of Modern Science" and "Religion and Art". He is also the Vice Editor-in-Chief of "The World and Religion" series.

His introduction to Amity was rather accidental. Friends at Nanjing University told him about Amity Foundation and he discovered more about Amity's work in a brochure. He found it refreshing. Amity seemed to be the place where some solid contributions to society could be made. Qiu says, "I found it was true that Amity does concrete work for the people. 'Serve the People' was a slogan during the Cultural Revolution. Now, in Amity, I could see it in action."

Qiu joined Amity in 1992. After spending the first three months in publicity work he was assigned to the Rural Development Division where he has unstintingly concentrated his energy and passion for more than ten years. In his capacity as Director of the Rural Development Division, Qiu has successfully promoted the idea of participatory development among local officials and beneficiaries. Micro-finance projects have generated additional income and newly-found confidence among women farmers. Qiu is confident that Amity has much to share with other non-profit organizations in China and maintains close contacts with the NPO Network in Beijing where he has spoken about Amity's experience in development work.

Qiu draws his inspiration from the people he encounters at the grassroots. "What I like best is to talk to ordinary people," says Qiu. "They are very open and will never deceive you." His ease in relating to people at the grassroots stems from his childhood experience. The youngest of five children in a working class family, Qiu is no stranger to hard work. More important, Qiu says, "My mother taught me humanity. Although she was very poor, she always helped others."

An equally important source of inspiration for him is what he considers the core of Amity: the idea of love. According to Qiu, "What is exciting about Bishop Ting's theology is the concept of love - to work for the cause of love. This has attracted many people. It is the foundation of Amity and this is the most important thing I want to emphasize as General Secretary of Amity. It should be an organization that emanates love. In Amity, we may have different views or beliefs. There are believers and non-believers but love is what unites us. This is the most important."◆

For more information on Qiu Zhonghui, see also "Society is a big Classroom," Amity Newsletter No. 53/2.
Leprosy

A medical breakthrough in the early 1980s made leprosy, a disease that attacks the skin and nerves, curable. While the damage caused by the illness cannot be undone, its progress can be stopped and patients are not contagious any more. As a disease that can mutilate afflicted patients, leprosy has terrified humans for thousands of years, and lepers were often shunned by their communities and forced to live a segregated life.

Until today, it remains a mysterious illness, the way of transmission still being unclear. Leprosy seems to spread easier in warm and humid climates than elsewhere, but apart from that, little is known. Some people live in close contact with lepers for years and never contract the disease.

With the advent of medication, a diagnosis of leprosy is not as life-threatening in the physical, emotional and social sense as it used to be, especially if the infection is detected at an early stage. However, much remains to be done in terms of rehabilitation for former patients. Supported by the American Leprosy Mission, the Amity Foundation has been assisting leprosy patients in various villages in Hunan Province since 2001. Help for leprosy communities includes the fitting of prosthetic limbs, leprosy-related education for villagers in the surrounding communities, and micro-credit programmes that enable patients to take up a small enterprise such as raising goats or opening a small shop.

“Amity’s Project Gave Me A New Life”
From Lonely Leper To Shop Owner And Husband

Chu Chaoyu

5 1-year-old Cao Biyou from Zhijiang County in Hunan Province was diagnosed as a victim of leprosy when he was young and vigorous. After the discovery, he was settled in the leprosy village of Zhijiang County for isolated treatment. In 1973, his right foot began to ulcer, bleed and get worse at the bottom. Even after hospitalization, the trauma could not be cured and resulted in an amputation of the right shank. Cao Biyou lost the capacity of physical labour and self-reliance, and the combination of disease and poverty lowered his quality of life consistently. These enduring sufferings as well as the prejudices of relatives and neighbours struck him down, and he gave up all faith and the pursuit of a meaningful life.

In 2001, with donations from the American Leprosy Mission (ALM), Amity helped ten leprosy victims in Huaihua with experiences of amputation and poverty similar to that of Cao Biyou, to have artificial limbs made. Cao Biyou’s mood improved tremendously after he was fitted with a prosthetic leg. He finally was able to go out, full of courage, to make money through hard labour! The education he had received until junior middle school and the experiences he was gaining through his integration in society inspired him with many ideas. He thought of running a small grocery shop if a small loan could be obtained. But nobody was willing to provide him a loan or lend him any money.

“Leprosy changed my life...”

We visited Cao Biyou this April. He told us about his difficult experiences. “Leprosy changed my life because my sisters and brothers left me, breaking off all communication, and my neighbours avoided me like the plague. This was a result of their lack of knowledge, and also the fear and prejudices against leprosy that had lasted over 2,000 years in China. My pride was extremely hurt and I could not stay at home any more. I had to live in the leprosy village. It was only here in the leprosy village that we were in the same situation and had sympathy for one another. There was no prejudice but help and love for each other. However, the leprosy village was not my home where I was born and brought up. I needed affection, I needed friendship, and I needed love. Leprosy crushed all my
dreams and exhausted me both physically and mentally. I felt isolated and lonely."

