

Conference Newsletter

人醫快報

September 28, 2012



Spiritualizing Dharma

To Safeguard the Earth, Start with Peace in Mind

In-Depth Profile

See You at the Same Old Place Again

Clippings of Joy

Seizing Time to Devote, the Best Way to Fight Cancer



2012 國際慈濟人醫會年會
TICM Annual Conference

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Past and Present - Change and the Unchanged



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To Safeguard the Earth, Start with Peace in Mind

■ Master Cheng Yen's Speech at the Volunteers' Morning Assembly
on September 26th

Moon Festival is approaching. So, many people are talking about celebrating it by having a barbecue that night. This is truly worrying. If everyone has a barbecue on Moon Festival, just imagine how many trees will have to be felled to make charcoal.

Trees can safeguard the Earth. If trees in the mountains are not well protected, the soil cannot be conserved, and when it rains heavily, landslides will be triggered. So, we should plant more trees and conserve forests, and not fell trees to make charcoal anymore. We should not have



a barbecue just for a night's fun and burn much charcoal to pollute the air. By doing that, we waste much resources and cause harm to the Earth. So, we must wake up from our wrong deeds and work to protect the Earth.

In fact, trees provide a place for people to socialize. In the past, at dusk, people would gather under a tree to relax and chat with one another. But now, many rural areas have been developed into cities. With cement pavements everywhere, the land cannot breathe and tree roots cannot grow and extend.

So, we should inspire everyone to care for the Earth as the Earth sustains all life forms. We humans are also nurtured by the Earth. So, the Earth is our mother, and trees are like bodhisattvas watching over the Earth. But people fell trees to make charcoal. See how unwise people are!

We also see on the news that Typhoon Jelawat's outer bands have dumped heavy rains in the Philippines. Seeing that, I'm reminded that the typhoon is getting closer to Taiwan although it is still a distance away. So, we must all be vigilant and sincerely pious. This is what everyone needs to do now.

Also, it is important that we take precautions against the typhoon. I hope Tzu Chi volunteers around Taiwan can be on guard and start working to remind people in their community to prepare for the typhoon. We all need to sincerely pray for the typhoon to weaken in intensity so everyone can be safe. All this depends on whether we are sincerely pious

Indeed, to have peace in the world, we must start with people's minds. We should not fight with one another. Only when there is peace in the world can humanity have blessings. (Translated by Kim Ning) 

Joyful Registration

Written by Tseng Hsiu-Ying Translated by Chien Yuan-Chi Edited by Jessica Huang

While alarmingly aware of the coming of Typhoon Jelawat, participants of TIMA convention start to show up. At 7:30pm, Sept. 27, 26 members of TIMA's Central Taiwan Chapter arrived at the Jing Si Hall. Having toured Half Taiwan from central west to Hualien, spent six hours in the bus, yet when they see all the convention working crew waiting in line to welcome them with cheerful singing and clapping, all fatigue's gone. It's a bit late, the crew remind the participants to rest earlier, for the coming opening of the convention tomorrow morning. 



Stream of Great Love Enhancing Health Care

Historical Background of Tzu Chi Health Promotion Center in Suzhou

Written by Julia Tseng Translated by Samuel Mu Edited by Simon Chen and Julie Hu

The history of the Suzhou Tzu Chi Health Promotion Center started in Nanjing, and its heartwarming story began as early as 20 years ago, in 1991 when the flood disaster in Eastern China occurred.

Wang Duan-Zheng, Deputy CEO of Tzu Chi Foundation, recalled the centennial flood disaster of 1991 that devastated 19 provinces and caused suffering to over 220 million people in eastern and central China, even making numerous people homeless and displaced for several



months. When winter was approaching, Dharma Master Cheng Yen felt for those who were suffering deeply and urged Tzu Chi volunteers in Taiwan to build a bridge over the Strait with love. This led to the disaster relief of Tzu Chi to mainland China. At that time, after Mr. Wang visited the government officials, Tzu Chi selected the province of An Hwei as the focal area for the disaster relief. And Mr. Wang also expressed the intention of Tzu Chi to proceed to the most heavily inflicted area that was less likely to be reached. In the end, Quan Jiao County, near Nanjing in An Hwei province, was chosen.

At that time, Tzu Chi distributed rice, cotton clothes, cotton quilts, rice seeds and agricultural fertilizers with the assistance of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Also, within 60 days, Tzu Chi completed the construction of 3,426 Da Ai houses and ten nursing homes, and rebuilt ten schools. Because of this relief activity in Quan Jiao, Tzu Chi members from Taiwan always proceeded to Quan Jiao via Nanjing, and therefore got acquainted with the city of Nanjing.



In the past, Nanjing had gone through a massive massacre. Dharma Master Cheng Yen also reminded Tzu Chi members to care more about the residents of this historical city. The Jiang Su provincial government once suggested that Tzu Chi build a hospital, but it was not legal yet for private organizations to do so, and the idea was not realized. “But why would we like to build a high-tech Health Examination Center in Suzhou now? Because Master Cheng Yen said, at least in Jiang Su province, we need to have some expression about Tzu Chi’s medical mission. Since building the hospital was not an option, we had to compromise and consider a physical examination centre for preventive medicine and health promotion to continue our medical mission in Mainland China.” said Mr. Wang.

