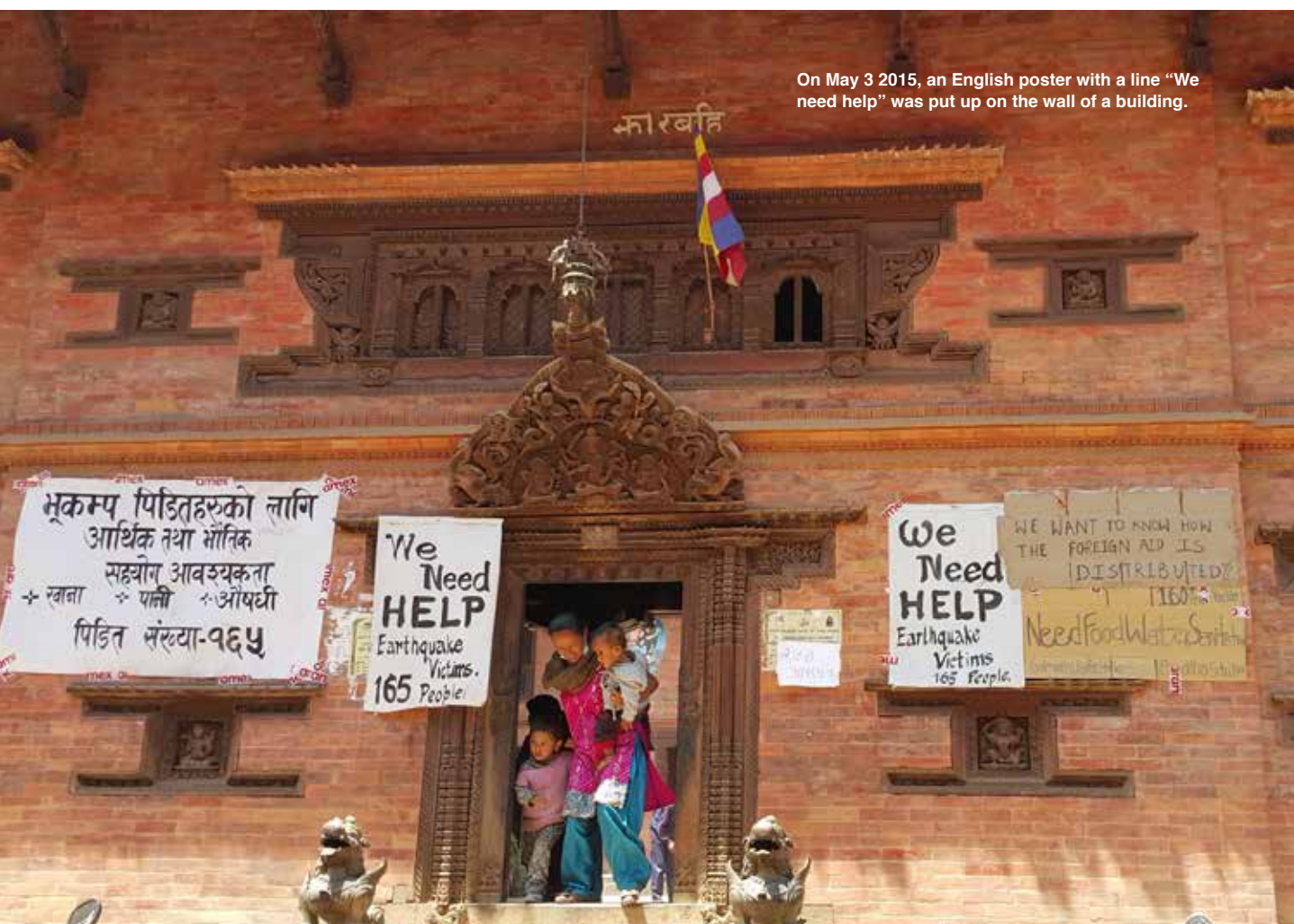


A Heart Left in Kathmandu

Reported and Photographed by Chang-Hong Lin, director of the QC Center
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Translated by Mindy Chen

On May 3 2015, an English poster with a line “We need help” was put up on the wall of a building.



On April 29, 2015, a message sent from Nepal by Superintendent Sou-Hsin Chien said, "Please make an arrangement for Chang-Hong to join the Disaster Relief Team setting out in two days to support the conduct of fracture surgery anesthesia." Upon reading the message, I felt my heart was already flying over there.

In few days after the first Medical Team members arrived in Nepal, they reported that there were lots of patients with fracture and there was a lack of bone materials over there. Therefore, I, along with four orthopedists, set off for Nepal immediately.

On the first day of arrival, an arrangement had been made for us to coop with the orthopedists from a private orthopedic hospital. They greatly welcomed us. In the early morning, two operation rooms were both fully occupied. A new born baby was delivered through an emergency C-section. When I just finished intubation for another surgery, the breathing machine had a breakdown, I, therefore, had to push the Ambu all the way through the surgery. In the afternoon, there was a power cut when the surgery went halfway, so we used the cell-phone light instead to put the steel nails into the bone. However, the portable x-ray was postponed to the morning of the next day.



