

My Working Experience in Taiwan

by Virgie S. Almoroto

My name is Virgie S. Almoroto. I arrived here in Taiwan in 2001. Since then, I have been working as a care taker for a bed-ridden patient, Mr. Chang, at the age of 58. I usually call Mrs. Chang my ma'am. Only three of us live together in the house. But we are not lonely. The siblings of both my patient and my ma'am come to visit us very often. They are all very nice people. I feel just like one of their family members.

I am very much devoted to taking care of my patient. With all my heart-felt loving tenderness, I do the best of my nursing responsibilities. In a sense, I have already taken my patient just like my own dear elder brother, although he can not normally recognize me. I am also close to my ma'am. She agrees that I have two holidays a month in order to attend the church at the Chung Shang area. Above everything else, I can yearly spend two weeks vacation for visiting my family in the Philippines. In this way, I keep on the sweet relationship with my husband and my daughter.

I had a hard time, however, when I just arrived here nine years ago. The language, food, and weather are so different from those in the Philippines. I found it difficult to adjust myself to this country. All of a sudden, I became terribly home-sick. For almost four to six months, I often cried in the midnight, missing my family in the Philippines. By making friends with other philippinoes, I gradually improved my adjustment. Attending the church together with those friends is my most wonderful time. Besides, I can share my feelings directly with my ma'am who used to be an English teacher. In spite of being a devoted Buddhist, she can appreciate my deep faith in Catholic. She is a vegetarian, and now I have become almost a vegetarian, too. It quite helps my health. My weight is greatly reduced.

I am particularly happy about the medical service here. The problem of kidney stones had bothered me for quite a long time. In the spring of 2005, I suffered from severe pains. While in depression, I could not do anything except only praying to our Almighty God who is always besides me whenever I am left alone in the house. Fortunately my ma'am asked help from her friend, Ms. Huang, whose brother-in-law is a doctor in the NTU Hospital. Through his recommendation, I went to see Doctor Chen who is specialized in dealing with kidney stones. After the final check-up, Doctor Chen told me that I needed an operation. On May 1, 2005, I was confined to the NTU Hospital. Both my ma'am's sister and my patient's sister came to the ward

to take care of me, while my ma'am stayed with my patient at home. Three days after operation, I was discharged from the hospital. My bill amounted to 50,000 N.T.dollars. Due to health insurance, however, we only paid 5,000 N.T.dollars. Patients in Taiwan are really lucky to get discounts just with health cards. Above all, thanks to Doctor Chen's medical treatment, I am now relieved of kidney stones.

I am very proud of my ma'am's kindness to me. After operation, I was too weak to work. I could not help but take bed rest for two weeks. My ma'am was then very busy with nursing both her husband and me. I fully understood what might have happened to me, if my employer had not been Mrs. Chang: I would have been immediately deprived of the contract and sent back to the Philippines directly. She is very considerate of me and supportive to my family. I am gratefully thankful to her.

In this coming August 2010, I will finish the nine years' contract for the same employer. I am very happy to have worked here in Taiwan. What a good time for me to get along with Mr. & Mrs. Chang and their siblings! I hope that more and more Taiwanese employers can do the same as my ma'am who trust foreign workers as friendly people.

At last, I am very much proud of myself as a care taker for Mr. Chang. Since I handled the nursing work, my patient has not got any sickness trouble. I attribute this achievement to the Almighty God. He is always guiding my daily responsibilities.

The above is my working experience in Taiwan. I am very glad to share it with you. Thanks a lot for inviting me to write this article. God bless you all.

Yours truly,
Virgie