

# Amity Outlook

No.17  
July-September, 2016



**A Story of Love**

**Amity advocates for Autism Education**

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Dear readers,

Due to insufficient understanding of autism, for a long time in China, autism has been categorized under learning difficulty as a disability. As a result, many children did not get intervened with appropriate approaches in time and therefore, missed the most important stage of correction and rehabilitation during childhood.

Worldwide, with the development of research and rehabilitation sciences, more people with autism have been identified and the population with autism has been increasing rapidly from 1/10000 to 1/1000 and further to 1/68 as reported by Centre of Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. In 2016, the prevalence of autism has been further updated as 1/45 as per report of National Health Statistical Centre in the U.S. In China, the incidence has been estimated as 1/100 which symbolizes that among the 1.3 billion population in China, people with autism estimated is over 10 million, among whom, 20% are children and this number increases at a speed of 200,000 annually.

Amity Foundation, having established a day rehabilitation centre for children with autism in 2007, has not only been helping children receiving training in the Amity Child Development Centre, but also bringing other service organizations along in providing the best service possible for this special group. In this issue, we dedicate to our readers articles on our efforts in providing better services for children with autism.

Along with articles on autism, we also include a report on Amity's efforts on internationalization as we extend our service to more needy people in Africa. 'Giving back' is probably the most appropriate words to describe Amity's development from a receiver to a giver. Embarking on this road of internationalization, Amity looks forward to joining hands with friends and partners in maximizing our resources to provide the best service to more people in need.

She Hongyu  
Chief Editor

#### ON THE COVER:

Chan Kam-hung, a well-known Chinese television and film actor, is making dumplings together with children with autism and their parents.



## A Story of Love Amity advocates for Education on Autism

Sunny Chan Kam-hung, born 1 January 1967, is a Hong Kong television and film actor. His breakthrough film role was in the 1998 Hong Kong film *Hold You Tight*, for which he won the Silver Screen Award for Best Actor at the Singapore International Film Festival in 1998.

As a Chinese celebrity, Sunny could have lived a glamorous life on stage just like other artists do. However, he gradually vanished from the spotlight and appeared as a SED (special education needs) ambassador because of his son.

At 2-years-old, Sunny's son was unable to speak and his behavior was different from other children. Apart from having slower learning abilities, the child also appeared antisocial and often treated his parents as if they were transparent. Until 4-years-old, the boy still did not speak a single word. Sunny and his wife frequently visited different doctors, hoping to find out the

*Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by impaired social interaction, verbal and non-verbal communication, and restricted and repetitive behavior. Parents usually notice signs in the first two years of their child's life. These signs often develop gradually, though some children with autism reach their developmental milestones at a normal pace and then regress. The diagnostic criteria require that symptoms become apparent in early childhood, typically before age three.*



problems. With the help of doctors, the couple discovered that their 5-year-old young son is autistic. "My son believes that he understands what people are telling him. But in reality he doesn't. For example, if I say to him, 'I am Chan Kam Hung', he might probably only hear the 'Hung' and nothing else."

After all the struggles and a lot of consideration, Sunny decided to take a year off to take care of his son, who would enter his first year of primary school. "My son could not speak a complete sentence. Normal children at his age should be able to recite speeches by now."



Being patient and kind, Sunny spent every single day with his son, tutoring him in English, Chinese, and simple arithmetic. Although his son can recite information in his textbooks perfectly, he still has problems communicating with other people. Sunny said, “I want to let him know that learning can be very fun. That is why I teach him different things every day. I consistently change our activities to

keep him interested. He definitely has improved well, especially in the past year. I am very satisfied.”

The simple things that people usually take for granted, such as good health and the ability to speak or walk can be an immense challenge for others. Having a child with a learning or physical disability is emotionally draining on the parents. It can be very

heartbreaking to know that your child will never have a carefree childhood with simple laughter. However, parents’ perseverance and continuous sacrifices are important to keep the mind growing and allow further development of the kids. When parents give up on their children, the kids have no guiding direction and cannot develop their fullest potential.

