

Help the Diakonia Sisters to take care of poor people in Korea.

Poverty in old age is a major issue in Korea. It is only recently that pension insurance was introduced there, which is why elderly people often find themselves in financial difficulties. Poverty also quickly affects families in difficult circumstances. The Diakonia sisterhood comes to their assistance.

The number of South Korean senior citizens affected by poverty in old age is growing. Since the 1980s, a modern, performance-and success-orientated lifestyle has taken hold in South Korea, causing traditional family cohesion to dwindle. The younger generations are often forced to work far away in the big city. Many old, poor and lonely people are left behind. They do not benefit from the recently introduced pension insurance.

## House visits to poor people

Elderly people living on their own are often in great need in Korea. They often have no social network and they need medical and financial assistance. This need is shared by families who fall into poverty. These are mostly single parents, multicultural and refugee families. The Diakonia Sisters care for these people at their homes, together with a network of volunteers. They are usually out and about in the poor suburbs of the port of Mokpos, bringing rice to senior citizens or paying for expensive medication or medical treatments. They have also built several welfare centres together with the city authorities.

During their house visits, the sisters often find grandparents who are bearing the financial responsibility for their grandchildren. Their parents have died, emigrated or are unemployed so the children stay with their grandparents. But most of them need money themselves The sisters therefore assume the cost of the grandchildren's education with a scholarship programme and counsel the young people when they have problems at school.

Charity in practice and the sisters' deep faith

The Diakonia Sisters have been looking after the poor and sick for over 40 years, combining the tradition of the followers of Jesus with practical assistance to people in need. First they helped tuberculosis sufferers with a health programme. The question "Where are we needed the most?" finally led the sisters to their

present-day commitment to elderly and people in need.

## **DONATE**

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