Besides the physical toll, the most serious problem leprosy created for Cao Biyou was the social prejudice and discrimination he received. Leprosy made him dependant because he was unable to work, and pushed him into a vicious circle of poverty and disease.

Amity provided Cao Biyou with some medical support. At the same time, the Foundation strengthened advocacy work for leprosy victims through education among the communities, especially among the patients’ relatives, and encouraged them to accept, support and help the former lepers. In 2002, Cao Biyou received a micro-credit loan of 5,000 RMB [US$ 625 approx.] from the project, with which he started a grocery store in his house. He was smart and understood the principles of doing business well. In order to attract customers, he set up a snooker pool in front of the grocery store for free entertainment. He also provided water and places for chatting for the villagers coming to the snooker pool. Like this, his business was flourishing. Because of this success, his social contacts also expanded. Then, somebody came to help him in introducing a possibility of marriage - a widow who had lost her husband in a traffic accident became fond of him. However, she hesitated when she heard that Cao Biyou had once been infected with leprosy. Amity’s local partners learned about this and decided to make a visit to the home of the woman. They explained about leprosy to her, pointing out that victims of leprosy are not infectious after being cured through treatment. They encouraged her not to miss this good marriage opportunity only for the medical history of Cao Biyou. After some consideration the woman finally decided to marry him.

Leading a virtually normal life now

Cao reports excitedly: "Without the help from the project, I would probably be lying at home not doing anything, let alone getting a wife and enjoying the happiness of a normal family, which I did not even dare to think of. It would also have been impossible for me to have a grocery shop. If it were not for the advocacy and community education regarding leprosy supported by Amity, people would not have accepted me. Even if I had had the money to start my business, I would not have had any customers. Besides, I was penniless, which means there was no way to get any loan or credit at all. If it had not been for the micro-credit project by Amity, it would have been impossible for me to get 100 RMB from the local bank, let alone 5,000."

"Now I am full of confidence and hopes for my life. My wife’s children [from her previous marriage] respect me. One of them is working, and the other one is studying in technical school. My grocery shop is running well, although I also have to face the pressure of competition. Our net income is around 300 RMB per month now. If I can continue to get the support from the micro-credit funds for another two to three years, I think we will be able lift ourselves out of poverty."

"I am deeply thankful to ALM and the Amity Foundation, as well as the doctors who have been helping me all along in the Skin Condition Prevention Station of Zhijiang County. It is you who have made my dreams come true. It is you who gave me opportunities and courage to strive and make my life valuable. It is you who gave me a new life!"◆

FACES OF CHINA

Fresh Off The Press: The Amity Foundation 2004 Calendar

Our 2004 Calendar features photos of the people we work for and with - from Tibetan herdspeople to physically disabled schoolchildren in China’s coastal areas. For a look into our faces of China, go to

www.amityfoundation.org, or order your copy right away!

Copies can be ordered for US$5 (including international air mail postage) from Amity’s Hong Kong Office. Cheques should be made payable to "The Amity Foundation, Hong Kong, Limited".

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For orders of more than ten copies, please contact our Nanjing Office at the address given at the back page of this issue.
Broadcasting Smiles

The Amity Grandma Program was started in Nanjing Orphanage (Nanjing’s Children’s Social Welfare Institute) and has spread to 39 cities all over China. Today, there are 225 “grandmas”, many of them retired teachers or health care professionals, taking care of children with cerebral palsy or other special needs in the orphanages. Through daily visits to their child, they contribute to the children’s rehabilitation and, most of all, bring them individual care and love overworked caregivers in the orphanages cannot give.

In May of this year, three Amity grandmas had the opportunity to share their experiences in a nationwide Chinese radio programme, “One Hour At Noon”. Wu An An, head of the Social Welfare Division in charge of the Grandma Programme, accompanied them. Below we present excerpts from the radio show, which included a live broadcast from Nanchang Social Welfare Institute.

**Host**: Ms. Wu, do you have special criteria in choosing the grandma candidates?

**Wu**: The first principle we follow in choosing the grandmas is that the candidates must have true love and sympathy for these children. She must be fond of children. Of course we also want these loving grandmas to be qualified with a certain professional background such as kindergarten teacher, medical worker or doctor.

**Host**: Ms. Hong, you were one of the first four Amity grandmas [in 1991]. What was your reaction when you first visited Nanjing orphanage?

**Hong**: I was really sad. I felt so sorry for these children when I first tried to carry them. They didn’t even know what hugging is and cried with fear, not knowing what we were going to do with them. We tried to let them feel tenderness and love by helping them to clean their mouths and noses, talking and playing with them to ease their fears. After one or two months, these children would reach out their little hands, their eyes revealing the desire for hugs, as soon as they caught sight of us. So our feeling that these children needed help in every aspect of mental and physical development became stronger and stronger.

**Host**: Ms. Hong, what was the motivation for you to get used to these children? Most ordinary people would like to touch and hug doll-like children with fair skin. But very few of the children in the orphanage are like that.

**Hong**: It’s true, the children are disadvantaged in that sense.

**Host**: How did you overcome yourself in this respect? After being a well-respected pediatrician for so many years, to have to squat down to communicate with these children?