## The 7<sup>th</sup> International Amity Seminar on Autism Held in Nanjing

Strongly supported by Nanjing Brain Hospital which is affiliated to Nanjing Medical University, the 7th Amity International Seminar on Autism was held in Nanjing on October 15-18. The main theme of the seminar was “Adaption and Challenge for School Children with Autism”. The seminar attracted nearly 300 experts, scholars, researchers, doctors and other participants from Mainland China, Hong Kong and overseas to exchange experiences, best practices and mutual learning.





Within the past 20 years, the number of autism incidences in Jiangsu Province has increased by more than 100 times, due to better diagnosis and awareness. Mr. Zhao, adviser to the Amity Foundation, highlighted the importance of integrated and inclusive approaches in the educational field. Autism education was the theme of this year's conference. Mr. Zhao stressed the necessity for all societal institution

to cooperate in this issue. Despite significant improvements over the last years, affected families are still lacking of special teaching opportunities and access to sufficient educational resources. Autistic children with social and behavioral problems are still facing challenges to enroll at ordinary schools.

Sunny Chan Kam-hung, was invited by Amity as a special guest and shared

his "Story of Love" between him and his son to the audience. His patience, intimate care and pursuit of expertise impressed all the participants who attended the meeting. "Many parents, especially fathers, need to wake up. Your value to your child is not merely economic support," emphasized Sunny. Using his own story, the well-known Chinese actor who is also an ordinary father, called for public awareness and





special care for children with autism. He brought hope and became a role model for those depressed parents living with an autistic child.

The Amity Foundation is looking forward to continue to provide a forum for teachers, parents and organizations involved in autism diagnosis, education, and rehabilitation. It is important to establish learning support systems to

build a deeper understanding of autistic teaching and to find the potential of autistic children. It is essential to deal with autism in a rational and scientific way and to build a social environment that helps autistic children to receive education.

Besides conferences, workshops and public activities to raise awareness and provide mutual exchanges, the Amity

Foundation offers vocational training for people with special needs through the Amity Bakery, offers relief for affected families at Family Retreats and runs centers for rehabilitation and education.

## Amity facilitates 268 projects at the 'Sept. 9 Philanthropy Day'





*On September 7 to 9, the second annual 'Sept. 9 Philanthropy Day' took place in China. The Amity Foundation joined hands with 150 non-profit organizations and amplified 268 charitable projects for public fundraising.*

If registered projects met specific fundraising goals, matching funds to an aggregated amount of up to 199 million Yuan would be provided by the event initiators. The event was initiated the first time in 2015 by the Tencent Foundation, government

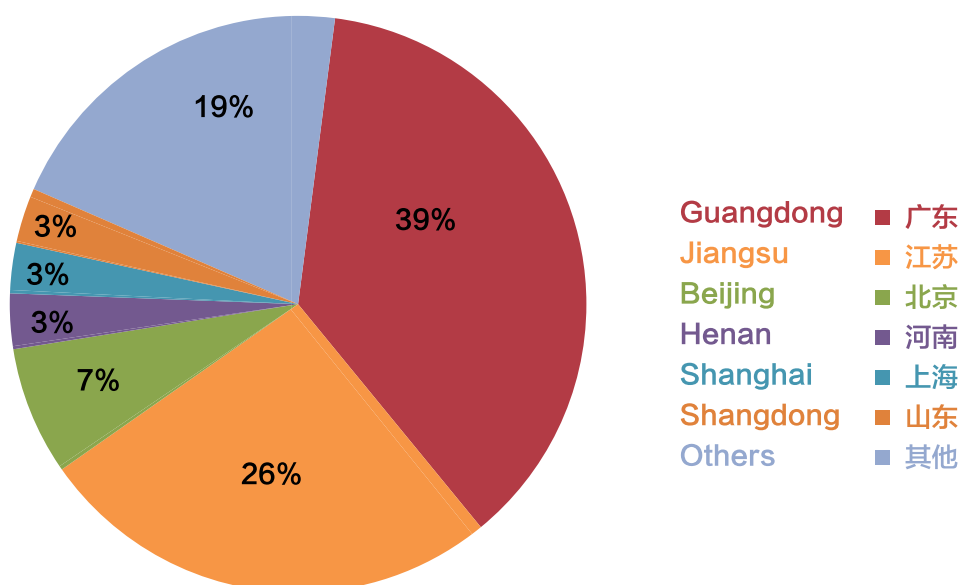
authorities and various enterprises and celebrities.

