



From Teacher Lo:

DECIPHER THE CODE OF LIFE

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A set of numbers, 0627, is a password that Wen-Yu and I shared, a set of numbers that had intertwined our fates that would otherwise be parallels.

First Intersection - Immediate Care and Companionship

On the night of June 27, 2015, reports on the dust explosion accident at Formosa Fun Coast flooded the T.V. channels. I thought at the time as just another incident similar to the gas explosion in Kaohsiung, an industrial safety incident. On the 28th, I was overwhelmed by a sense of uneasiness out of nowhere, and decided to end the ISBI (International Society for Burn Injury) conference early. On the way from Kaohsiung to Hualien, an emergency alert from the nursing staff group popped up on my phone, notifying me that a student was injured in the accident and was transported to the Chung Hsing branch of Taipei City Hospital. I was closest to Taipei and had many years of experience in burn injury, so I volunteered to visit Wen-Yu, the injured student.

When I arrived at the hospital, many of the Tzu Chi volunteers were there to accompany the family members waiting anxiously outside the ICU. I was discussing Wen-Yu's condition with her and the possibility of subsequent transfer. I am grateful to the hospital for allowing me to visit Wen-Yu in the ICU, so I can base the decision on her condition. At first glance, I noticed that her injured sites had swollen to 1.5 times its normal size; the dressings were detached due to the excruciating pain and discomfort; and the charred hair covered with rainbow-colored clots. "Do you recognize

me? I am teacher Shu-Fen," I asked. "Can you change my dressing for me, teacher Shu-Fen, it hurts so much," she cried in pain. I calmed her down with the nurses while realizing that immediate transfer was necessary for her to receive the best possible care. It was then I received the news that Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital was willing to arrange a bed for Wen-Yu even though the hospital was practically full. This dharma kinship among the Tzu Chi family, I believe, is the perfect nourishment for major trauma.

Second Intersection: Hospital Transfer

"You cannot leave," Wen-Yu's mother said to me. "Can you accompany us in the ambulance to Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital?" I looked at Wen-Yu's





parents as they suppressed their stress and grief, standing strong for Wen-Yu in the midst of this tragic accident, and decided to undertake the role of the ambulance nurse to communicate the patient's condition and status to the receiving hospital. When Wen-Yu saw her father for the first time after the accident, she said naively, "it hurts so much, I want a cosmetic surgery after I recover." "Just rest for now, I will take you when you are well," said her dad. As laborious as rehabilitation may be for burn patients, a strong family support is the best formula to overcoming predicament.

Third Intersection Serving Burn Patients

Because of Wen-Yu, my thought on servicing burn patients rekindled. Due to the fact that very little information on burn rehabilitation care were available home and abroad, Wen-Yu's parents allowed me into their home to bath and dress Wen-Yu and gain firsthand knowledge the predicament they were facing, so I could moderate the care model in accordance to empirical data. With a profound experience of scar prevention in wound care, I co-led 30 nursing students with instructor Tseng Chiung-Chen to the New Taipei City Chapter of Sunshine Social Welfare Foundation and serviced over 100 patients over half a year. Not only did our service relieve the pressure of the foundation's staffs, it allowed the patients' wound to recover rapidly.

Fourth Intersection E-Books and Training

With the experience of caring for Wen-Yu and her family combined with the care model I developed at the Sunshine Social Welfare Foundation, I was placed in charge in the production of the professional and the public version of the electronic book on burn rehabilitation care. With empirical theory as foundation, combined with the nursing experience of intensive rehabilitation for burn care, the e-books can improve the quality of burn care in the future and reduce stress on family caregivers.

The code 0627 has tied many lives together. We have watched you from fearing of pressure garment, fearing the gaze of others, to innovate the design of pressure garment; from fearing crowds and sharing with crowds; from facing the tragedy alone to working close with others on healing the mental wounds. The code is something that we cannot reverse, so why not take this code and turn it into strength to raise awareness on burn patient care!