



That Pair of Rain Boots

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During my stay at the Tzu Chi medical station in Nepal, one day an old man came to us with wounded legs. After I had done the treatment for him, I told him patiently, “Stop wearing rain boots. The wound cannot be cured if it’s badly ventilated inside.” However, the old man still wore the rain boots when he came to us again. After finishing treatment, I reminded him again, “No more rain boots, it will aggravate the wound.” The old man just walked away quietly without any words.

Some time later, someone reminded me, “Perhaps, the rain boots are the only shoes he has.”

I was shocked at that moment and felt so shameful. A warning coming from the rain boots, “My care needs to be more sensitive to the patient’s need.”

Washing the patients’ feet is also the great thing I have learned in Nepal.

On the day of May 12, it happened



again a quake at Richter scale of 7. Some buildings were collapsed and people in the streets are scared with panic eyes. After the quake, people immediately rushed into the medical center. We had no enough time to do the patients’ records properly. A man approached me, pointing at the feet with his finger. I could not understand what he had said and found only heavy mud covered his feet. I then cleaned

his feet with saline solution. While removing the mud on the feet, I found there was a very long and big wound on his leg. There were many similar cases as the local people mostly wore no shoes. I kept washing their feet and treating their feet. At that time I wish I had more hands to be able to help them out to avoid further infection. On that day, I couldn't remember how many feet I actually washed.

Until around 4 p.m., I finally had time to raise my head to look around. Many local people still stood

outside the tents with panic eyes. The volunteers made the decision immediately to organize all the people to pray. It is true that the pray pacified their minds greatly. With the compassion heart, we need Love, courage, perseverance, and timely wisdom.

The first rain I encountered there was so quick and heavy. The water kept flowing into the tent. I immediately moved all the medicine packages up to the desks and chairs to avoid soaking. While I was worrying I couldn't move



At free clinic, many patients come to ask for treating traumatic wounds. Na-Yao Cheuh, the nurse, carefully treated the patients by sterilizing, putting on the medicine. The 2nd right features Orthopedist Dr. Kuang-Ting Yeh of Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital. Photo by: Qing-Wen Zhang



all medicine packages to be secured, some local people suddenly walked into the tent to help. They gave me a smile occasionally during helping me without any words.

An old lady, after having received the medical treatment, didn't leave but just walked around me again and again. After checking with her by the volunteer translator, I finally understood that she just wanted to say "Thank

you". She also told us where she lived and welcomed us to visit her. Actually, she had no home anymore and lived in the tent. But she still sincerely expressed her sincere gratitude. The Nepalese people always showed their feeling by action, it's a kind of trust, self-identity. Even we couldn't communicate in speech but our minds corresponded mutually without any barrier.



Tzu Chi Disaster-Relief Team set up the free clinic center at the tent area. Registered nurse Na-Yao Chueh is preparing the medicine with the help offered by the local volunteer. Photo by: Shu-Si Jian



On the next day of aftershock, the group of the medical team even went to the tent area for helping accompany the children, to mitigate their post-disaster trauma. From left: Wen-Lang Chang, Dr. Meng-Jen Huang, Dr. Shun-Xian Zheng, Na-Yao Chueh, Pei-Shan Tsai. Photo by: Qing-Wen Chang

Tzu Chi's mobile clinic team went to Thimi, many buildings collapsed as well. When I saw that scene I couldn't help shedding tears. The local translation volunteer comforted me and said, "I'm fine, I'm fine!" I was also full of remorse that some times I didn't join the Tzu Chi activity simply

using an excuse that I was busy. After experiencing the relief in Nepal, I regretted that I should have done much better before. I'd told myself that I must keep my determined mind firmly and walk well on Tzu Chi bodhisattva path with loving-kindness, compassion, joy and equanimity.