Lin Pi-Yu, Deputy CEO of Tzu Chi Foundation, mentioned that, although Tzu Chi was not able to carry out the plan to build a hospital, over the past 20 years we have sponsored altogether 560 graduates of the Medicine and Nursing Departments of Nanjing Medical University, contributed to the medical community in Nanjing, and



become acquainted with a group of volunteers who are willing to work hand in hand for the love of mainland China and medicine.

During the 20 years, volunteers of Tzu Chi Teachers Association, team members of Tzu Chi Collegial Youth Association from various colleges in Taiwan, and teachers and students of Taiwan Tzu Chi University have hosted “Humanitarianism exchange of Tzu Chi Youth between Taiwan and China” with students of Nanjing Medical University several times to shore up the deep and warm friendship. In the exchange event in 2007, more than 40 people from the 2nd affiliated hospital of NMU, affiliated oral-cavity hospital of NMU, and teachers and students of NMU participated in the sign language musical play “The Great Family Love” and performed it publicly four times in Nanjing Great Hall of People to promote the value of Chinese traditional virtue, and received enthusiastic feedback from the society.

On November 18, 2011, in Tzu Chi Jing Si Academy, Tzu Chi Health Enhancing Centre signed a cooperative agreement with Jiang Su Provincial Peoples Hospital and 1st Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University. Both sides expected to make more contributions to promote the medical services of local preventive medicine. The Chairwoman of Jiang Su Provincial People's Hospital, Wang Hong, and CEO of Tzu Chi Medical Mission, Lin Jun-Long, jointly signed a cooperative agreement witnessed by the local authority in charge of medical treatment and deputy CEO of Tzu Chi Foundation, Lin Pi-Yu. In the future, both parties will interact more deeply with regard to human resources and education cultivation.

The local authorities predicted that such interaction will benefit countless residents of Suzhou.

The Chairwoman of Jiang Su Provincial Peoples Hospital, Wang Hong was deeply touched by the Tzu Chi spirit, and anticipated to have more cooperation with Tzu Chi in the future to expand the fields of medical treatment, to do more health enhancing business, and to spread the ideas of our hospital. Along with the social development, people there have more diverse requirements regarding health care, and every one would like to improve health conditions. It is gradually becoming a common goal for hospitals on both sides.

The 1st Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University, with over 70 years history, is the biggest Level-3 A-grade general hospital in Jiang Su province which is equivalent to a Medical Center in Taiwan. Bearing the centralized missions of medical treatment, education and scientific research in Jiang Su province, it's also the academic location for the doctoral and master degree programs for the doctors of clinical medicine in China. Among them, cardiovascular pathology is now the focus of medicine in China. Gastroenterology, clinical laboratory, gynecology and clinical nursing are the first major clinical departments approved by China's Ministry of Health.

The name of this mutually cooperative organization is The 1st Affiliated Hospital of Nanking Medical University and Suzhou Tzu Chi Health Health Promotion Center of Tzu Chi General Hospital. The Nanjing authorities will dispatch a few excellent doctors and head nurses to join the service work of this organization. Meanwhile, Tzu Chi Foundation also invited doctors of Jiang Su Provincial Peoples Hospital to participate in the annual TIMA Conference in Simulated Surgery and to visit and exchange views with Tzu Chi's six hospitals throughout Taiwan.

The CEO of Tzu Chi's medical mission Mr. Lin Chin-Lon specialized in cardiology and was once the chairman of Northern Hill Medical Centre in California, USA. He was summoned by Dharma Master Cheng Yen in 1995 to return to Taiwan to focus on blending the medical specialty with Tzu Chi humanitarianism. He was credited with being "the creator of the legendary humanitarian medicine." Mr. Lin said that this medical center is the symbol of the compassion of the Master, and is also the first step for Tzu Chi's medical mission in mainland China. Preventive medicine is important, and one should not begin seeking treatment only

after becoming ill. He wishes that the Su Zhou Tzu Chi Health Enhancing Centre will be able to promote the idea of healthy diets and habits, so that all Su Zhou residents will maintain a healthy body, mind and soul.

Based upon the idea of great love, Tzu Chi Health Promotion Center is scheduled to be opening in 2012, and will provide humanitarian caring, start a free clinic for the socially vulnerable groups, promote health education, and deliver more charity activities. Just as CEO of Tzu Chi Foundation, Mr. Lin Chin-Lon said, "To provide everything he learned during the whole life, to help the poor and suffering people would be the greatest reward for a medical worker." Tzu Chi also expects to spread medical humanism, "treating every patient as family", to every corner of mainland China. **T**



Sow the Seeds of Health Promotion

The Commencement of Free Clinic in Suzhou Tzu Chi Health Promotion Center

Translated by Jeff Lu Edited by Chui Suen Yee

Tzu Chi Health Promotion Center in Suzhou commenced its operation by introducing the activity of offering free inspections in ophthalmology, internal medicine, dentists, B ultrasound and ECG to elderly on 9th of this month. Volunteers from both sides of the strait guided 92 senior citizens from nursing homes or poor families to get the inspections, conveying love and care to the bodies and souls of the elderly.

"Today is the beginning of a new milestone with the Tzu Chi Medical Mission extended to Suzhou. At such solemn event people are happy to sow the seeds of love." Over video conference, Master Cheng Yen delivered her blessings to Suzhou Tzu Chi Health Promotion Center.

