



## MISSION OUTREACH in HAINAN ISLAND

Sister Isobel Loong FMDM outreach mission experience.

*Six years six months on....*

“When I first arrived in Haikou 2010, the country was caught between history and modernity and tradition. It was lagging behind Mainland China in development when China’s Open Door to the outside world began. Today, I witnessed Haikou as a developing society. High rise buildings seemed to be mushrooming in the city and the skyline has changed drastically.



*The country was caught between history, modernity and tradition*

*Haikou, a developing society*

*Vigorous effort in cleaning up the city.*



The enforcement of vigorous and concerted effort in cleaning up the city changed the lifestyle of the islanders. The small traders along the streets by the old Church as a market place are gone. Citizens are forbidden to hang anything on poles on their balconies e.g. laundry. Students, like the red guards of old, are on their rounds to pick up rubbish along the streets and with hooks in hand they confiscate anything not meant to be hanging out. I believe these tactics were similar to how old Singapore was cleaned up to become a clean city. I noticed the spitting in public places has ceased and the rats have been eradicated.

As for the **Catholic Church** a new era is about to begin. A local congregation of religious Sisters is about to be born under the title of **Sisters of the Sacred Heart**, after the Order of the first foreign missionary Sisters who came to Hainan Island before the Cultural Revolution. Two young ladies were received by Fr Yang to begin their postulancy. I felt proud and very privileged to witness the simple ceremony. I was invited to put a crucifix on a brown cord round the neck of each candidate. They then received a white mantilla from the Superior. After the ceremony we proceeded to a nearby restaurant for dinner.

*Let us keep the postulants  
in our prayers as their journey  
has just begun.*

### ***Sisters of the Sacred Heart welcome two new candidates***



Sr Yu's formation team comprises of two trained formators from Quanzhou and Shaanxi respectively. Our Sr Inez Koh, FMDM, will be the external formator and support from Singapore.



Photo: Sr. Isobel, Fr. Yang & Fr. Zhang

Fr Paul Yang, Fr Zhang, two professed Sisters and a couple of dedicated lay supporters formed a very lively and committed community. A seminarian would be ready for ordination to the priesthood next year.



Chinese Dinner—joyful celebration

The Island will soon have a chapel in Sanya, at the southern tip of the Island. I brought over our little wooden tabernacle used in 1960s in our first Convent chapel in Malaysia at the old Our Lady's Hospital Convent, Ipoh. The Fathers were delighted with it and it would just fit in nicely into the new Sanya Chapel.

Sanya is a popular seaside holiday resort. Sanya was made famous by being the venue for the Miss Universe Competition, besides being a place where the wealthy people from Mainland China have businesses. It is also a place where the rich from the Mainland own flats or condos for holidays and also a place for them to escape the cold winter months. Hainan Island is known as the "Riviera" of China.

My visit brought closure to the mission account with Fr Yang. Now their greatest need is financial support for formation and studies of these two new postulants and the community; and for future candidates for the priesthood and religious life on this Island. If you, or know of anyone, who would like to contribute toward this cause please contact me.

Six years ago I came to Haikou with the mission of assisting Fr Yang, the only priest on the isolated Island at that time, to rebuild the Church with "living stones". The Church then was the second floor of a shop house. Today, Haikou has its stand alone Church. I now see the seed germinating and I believe that out of small insignificant beginnings God will bring about great things in His time." - Sister Isobel Loong



*Fr. Yang calls forth the two new candidates during the ceremony.*



*Prayer space—symbols of "Come Follow Me"*

*I now see the seed germinating and I believe that out of small insignificant beginnings God will bring about great things in His time.*



*Come follow ME*