

The Combination of East-West Medicine



Tzu Chi Medical mission began with the opening of Hualien Tzu Chi General Hospital 37 years ago in 1986. I feel blessed to know of the many good doctors and nurses persevering in their roles at each hospital so I don't have to worry. In the past we had seven hospitals, but with the opening of Sanyi Tzu Chi Chinese Medicine Hospital in December 2022, there are now eight Tzu Chi hospitals throughout Taiwan.

Reflecting on my past visits to Sanyi Township, Miaoli County, I am always amazed at such a beautiful place! I admired the local carpenters' craftsmanship. The streets were lined with furniture and Buddha statues made from tree trunks, roots, and burls. In Sanyi, statues crafted become symbols of Bodhisattva. People worship them, and were heard to say: "Everything comes from the heart."

During my stop overs, people came to visit and so our gatherings grew. Someone commented, "This place is great except when we need to see a doctor, especially during an emergency." I feel for them even though the area is not highly populated, it deserves quality medical care. In the end, an entrepreneur helped secure a piece of land and said, "Master, please go see, it is convenient for good deeds." I liked the piece of flat land and thought, "There must be a purpose."

This remote area of Sanyi lacks medical services. When the Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital opened, we considered holding a fixed schedule medical outreach in Sanyi. Over the years, we investigated opportunities to extend the reach of



health care by means of satellite medical stations. We are proud that the Sanyi Tzu Chi hospital opens, and offering Chinese and Western medicine.

In November 2022, I visited Sanyi before its opening. Sanyi Tzu Chi Chinese Medicine Hospital is constructed small but pretty and professional. Every corner is done well, with adequate lighting, and the environment is cozy. The day of my visit happened to be a day of free preopening and people were waiting in line. The hospital is staffed with attentive doctors, nurses and volunteers to serve the local community. I am grateful for Superintendent Yeh and others safeguarding lives in this mountain township. There are many elders in Miaoli County and nearby areas who need care. I sincerely hope our Sanyi hospital will contribute greatly towards relieving the suffering of people in the community and giving them a sense of medical security.