Suzhou Tzu Chi Health Promotion Center healthcare inspection team also vowed to work with unity, harmony, mutual love and joint effort. Promote their profession and set an example of Medical humanity in Suzhou.

CEO Lin Chin-Lon said, apart from expressing his gratitude, he also extended his blessings wishing that the Suzhou Tzu Chi Health Promotion Center run forever under the leadership of Director Lee Chou-Chin. CEO Lin hoped the event will bring people long-term health. Director Lee Tzu Chi thanked all Tzu



Chi members for all their participation. He was so moved and overcome with emotion. He said if one understands the spirit of "just do it", he will work hard to achieve it!

Yang Yaqin, nurse of ECG clinic with more than eleven years of experience, felt Tzu Chi medical humanity is particularly different. Whenever she talks mildly with the senior citizens, they are very grateful. With this reflected in her routine work, she will forget her unhappiness and be kind to the patients.

Qin Chuyan, used to be a care recipient of Tzu Chi, has become Tzu Chi commissioner under companionship and care of the Tzu Chi volunteers. Qin Chuyan said that though she was a recipient herself, she just want to come here to pay back more and to serve as a medical volunteer. Sharing her experiences with the care recipients, this will let them know that it's not so difficult to achieve, so long as they have the courage.

On the next day, when a volunteer asked Mr. Shen Erkang, a 80-year-old senior citizen from Gua Qian nursing home: "Grandpa, how do you feel about our center?" Grandpa Shen, replied emotionally: "All of you have treated us well and it's touching, very touching!" (Written by Chen Yi-Ling, Wu Bi-Zhu, Ye Xiu-Lian, Wu Shu-Hui, Yan Yu-Jiao, Ma Chun-Yan, Wang Jing-Hua, Miao Bei-Juan, Zhang Wen-Dai. 📍)



Sharing the Origin of the Suzhou Jing Si Cultural Center

■ Written by Julia Tseng Translated by Jeff Lu Edited by Suen Yee Chui

*Merits have been cultivated broadly and extended to all directions
from the ancient Wu's villa to heritage fund;
From ancient junior's hall to cultural center today,
gone are the youngsters and kindhearted comrades are here to stay;
Settled down in the Cultural Center, with hearts caring about the humankind;
enlightened by the teachings of the Buddha while ruminating the good-wills of the ancestors;
While the mother-nature teaches us not to contend,
we must cultivate our field of blessings with heart;
With the merit of books and character, true love will be spread across the strait.*

The above poem read at the grand opening of the Jing Si Cultural Center in Suzhou accounts



for the historical transition of from “Wu’s Ji Zhi Yi Zhuang” to Jing Si College with the scent of humanities.

The first Tzu Chi Jing Si Cultural Center in China is located in Suzhou, a place full of illustrious men of pen and swords in the past 2,500 years of Chinese history. Suzhou is famous for her intertwining waterways among serene lanes with terrains of stone in the villas surrounded by shining rivers and our Tzu Chi Jing Si Cultural Center is right at the flushing downtown: No. 41, Guan Xiu Fang, Shi Quan Street.

Guan Xiu Fang used to be the district where heavyweights and high-ranking officers lived. Guan Xiu refers to the costumes of the emperors, kings and three dukes. Three dukes refer to the diligent and incorruptible high-ranking officials who are respected by the common people.

Guan Xiu Fang No.41, formerly as Wu’s Ji Zhi Yi Zhuang, is a reserved building of history. Wu’s Ji Zhi Yi Zhuang was established after Wu’s Heritage bought the villa in the third year of Xuan Tong period of Qing’s Dynasty (1911). The so-called Yi Zhuang was a kind of fund set up by ancient Chinese to manage the incomes from the business and use it to support people from the same pedigree. Once, it was used as a school, then as a junior’s hall (commonwealth junior activity facility) holding various activities of popular science, art education and other fields.

Hundred years might be a split second in the human history. Yet, warmth from humanistic compassion and the bringing-up the late comers has been emancipating from each corner in the villa ever since. Jing Si Cultural center in the Jing Si College is expected to provide a scenario where education of life and spirit will enable each of us to attain an inner temple of truth, goodness and beauty. With the beam of the horizontal inscribed board carrying the metaphorical meaning of cultivating you blessings with wisdom, a wealth of books of wisdom in the Jing Si Cultural Center will be instrumental in making our hearts cleaned by dharma water. It is hoped that the fragrance of book, tea, coffee and humanities will be transformed into the scent of heart and way of our life.

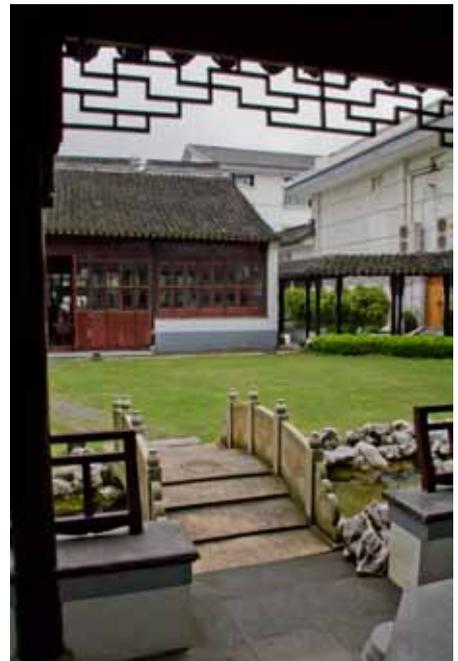
Whenever we see a building designed with extruding beams on the doorframe of main gate and stone statues on both sides of the gate, we know it’s the main entrance of a grand hall. The number of the extruding beams on the doorframe is proportional to the rank of the official of

this house. For example, a official living in a house with four extruding beams will find an official living in a house also with four extruding beams to have their son and daughter engaged. That's the origin of the phrase "men dang hui dui", to have a marriage between families of equal social status literally.

