

Fulfillment

Pi-Yu Lin, Vice President of Tzu Chi Foundation



In the blink of an eye, “Jing Si Aphorism” had been published for over twenty years; I recall the day of its initial publication, was the same day as the opening ceremony of Tzu Chi College of Nursing. The memory of that day is still fresh in memory, as if yesterday: newly printed “Jing Si Aphorism”, still warm to the hand, was offered to all the attendees as a present, sharing with all of them the words of wisdom from Master Cheng Yen. As the ceremony commenced, one hundred and seven graduates, led by Tzu Chi flag and drums music, marched onto the center stage. Everybody was excited, including the writer, a group of young doctors newly reported to Hualien Tzu Chi General Hospital, and thousands of attendees, all trying to fight back tears. We gathered around the square in front of the administration and education building to witness this solemn moment. As the college anthem echoed in the open square, everyone followed along, sang of dreams and visions, wished for “The heart of youth, like lotus flowers, blossoming under the nourishment of Tzu Chi...”

The anthem of Tzu Chi College of Nursing was written by a cultural scholar Hsin-Chiang Kao, with the music composed by the famous musician Chieh-Yung Shih; together it outlines the infinite future of Tzu Chi’s mission of education. Over the course of years, the college of nursing elevated to the status of Tzu Chi College of Technology. During its early years, nurse educators were scarce, and those who were willing to assume positions in the remote Eastern Regions were even fewer, hiring a nursing professional to assume the presidency was almost impossible; hence I was grateful to have Professor Yang who was willing to assume the first acting president of our school., whilst continuing his professional teaching duties. Professor Yang’s achievement was instrumental in laying the foundation for the College.

This was my first experience participating in recruitment for the Tzu Chi Nursing College. The sight of Tzu Chi commissioners appeared within the crowds and handing out brochures to promote Tzu Chi

ideals moved many attendees, and many of them selected Tzu Chi over historically renowned schools. Back then, applying a vocational school requires prior working experience, our first year students exerted maturity in mind and demeanor, embraced their ideals and undertook as their mission to establish a graceful and elegant school spirit. However, uniform, curfew, and night roll call were disfavored by the students, how do we reconcile the discrepancy between ideals and social habits? It was a task that challenged our wisdom. Master Cheng Yen's insistence to illuminate the light of wisdom within these students had led her to suffer tremendously, to the extent unfathomable by others.

The discipline of nursing in Taiwan had undergone significant changes during the last twenty years. In the old days, registered nursing staffs could only be found in metropolitan hospitals; whereas nursing assistants primarily fills the void in most hospitals (including provincial hospitals). The same position within clinics is normally occupied by the wife of the practitioner. With the increasing availability of nursing education, the quality of nursing professional educators also enhanced. Teachers of nursing colleges were occupied by college graduates who were working as an assistant, those who had master degrees were rare. Now, been a teacher is a starting point for master students, study abroad for doctor degrees are the trend. Tzu Chi system has nurtured many nursing doctorates, and currently undertaking clinical services and educational researches in their respective disciplines.

From general care of the past, with the development in medical technology and the research and expansion in the disciplines of nursing professions, nursing has now specialized in various disciplines. Academic wise, nursing has upgraded from a discipline in various forms of junior high schools and few universities to college of technology. The seniors in the medical discipline were concerned that, with the higher academic background, the attitudes of the nurses would be arrogant and dislike serving patients. Now, with the specialization of disciplines

and confidence in one's profession, the quality and creativity of nursing care advances, which is a blessing to patients and their families. This phenomenon also shattered the myth that correlate higher education with arrogance and dislike for clinical work.

With the arrival of a low birth rate era, whenever I see a newly graduated colleague facing life and death at such a young age, or even endure adverse emotions of critically-ill patients and their families, leaving the inexperienced youth at a loss. It is understandable for the parents of these youths unwilling for their children to work day and nights, been criticized, and enduring the hardship of bathing and cleaning the patients!

Fortunately, in Tzu Chi, volunteers are always around to care and nurture them, offering them a shoulder to lean on; when facing fierce comments from patients and families, leaving them overwhelmed, volunteers are present to delicately resolve the situation. This is an evolution of social formation, the anxiety between individuals often intensify into irreconcilable differences due to the face pace lifestyle, and it is because of the utilitarian thinking. How could one shift focus from self to others? "Jing Si Aphorism", a compilation of Master Cheng Yen's words of wisdom, is the illumination in this chaotic time.

In the last two decades, three million copies of the Jing Si Aphorisms has been published in multiple languages. Countless individuals and families have been inspired by it, remedied from a shattered family or severe failures in life. Recently, Tzu Chi volunteers organized an effort to promote the Jing Si Aphorisms. They can now be seen at street corners, around various stores, mounted on vehicles and even airplanes, allowing these words of wisdoms to enter the hearts of many, relieving them from hatred and anger.

Few days ago I attended a Jing Si Aphorism concert in Taipei. It was held in the World Trade Center conference hall, with about three thousand attendees. People were moved, not only by the music and

songs so beautifully composed with the Jing-shi Aphorisms in mind, but by the real life stories that changed lives. After twenty years, Jing Si Aphorisms illuminated the society: so has Tzu Chi Nursing College, educated and nurtured thousands of teachers, and graduates who are recognized by the mainstream medical professionals and receive countless applauses. “Compassion, kindness, gratefulness and forgiveness” are the maxims of every one of these fine, courageous men and women who have become the role models of our society.

Tzu Chi nursing is based upon the four founding principles of “Compassion, kindness, gratefulness and forgiveness”, display empathy, and with its discipline unbounded: from clinical, educational and social engagement; from patient care to family comfort. Only recently has Tzu Chi general hospital organized a gathering for the families of the chronic patients, offering professional assistance and humanistic care. Looking at families with a bright smile on their face, I truly felt the warmth of Tzu Chi’s nursing care. In Jing Si aphorism, “To fulfill one’s duty, accomplish one’s role, leads to a truly successful and grandeur life.” Alas! To accomplish one’s role, expand great love for the people, is it not elegant!



The International Nurses Day is sincerely celebrated in Tzu Chi Medical Mission. To show the great respect and appreciation to all nursing professionals in Tzu Chi, celebration activities are held in every possible creative way. Photo depicts Ms. Lin, the vice president of Tzu Chi Foundation (3 from the right), vice superintendent Dr. Wen-Lin Hsu(left), Ms. Shu-Chuan Chang, director of Nursing Dept.(3 from the left), vice superintendent Dr. Pei-Zon Chen(2 to the right) of Hualien Tzu Chi Medical Center, and Ms. Hui-Ling Lai, director of Nursing Dept. of Tzu Chi University, commenced the celebration ceremony on May 12nd, 2010.