



A Thank-You Letter from Swedish Nurses



Sweden nurses Emma, Johanna, and Lisa practiced at different units in Tzu Chi Hospital.



Nihao! (Hello in Chinese)

From left: Megan, Emma, Lisa, and Johanna.

We, three registered nurses from Sweden (Johanna, Lisa and Emma) had the great opportunity to visit the Buddhist Tzu Chi general hospital in Hualien during October 2013. The visit was made possible through collaboration between Halmstad University in Sweden and the Tzu Chi University in Hualien.

We have been working as registered nurses within emergency care for 2-4 years. After registered nurse graduation, we are now performing the educational program as specialist nurses within intensive care. In Sweden the registered nurse education is 3 years after college. After these 3 years, there is a one year additional training to become a specialist nurse in intensive care medicine. The medical education as a specialist nurse will be a master degree in intensive care nursing.

The work as an intensive care specialist nurse in Sweden means to be responsible for the nursing of the intensive care patient in a high technology environment. The specialist nurse continuously evaluates the vital parameters of patient and laboratory analyses (e.g. blood gases) in order to avoid acute situations. The specialist nurse works in close cooperation with the intensive care physician (anesthesiologist). In early stage of patient care, the focus is on weaning from ventilator to minimize the risk for ventilated associated pneumonia and posttraumatic stress disorders.

We are very happy for the great opportunity of having a two-week visit to your hospital in Hualien. We were great hosted and have learnt a lot about your people, culture and the health care system in Taiwan.

During our stay at the Buddhist Tzu Chi general hospital we had the possibility to visit all the intensive care units (surgical, medical, pediatric and respiratory). We also took part of the work at the emergency room, the homecare, the Chinese medicine and the work of volunteers. It was very interesting to see how you are working at the Buddhist Tzu Chi general hospital, to learn about the Tzu Chi Foundation and the teaching of Dharma Master Cheng Yen.



The intensive care nurses at the Buddhist Tzu Chi general hospital made a fantastic work. They were very devoted and continued working even beyond their ordinary working hours. It was a pity that we could not communicate in Chinese language, which made it sometimes a bit difficult to understand.

During an afternoon we had the opportunity together with a nurse to visit the patients in their private homes out in the community. This was very interesting. The nurse was very competent, cared a lot about the patients and worked also with prophylactic treatment to promote the health of the patient.

The work of the volunteers also made a great impression on us. We had the opportunity to join the volunteers and travel out to the villages. The volunteers encourage the people, bring happiness and humanity, and help the people in their everyday life. The work of the volunteers is very impressive and something that we believe is unique for your country.

We have learnt a lot during our two weeks at the Buddhist Tzu Chi general hospital. These weeks will be a great memory for us. We can learn a lot from each

Put on volunteer vests and followed the lead of Tzu Chi senior volunteer Ms. Yen, Emma, Johanna, and Lisa visited Tzu Chi (charity & medicine) care recipients.





The Swedish nurses (Emma, Johanna and Lisa) with a Tzu Chi care recipient, a lovely aboriginal old lady.

other by exchanging experience. By learning from each other, the care of the patients as well as the nursing work can be further developed.

We would like to thank the director and supervisors of the Nursing Dept. for their warm welcome and for the experience during our stay in Hualien.

Thank you all members and volunteers at the Buddhist Tzu Chi general hospital in Hualien, who made our visit to a great memory. Especially thanks to student nurse Megan, our interpreter who made it possible to learn so much and who took care of us during the spare time. Thank you also to Anita and doctor Mike who also joined us during the spare time and took us out on sightseeing to see the lovely surroundings.

Bye, bye from Johanna, Lisa and Emma,
University of Halmstad,
Sweden.
December 2013