"Hui Dui" stands for stone drum which is part of the style of architecture in the Qing Dynasty. The stone drums in front the gate function as the anchor. The shape of the stone drums signifies the social status of the owner. The front gate of the Jing Si Cultural Center is designed to be the type of an army general with a pair of stone drums sculptured with three surrounding lions on it, signifying blessings submitted by lucky lions.

The heads of sparrows and the tails of swallows presage the windfall of blessings. The main beam, a sculptured stone, while artistic, is functional in preventing water intrusion. The hundred years old main beam of the Jing Si Cultural Center, sculptured with twin coins, veins of cloud and dragons, is a historical object protected by the Suzhou government. The column above the beam, lasting for more than hundred years, is made of phoebe.

Jing Si Cultural center is a divine temple welcome to kindhearted souls. The octagonal window lattice and lamps stand for the Noble Eightfold Path enlightened by Buddha: right views, right thinking, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right diligence, right mindfulness and right concentration. It also signifies the four missions and eight footprints that have been dedicated by Tzu Chi: charity, medical, education, culture, international relief, bone marrow donation, community volunteers and environmental protections. ㊦



See You at the Same Old Place Again

The Brave Landscape Behind Dentist Tsai Tsung-Shien

■ Written by Wu Wan-Lin & Chen Shi-Yuan Translated by Jeff Lu Edited by Suen Yee Chui



"I was very moved and felt very ashamed after seeing the dedications of the silent mentors in the Medical School in the Tzu Chi University. I came to realized that life could be so highly respected. Master Cheng Yen has been creating opportunities for our bodies to be re-used after we passed away." More than 10 years ago, a ceremony in Hualien -- made Dr. Tsai Tsung-Shien resolutely joined North Branch of TIMA Taiwan after the 921 earthquake in mid Taiwan. Though he has to rely on crutches because of polio, he has volunteered to travel with TIMA to available rural area in the mountain in Taiwan to provide free clinics. And he is nearly indispensable in global TIMA missions. In the morning of September 19th, 2012, Dr. Tsai Tsung-Shien waived goodbye to his brave life on this land to fulfill his wish to be a silent mentor, just as the praise by Master Cheng Yen "what a brave life!" What a pity that we can no longer hear his generous and jolly laughter with radiant smiles!

"If everybody can keep trying to be a white knight of somebody else, I believe, this is what I have dreamed of!" With radiant smile, Dr. Tsai Tsung-Shien has been trying to be to a white knight to others as his lifetime goal. We still seem to be able to see him shuttling in Tzu Chi General Hospital, looking after patients. From eight years, he has been travelling to work for the outpatients in Hualien and Yuli Tzu Chi Hospital every Friday. Whenever he is not working for the patients, he would help deliver medical records or push the bed, never letting a split second slip by. But just a few days ago, he died of cirrhosis at the age of 55-year-old. His body was sent right away back to the Giving Hall at Hualien Tzu Chi University, near the spiritual hometown he has dreamed of.

Master Cheng Yen said that Dr. Tsai was awakened by the event of the 921 earthquake, and joined Tzu Chi and has been indispensable TIMA missions in international relief. Master Cheng Yen recounted several years ago, while watching video showing the TIMA team going to the off-shore island of Peng Hu by ship, he asked how could Dr. Tsai, who needs clutches to



move around, join in the mission? To which, Master Cheng Yen was replied that Dr. Tsai had already joined nearly every TIMA mission to rural areas and island. "How diligent!" praised Master Cheng Yen.

Being the youngest son of the four children in his family and he suffered from polio when he was one-year-old, so extra love was showered onto him by his family since he was young. He had been so conceited that he had led a permissive life. Though he had learned that he has hepatitis B when was twenty years old, he still drank relentlessly, in addition to smoking and eating seafood. He was also very disappointed with the society of Taiwan and wanted to migrate to Singapore.

In 1999, the 921 earthquake though devastated Taiwan, also resonated the love deep inside Dr. Tsai's heart. He felt the changes in his mentality. The unselfish dedications of the silent mentors at Tzu Chi University cast a sharp contrast to his anatomy courses when his attention was only about the bones, blood vessels, muscles, nerves. In Tzu Chi, he saw the due respect paid in medical duties. Afterwards he has worked with TIMA with determination, dedication and devotion.