In 2016, projects supported and registered by the Amity Foundation raised 22.7 million Yuan donations from 201,008 persons. Out of those 268 projects, 71 achieved the fundraising goals of the event and received matching funds.

Amity's mission is to support the development of China's third sector. Therefore, Amity promotes charity and facilitates the development of

grassroots organizations, including capacity building, fundraising, registration, professionalization and project implementation. The Amity Foundation has set up development centers for non-governmental organizations in several cities.

All 150 participating organizations that collaborated with Amity at the 'Sept. 9 Philanthropy Day' will receive continuing support. They are located all over China:



## ‘Sept. 9 Philanthropy Day’ – special online fundraising for charity

The ‘Sept. 9 Philanthropy Day’ is a public charity event initiated by the Tencent Foundation, government authorities and various enterprises and celebrities. In view of the fact that China is taking the lead in mobile market and global fintech trend and mobile internet is extremely popular among young people, the initiators, by using online public fundraising and special matching funds contribution, successfully attracted substantial attention from the public, facilitated fundraising procedures and amplified the power of love. By setting up channels for hundreds of qualified foundations, Tencent platform connected internet users with various projects including poverty alleviation, scholarship, health aid, disability service, women and children’s rights, environmental protection, animal protection and protection of traditional culture.



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Record shows that from September 7-9 2016, a total of RMB 305 million donations were raised from 6.77 million persons via Tencent online platform, providing support for 3643 charity projects. Together with the matching funds (i.e. RMB 199 million from Tencent Foundation and RMB 101 million from businesses), aggregate funds raised at ‘Sept. 9 Philanthropy Day’ exceeded RMB 600 million, a record in China’s online fundraising history.



## 'Giving back' to children with special needs in Africa



Children in Tanzania playing at the Plaster House after their surgery

After continuously receiving ecumenical support over the last 30 years, the Amity Foundation could enhance its capacities and join the international community in ecumenical sharing. Amity is giving back, when possible. The (爱无国界) project is a medical aid project organized by the Amity Foundation, Watsi and Tencent. It aims to help patients who require medical aid in third world countries. Recently, the Amity Foundation and Watsi visited our local partner, the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (ALMC) in Tanzania and their

rehabilitation center Plaster House.

The Pediatric Surgery Department in Tanzania lacks resources. Therefore patients are often required to walk hundreds of miles to seek medical aid. Although medical conditions like swollen glands, tonsillitis inflammation, burns, cleft lip and cleft palate, club foot, knee valgus are nonlethal, they can ruin a child's life and future. These children often fail to receive proper medical treatment, causing permanent disabilities and discrimination back in their villages.



Children receiving a holistic care after their treatment

The Amity Foundation's local partner, the child rehabilitation center Plaster House located in Arusha, Tanzania, is like a home to many children. It accommodates disabled children from all over Tanzania. Children can rehabilitate in the Plaster House after corrective orthopedic surgery, plastic surgery or neurosurgery. Poor patients can also receive free medical treatment. The scale has increased drastically since the founding in 2008. The medical staff in the Plaster House provides thoughtful care, medical treatment and basic living needs to the inhabitants.



Sarah, the founder of the Plaster House

In August of 2016, The Amity Foundation and Watsi visited the Plaster House and had the chance to chat with the founder, Sarah.

*"A delivery? Do you have a donation to deliver?" Sarah asked with her phone pressed between her shoulder and ear, shifting gears with her left hand and steering her Jeep wheel with the right.*

*"A delivery of rice? Did you say rice?"*

*She turned the corner. "I can't hear you, sir. Oh! A baby? You need to deliver a baby?" Sarah glanced at us in the backseat. This wasn't the first time she'd had this conversation.*

*"I can't deliver your wife's baby, sir. I'm not a doctor."*

*For Sarah, these phone calls are routine. "I have no idea how they get my cell phone number," she told us, laughing. "But they all do."*

