



Dharma Master's Blessings

Head Up High

“Out of the Eight Sufferings, illness surmounts all.” When falling ill, one often requires the aid of medical professionals to provide proper medication and care to relieve one’s suffering.

Thirty-years-old Mr. Yang from Xiamen, for example, suffers from poliomyelitis at a very young age. His deformed limbs and immobility made him vulnerable to the mockery of others, which made him feel inferior to others. At the age of 15, he refused to go to school and imprisoned himself at home ever since. Yang’s condition further deteriorated recently due to ankylosing spondylitis. His body was bent closed to 180 degrees with both legs unable to stretch.

The local Tzu Chi volunteers visited the family as soon as they received the report. Yang turned them away, yet the volunteers persisted. They cleaned Yang’s room and brought him a T.V. to watch Da Ai T.V. The love and respect from the volunteers, the life stories on Da Ai Drama, Jing Si Aphorisms, all contributed in softening Yang’s heart. After numerous visits, he finally accepted the volunteers and agreed to be hospitalized.

Honorary Superintendent Ing-Ho Chen of Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital is known for treating severe ankylosing spondylitis patients, allowing them to walk upright again. After Hon. Supt. Chen’s assessment,



Yang, accompanied by the Tzu Chi volunteers at Xiamen, arrived at Hualien in May, 2013. The medical team soon arranged a series of examinations and drafted a medical plan, with the hope to send Yang back home with his head up high.

Yang was able to stretch his legs after two hip replacement surgeries, and the subsequent spine surgery straighten his back. Due to the amount of variables involved and the unconventional operating position due to Yang's deformity, the medical team arrived early at the operating room to practice. To secure Yang's deformity, Hon. Supt. Chen even climbed onto the surgical table to simulate the patient and adjust each support accordingly, all to minimize discomfort during surgery.

Such precise and attentive simulation was rewarded with the success of the first spinal surgery early July. What a cheerful news it was.

There is no suffering that surmount the suffering of illness. I am grateful to our humane doctors who contributed with genuine love, liberating the physical restraints of Yang and rid his inconveniences in life.