



Nurses with the Heart of the Buddha

The most excruciating pain in life is none other than illnesses. I am grateful to our medical team who fought against time to save lives and relief suffering. As ruthless as time can be, it always permits us to witness the presence of great love.

The world needs medical professionals. We depend on our doctors to diagnose and treat diseases, and our nurses to attend to our patients. Ms. Nightingale with her motherly love walked bravely to the frontline of war to nurse the wounded. Our nurses at Tzu Chi, who share the same courage and benevolence, tend to our patients and family with empathetic compassion.

Nursing is a tedious profession. I am grateful to our bodhisattvas who attend to their patients mindfully without any complaints. Few days ago, during a medical sharing hosted by Taipei Tzu Chi Hospitals, I have heard many moving stories between nurses and their patients. For example, to ensure a lone elderly suffering from oral cancer can be hospitalized without any attachments, they arranged for every one of his dogs to be fed and cared for. They continued to visit him after he was discharged and even found his long lost family. Such genuine love is inspirational.

The aim of medicine is to relieve suffering. Patients who come to Tzu Chi are treated with indiscriminating love. The aim of Tzu Chi Medical Mission is straightforward - to carry out sincerity, integrity, faith and honesty in this mundane world and to become a pure stream in the medical discipline.

The issue of “nursing drought” has been raised continually in the recent years. In our Tzu Chi family, when the seniors are training newcomers, they approach them as if a mother attending a daughter. The hospitals guide these young nurses into their missions with Tzu Chi humanities activities. Only when one adopt serving others as a goal in life, could one truly hold their post willingly and joyfully.

Whether in urban districts or desolate countryside, we safeguard life, health and love all the same. I hope the collaboration between Tzu Chi hospitals and TIMA can invigorate the power of love, to care and empathize those who are in the midst of suffering.

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