Walking through a Time Machine
20 Years of Fulfillment

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The Still Thoughts Hall in the afternoon has its warm sunshine and a gentle breeze. When one looks up, one can see the many bodhisattvas carved into the side of the building, all gathered in one place.

As soon as the “Tzu Chi Mission of Medicine 20th Anniversary Celebration” began, Sister Tzu-yin asked the audience to look through a tunnel of time. Emcee Dr. Hann-Chorng Kuo introduced an important person from each year of the hospital’s history, and led Master Cheng Yen and the audience to reminisce on the twenty years that had passed.

“When speaking of Tzu Chi Hospital, we must go back to 1972, at the Free Clinic.” With this statement, the emcee led out the first representative, Nurse Deng Shu Shiang. She said to Master, “We were very young back then too.” Afterwards, the representatives of 1979 came out; it was during the time when Master had the idea of building a hospital.

They expressed the sentiments of that time period, “It’s hard, and I’m scared!” Regardless of the difficulties, they put in their efforts. Dr. Kuo described the agonies...
that were faced in 1985, “Where are all the doctors?” Spokesperson Senior Honorary Superintendent Wen-ping Tseng said, “The job listing has been running in the newspaper for two weeks – and we’ve only recruited two.” Dr. Kuo reiterated, “It’s a dentist.” At that point, Dentist Dr. Huan-chuan He appeared. Then, showed the first willing physician to come to Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital—Orthopedics Dr. Ing-ho Chen, now as honoray superintendent.

In 1986, the hospital volunteer program began. Sister Hui-mei Yen couldn’t bear to see Master be pained for the suffering patients, and vowed to do it. Master replied, “Because of your consideration for me, you gave up on your travels to Japan and stayed.” In 1988, the College of Technology was founded. Professor Si-Piao Yang laughed when he remembered that he became the first principal because no one else could be found. He said that in these years of being principal, he had gotten five years younger.

The year-by-year reflection of the history of the medical mission had many reminisce. Another representative figure, Dr. Shouhsin Chien was told by Master, “You’re still young, but you have quite a few white hairs now.” The training of nurses and physicians began in Hualien, but then branched out to Yuli, Guanshan, Dali, and Taipei. Under Dr. Kuo’s guidance, the advances in medicine and technology can be seen by the lives that have been saved of the people of Eastern Taiwan. This is the end result of many people working together to make this possible.

After traveling through the tunnel of time to today, the Still Thoughts Hall’s main door
opened, and the luminescent sunshine seeped into the hall. After hearing and seeing the story through time, a wave of cheers and applauses came from behind. It turned out it was a group of hundreds of medical volunteers from all over the province. They had missed the presentation, because they had worked so hard to prepare for it. They went to their seats, following in the Master’s footsteps.
Protecting the Aboriginals of Eastern Taiwan

On the screen on stage, a woman named Mimi was imprisoned for drug use and later found her new life within the Tzu Chi Medical realm sang in her native language. Next performance followed by a dance from 59 aboriginal members of the Tzu Chi Hospital staff. After their dance, they announced that there are now over 200 aboriginal workers at Tzu Chi Hospital, and thanked Master in Taroko and in Mandarin for saving so many lives, and creating job opportunities in Hualien and the East.

Warmheartedly Reflecting on the “Firsts”

Honorary Superintendent Ing-ho Chen led everyone in reflecting on the hospital’s many “firsts.”

Four days after the hospital opened, the hospital delivered its first newborn, Ming-chang Hsieh. The baby is now 20 years old. Accompanied by his mother, their gratitude was expressed to all for allowing them to stand healthily there today, and Dr. Ing-ho
Chen thank the mother and son for their recognition and trust of the new hospital.

During the second year of the hospital’s opening, the first premature infant was born, weighing only 800 grams. Infant Wu Jia-lin, under the care of the medical team, has grown normally. She stood here today with her premature younger brother, Ching-hua Wu on stage. Jia-lin said, their father still mentions the dedication of the physicians and nurses who didn’t sleep to take care of them.

The third day after the hospital opening, the ambulance brought a patient with severe head trauma, and at the time,
the hospital did not have the necessary diagnostic tools for this case. Neuro-surgery Dr. Rui-chang Tsai (now serves in Taiwan University Hospital) performed emergency surgery and saved Ms. Hsu’s life. On stage, Dr. Tsai said, “I’m not a hero. I believe any doctor would’ve done the same if they were in my situation.” He also thanked Dr. Chen, who was his anesthesiologist. Without him, the operation couldn’t have proceeded.

Next, the patient Ms. Hsu arrived; she did not remember much of her medical procedure. However, she did remember “Master, and the other dharma masters coming to see me.” The audience roared with applause, and with laughter. At the same time, tears of being touched by the Master’s care for the individual patient even in her busy schedule.

