

Tzu Chi Holds Medical Clinics, Gives Relief Goods in Indonesia

Written by Tzu Chi Foundation

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Volunteers of the Tzu Chi Foundation held three free medical clinics and distributed relief goods to residents of Lombok island in Indonesia which has been struck by many earthquakes since July. It was their second recent relief operation on the island.

Lombok island is a popular tourist site in West Nusa Tenggara province of Indonesia. Since the end of July, the island has suffered frequent earthquakes. Residents are feeling very nervous -- they are afraid that already fragile buildings may not stand any more earthquakes. On August 31, a 5.1 quake struck the north-west of the island. The Tzu Chi volunteers decided to hold a second disaster relief operation by providing goods and free medical clinics.

The free clinics were held in three places -- Pamenang, Jelimanireng and Wihara Jaya Wijaya. The distribution of relief goods was held in Sembalun.



One of the free clinics was held in a tent with limited space. To offer the best service to the patients, doctors worked together to adjust their work stations. Two of them voluntarily moved their tables outdoors, in order to give more space to the other doctors. Many patients came to have open wounds treated. Medical personnel carefully cleaned the wounds and applied medicine to prevent infection. More patients came to the clinic than expected. Even medicine cases were used as a table. Pharmacists carefully reminded the patients how to take the medicine.

During the free clinic, an old man walked with a stick; his neighbor brought him to the clinic. After talking with him, volunteers put their ideas together and made a proper walking cane for him. With his new cane, the man smiled at the volunteers. They all felt the joy and thought that his was the most beautiful smile. The volunteers also discovered a group of children near the site. You could see the fear and uneasiness in their eyes. Volunteer Hung Yin-Jung and Dr. Wang Rung-Chiang went to chat with and comfort them. Soon, they were very happy to see the smiles on their faces. At the end of the free clinic, volunteers led everyone there to pray for the world to be free of disasters and for Lombok island to recover from the disaster soon.

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