Many volunteers jokes that Dr. Tsai as having taken helicopter to show up in every TIMA mission. Though physically disabled, he had been carrying with him a James Bond style suitcase filled with dental equipment around Taiwan. He joined free clinics after the tsunami in South Asia, earthquake in Sichuan, and helped to build houses in the Philippines. Dr. Tsai said: "I have to take a nap after taking about 10 patients in my own clinics, due to the fatigue from cirrhosis. I never feel tired even after taking dozens of patients in TIMA missions"



He will usually leave a note at his door whenever he was urgently called out for a mission. The regular medical tour plan has been going on since 2004. He will join them even on the day before a typhoon comes as long as the train is available. He has never been paid by the hospital. Instead he had paid to offer "energy soup" to his colleagues. "From free clinics, I learned gradually the meaning of being rich. I found that real rich people are those who are willing to give out helping hands and blessings to others anywhere, anytime"

"I often feel very lucky." Since his father had been a silent mentor, MD. Cai made a wish that he could be silent mentor, too. He had made an appointment with his wife, Wang Wei-Hua, that Tzu Chi will be the same old place for their rendezvous in their next life. Dr. Tsai Tsung-Shien regarded his handicapped feet as a white knight showing him rare sceneries that are not available to others.

Master Cheng Yen encourages everybody: "We can not predict how long we can live, but



we can go as wide as we can. For Dr. Tsai, his life is wide enough for him to shuttle freely between Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Philippines and Mainland China. Having seen human suffered, so he is ready to give out his love without being hindered. Watching him walk all the way and climb all these mountains and sail across the seas to reach the spot where free clinics are needed. These are not sightseeing tours. These are the TIMA missions to the relief of the impoverished nations, the disasters and the backcountries. What a brave life! " (References: Tzu Chi Monthly & Da Ai TV) 

Brief Profile of Tsai Tsung-Shien, MD.

Born in 1958

Opened his own clinic in 1986

Join Tzu Chi International Medical Association in 1999

As Tzu Chi commissioner in 2003

Seizing Time to Devote, the Best Way to Fight Cancer

■ Written by Chung Wen-Ying Translated by Chou Hsin-Hung Edited by Jessica Huang

“Sisters, do you know where these rags are from?” Ms. Wang Mei-Yu, who’s in charge of the general affairs of the Global Tzu Chi Dormitory, pointing at the fully-stacked two-level drawers. All 36 sisters smiled at this. Those rags are used towels recycled from the past Tzu Chi activities. Besides families to the eight silent mentors of the coming surgery simulation, there’ll be 526 participants from 19 countries(including Taiwan), plus working staff, there shall be at least 1,200 beds and quilts prepared. All these sisters are really “fortunate”. They have to clean the dormitory within today.



“The families to Silent Mentors are arranged at the 9th floor so that we can take care of them better...,” Sister Huang Tzu-Huan said, “normally we put five beds in one room, but there’ll many families registered to come, so that we have to arrange eight beds in one room. Basically we put the same families together.” Four sisters here are responsible to clean one room, they started their cleaning jobs right after the briefing.

8th floor chief Sister Yang Hung-Bin speaks in a not-very-fluent Chinese with an accent, “The quilt should be folded like this...” She patiently teaches Huang Li-Wei, who’s been in an event for the first time. “I’ve never put quilts in the sheets at home. It’s my husband’s job.”



Hung-Bin’s been responsible for the dormitory service since as a Tzu Chi Commissioner. Besides being a medical volunteer, she comes to the Jing Si Hall to take part as a working crew in the activities. At the age of 57, it’s hard to tell that she’s been announced death 11 years ago.

20 years ago, their whole family moved from Macao to live in Taiwan. Hung-Bin’s husband runs his business in Mainland China, Hung-Bin has to do is to take care of their kids and be a good wife. Then one day, she found that she choked while eating. Her girl studying in nursing school asked her to the hospital for further examination.

“You have only two and a half years left.” Her Doctor sentenced her death right in front of her. Hung-Bin felt shocked but tearless. It’s esophagus cancer. She decided to make use of her residual time to travel the world to enjoy life. One accidental chance, a Tzu Chi commissioner sent her a Tzu Chi Monthly. She flipped to one page, it’s Master’s dharma talk: Seize the moment, just do it.” Suddenly, she awaked, and lives her life in a totally new way. And now, she’s so happy about it. 📖

*Silent Mentor: **Chuang Huei-Yin***
Breast Cancer
Passed away at the age of 74

An Ordinary Lady with Unrelenting Attitude Towards Life

■ Written by Dr. Yeh Kuang-Ting Translated by Maggie Chang Edited by Simon Chen

Mentor Ms. Chuang Huei-Yin was a very thoughtful person since her childhood. She enjoyed in singing and swimming before getting married. After getting married, family turned to be her first priority. She was highly self-disciplined and diligent – be strict to herself but lenient to others. She believed that family harmony is the foundation of all and each member of her family also sticks to the same concept.

Chuang's husband once was a sailor for 5 years and spent little time at home. He left all his earned income to his wife. With her efforts in planning daily expenditure and saving, they were able to buy a house of their own. At her husband's absence, she had to look after and educate the children, meanwhile to keep the kids' from living in a poor condition. She believed that a clean and tidy appearance revealed a good manner and a person's family education. Therefore she wouldn't



comprise in clothing. Her requirements and unrelenting attitude have deeply influenced her children.

Later on when her husband engaged in the construction business, their family was gradually getting stable and wealthier. As the saying goes, good virtues lead to good fortune and blessing. Her eldest daughter-in-law was a hard-working and nice lady and has been taking care of her parents-in-law as well as the family since even before getting married. She and her husband accredited her highly. She had a happy family and she also maintained a good relationship with neighbors who respected her very much.

