

校長的話

實踐生活 樂在服務

Enliven Your Life Enjoy Serving People!

● 校長 宋一芬



「最困難的地方最有機會！」這一句話，是當時連加恩醫師決定遠赴西非服替代役，告訴親人的話。因著不畏艱困、熱心服務的精神，二十幾歲方考取預官的連加恩醫師，放棄安穩的軍醫役，毅然投身前往距離台灣最遙遠的國家——非洲布吉納法索。在布國三年的替代役生活之中，連加恩醫師看見了當地困苦的生活，也感受布國人民的淳樸可愛，並且在當地相繼興起垃圾換舊衣、募款鑿井、興建孤兒院等活動。連加恩醫師如此認真生活，將己身對社會關懷的熱心化為行動。同學們，是否能同樣感受這份為眾人服務的熱心？

「服務學習」，一直是學校長期辦理並且十分重視的活動，期望同學們能從中學習、體驗生命的各種甘甜。藉著服務他人，來開啟生命的更多面向，實踐出有影響力的生活。無論是成立愛心志工隊與社團、社區掃街活動、國小童伴讀、為植物人募發票……等等，相信每一位參與其中的人，都有豐盛的收穫，心靈更富足。在上學期中，學校更是開始舉辦志工基礎訓練研習、特殊訓練研習，讓更多已經在各地服務、擁有熱忱的心與志工經驗的人們，來到學校與同學們分享自己的心路歷程，藉此鼓勵同學擴展生活經歷，並且在研習經驗分享中瞭解：如何有效地幫助他人，讓志工服務更有意義。

“There are the most possible opportunities in the most difficult places,” said Dr. Lian Jia En to his families, upon starting his journey to West Africa for his Alternative Military Service.

It was this fearless and eager-to-serve spirit that had made Dr. Lian, who was on his early twenties, to resolutely give up a comfortable military service as a military physician at Taiwan and, instead, choose to go to the remotest country from Taiwan – the Burkina Faso in West Africa.

During that three years' service, Dr. Lian had witnessed the hardships of local daily life, but he had also experienced local people's simplicity and honesty and, therefore, had organized philanthropic activities such as trashes-for-used clothes, raising funds for drilling water wells, setting up orphanages, etc.

Dr. Lian has lived his life so seriously, and he has turned his caring for the society into actions. So, my dear students! Could you also feel that eagerness to serve the public?

“To learn by serving people” has always been the kinds of activities that have been constantly held and emphasized by this school, under the expectation that, through which, our students can learn and experience all kinds of sweetness in life.

By serving people, we can have more features of our lives opened and we can, empirically, live out an influential life.

It is believed that all the participants, be they in creating volunteer corps, in joining community street-sweeping activities, in being elementary children's studying partners, or in collecting invoice receipts for the brain-dead people, had had rich harvests, with their souls even richer.

In last semester, this school began to hold seminars on basic-level and special-level training for volunteer workers, with the intention of inviting those who were already working across the country with a devoting heart and volunteer experience, to come to this school to share their stories with our students, so as to inspire our students to expand their life experiences and also to know, through the sharing within those seminars, how they can effectively help others, thus making their volunteer service more meaningful.

「大學深耕半世紀 明耀金鑽五十年」，大明高中五十歲了，五十週年校慶系列活動之中，我們與世界展望會共同擴大辦理校園鐵饑體驗。「大明五十·彩繪齊饑」，一千一百八十位師生，共同在十二小時之中體驗鐵饑，每人捐出一百元的餐費，發揮人饑己饑、人溺己溺的精神。關懷世界，不必遠赴他國，在我們自己的居所——台灣，也能做到。集合大家的愛心，我們也能为地球另一端的人們盡上一己之力。

「想改變一定會碰到困難」，連加恩醫師這一路上走得並不順利，在三年的外交替代役生活之後，其後更是帶著新婚妻子再赴西非。過程中經歷孩子生病，在荒郊野外中，連加恩身為醫師，卻仍然束手無策。然而他始終不放棄、並且繼續堅持下去，解決困難。連加恩說，他不是要特立獨行，也並非懷抱崇高使命感，他只是想用這短短的兵役生活，增加自己的生命經驗，去一個未曾見過的地方，擴展人生視野。

我相信每一次志工服務活動，都是個人對自己生命獻上一份敬意，當我們願意認真注視生活，並且投身服務活動，我們更能看見自己的生活因此被擴張，生命更加被滋養。當我們的手掌不再是朝上向人索求，而是朝下樂施於人，我們能夠從給予的過程之中，獲得更多，只因施比受更有福。同學們，這是何等美好的一件事！小小付出，可以帶來大大的改變！讓我們共勉之。

“Grand planning and hard toiling for half a century, a shining and illuminating gold diamond for fifty years.” Ta-Ming High School is now in its fiftieth year. Among all the fiftieth anniversary celebrations, there was an expanded “Campus Famine” co-organized by Ta-Ming and World Vision Taiwan. The “Campus Famine,” also named “Ta-Ming fiftieth, Color Drawing and Hungry Together,” had involved 1,180 faculty members and students to experience hunger for twelve hours, with every participant having his or her saved-up meal money of NTD 100 donated to charity, so as to show that they understand how those who are in destitution are suffering. You need not to go abroad to show your caring for the world, rather, you can do it at your dwelling place – Taiwan. By amassing all the kindness of ours, we can contribute our share to the people on the other side of the globe.

“While making changes, you are sure to encounter difficulties!” Thus, Dr. Lian's “journey” wasn't a very smooth one. After the Alternative Military Service, he chose to go back to West Africa again, but this time with his newlywed wife. During that period of time, he did encounter difficulties. Once his child was ill and he, despite being a physician, could do just nothing as he was surrounded by a very rural roughness. Nevertheless, he hadn't given up but, instead, had held on persistently, solving all the difficulties coming up to him. Dr. Lian said that he was neither trying to be a maverick nor fulfilling some kind of dignified mission, but just intended to use his short military service time to enrich his life experiences, to expand the vision for his life, by going to somewhere he had never been before.

So I believe that every time we take on a volunteer service, we are individually presenting respect to our lives. When we are willing to observe our lives seriously and devote ourselves to serving people, we can see better that our lives are expanded and that our lives are better nourished. When we no longer turn our palms up to ask for something but, rather, have them face-down to happily give out something, we can then get more in return. It is better blessed to give than to receive.

So, my dear students, what a beautiful thing it is! A little bit of contribution can bring about big changes! May we all work hard at it!