

# *From Heaven to Earth, From City to Village*

BY DR CHOW MINYANG



My first-ever medical mission trip was with Dr Lawrence Soh and team in 2010. My wife and I were still third-year medical students then. After a few weeks of arduous preparation, we finally reached the location of our medical camp. I was astonished to see the multitudes that came to receive medical aid and assistance. Our local partner informed us that some villagers had to journey on foot for three days to reach our medical camp. Over the next three days, the team tirelessly saw 2000 patients, working almost 13 hours a day. My job, in addition to seeing patients, was also to provide simple medical education to the villagers.

Ever since then, I have been on numerous other medical missions trips. I passionately believe that medical missions play an important role in reaching the nations and is a powerful tool in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Jesus' ministry on earth involved both physical and spiritual healing. Jesus was a doctor to the sick. Many were drawn to Jesus because of His compassion, His supernatural ability to heal and perform miracles and the wisdom of His teaching.

In my years doing medical missions, I have realised that medical missions have the ability to attract large

crowds because it meets a basic human necessity – the desire to be physically well. The Bible describes many who sought after Jesus because they were sick – the woman who had an issue with blood, the lepers, the blind and the lame. They flocked to Jesus because they had a physical need, and many of them knew and believed that Jesus could heal them. In the same way, although inferior to the healing abilities of our Lord Jesus, medical missions hope to bring physical healing to those hurting and suffering.

However, Jesus did not just provide physical healing or treat an ailment. He led those He healed to His Father.

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Similarly, the hope of medical missions is not to just provide a temporary relief of pain or suffering, but to lead those we have the privilege of treating to our Father. Matthew 5:16 reads, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven". I pray that every good deed that we do in our medical camps, brings glory to our Father and our patients one step closer to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

After every single medical camp, it is heart-warming to have time to interact with a few dozen villagers. All of them are deeply appreciative of the help rendered to them, their family members, and friends.



Inevitable questions include, "Where are you from again? Where is Singapore?" These villagers were extremely moved when they realised that our team travelled thousands of miles, just to love and treat them.

With a smile and an arm around our fellow brothers and sisters, we replied, "We came all the way to bring healing and care for you, because our Lord Jesus came all the way from heaven to earth to save and love us."

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