



Beyond Mission

Partners in Mission is a program initiated by the MAMI office in 2008 that provides a lay missionary experience for MAMI supporters to work alongside the Oblates in their pastoral care programs in Hong Kong and mainland China. PIMs, as they have come to be affectionately known, volunteer for a period of 4-6 months teaching English in Hong Kong or the orphanage in mainland China. Those who qualify have the chance to develop their own faith by helping others and living in community

The Partners in Mission (PIM) program, established by Fr Harry Dyer OMI and Mr David Maiden in 2008, has been successfully sending lay missionaries to Hong Kong and Northern China for three years. In this time we have been blessed with a variety of people with different skills and different stages of life.

PIM has quickly evolved with two main programs, 4-6 month experience in Northern China or a one month English teaching summer program in Hong Kong.

The most recent development has been a one month Immersion experience. The PIM Immersion experience is designed as a holiday with a difference, an opportunity to experience PIM life, work in the China Little Flower orphanage and have an experience of the culture and sights of Beijing. Thirteen joined the first immersion experience.

GET INVOLVED

If you are thinking of participating in PIM I leave you with the words of one of our current volunteers, Luisa Amarti: "One of the most exhilarating experiences I continue to have here in China is when I go to the orphanage. This place is truly amazing. From the moment I enter the orphanage I still expect noise and chaos, but it is nothing like that at all, its peace and calm. I am free to be whoever I can be. I do not need any special skills, qualifications or knowledge, I am not judged and no one expects anything from me. All I need is open arms, love and faith. It's quite refreshing actually. If I could bottle the feeling I would and give it out to everyone for free."



ACTIVITIES

- 1 Identify three positive effects of the PIM program on Australians who take up the challenge.
- 2 Identify three positive effects of the PIM program on the Oblate Missions and local populations in Asia.
- 3 Identify any possible negative effects of the experience for the lay people, the Oblates and the children.
- 4 Overall, determine whether you would recommend this program to a Mazenod student leaving school after year 12.