

An Opportunity for an Impressive Service

Dr Chris Tong
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"I think every mission agency or missionary who serves in the community, indeed, likes a glow in the darkness " - Dr Tong.

Dr Tong was invited by the church to have a medical service in Cambodia in 2016. He provided medical consultation to nearly a hundred's villagers in one day, which he deeply felt the poverty and helplessness among the villagers. This was his first impression about Cambodia. With this touching heart, he would like to understand more about the history of Cambodia and the needy people, and thus, he joined the service trip to Cambodia again last year. There were two days serving at Metta which he experienced a thrilling and memorable journey.

The Lack of Medical Care in Cambodia

"I remembered that on the second day of the service trip, we came to serve the villagers and organized children activities with Metta. When I visited the first villager, Almond suddenly ran to seek my help for a sick woman who was suffering from a serious headache," said Dr Tong. "When I arrived on the scene and found that the woman was weak and could not open her eyes, many villagers surrounded her and applied medicine to her. I felt helpless at that moment because I did not know how to ask the villagers to leave a way for me by Cambodian language. In addition, I neither had a blood pressure meter nor a flash pen light in hand." Later, Dr Tong suggested that the woman should be taken to the hospital which the villagers responded at once. Almond asked if Dr Tong would like to go to the hospital. He did not think too much and then went together.

When they reached the hospital near the village, they found there were no doctors and nurses in the hospital and they waited for a while before the doctor appeared. When they told the doctor about the woman's condition, the doctor had only given her an injection to stop vomiting and asked them to wait for a while. Then the doctor left the hospital. Seeing the critical condition of the woman, Dr Tong felt very anxious and helpless. Later, he saw a medicine in the cabinet which could relieve the discomfort of the woman. He told the doctor when the doctor came back. "However, the doctor said there was no key to open the medicine cabinet! I really felt ridiculous and anxious." said Dr Tong. He eventually persuaded the doctor to let them leave and sent the patient to Phnom Penh Hospital for medical treatment. Looking back at the whole process, Dr Tong deeply experienced the poor medical service in Cambodia, which delays the patients for treatment. At the same time, he also thought that doctors there are just looking for money instead of regarding the patient's life as their first priorities.

A Joyful Heart vs A Heavy Ministry

In addition, Dr Tong were impressed by the services of Metta. "When I heard the sharing of Almond about the ministry, I really think that the ministry is very heavy because it not only helps to improve the basic needs of the street children and their families, but also helps them to get away from the lives of begging, which break the cycle of poverty among generations. Moreover, it is also a life-changing ministry. However Almond shared with smiles and joys, not with a worrying face. I was deeply impressed by her joyful and energetic life!" Dr Tong said.



Glow in the Darkness

In the past serving experiences in Cambodia, Dr Tong feels that the ability and efforts contributed by the volunteers were very limited. The local people in Cambodia are still living in a harsh environment and in the darkness, do they really have the way out? However, when he saw the efforts paid by the mission agencies or missionaries in the community, just like a glow in the darkness and can bring hope to those who lived in difficulties. "What I reflect is that in my work, I may also encounter the things in dark side, but how do I glow for the Lord? When looking into my serving at the church, such as being a Sunday School teacher, I can also help the next generation and glow for God by this service!" This is Dr Tong's reflection. He even felt that the world has changed so rapidly, like in Cambodia, the same place may change greatly in one or two years. Therefore, he thinks that he must seize the time and the opportunity to participate in the service or else he will miss out many precious people and things.

