

Amity Outlook

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Help for the Present, Hope for the Future



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ON THE COVER:

An earthquake victim in a Tamang village near Kathmandu of Nepal gives Amity relief staff a smile despite all the pain he suffers

Dear readers,

Having responded to a number of disasters in China and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013, Amity Foundation responded to the Nepal earthquake as its second international relief efforts. In this issue, we present to readers our efforts in Nepal relief. It was the first time that Amity, with the support from both mainland and Hong Kong, joined hands with other members of ACT Alliance in the relief work which was a great experience and exposure of amity to the international relief work. In the emergency relief period, altogether eight staffers from Amity worked in turn to help with the needs assessment, distribution and preparation for post-disaster rehabilitation. Amity's active participation in Nepal has been widely supported and highly regarded by public and media.

It was our great privilege to host Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury during his visit to China. Out of an 8-day visit, the archbishop and delegation was with Amity Foundation and related projects for three days. From Bible printing to church diaconal work, from Amity philanthropy projects to social enterprise, the archbishop was presented an overall picture of China's industrial and philanthropy world through Amity. In this issue, we have also included interviews with the archbishop during his visit to Amity Printing Company and Amity Foundation.

Amity Foundation will celebrate its 30th anniversary in November 2015. I'd like to quote the archbishop from his interview: ".....and the extraordinary achievements which lift my heart and sense of rejoicing and celebration of the last thirty years will be as nothing to what you can do in the next thirty years." "..... forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal..... (Philippians 3:14)



She Hongyu
Chief Editor



Amity in Nepal Earthquake Relief

A devastating earthquake with the magnitude between 7.8 struck Nepal on April 25. The epicenter of the earthquake was located 50 kilometers near the border to China and also caused victims in the autonomous region of China's Tibet, India, Bangladesh and on Mount Everest. Another 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck the Himalayan region on May 12 worsening the situation. The death toll passed 8,800 people and the disaster is Nepal's deadliest reported earthquake for more than 81 years.



The debris of earthquake-stricken houses



Amity emergency response team members and rescuers from another Chinese NGO "Ram Union Rescue" departing for earthquake-stricken Nepal

The Amity Foundation appealed to support the victims of the shocking disasters. Since April 27, Amity emergency response teams were on the ground restlessly distributing relief supplies to survivors.

Over 15,000 quake survivors received support from Chinese donors through Amity.

Almost 13,000 families were supported by ACT Alliance members.

Why Amity was helping?

The disasters caused more than 8,800 people dead and more than 23,000 people wounded in one of Asia's most impoverished regions.

There was the urgent need to support the survivors of the shocking earthquakes in Nepal. The Nepal government reported a total number of 479,308 destroyed and 263,026 damaged houses.

Many Chinese people were willing to contribute to Amity's disaster relief efforts and help their neighbors in Nepal.

How we were helping?

The Amity Foundation sent disaster relief emergency response teams to Nepal and supported our local partners with the contribution of food, water, blankets, tarpaulin and other daily necessities.

Amity staff investigated the situation on the ground and doing assessment work for larger relief efforts regarding to the needs of the people.

Amity staff was working with local partners, who are familiar with the local circumstances and the region.



The wounded receiving emergency treatment



A vehicle carrying relief supplies



Mr. He Wen from Amity communicating with earthquake-stricken villagers

Who were our local partners?

The Amity Foundation is a member of ACT Alliance, an international coalition of more than 140 churches and affiliated relief organizations supporting one another during natural disasters. The Amity Foundation is the only Chinese organization who is a member of this network.



Local women receiving relief supplies

A member of ACT Alliance, the Lutheran World Federation is Amity's local partner in Nepal. The LWF has decades of experience in Nepal and has founded thousands of community based organizations and trained dozens of local NGOs in disaster risk reduction and emergency response. Based on the LWF experience and long-term engagement in Nepal, Amity's relief efforts will be backed by a strong network and significant capacity on the ground.



A long-lasting shelter for a local family affected by the earthquake

Help for the Present, Hope for the Future

Jetmah Waiba has been living in Lapsipedi for decades, in a village that lies northeast of Kathmandu in the mountains. The people who live in the ancient village belong to the ethnic minority group of the Tamang, who are indigenous inhabitants of the Himalayan population. Before the earthquake, Jetmah's family consisted of 11 family members and the income for the whole family came from Jetmah Waiba's second son, who served as a security guard in the urban district.



Jetmah's daughter in law with the granddaughter squatting down on the debris of their former house



Jetmah recalling the loss caused by the earthquake

After the earthquake, the family's life became a struggle for survival. Jetmah Waiba's oldest son tragically lost his life during the earthquake, leaving a wife and two children behind. When the own house collapsed during the earthquake no one was further hurt. Now, the old man and his family have no choice but to live in the barn used as a temporary shelter.

On the 3rd of May, the staff of The Amity Foundation and partners went to Lapsipedi to research the situation and the demand on the ground. When the rescue workers asked Jetmah Waiba about his family, he told them that his eldest son died and his second son lost his job because of the earthquake. The family did not have any income and lived from the potatoes they stored before. These potatoes could only support the family for two more days and they would be running out of food soon. Desperate and helpless, Jetmah Waiba was additionally afraid of the fact that his family would suffer from psychological trauma and from fear of future disasters.