Chuang didn't undertake a relaxing and care-free life after she became a grandmother. Instead, she shouldered the responsibility of looking after her grandchildren when her eldest son and his wife were tied up with business and when her second daughter had problems in marriage. She loved her grandchildren but didn't spoil them. She taught them those important principles about living and dealing with people. Her grandchildren respected her very much and frequently asked their parents to visit their grandmother together after returning home. She was pleased that her grandchildren were so sweet and considerate.

Eleven years ago, Chuang discovered a swollen growth in the breast and confirmed it was breast cancer after detailed examination. Even though, she was still calm and actively received all related treatments. She had a strong will to get recovered and was brave to try new medications like Taxol. She hoped that she could get well and to resume taking care of the family as before, instead of burdening her children. But as the tumor recurred and transferred, she was getting weaker and weaker and much more personal assistance was required. Her daughter put all the works aside, accompanied and looked after her mother, sharing the work with her father. Even suffering the tortures in the body, she was still optimistic mentally. She faced up the challenges and even encouraged her health care team members. Five years ago, she decided to donate her body to help more people as a Silent Mentor.

Her health condition quickly deteriorated since this Lunar New Year. She was clearly conscious but her body could make any moves and required others' help in daily life. Her family was considerate and moved her from Taipei to Nantou County Hospital for

palliative care. She realized that she would leave the world shortly so she tried her best to outline her funeral plans in details and send her blessing and wishes to her children and grandchildren. On February 18, 2012, she was in critical condition so her family urgently arranged to make her body delivered to the Tzu Chi University on the same day. Her wishes were fulfilled.

Looking back to Chuang's whole life, she held a diligent life with self-contentment, taking care of the family first and keeping the people around her in good harmony. She considered herself consuming too many social resources for her illness so she donated her body for medical research and the funeral expenses to those people in need. She is our role model and we believe these seeds of goodness shall be inherited in the family generation by generation. 🍀



Silent Mentor: Chen Bi-Lian
Breast Cancer
Passed away at the age of 50

The Most Beautiful Smile

■ Written by Yeh Kuang-Ting Translated by Mindy Chen Edited by Tammy Chang

Sister Chen Bi-Lian had seven brothers and sisters; two older sisters, one older brother, two younger sisters and one younger brother. She ranked in the Middle. After graduated from Da-Jia Junior High, she worked as a nurse in Taipei. At the same time, she completed her education with work-study program in a vocational high school. She was optimistic and aggressive. People liked to make friends with her. She was thoughtful to others, and took good care of her brothers and sisters.



In the work, she met her ex-husband. Although her mother was strongly against it, she still married him regardless and gave birth to a son. After marriage, her husband often lived an idle life and the relationship between her and mother-in-law also didn't fixed well. It made her very unhappy. However, she simply propped up the family's economy on her own. To make money, she carried the child and sell Chinese breakfast and vegetables in front of her house. But her husband often used violence and been cynical by her mother in law. She couldn't stand it and ran away from home. She would like to divorce and restart a new life, but was denied by her ex-husband. Until 1997, she eventually got divorced. In the same year, her father passed away. Due to her sister's help and encouragement, she was returning to single life.

Later, Sister Bi-Lian came to work in a company located in central Taiwan. Stable Income made her slowly calm down and brought her smiling face back. She was always ready to help others and cared about her colleagues, they liked her very much. She was not only filial to her mother, but also cared about her sibling and their children. Can't get along with her son, it's great regret on her. So she gave her love to her nephews and nieces. She had the happiest time during those years.

In 2006, found a lump in her chest and checked by China Medical College Hospital, it's turned to breast cancer. She faced it and under Doctor's receipt, took surgical operation and chemotherapy afterwards. One year after, it's recurred. After doing five or six rounds of chemotherapy, her body slowly becoming weaker, but she still held an optimistic attitude to overcome the difficulties. Her colleagues often accompanied her and encouraged her during the period of time. Sister Chen never complained about her situation, she always gave a good smile in response to their concerns. Besides the constant encouragement from her colleagues and family, her strength and another strong support came from people with diseases like her. Many cancer patients are affected by her positive attitude and gave her a lot of help and care by return.

During the unusual period of her life, she met with the most important person, Ms. Zhang, Rui-Hong. Ms. Zhang herself was suffering from serious illness once. She was greatly impressed and touched by Sister Bi-Lian, so she was willing to sacrifice her time to look after Bi-Lian and treated Sister Bi-Lian as one of her own family. They both are like sisters. Bi-Lian and her family also regard Rui-Hong as their angel and feel an immense gratitude to her.

In September, 2011, Sister Bi-Lian her body became weaker and weaker after many chemo treatments. Without better goodwill, she decided to transfer to Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital. With compassion and enthusiasm, Dr. Huang, Guan-Bo at the Department of Hematology and Oncology treats not only Bi-Lian's physical body but also her heart. In addition, Dr. Huang also comforts and encourages Bi-Lian's family. In the hospital, Bi-Lian also realized that Dr. Huang often suffers from experiencing the death of his precious patients; as Dr. Huang's patient, she always encouraged him to take good care of himself and keep going. In Tzu Chi Hospital, Bi-

Lian received a lot of warm support and thoughtful care from volunteers, who celebrated her birthday- the only one time birthday celebration in her life.