*It's not surprising that they look to Sarah for help. An Australian native, Sarah has lived in Arusha, Tanzania for 13 years. She began as a volunteer with the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (ALMC) and never left, marrying a fellow volunteer and raising their three daughters in Arusha.*

*While at ALMC several years back, Sarah noticed something. Children who received surgery were often given detailed recovery plans upon discharge - sometimes spanning months, and including complicated daily regimens that were difficult to follow at home. Children with clubfoot, for example, had to undergo physical therapy and cast changes but their parents could not afford weekly trips from their village back to the hospital.*

*In villages lacking clean water and basic sanitation, the children were at high risk for post-surgical infection. So despite having received the surgeries they needed, they would regress.*

*A few miles from ALMC on a patch of beautiful land at the base of Mount Meru, Sarah began to change that. With a clear need established, and a whole lot of heart, Sarah got to work on the Plaster House.*

*Now, eight years later, Plaster House is home to over 120 children, 30 mothers, 10 house moms, full-time occupational therapists, volunteers, and - of course - Sarah. Children can stay at the Plaster House for as long as they need to recover, sometimes weeks, months, or even years. Daily school lessons are offered, in addition to three meals a day. But with only 48 beds,*



*most children end up sleeping two to a bed -- one at the head, and one at the foot.*

*So much about the Plaster House is groundbreaking. But perhaps what's most incredible is the intangible -- the energy and warmth of the community. Children run around smiling, holding hands. Little boys with long leg casts push each other in wheelchairs, older girls sit on the front lawn and play games, and groups of kids draw together in the classroom. Mothers carry their babies across the front lawn to visit the occupational therapists, and the kitchen staff out in the distance prepares the next meal.*



Mothers carries her medicated baby

*For most of these children, being at the Plaster House is the first time they meet others with disabilities like their own. In their villages, they can be looked down upon or seen as cursed. But at the Plaster House, they become part of a supportive, unified community. For many, this in itself is life-changing.*



Children meet others with disabilities like their own

Among all these efforts, there is also a contribution from the people in China. The Amity Foundation gathers donations from China to help the children in the Plaster House to undergo successfully their treatment and rehabilitation. Although being thousands of miles apart you can feel that the hearts of the people from China and Tanzania are connected within the Plaster House.

*"How do families hear about the Plaster House?" I asked Sarah one afternoon.*

*It spreads through the community like a story, she explained. Children return home to their villages healthy, so their*

*families will bring the other children in for care. Tanzania has a long history of aid organizations making false promises, so skepticism and distrust prevents many from believing that any organizations offering free care will actually help.*

*They come through the front gates of Plaster House - sometimes from hundreds of miles away - and they say: "Plastah? Is this Plastah?"*

*And as long as they keep coming, Sarah will keep going. And she also hopes that there will be continuous love and support from the far East, to the Plaster House.*

This text was originally written by Katya Lavine and published on Watsi website at <http://blog.watsi.org/plastah/>, then supplemented and translated from the Amity Wechat post by Matthew Sin.



## China Charity Museum opens in Nantong



The China Charity Museum informs visitors about Amity's 31 year old journey of social development and philanthropy in China

On September 1, the inauguration ceremony of the China Charity Museum took place in Nantong. The museum displays a collection of more than 2,900 exhibition pieces and 8,300 pictures, revealing thousands of years of philanthropy in China. One section of the collection presents the Amity Foundation, one of the first non-governmental charitable organizations in China after the Reform and Opening up in 1985.

The museum covers 26,667 square meters and is located in the city of Nantong, which is said to have become China's birthplace of modern philanthropy during the late Qing period. The opening of the museum took place on 1 September; the day the China Charity Law came into effect.

## Chinese Theological Review 27 published

(Download: [http://www.amityfoundation.org/eng/sites/default/files/publication\\_pdf/CTR\\_27.pdf](http://www.amityfoundation.org/eng/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/CTR_27.pdf))

The Chinese Theological Review (CTR) 27 is published. It presents Chinese voices directly by providing translated theological essays, church statements, sermons, etc. for an English-language readership.

Chinese Theological Review 27 begins with a remembrance of Rev. Wang Weifan (1927-2015). The selections included here were written in the latter part of Rev. Wang's life and include personal reflections as well as insights from his long experience of the church and theological education.

