



## Passing the Baton – the Spirit of Orthopedic Medicine

After the completion of the first Tzu Chi Hospital in Hualien in 1986, the second hospital in Dalin began with a request from local residents and the Health Department. I hesitated but decided to take on the challenge when I heard of the dreadful “remoteness and difficulty in getting medicine” from local patients. At the time, people having major illness were shuttled north or south. Even when patients were successful in getting to the destination, family members often had great difficulty to be near their families.

When I heard of Dr. Chien Jui-Teng and his team sharing, I felt the humanistic characteristic of our orthopedic team, inherited from our Hualien Honorary Superintendent Chen Ing-Ho. Dr. Chen is a first generation teacher in Tzu Chi's orthopedic medicine, steadfast for over thirty years, earning the trust and respect of patients and peers. I am particularly impressed by his renowned medical practice as well as by his personal sentimental nature.

Dr. Chen started his career at Tzu Chi Medical Mission at a very young age. I remember seeing him making a call to a patient thirty years ago. Dr. Chen used his nose to examine a patient's fester wounds on the leg. It was astonishing and vivid to me, and remains so even now.

When I brought that incident up as an example of medical sincerity and love, Dr. Chen simply said, “I wanted to know what bacteria causes the infestation.” Instruments were not as sophisticated as nowadays and using the



---

sense of smell was rudimentary but necessary at the time. I witnessed the act of selfless great love.

I am full of gratitude to the medical mission good karma beginning at Hualien. While we were searching frantically for doctors, Dr. Chen responded to the call and said, “I am staying in Hualien forever.” He did make good on his promise. Over the years, three different generations of doctors were trained under his leadership.

The path to develop a medical mission is difficult. With eight hospitals in Taiwan, we need continuous sharing of experience to progress. As with Dr. Chen dedicating himself to his patients and colleagues, the spirit of medicine continuously bridges generational gaps. I hope to see the cultivation of more good doctors, like a tree growing to become strong and bear fruits.

