

News from Diakonia Sisterhood in Korea

Peace of the Lord be with you.

On the 1st May 2016, coinciding with the 36th anniversary of the Korean Diakonia Sisterhood, we officially opened our new Mother Centre in Mokpo. We had moved our mother centre from Cheonan to Mokpo last year in June 2015 and after a year's preparation we were finally ready to open our Mother centre fully in Mokpo. The new centre is located near the sea and mountains providing a place of healing and prayer for the public as well as a home for the members of our Sisterhood. There were about 170 friends from Korea and abroad came to this occasion to share in celebration.



We are continuing to expand Diakonia Community in Korea and currently we have 9 Diakonia family members and 14 Diakonia Secular Institute members.

In February 2014, Diakonia Family Community in Jin-an, North Cheolla Province, went on a retreat together with the Sisterhood for two days. We held silent prayer meetings, shared the Lord's table and washed each others' feet, contemplating on the life of Christ.

Dan-bi Church, which is a part of Diakonia Family Community, hold weekly prayer meeting every Friday evening together with the students from Dan-bi School. In 2015, the family community resolved to establish a welfare centre for the elderly to serve the local community and on the 19th December 2015, we held opening ceremony for the Doran-Doran Centre for the Elderly.

Members of Diakonia Secular Institute meets once a month to share and pray together. In addition, each member offers daily prayers of intercession at a fixed time. They strive to live the life of Diakonia in their own situations, by being with Jesus in their



workplace, family and community. In the past four years, the members increased to 14 and we pray that more and more members will be added to this initiative to bring the spirit of Diakonia to wider society in various forms.



The Centre for the Elderly, operated by the Sisterhood, was selected as the Best Long-term Care Centre in June 2015. About 60 elderly people are being looked after in this centre by our sisters, staff and volunteers. We are grateful for this recognition and will keep on improving on our service to the elderly people through this centre.

Through the Household Welfare Programme, we support the families in difficulties such as single parent families, grandparents-grandchildren families, refugee families, and multi-nationalities families. We work together with other institutions and volunteer groups to support their living costs and medical fees as well as providing various services to improve their life in our community.

Diakonia Scholarship Foundation provides scholarship for the students of low-income families, refugees and multi-nationalities families. Each year we provide full scholarship for 29 students.

All these are possible because of our supporters and friends in Korea and abroad. In recent years, however, increased tension between North and South Korea has led to increased military spending but decreased welfare spending by South Korean government. As a result, supports to our programmes also decreased a lot.

We are thankful for your continuing interest and support, which make it possible for us to carry on our work in Christ. May God bless all the individuals and organisations in the Kaiserswerther Verband.

July 2016.

Sr. Ree Young Sook(Oberin)