Tzu Chi’s firs heart surgery patient in 1990, Mrs. Yeh also arrived to thank Master, Dr. Sheng-feng Zhao and Vice Superintendent Ji-hong Wang, so that she can live today with a “good heart.” A patient from twenty years ago, though in the hospital now, Ms. Li-feng Pan shares her gratitude with a video taped message.

In thanking Dr. Tsai for her rebirth, Ms. Hsu brings a gift to show her gratitude.
Developing Kind Physicians and Caring Nurses

Touching stories followed one another, and medical breakthroughs and advances were heralded by applause and cheer. Awards were given for model medical team member, model volunteer and educational achievements. The recipients of these awards weren’t only the famous physicians or professors, but also new faces. Under the introduction of Pediatrician Dr. Yu-hsun Chang, graduates of Tzu Chi University appeared, carrying everyone’s love for them, with more knowledge about the pain and suffering of diseases. Neuro-surgery Resident Dr. Hsun-tsong Tsai received the "All-American Model Physician Thesis Award." Resident Dr. Yu-li Lin discovered a relative who was a cadaver donor—his Silent Mentor, and took extra care in his services, and is thankful for the many lessons these donors offer.

Afterwards, the nurses performed the story of “Thumbelina,” a skit performed in sign language, with Pediatrician Dr. Yun-shiang Chu bringing the now three-year-old
“Thumbelina,” who called the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit her home up until the age of two, is under the protection of the medical team.

girl Shine on stage. From the way the nurses and her looked at each other, we can tell that they have guided her as she grew.

“Humanity in Medicine, Protecting Love, Hello, I am Dr. Lee.” The call-in show was brought up to the stage. The three hospitals’ hosts for the show, Dr. Lee, Dr. Jing-hua Fu of Dalin branch, Dr. Wen-shin Tsai of Taipei branch, shared the current news of the five hospitals with Da Ai TV viewers.

Dr. An-pang Liu of Hualien Hospital used his vacation to help his patients farm as a way to encourage his patients. Host Dr. Li said, “Even though there are diseases that can’t be cured, there aren’t hearts that can’t. Even though there are backs that can’t be straightened, there aren’t lives that can’t stand up straight again.” When these physicians shared their wisdom and love, the patients shared their stories. At the same time, tears of joy came down the faces of the audiences, being an inspirational force for the audience.

ENT physician Dr. Hong-ping Wu of Taipei branch helps for the deaf graduate Mr. Lee put on an “electronic ear,” allowing him to hear the sounds of the universe.

Master also expressed her gratitude for the contribution of love of Tzu Chi people in the past 20 years, and the accomplishments of today are the result of karma. “I was observing examples of failure before, and learned many lessons from the hospital.” Looking back, searching for land, fundraising, and building the hospital, shortage of staff members, she thanked the devotion of her disciples who have contributed to different aspects of the medical mission, and contributed to
At Hualien Tzu Chi General Hospital, the nurses spent a tremendous amount of time to put together an excellent performance. When the Chinese Handicapped Performing Group came to perform “Thousand Hand Buddha,” the nurses would help tape the practices. During their half-hour rehearsal earlier on the performing day, they finished in 30 minutes. Though the director was satisfied, they continued to rehearse whenever they could.
the profession of saving lives through drops of water that have become a river.

The events that have happened in and around the hospital cannot be told even in days. Through the three-hour celebration, staff from Tzu Chi’s six hospitals gave their best efforts, learned from each other, and without regard to rank or class, to show the best from the past twenty years, and in hope to set an example for humanistic medicine around the world.
Doctors Hsinn-rong Lin, Chin-Ion Lin, Yuh-lin Chang, Wing-him Poon, Sheng-kuo Tsai, performed a skit. Since everyone had been busy, the performances have been put together the afternoon of the festivities. Even though mistakes are bound to happen during the first performance, the physicians were willing to admit their faults and cooperate and rehearse together. The most notable was Dr. Ing-ho Chen, who yelled “cut” like a director, and immediately admitted fault. Because of the repeated rehearsals, Vice Superintendent Dr. Wen-lin Hsu scuffed his knee and needed medicine. After he applied his medicine, he returned back on stage and continued rehearsing. This group of people is the “Physicians with the heart of Buddha.” No matter how difficult the task, they formed the paths traveled during the twenty years of the Tzu Chi Medical Mission.
Tang Huang Ah Gang, who cannot walk easily, under Dr. Ruiteng Chien’s treatment, found her legs once again. (Dalin branch)

Ru Huang and her grandfather came from Fuli Township in Hualian County to join in the festivities, thanking Yuli branch Superintendent Dr. Yuh-lin Chang for saving her life, and grateful for the existence of Yuli branch.
Once a “bad gangster” character, patients Mr. Chun Lin (left) and Ming-shiu Lin (right) step on to the stage to thank well-known Physician Dr. Li-fu Cheng.

Dr. Hong-ping Wu helped Mr. Lee put on an electric ear. Lee then presents the orchids planted by him to Master.