**Hong**: Those lucky children [earlier on] had already received plenty of love from their families and other people. What I mean to do is to help those who are in the worst situation and need most help. The worse they are, the more I should help.

**69-year-old Grandma Qiu in Nanchang Orphanage talks about her experiences**: I have got used to my work and built up an attachment to these children. I treat them like my own grandchildren. These children become more and more vivacious through our hands. I can give you an example. Yang Chen is a child on the third floor where the children with life-threatening conditions live. The first time I went there, he was fifteen months old and weighed 1.5 kilograms - a mere bag of bones. His skin was rough and appeared to be damaged from severe lack of nutrition. It was our fate that I chose him and decided to bring him up. I asked the orphanage doctor why he was so tiny. The doctor said it was lack of nutrition to a serious extent. I began to get up at five in the morning to prepare extra food for him, eggs, pork soup, fish soup, liver soup, very good food. I brought the food from home to him before seven, and kept doing this all along. After breakfast I took him to have a bath and change him to keep him clean. Later he gained weight to more than 15 kilograms.

**Host**: From 1.5 kilograms to 15 kilograms, how long did it take?

**Qiu**: Almost one year. He didn’t know to smile before I came. In the two months after I began to take care of him, he learned to smile, and in the eighth month, he could laugh. His teeth didn’t come out although he was much older than ten months. I am not a pediatrician, so I bought some relevant books to read. I baked pieces of steamed buns to make them harder for Yang Chen to practice chewing. Two upper front teeth came out in 20 days, and another six after one month. By and by, this little boy became vivacious and active. I am always moved when I see him run after me and laugh every morning when I come to the shift. It is the reward of my labour and commitment.

**Host**: I am worried there might be many listeners writing to you for ways of “quick growing of teeth!” You can write an article for them! Our editor Xiao Liu went to the classrooms and met other grandmas, who shared some of their feelings. The children were very weak at the beginning, and little by little turned strong and became very well. And later, they may be adopted. Of course adoption is a good thing and fantastic for the children, something we would be very happy of for them. But deep in their hearts, it is also painful for the hugging grannies to see “their” children leave.

**Chen Linlin, Vice Principal of Nanchang Social Welfare Institute**: It is normal. We always feel painful when our own daughter grows up and gets married to another family. But from the bottom of their hearts, I
believe every one of the grandmas hopes the children can find their Daddy and Mummy and enter a family. The grandmas have also motivated our staff through their love since we have been carrying out the Amity Grandma Program. Like you said, the staff are facing these children day after day. Their tasks are very tough, and their work may become a routine they perform with a stony facial expression. They feel there are too many children to look after, so they can share little love [with each of them]. Just like what Grandma Hong said just now, when the grandmas came, they gave the most love to the children with the hardest condition. They looked after them, taught them to speak, helped them to sit and walk, taught them to sing. Our staff was moved by their repeated efforts. In the beginning, only the grandmas were doing this, and the staff did their daily routines. Now they are doing everything together. The grandmas not only brought love to our children, but also moved our staff. In this sense, the Amity Grandma Program is very helpful for both the children and our institution.

**News**

**Hopeful Hearts.** “On our way to the bakery we found a baby, abandoned at the side of the road.” Until today, it is not an uncommon practice in China to place unwanted children in the hands of fate. In the case of the child mentioned above, it was a baby boy with a congenital heart defect who died in an orphanage two months later. Amity is supporting an initiative started by an informal group of foreign women, the “Hopeful Hearts” project. Having won the support of local authorities, the orphanage and doctors concerned, the group is now seeking to raise funds for ten children in need of heart surgery. Donations to this initiative can be made through the Amity Foundation. For further information, please contact Amity’s Social Welfare Division at amitysw@amityfoundation.org.cn, or get in touch with the “Hopeful Hearts” directly: Hopefulhearts10@yahoo.com

**Farewell.** After eight years in the Hong Kong office, Amity bids farewell to Don Snow. With his teaching materials and handbooks, he has made significant and enduring contributions to Amity’s Teachers Program. A collector of teapots and weird dialects, Don knew how to make best use of his numerous teacher visits both on and off the business table. (Those who know the devoted sociolinguist better always suspected that the reason Nantong was chosen as the location of the teachers’ summer orientation program was its unusual local dialect.) After a six-month home assignment in the US, Don and his wife Wei Hong will be based in Nanjing, only a stone’s throw away from the Amity office. Keep in touch!

**Welcome.** Kim and John Strong have recently joined the staff of Amity’s Hong Kong office. Kim and John are Presbyterian mission co-workers, and this move is really a continuation of their close relationship with Amity’s Teacher’s Program. In Nanjing for four years prior they were both Amity teachers, and during that time already began also taking on administrative duties in the Education Division. Among other things, for Kim that has largely meant coordinating the Summer English Program, and for John, editing the monthly Amity teachers journal *Amity Echo*. Their son, Benjamin, was born in Nanjing early in 2000. Kim’s involvement with China extends over a period of more than ten years. After their marriage, John accompanied her here, and continues to find more and more ways to serve, drawing on his photographic/visual arts background. The Straights are looking forward to further deepening their involvement and experience serving China through Amity.