Twins were born peacefully, who brought the joy of life after the big earthquake.

On the morning of the next day, a patient with a leg-and-forearm fracture came for surgery, which was performed by (Kuanshan TCH) Supt. Win-Him Poon, (Taipei TCH) Dr. Shiau-Tzu Tzeng and local orthopedists. Supt. Sou-Hsin Chien, (Dalin TCH) Vice Supt. Jui-Teng Chien and I kept on the surgery for an elderly woman with multiple fractures; the surgery was put off due to a power cut. A shoulder sling was used to support her fractured collarbone first; a plaster cast was applied to hold her leg; steel plates were attached to her radius and ulna. Because she was old and had poor lung function, LMA was applied during anesthesia through the surgery. Fortunately, the surgery went



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Photo 1: In the operation room of the private hospital, we experienced a power cut, a breakdown of breathing machine, and there was no air-conditioning. **Photo2:** Sometimes Dr. Shiau-Tzu Tzeng hold the operation light; sometimes Supt. Sou-Hsin Chien became an assistant. **Photo 3:** Kuanshan TCH Supt. Win-Him Poon hold the light during a power cut.

smoothly; the electric drill and bone materials carried from Taiwan all helped as well.

Without air-conditioning in the operation room, Vice Supt. Jui-Teng Chien sweated heavily and kept asking the nurse to wipe sweat off his face. An electrical fan finally came to cool down the room. However, another problem came up: noise kept appearing in EGG; therefore, a power line, along with an exposed pipeline on the wall, was used for grounding to solve the problem. It was such a make-do that would never

be seen in Taiwan.

The next surgery was to deliver forty-one-week twins; it was delayed for one week because of the big earthquake. Luckily, the tweens came to the world peacefully. After a catastrophe, new born lives always bring hope and joy.

After fulfilling the mission of supporting surgery, I went supporting both at medical stations on fixed spots and at mobile medical stations. The first medical station I went was in Tathali. The car turned into a trail.



Not even waiting the car to be well parked throughted the villages leading us to the best tent in the camp area. It was a small tent with small space. We put a small table in the center of the tent. Four doctors took one side of the table each and started to treat patients. I acted as a pharmacist to give medicine to patients according to doctors' prescription. However, with the increasing number of patients, the amount of medicine decreased quickly. At around 1p.m. all Panadol with one-thousand caplets each bottle was used up, whose supplies were supposed to be enough. We treated two hundred



and thirty five patients in a half day. We felt exhausted and run out of the medicine as well.

After replenishing the supply of medicine on the way back, we set off for another medical station. In a town, the car entered a road which became narrower and narrower. There were many roads branching off from the main road. Along the two sides of the road, lots of wheat filed was waiting to be harvested. How beautiful the amber waves of wheat grains were! Before we arrived at the medical station, many patients had been waiting for us in front of a house. Because the patients were

crowded, the treatment area had to be surrounded by strings. In a short period of two hours we treated one hundred and thirteen patients. Later we realized that more than sixty houses situating just in a few hundred meters from the medical station collapsed. We were the first medical team arriving there.

In spite of exhaustion, I rushed to the medicine storeroom on the top floor of the hospital to get enough medicine ready for the following day as soon as I returned to the hotel. Although the medical environment was hardly comparable to that of a hospital and the medicine supply was poor,

however, the joy from helping people and the sincere communication with local people were priceless.

It's indeed difficult to forget about the journey of disaster relief after I myself participated in the mission.

Supt. Chien has told us that it is indeed hard to truly know about Tzu Chi if not having participated in the mission of disaster relief and therefore, it's a must-do if there's any opportunity. Indeed, it is not until one walks on the land being severe damaged and experiences the precious team spirit that one can feel how wonderful the group is!



The private hospital prepared vegetarian lunch for doctors from Taiwan. From Left: Jui-Teng Chien, Win-Him Poon, Sou-Hsin Chien, Shiau-Tzu Tzeng, Chang-Hong Lin and interpreter volunteers.



Completing the mission of surgery, the three orthopedists Jui-Teng Chien, Win-Him Poon and Shiau-Tzu Tzeng began to give the treatment at medical stations; many patients were quietly waiting.

When I returned from Nepal, it was about time for me to attend the Buddha-bathing ceremony hold on May 10. Before I felt it was nothing but a dharma ceremony; however, after coming back from the hometown of Buddha, I felt that bathing Buddha indeed meant something to me.

I felt an immense gratitude to Buddha, parents, sentient beings, and especially to my mother, who has prepared my favorite red-bean soup waiting for me at home. Furthermore, I also appreciated my wife for taking care of the family so that I could fulfill my mission in Nepal without worries.

While bathing Buddha, I felt my heart seemed to fly to Nepal. Could all people in Nepal get over with this disaster soon?

This year Buddha-bathing

Ceremony truly meant something to me because I felt my heart was still in Kathmandu, Nepal.



Returning from Nepal, Dr. Chang-Hong Lin felt the Buddha-bathing ceremony this year indeed meant something to him. May all people in Nepal get over with the suffering soon! Photo by Ting-Han Lai