

The Practical and Spiritual Benefits of Health Service

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Their organization will serve Central America and the Caribbean

We can trace the origin of the idea to establish a volunteer health service project to benefit Costa Ricans to the 2002 arrival of Dr. Kwan Young Woo to the country. He came at the invitation of the then FFWPU regional president, Jung Soo Kim. Dr. Woo graduated in Acupuncture Studies from the Chinese Medicine Department of Beijing University. He majored in body modulating functions and was a researcher at a gene engineering research institute. He also studied natural treatment medical science at Sam-Yuk University in Seoul. Dr. Woo has dedicated the last twelve years to providing volunteer health service to Costa Ricans. In 2013, we opened a health care center using Dr. Woo's methods. Dr. Woo's theory explains that most diseases result from organs functioning abnormally or from organ damage.

He finds that symptoms occur because of disturbance within internal organs. He cures what ails the organ as he eliminates the symptom. He cares for his patients using various methods, such as low-frequency therapy, acupuncture, massage (vibrating the organs), breathing therapy, exercising therapy or diet therapy. These methods help the patients' internal organs function normally again. Dr. Woo also boils medicinal herbs, which have been naturally raised and harvested. He provides for patients different herbs depending on their symptoms. When Father visited the country to help launch UPF, he instructed Dr. Woo to research herbs used in Central America and South America to find ones that can benefit human health.

Dr. Woo has been appointed to the position of Medical Mission Department, which was created to expand his activity to also include our Central America region. Dr. Woo promised to serve Heavenly Parent and True Parents and set specific goals to increase membership and to educate people in the Cheon Il Guk lifestyle. recently Mr. Myung Ho Lee, one of the Cheon Il Guk youth missionaries began to work with the project. Mr. Lee works with Dr. Woo to bring good results.

They focused on the concept of health care. In May this year, they established the Volunteer Social Service Group for the region with Dr. Woo as director in charge. Thus was the beginning of the project that now includes Central America and Caribbean.

Health and witnessing

We provide voluntary health treatment in our communities and invite guest from home groups to receive treatment. When the guests receive therapy and other treatment, they need to make a voluntary donation. Mr. Myung Ho Lee has an office in which he provides treatment to patients. He utilizes energy therapy, and energy laser acupuncture combined with physical therapy. He has focused on integrating witnessing into his health service.

Dr. Woo believes that many new patients are coming to be treated because they unconsciously are eager to receive true love through learning Divine Principle and to receive the blessing through the Messiah, which is the only means to remove fallen nature.

He believes their ancestors are helping them to meet and come to know True Parents. Thus, not only is treatment being provided but also True Parents' teachings. Some patients are so impressed that they want to become members. Dr. Woo says that not he but Heavenly Parent and True Parents are caring for all patients. This is why their health is continually improving.

Using one room, which has the capacity to hold eight patients at a time, and is on the second floor of our national headquarters building, he is trying different methods of treatment, diagnosis and prescription. When the treatments begin, the patients lie down for an hour. During that time, Dr. Woo turns on the television. The patients watch Divine Principle lectures through our channel, Telepaz. Dr. Woo's health theories are also highlighted on Telepaz. To all patients, at the end of their treatment, he recommends that they read Divine Principle with one of our members.

Our hope lies in each patient being able to become home group members. We desire that their hearts are touched, so that eventually, with true love, they can become FFWPU members. Some patients buy our church books containing True Parents' teachings and do bowing conditions.

Helen (who recently joined our church) invests great effort into encouraging others to read True Parents' speeches and Divine Principle and to helping Dr. Woo. Helen is the very helpful and serves voluntarily. All the patients cooperate and do volunteer work, such as arranging the beds and taking care of the rooms, to create a warm, healing environment. Many patients buy necessary materials such as alcohol and cotton swabs. One carpenter made a table. Some patients in the printing business made home-church flags for our Peace Bicycle Parade.

There are two purposes in giving medical service: To help improve patients health physically and to improve their spiritual health by their learning Divine Principle and participating in our church movement, so that they learn to share love within a lifestyle of living for the sake of others.

This free medical service mission is a good way to make relationships between the people and the church. For his years of helping thousands of people, the Costa Rican government recognized Dr. Woo by presenting him with an award in 2012.

According to Dr. Woo's wife, True Parents were very happy about this news.



A Health Expo held in September

Finding allies

In coordination with Braulio Carrillo High School (teachers, the board of education and parents), and the Christian Association for the Physically Challenged in Oreamuno, Cartago, we began regular health care service there on May 26. Rev. Jae Hyun Lim originally arranged for this project to happen.

He is currently the president of FFWPU-Costa Rica. Every Wednesday, four FFWPU members and a member of the community care for between eighty and a hundred and twenty patients there. The local community benefits from better health and our movement benefits from a change in how the community perceives our movement.

Social service in town halls

Rev. San Suek Kim, regional president for Central American and the Caribbean, promoted our social service campaign in different town halls.

He met with various government representatives from the Guadalupe, Goigoechea City Hall in San José. As a result, they established a concrete alliance to provide social service to the population in the area. The main objective of this initiative is to create specific clinics administered by municipalities nationwide. Each clinic would have specialists assigned by the corresponding local governments and volunteers from FFWPU. We can treat twenty people at a time in each municipal building in this program. Rev. Kim plans to develop this initiative with representatives in Costa Rica's national government as a means to strengthen the impact of the program and further raise the public's estimation of FFWPU's value in the country and to develop a healthier society.

Other health-related volunteer projects will take place, sponsored by UPF and the WFWP, in order to increase altruism in society and to advocate developing a heart of service for others' benefit. In order to achieve this, we would need to form a highly educated group of health professionals that is willing to volunteer in the field.

Supporting home groups

The desire to achieve our vision of success through home groups in our country drives our social health service.

On September 20, we started conducting this health service within home groups in Costa Rica. I am responsible for the coordination of education and home groups; in that capacity, I initiated this. The aim is to create a bridge between the health service and the social vision of home groups. Every home group that voluntarily opts to incorporate the health service as a means of witnessing through serving families and communities can do so.

This initiative is now a pilot program with three groups -- Original Mind, Light of the East, and Fountain of Love. The goal is to extend this to all groups in the country. Missionary Lee will conduct a workshop on the art and methodology involved in implementing the health service program in order to respond to the demands coming from home groups.

I firmly believe this is a great way to love the members of FFWPU, who faithfully believe in True Parents, but so far do not have the best environment in which to live and to feel Heavenly Parent's true love. I think it's a form of love to all those who have not felt it; it is a way that serves our extended family and easily opens the hearts of the neighbors, who may feel the substantial love of God through a willing heart to serve.