



**From Teacher Hsueh:**

# BLESSING TO A NEW LIFE

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I first met Wen-Yu when I arrived at the ICU of Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital to lend an extra pair of hands. I had rehearsed many times on what to say to her when we meet. When I saw her wrapped in gauze, leaving only eyes and lips visible, I could only but smile at her, hoping it would bring some comfort. On the very next day, Wen-Yu was transferred from the ICU and to a general ward.

Burnt skins or transplanted skins will produce great number of scar tissues that are inflexible and constantly tightening. To preserve the golden time for rehabilitation, I visited Wen-Yu every afternoon to get off her bed and start rehabilitating. That eventually grew into an unspoken understanding between she and I.

All I could do was to provide companionship and encouragement day after day, stand by her as she overcomes sleepiness, endures the inconvenience and discomfort from the pressure garment and splints, withstands the tremendous pain and itch from her wounds, and exerts herself to always take that extra step. Throughout the entire ordeal, not only did Wen-Yu kept her optimism intact, she encouraged other burn patients to rehabilitate with her, so that everyone could be discharged early and return to their lives and dreams. That tremendous positivity inspired others to face the challenge of the tormenting rehabilitation, and heartened families with complex emotions and us medical staffs who cared for them.

Although the time I spent with Wen-Yu lasted only 10 days, I was truly impressed by her bright and sunny disposition towards life. I believe that this extracurricular activity and the challenges that came with it has given her an opportunity to summon enough strength and courage to turn a tragic accident into a rewarding experience. There is no doubt in my mind that she will one day light the world in her own ways.