Being warmly accompanied and encouraged by doctors, nurses, family, friends, and Tzu Chi volunteers, Bi-Lian sincerely prayed that all patients in the hospital were able to recover from their illness; in addition, she determined to become a silent mentor after passing away. Venerable Master Cheng Yen visited Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital on November 23, 2011. In that morning, Bi-Lian amazingly felt pretty well; she told her sister about her aspiration to donate her body after her death, and to take good care of their mother and self. Afterwards, she passed away at 11:45 am. With the help of Tzu Chi members in charge of body donation, Bi-Lian's body was quickly delivered to Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital where her last wish was fulfilled.

Although Ms. Chen, Bi-Lian's life was not smooth, she, however, impressed her friends and family with her unique traits; she is optimistic, resolute, brave and compassionate. She gave her love to warmly comfort people with sadness when she was alive, and gave away her body to save people with illness when she left the world. She fully put what Venerable Master Cheng Yen's teachings – We do not have a claim on our life, but only the right to use it – into practice. Her great spirit will be with students for good. ㊦



Silent Mentor: Liu Hsuan-Li
Lung Cancer
Passed away at the age of 58

Determined for Medical Education

■ Written by Joni Yu Translated by Jennifer Liu Edited by Suen Yee Chui

“Why talk about this when you are still alive?” replied Mr. Yao Yi-Chen, after her wife Liu Hsuan-Li told her that she wants to donate her body to become a silent mentor. Her condition was not getting any better after the therapy. He was surprised that she is willing to donate her body, knowing that she does not even have courage to go for injection when she was ill. “It will be a pity to give up, don’t say that anymore and keep going.” He comforted her.



Mrs. Liu did not say anything. The 7 cm tumor on her right liver was gone after 2 years of traumatic chemotherapy. Just when she was thinking that she can start a new lease of life, another tumor on her left liver was discovered. She received treatment at Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital. She goes through lots of side effect. Foods are tasteless and even drinking water taste bitter. The progress of her condition was not consistent. She starts thinking that it would be better for her to die than to go through all these suffering.

Mr. Yao was speechless as well, having been married since 1975, he knows that his wife determination on what she says. Although he knows the concept of the silent mentor well after going in and out of Dalin Tzu chi hospital over the years, he just could not come to terms with the fact that her wife will be one of those donating the body.

She devoted her life to her husband and family since marrying Mr. Liu. They built up their hardware business together, cooked for their workers and also help taking care of their five grandchildren. Her daughter in law Yen Fen said that although she is hot temper, she gets along well with people and caring. She even taught her how to cook well.

Liu Hsuan-Li, traveled to Mainland China with her husband for a holiday two years ago. She looks good from the photo taken while at the holiday, and does not look sick at all. During the period when she was receiving treatment, she would plan some outing activities on the eve of weekends or holiday. Yao Yi Chen said since their children have all grown up, he could bring his wife and grandchildren everywhere in Taiwan.

They once decided to climb the highest pit of He Huan Mountain, Yao Yi-Chen brought along his wife. Seeing that she could not catch up with the group, Yi-Chen suggested that they give up and return. Liu Hsuan Li insisted on carrying on with the trip and made it to the top in three hours.

Liu Hsuan-Li can take comfort that at least her husband and grandchildren are at standing by her during the cause of the treatment. Thinking of her young grandchildren gives her the strength which she needs for the treatment.

“Why should you give up when the doctors have not?” Yao Yi-Chen kept encouraging her. During the Lunar New Year family gathering, Hsuan-Li instead of complaining as usual about



the pain of the treatment, she starts apologizing and saying her gratitude to her family. She apologizes to her youngest brother for making him worried about her, and thanks her husband for all he did for her.

“Do you want to send her home?” The doctor asks as Hsuan-Li lay dying from her sick bed. “No doctor, she will donate her body. Please arrange it accordingly.”

“I am sorry, and thank you.” It’s 3 pm and Liu Hsuan-Li said her final words and passed away peacefully. At 5 pm, she was sent to Hualien by an ambulance, accompanied by her family. Yao

Yi Chen has to help her wife fulfilled her last wish, that is to let the doctors make using of her body to do research on her illness so that future patient will be suffered less.”

“Our gratitude to the silent mentor, you give us the opportunity to learn...” Dr. Huang Jia-Wen explained during the home visit to Liu Hsuan-Li’s family, confirmed that they agreed to Hsuan-Li decision of donating her body.

Her son, Yao Bing Kun has taken over the management of the factory. He used to be rebellious when he was in high school, fighting and ended up in court. He soon released his mistake and never did any wrong to make his mother worry any more.

“I have a strange feeling.” recalled Yao Bing Kun. When the social workers are co-coordinating for her mother application to donate her body, he did not think that his mother would pass away so early. He is still hesitating on the ambulance, but he is relieved when he sees that her mother’s body was well taken care in the university.

Now the most important thing was to do what his mother has told him: Manage the factory well and take good care of father and children. 📍

Silent Mentor: Tsai Wen-Yan
Multiple Organ Dysfunctions
Passed away at the age of 62

Blessed to be in Tzu Chi After Each Reincarnation

■ Written by Huang Hsiao-Chuan Translated by Jeff Lu Edited by Suen Yee Chui

“It’s not always possible to pre-arrange one’s own funeral procession. Our mother wanted to stay as a member of the Tzu Chi family, we are glad that we could have followed through her wish.” Mr. Lin Yu-Yao, the second son of silent mentor Tsai Wen-Yan, talked about his mother’s decision to be a silent mentor.