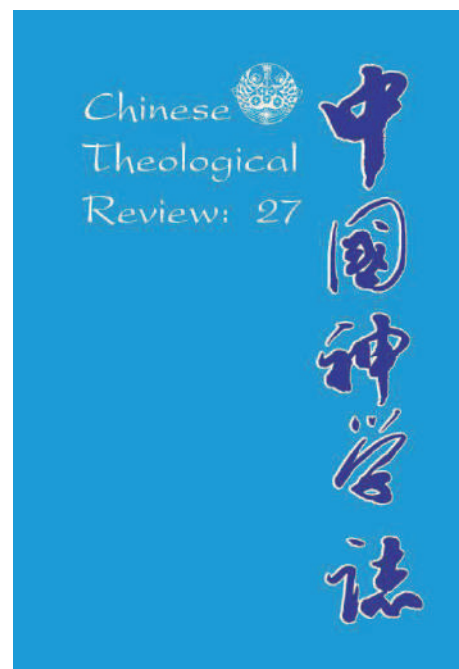
In his "Brief Introduction to the Church Order of Protestant Churches in China," Rev. Gao Feng, President of the China Christian Council, provides an overview of the formation of the present document. The most recent Church Order (2008) follows his article.

The CCC&TSPM held a conference to "Commemorate the Centennial of the Birth of Bishop K.H Ting and Consider

the Sinicization of Christianity" (纪念丁光训主教诞辰一百周年暨基督教中国化研讨会) in Beijing, September 21-24, 2015. The first, "Chinese Protestant Christianity Should Establish an Institutional Church," makes an interesting conversation partner to Rev. Gao's article and to the Church Order. The second offering from the Conference is Chen Yongtao's essay delineating his views on the Sinicization of Christianity.

Rev. Dr. Lin Manhong notes in her lecture "Being a Marginal People of God: A Chinese Christian Understanding," that "a church being marginal and small opens the possibility of becoming the marginal people of God, which has great significance, and is a concept with which Chinese Christians can fully identify."

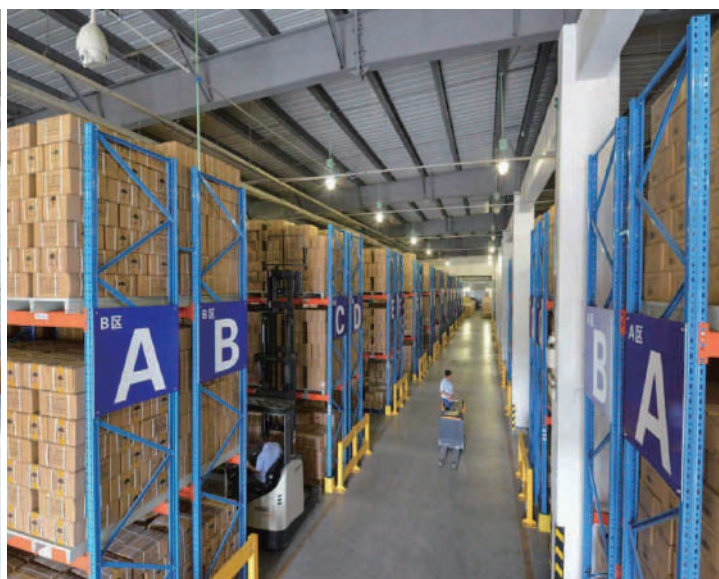
The final article in this issue, by Mr. Yan Xiyu, associate professor at NJUTS, highlights the role of Chen Jinyong, founding editor of the Nanking Theological Review, the precursor to the present Nanjing Theological Review. CTR



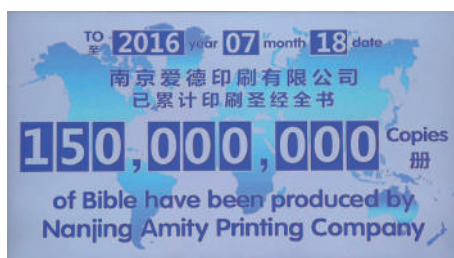
27 closes with a listing of the contents of the Nanjing Theological Review 2014 and 2015.