Villagers walked up to two hours to the distribution point and were eagerly awaiting the supplies

The Tamang people are an ethnic minority group who speak their own language Tamalang. They often work as Sherpa and live in mountainous and remote areas of the Himalayan region. By living in poverty-stricken regions the Tamang people are especially exposed to the dangers of natural disasters. Because of this and the language barrier they belong to one of the risk-groups that are suffering most after the disastrous

earthquake. Especially the women of this underprivileged and patriarchal community are affected most in these days. According to the assessment work of the disaster relief team, 165 families, a total of 950 people were seriously affected by the earthquake. There was the urgent need for food, tarpaulin, sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets, soap and hygiene products for women.

On April 5, the Amity Foundation delivered a first batch of supplies among the 165 families of the village. Every family received a food package of 2kg rice, 6 bags instant noodles, 12 biscuits packages, a sleeping mat, a blanket, 3 piece of soap and 2 sanitary women products. Additionally 25 pieces of waterproof clothes could be distributed.

The Amity staff was surprised how much relief supplies although only a few, but desperately needed, can cause.



Truck with relief supplies had to face a rugged mountain road.



Tamang women smiling into the cameras when they waited for the supplies

The Tamang women who are usually shy towards strangers were smiling into the cameras when they waited for the supplies and even Jetmah Waiba and his family seemed to regain hope. They have already begun to discuss how to rebuild their homes. Jetmah said, "When the disaster happens the whole family face it together even though it might take us ten years' time to restore the house. We still have the confidence in doing so." Facing the coming monsoon and considering the huge amount of destroyed and damaged houses, the people in Nepal will depend on international support and solidarity to rebuilt their houses.



Villagers carrying relief supplies back to their villages.

Jetmah's son searching the debris for useful material.



Regaining hope for the future

From June 2 to 4, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby visited the Amity Foundation in Nanjing. He attended some of Amity's church-related projects and visited several of Amity's social development institutions including the Amity's Children Development Center, the Amity Bakery and the Amity Printing Company.



Interviews with the Archbishop of Canterbury

by: She Hongyu



Ms. She Hongyu interviewing the Archbishop of Canterbury at the Amity Printing Company

An Interview at the Amity Printing Company

Ms. She Hongyu: Archbishop, Could you please describe your feeling at this moment holding a special Bible that is hot off the press from the World's largest Bible producer in China?

Archbishop of Canterbury: Well, it is extraordinary to visit somewhere that is producing more Bibles than anywhere else in the world. That is so effective in what it is doing and it is very moving to see this huge number of, particularly, Chinese Bibles coming out that will go all over the country and be used by people all around the country. So it is just very emotional brilliance. It is very profound.

Ms. She Hongyu: The Amity Printing Company was established in 1986 and over the years, has developed into World's largest Bible Production Centers in the World. Now the company prints Bibles for many countries in different languages serving tens of millions of Christians. Nevertheless, to some people, the fact that the 130

millions of Bible printed in China only remains as a propaganda scheme. What's your opinion on this?

Archbishop of Canterbury: I think some people have a very fixed idea of the world, and they don't want to believe anything different. But what is absolutely clear is the huge numbers of Bibles, quite sufficient for everything needed in China are being produced here and in fact being exported from here. And that's a very remarkable thing, and the evidence is all around us, I mean, look over this enormous factory, and you've seen the bible been produced in huge numbers. I don't know why people refuse to believe the evidence, but the evidence is quite clear.

Ms. She Hongyu: Thank you. I hope that with your presence here at the factory, more people will get the good news that Bibles are produced here and can meet the needs of Chinese people. Thank you, Archbishop.

An Interview at the headquarters of the Amity Foundation

Ms. She Hongyu: Archbishop, we are very honored and privileged to have you visit Amity bakery, Amity Children Development Center and also Amity Foundation. You've made a wonderful statement just now about the importance of Amity's work and in bringing equality to this world and bring the poor people out of poverty, there needs to be more Amity Foundations in this world and we are trying to do our best in reaching this goal. And apart from that, Amity Foundation is going to bring peace and understanding of the world. Do you think there is anything that Amity can do to promote world's understanding and peace?

Archbishop of Canterbury: I think there is a lot can be done. One of the ways in which you work very effectively at the moment is for instance the bakery with the shop fronts. People begin to understand more about those with learning difficulties when they

meet them. When there is disasters relief, people begin to understand more about the compassion of others when the others come to them and they meet them. So the fact is whatever we have, information or technology, it is the personal meetings, the personal gatherings, the actions on the ground that is the way in which peace and unity and harmony are developed. We know as Christians we believe that Christ came and lived amongst us, he didn't send a message. He was there, he was among us. Our core as Christians and Amity as a Christian foundation is to be those who are among us, who most need help and in doing that to make a bridge between so much of the world that goes on its life. Forgetting about those on the edge and between those who are truly in need and what Amity needs to be is to be that bridge which brings trust and understanding and help across the bridge. To quote Jean Vanier, the great founder of the L'Arche communities where people with learning difficulties and people without live together in the community. He says the secret is that the strong need to realize that they can receive

from the weak. And Amity is one of the places. The Amity foundation does that extraordinarily and effectively.