On August 22, 2012, with the upcoming of the course of surgery simulation, Dr. Huang Jun-Hao and Dr. Huang Jia-Wen of Dalin Tzu Chi General Hospital went to visit the family of their Silent Mentor in Lingya District, Kaohsiung City. They were accompanied by Ms. Chen Ya-Fan of the Humanities Dept. of Dalin TC Hospital and local Tzu Chi Commissioners Chen Que and Li Li-Hong. They explained to the family members how the simulation surgery will be conducted while taking the opportunity to understand more the life of silent mentor Tsai Wen-Yan.

In April, 2012 Tai came to Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital for six days as a volunteer. On the third day, she

started to feel tired and loses appetite. Mr. Lin Zhenghong, her husband, saw this after she returned home from the mission and advised her to go to the doctor. But she did not pay much attention to all these. Shortly after this, her husband found the soles of her feet to be somewhat dropsically. Fearing there be could be something wrong with her kidney, her husband again urged her to go to see a doctor. As her parent's family Wen Yan has been selling herbals, she only took some herbals at first. She finally went to a clinic for check up after some persuasion from her family and Tzu Chi members.

According to the examination by the first clinic, doctors discovered that her liver index was too high and recommend her to go to a larger hospital as soon as possible. But, as the physician of the second clinic said it's nothing serious. She therefore did not seek further medical treatment promptly. Only three days later, sister Tsai's skin suddenly turned yellowish. On May 23, her son Yu Yao and her husband rushed her to the Dalin Tzu Chi General Hospital. She was admitted to the ward the same day. She was transferred to the ICU the next day, as physicians judged that sister Tsai might inflict fulminate hepatitis. Her condition deteriorated further, with her liver function declined badly and complicated by kidney problems. 5:00 pm on May 28, sister Tsai Wen Yan left her family at the age of six-two. Her family, accompanied by volunteers and medical volunteers, escorted her body back to Hualien, her spiritual home town, "Now, we are taking you to Master Cheng Yen's." Her husband whispered in her ears before their departure.

"My mother was very warm-hearted and loved to help others!" Yu-Yao, second son of Tsai Wen Yan, when talked about her mother, is deeply impressed by her compassion and readiness to extend helping hands to the senior and the unfortunate. Every day Sister Tsai Wen Yan prepared meals and brought it to a distant relative's parent, who was living alone in the neighborhood. Therefore he was not surprised when she joined Tzu Chi.

Mr. Lin, husband of Tsai, used to work for Tang Rong Company and had to do over-time work at the night and during holidays. She took care of the children of her own family and her relatives, in addition to the operation of shoe store she run. With an outgoing personality, Tsai liked to get in touch with people. She joined the folk dancing party in the near-by cultural center each morning before going to her shoes shop.

Mr. Lin Zheng-Hong who had been busy with his work before his retirement said: "I am grateful to her for taking good care of our two children." Lin Woods Wing, their eldest son, is an obedient son and seldom let her parents worry about him, has been taking regular jobs in central Taiwan after graduated from college. But the schooling of Yu-Yao, her second son, was not so easily going. Yu-Yao, a little bit more notorious since his childhood, though never made big trouble; there have been some small attrition. Yu Yao recalls, as a child, he used to be beaten at home, but he never changed himself. Not until his graduation from junior high school and entered into senior engineer school, when his mother escorted him to and back from school to avoid being led astray by friends.

Silent mentor Tsai Wen-Yan closed her own shoe store 20 years ago. In addition to extend helping hands to those in need, she helped her cousin to run the restaurant business. "Her mandate is to take care of others!", said Lin Zheng-Hong gratefully. After the children have grown up, Tsai joined Tzu Chi and devoted herself to the work of Tzu Chi, and at the same time influenced her family. "It's very good for Mom to do the good things she likes." Yu-Yao, her second son, also supports mother's devotion to Tzu Chi.

Tsai was commissioned in 2006. Fellow sisters Chen Qie sisters and Li Li-Hong said that sister Tsai had devoted most of her time as a medical volunteer. She used to stay in Dalin Tzu Chi General Hospital for three days in the second week of every month and another six days in every fourth week of the month. Medical volunteer was her first priority and she gave her hands to the general affairs of Kaohsiung Jing Si Hall and the recycling station.

Four years ago, after her husband retired, they went to do recycling together. Nearly daily inspiration through Da Ai TV morning programs made Tsai's husband understand more about Tzu Chi. Tsai also often invited her sons, especially Yu-Yao who lives with her, to watch Da Ai TV and explained the content to him, trying to let him feel the beauty of the Tzu Chi world. With all these recognition and influences, when Tsai wanted to be a silent mentor after her life, all family members endorsed almost without hesitation.

After the passing of Tsai, the family members often listen to the teachings of Master Cheng Yen about the truth of impermanence, and soon come to terms with the lost,

“This was indeed at a loss when it happened so abruptly. People seldom leave this world without pain. But we are grateful that she was able to achieve it neatly with less pain to herself and those she loved.” Lin Zheng-Hong shared their feelings at that time.

After Mom passed away, Yu-Yao began to read “Master Cheng Yen 100 stories”. Though he did not like Buddhist groups originally, he agrees with the dharma of Master Cheng Yen who teaches Tzu Chi members to practice what they have acquired and that everyone is a Bodhisattva. He is looking forward to joining Tzu Chi to follow his mother foot steps. **T**

