

Hong Kong Volunteers Bring Comfort to Street People

Written by Tzu Chi Foundation
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“Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear Min Min, happy birthday to you.” This was the joyful song in an underground tunnel in the Happy Valley district of Hong Kong. It was 9.30 p.m. on the evening of April 25; 12 Tzu Chi volunteers had brought a card, birthday cake, sweets and gifts to a street person named Min Min. In addition, seven other people who lived on the street joined in the party.

Min Min was happy and moved to say: “I am very grateful to the Tzu Chi volunteers for celebrating my birthday.”

It was during a visit in early March that the volunteers learnt that her birthday fell in April; they proposed that they help her celebrate the event. She is very grateful that they come on a regular basis each month to visit her and bring foods, clothes and daily necessities. However busy they are and whatever the weather – wind, rain or the cold of winter – they always come. The most precious thing they have given to the street people is the book of Jing Si Aphorisms, the sayings of Master Cheng Yen. It enables them to understand how to look after their own heart and what direction to take in life.

“A confused mind suffers agony; an enlightened mind feels at ease. A kind heart enjoys heavenly bliss; an evil mind experiences hell.” This is the aphorism which Min Min likes the most. She has posted the aphorism at where she sleeps. “That day I read many passages and felt that this was the best one. I feel that each word is full of meaning and enlightens me in different ways.”

Volunteer Wu Feng-xia said: “You are now living through a difficult period and perhaps you feel lost. But we hope that one day you will achieve your purpose and then be able to stand on your own. Bless you, Min Min.”

Another street person named Mr. Shi said with feeling: “We have received care from different organizations but never have people come to help us celebrate our birthday.” When the volunteers asked his age, he initially refused to say; but, finally, he opened up. The volunteers told him that they will in the same way help him celebrate the event.

Tzu Chi volunteers of Hong Kong island began this project of regular visits to the street people at the end of 2013. Since then, they have come each month at a fixed time. Their sincerity has warmed the hearts of those they visit.

Visiting street people in Yuen Long

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