

Inseparable Fate

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My father passed away when I was in the first grade. Immediately after this misfortune, the family was in financial hardship. This was how we started to contact the Tzu Chi organization. When I was growing up, I constantly had a negative attitude, just because I was in a single parent family. My mood swung from the peak to the bottom so frequently, but more often in the negative side. All this changed under the guidance of Tzu Chi volunteers. They provided me with love and positive energy. Slowly, they turned a negative thinking child into a positive and energetic young person.

Ku Chi-Chia (right) met Mummy Chen Li-Fen (left) during the Water Repentance Sutras program.



As a student Goodwill Ambassador participating in the Water Repentance Sutras program, Ku Chi-Chia appreciated all the care and guidance of the Tzu Chi volunteers.

I was blessed to start a happy life, because I discovered Tzu Chi.

As I entered Tzu Chi, and got familiar with the organization, I spent most of my time in the Jing Si Bookstore and Café where I worked and studied as a volunteer. I stayed there whenever I was in a high mood or in a low mood. I found love and care in the Bookstore & Café, and it smoothed my rebellious days during my junior high years.

Maybe it's my Buddhist fate; I entered Hualien Tzu Chi College of Technology (now Tzu Chi University of Science and Technology). I was not comfortable with it at the beginning, and insisted to go back to my home in Fengyuan. The elder Tzu Chi volunteer who provided counseling to our family for a long time found out the situation and contacted the Director of the Humanity Department. The Director is a very sharp person. When I was in a bad mood, I often go to the Humanity Department and looked for advice from the elder sisters. When the Director noticed my sad expression, she would first lecture me for a short time and then delivered positive advice for my improvement. She knew that I was timid, lacked self-confidence, and seldom interacted with friends. Based on these observations, the Director assigned me the role of a goodwill ambassador. As a goodwill ambassador, I must participate in children's play in Malaysia, sign language performance, international culture exchange activities. The assignments really opened my mind and entered a new world of life.

Once I opened up, my participations were not only limited to school activities. I joined volunteer groups for community services to enrich my personal life. The first year when I started my community services, Tzu Chi also started the performance of Water Repentance Sutras. This was a wonderful opportunity for my personal growth. Through my participation in the program, I had a true realization of the Buddhism and dharma. I also met many elder volunteers and among them I got to know my “Mom”, as I am now call her.

The goodwill ambassador program opened up my mind. However, I still could not let-go many complaints concerning my family. At times, when I was bothered by my personal problems, Mom would patiently listen to me. Until one time, when she had enough of my repeat complaints, she said to me angrily, “You must change yourself; you must let-go your problems from inside your mind. If you still resist solving your own problems, please do not call me again.” That was the first time somebody talked to me like that. That was a severe warning that no one can solve my problem, but myself. That advice forced me to change, to be independent. From that time on, I decided to change the way I face my family problem. Now, the only thing I would do is just to wish my family members well.



After my graduation from college, I was assigned to start my career at the Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital. It was a totally new environment with unfamiliar assignments, which involve the issues of life and death routinely. At the beginning, I felt tremendous pressure from my job. Luckily, there were many senior Tzu Chi volunteers around me. They offered timely love and care to relieve my work pressure and warm consultations to adjust my work altitude. One of the senior staffs once told me, "When you are confronted with problems, you should view things from a different angle. That way, you may see totally different things. A good nurse takes good care of her patients and releases them in good shape, which is the perfect situation. However, if she could take good care of a terminally ill patient and ease the patient's passing, she is doing the real nursing." This advice changed my thinking about nursing and had become the source of my energy to go on my nursing career. Now, I have no regrets in my nursing profession. I enjoy it.



Ku Chi-Chia and her "Mom", Kao Yang Ah-Kuan.

Now that I have my happy life and sweet family, I can't stop looking back. I remember all the help I received from all the noble people. I can't stop thanking all the elegant persons that made footprints in my youthful day. I can't stop thinking to pay back through serving my patients and through enthusiastically participate in volunteer services.

Now, whether I work as a nurse or as a volunteer, I will serve people with all I have just to make people happy and safe. I like to see families grow prosper, patients smile happily. As I become more mature I have grown from a recipient to a giver. I enjoy the current feeling of a fortunate, happy and satisfactory life. Life may not have started with an easy pitch; however, an experienced batter can hit whatever ball he (she) gets. I hope to contribute to everyone development.