Published since 1985, the Chinese Theological Review is a publication of the Foundation for Theological Education in South East Asia.

## The 150 millionth Bible



On 18 July 2016, the Amity Printing Company produced its 150 millionth Bible, marking a new milestone in the history of the Amity Foundation. The first Amity Bible was printed in 1987. It took 20 years to complete the first 50 million copies of Bibles. Since then, Amity Printing Company has improved its production techniques and printed the second 50 million Bibles during the next five years and the third batch of Bibles within the last three years. In 2015, Amity manufactured 13.86 million Bibles



which marked a new record since its establishment. In June 2016, the monthly output of Bibles with both hard-cover and paper-back binding exceeded two million copies, marking a new record as well.

Those achievements could only be reached with the support and encouragement of international partners, in particular the United Bible Societies. Amity Printing Company adheres to a people-oriented and harmonious development management concept and is committed to the mission of “Serving the Chinese Church, Overseas Churches, the Chinese society and the Chinese people”.



## Pop-science on Alzheimer disease



On September 21, the World Alzheimer's Day, the Amity Foundation held a street exhibition at Yao Hua Men, Qixia District, Nanjing. For raising awareness and challenging stigma around the Alzheimer disease that will effect more and more people into the future, Amity is using the method of pop(ular)-science. The exhibition was praised and very well received by the citizens, many of them

used their cell phones to record and picture the content to take it home and show it to their family.

According to the reports from World Health Organization, approximately 10% of the elderly aged 65 or older will develop dementia. When the age comes to 80 or above, the number will even rise to more than 40%. The death

rate for dementia patients is far higher than that of elderly with other diseases, bringing dementia to become the fourth biggest killer in the world right after heart diseases, cancers and stroke.

Millions of people worldwide are diagnosed with dementia each year and millions are already living with the condition. In China, few people are aware of the

severity of this disease. The general public even lacks very basic knowledge of Alzheimer. Public survey shows that about 45 percent of caregivers believe that the patient is just 'confused' for the time being and ignore the possibility of having a kind of disease. As a result, in China, the treatment rate for Alzheimer is very low.

The "Friends of the Wisdom" Program, which was initiated by the Amity Foundation, focuses on the spreading and dissemination of Alzheimer related knowledge. It advocates for holistic care and alertness from the whole society for dementia patients and their families. The program raises public awareness about how to improve the health of the brain and how to tackle the Alzheimer condition. Social stigma towards the disease should be eliminated and information promulgated leads to an Alzheimer-friendly society.

Amity, hand in hand with volunteers and volunteering enterprises, designed and created series of pop-science information boards to introduce knowledge of Alzheimer, including its prevention, cause, self-test method, signs and symptoms and care tips. The science boards that are using educational cartoons were one of the first street exhibitions in the local area to introduce science in such an attractive way that is easy to understand for the general public.

漫谈老年失智症

## 智萌之友

### 什么是失智症

**“失智症” 俗称称为老年痴呆症。**

**失智症不是伴随衰老而来的正常表现——它是一种病。**它是由于神经退行性变、脑血管病变、感染、外伤、肿瘤、营养代谢障碍等多种原因引致的大脑功能衰退，是一种长期退化疾病，病症会不断恶化不可逆，而且年轻人也有可能得；

其主要病理变化是大脑皮质广泛的、弥漫性的萎缩，并有特征性的病理改变即老年斑、神经原纤维缠结、神经元颗粒空泡变形和血管壁淀粉样蛋白变性。

**失智症表现不仅仅是健忘失忆——它还有很多症状，**其主要临床表现为人在意识清楚的情况下，记忆、理解、判断、计算、定向、自我控制等方面的能力发生进行性退化和持续性智能损害，并影响到病人的日常的生活和社交能力。比如想不起来该用什么词说话，难以集中注意力，搞不清楚做事的顺序（先穿外套再穿内衣之类），口无遮拦、出现幻觉、尿裤子、来回踱步、抑郁、暴力等。

而且患失智症的患者，死亡率要远高于一般的老年人，失智症病人的平均生存期为5~10年，成为继心脏病、癌症、中风之后威胁老年人健康的第四大杀手。

我在哪儿呢？



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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.