Ms. She Hongyu: As you know, Amity foundation was founded in 1985, and in the year of 2015 Amity has been founded for thirty years. Our celebration formally will fall in November this year. And can we kindly ask you to give some greetings to Amity Foundation and also the supporters and friends of Amity with messages to give them to help the Amity Foundation to be more effective in our service and in society.

Archbishop of Canterbury: Yes, a few moments ago in the gathering we just had, I was asked to say something and I started with a quote from someone many years ago, long before me, who said that there is no limit to what can be achieved by someone who does not want to keep the credit.

And I suppose my greetings to Amity would be this: You have done the most extraordinary work over the last thirty years, you have a boundless

vision and extraordinary passion and development. You are increasingly working in partnership as is the pattern of life increasingly in China. You are working in partnership with your government, with enterprises through SARA, through other organizations, and with other NGOs. Be confident that as long as you are outward-looking, generous, not seeking the credit. The God will bless you and your work will develop. Be open to the help that you will receive from many very surprising places, because God often bring us help from the most unlikely places. And be willing to share what you have over the next thirty years. And the extraordinary achievements which lift my heart and sense of rejoicing and celebration of the last thirty years will be as nothing to what you can do in the next thirty years.

Ms. She Hongyu: Thank you, thank you very much and hope that all these blessings will come true for Amity. And we are very confident that we will be there someday.

A Model for Exchange and Partnership for Young Students





On 20-22 March, Amity's education and the international exchange department welcomed a delegation from the Danish National School, including two teachers and 17 students. They attended Amity's Service Learning Program. The Amity Foundation not only provided the Danish volunteers with the opportunity to get in touch with people in Nanjing, but also arranged a series of exchange events and helped them to understand

China's education system and traditional culture. On the first day, the Danish delegation visited a primary school and engaged with the children by holding activities. They learned about all kinds of traditional Chinese culture and tried performances and arts, such as the zither, erhu, martial arts, readings and more. The performances received great applause from the audience and at the end the Danish delegation excitedly got on the

stage and joined in with the children to sing and dance.

Afterwards, the volunteers were divided between ten classes and carried out various activities for the children. Some of them taught English or basic Danish, they played games or enjoyed Chinese food together. The students enjoyed it very much and many of them wrote follow-up reports and stories of



the event. One student wrote, “Today we studied Danish together – a really difficult language for which you need to roll your tongue. The teachers were very enthusiastic and also very patient. We gave them many different gifts such as paintings, crafted notebooks and Chinese postcards. It was a day full of blessings and we really liked the foreign language Danish class.”

A student from the fifth grade wrote, “When the bell rang for the second class,

we quickly ran back to our seats and the welcome meeting began. We were all excited and my classmates welcomed the Danish volunteers arrival with warm applause. We were heading to the guests to greet, chat, and introduce ourselves. The atmosphere was very warm and the time passed so quickly, as interesting lessons often do. When the Danish guests had to leave, my classmates presented farewell gifts we had prepared for them. Some gave kites, others gave Yuhua pebbles. These gifts represent kindness,

mutual understanding and creates a profound friendship and solidarity between different nationalities.”

On the next day the Amity Foundation attended an exhibition for social organizations. Taking advantage of this opportunity, the Danish volunteers visited various social groups in Nanjing and the surrounding areas to learn about the concept of public welfare, services and activities in China. Students of the English Club at Nanjing Normal

University guided the Danish visitors around the beautiful university campus and they were chatting about aspects of their student life. They also taught the international volunteers how to download and use WeChat, and how to set up a WeChat group so that they could continue to stay in touch in the future.

The education system in Denmark and China are different. In Denmark, students usually take a gap year before they go to

university. During this period, students can test and try out things they are interested in, think about and determine their future direction and then choose a university. The National School of Silkeborg has a tradition of 160 years. At the beginning, its educational goal was to improve the farmer's literacy. Over decades it developed a philosophy of modern education. The lively teaching style includes music, nature and outdoor activities, politics, the arts and third world

studies. These practices help to develop the students' independent thinking and a spirit of tolerance.

This year is the National School of Silkeborg's seventh China trip, and the Amity Foundation is very honored to become one of their long-term partners. We hope that this spirit will shine through each educational exchange and spread across the world.



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The Amity Foundation is an independent Chinese voluntary organization founded in 1985 on the initiative of Chinese Christians to promote education, social services, health, rural development, environmental protection, disaster relief, and poverty reduction in the underdeveloped areas of China. Amity projects have benefited more than ten million people both at home and abroad.

The Amity Foundation has more than 80 full-time staffers at its Nanjing headquarters. Hundreds of volunteers work with Amity all over China. The Amity Foundation receives funds from partners abroad as well as in Hong Kong and mainland China.