



THE HOSPITALLER ORDER WITH YANJI-CHINA

THE BROTHERS. Thinking about the possible presence of the Hospitaller Orders in China began in 1998 as we considered the challenge of going into the third millennium by starting a Fatebenefratelli project in that great country -- a challenge in terms of the Order's universality and of its aim to serve all men.

In November 2000 the LXVth General Chapter of the Order, held in Granada (Spain), decided that the whole Order would work together to support the "China project" which planned to set up a residential structure in support of people approaching death (hospice).

The Province of Korea (then a Vice-Province) was charged with implementing the project on the Order's behalf and accordingly sent a Brother and a lay worker on the spot on 2 November 2001. So began the presence of the Hospitaller Order of St John of God in China, and more precisely in Yanji.

After a period of time devoted to studying the situation, to establishing contacts and to negotiations, the result was the creation of the Yanbian Hospice Corporation on 13 June 2003 as a joint-venture between the Yanbian Second People's Hospital of Yanji, China, and the St John of God Hospital in Kwangju, Korea.

The hospice is a modern health facility for terminal cancer patients. It can accommodate 17 patients and currently employs 36 religious and lay workers. Activities include family therapy, home medical care, outpatients' treatment, etc.



WE NEED: 538.402 €

THE PROJECT: Creation of a specialist unit for Alzheimer patients at the Yambian Hospice in Yanji (China)

The city of Yanji has some 500,000 inhabitants and it is calculated that the population affected by senile dementia (Alzheimer's Disease) numbers about 3,200 individuals (including five percent of those aged over 60).

There are no medical or professional services for these people in the Yanbian area with the exception of a single centre managed by the local government. Care and assistance is limited to keeping an eye on the patients. Staff are few and work shifts are long.

Given the constant attention which such people require, Mental Health Centres refuse to accept them, forcing most of them to stay at home with their children, who hire someone to look after them if they can afford it.

Many people from the Yanbian area emigrate abroad to improve their livelihoods and as a result many families are scattered. Moreover government policy only allows couples to have one child so that it is becoming increasingly hard to find adults prepared to look after their parents when they are no longer self-sufficient. Thus the only possibility is for them to send their mothers or fathers into the sort of institution mentioned above, although these have neither the experience nor the means needed to provide Alzheimer patients with the treatment and/or rehabilitation and socialization programmes which they require.

In 2010, the Korean Provincial Chapter took the decision to set up a service that could complement the Hospice's work with a 23-bed Hospitalization Unit providing the spaces and services needed in line with the experience acquired by the Order in other countries, while also privileging a holistic approach to treatment and giving special emphasis to personnel training.



So far,
yet So near

**UFFICIO MISSIONI E COOPERAZIONE
INTERNAZIONALE**

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