Bringing Hope to the Remotest of Regions

In July 2006, a TaiwanICDF Mobile Medical Mission (MMM) operating in conjunction with Chung-Ho Memorial Hospital crossed the oceans to spread the seeds of love to this Micronesia archipelago.

The Solomon Islands is made up of 21 large islands and countless small ones. As people of Austro-Melanesian descent, they share genetic ties with Taiwan’s aborigines. Easygoing and warmhearted, they made the MMM’s visit unforgettable. Nonetheless, it is no easy thing having to move from island to island for clinical visits.

To reach the Marau Area Health Center at the top of Marau Sound, the medical services team took a small boat and disembarked to discover that this village of 860 people had neither running water nor electricity, let alone a paved road. These were the type of people who needed medical aid the most. The medical team seized every moment of daylight and treated 189 people in one day. Once darkness fell, they packed up and returned to their accommodation, to rest before an early start the next day.

The next morning, however, heavy rains started to fall, and the sea churned rough. The original plan to go by boat to the village of Sukki, on the island of Colnett, before 7 a.m. was therefore postponed.

Around 9.30 a.m. the rain began to subside, and the anxious team members unanimously voted to carry on with their plan despite the furious waves. The members
got into two small boats and were tossed about on high seas for more than two hours before finally reaching the shores of Sukaki in one piece. Since it was nearly 1 p.m., they only had five hours before they had to return to base again. Time was pressing, and the team had no choice but to use every moment effectively. Luckily, the whole village was mobilized to help move equipment and medicine to a church on the hill. A crowd of a few hundred began to gather and waited with excitement outside the church because this was the first time doctors from a foreign country had ever come to this village. Stepping onto the land, the members of the MMM were making history in bringing their love and care to this remote corner of the ocean.

Completely forgetting their lunch, the MMM staff immediately got down to business. Indeed, so focused were they that the village chief eventually had to tell the villagers to stop queuing to allow the team members to eat and rest for a while.

The MMM members recommenced work but with dusk drawing near and another two hours of sea travel ahead of them before returning to base, the village chief once again spoke up, inspiring the Taiwanese team to call it a day. Meanwhile, the villagers helped the team launch the boat into the ocean, where the waves were even higher than in the morning.

The team left with heavy hearts and a good deal of anxiety about the conditions, but they had to get back to the capital city of Honiara by the morning of the next day to prepare for their next stop.

At the end of their time in the Solomons, the members of this MMM expressed the hope that, by taking the initiative, they would help encourage more people to take an interest in these friends in need, in a far-flung corner of the world.