

Elaine Ng^[45]

Deputy Director of Nursing, Changi General Hospital

From the age of 14, Elaine knew that her destiny was to become a nurse. "I was in the Red Cross then and volunteering at a children's home. Observing the nurses, I found their work very special as they were caring for people they did not know personally. Yet, their actions had such a big impact on people's lives."

Undeterred by strong family objections, she applied for nursing school and stayed in the nurses' hostel during her three years of training. And she's never looked back.

"Nursing is a unique profession as you get the invaluable opportunity to see the life journeys of human beings," reflects Elaine. "Life is unpredictable and the insights I've gained during my work have made me treasure my life and my loved ones so much more."

Despite an already tight schedule juggling work and family, Elaine, a mother of two, still manages to find time for missionary work in her personal capacity. She's volunteered for overseas humanitarian projects such as the Mercy Relief Mission to the Philippines in 2006, and missionary work in Myanmar in 2002 and 2000. "I saw a nine-year-old queuing up to collect water from a mobile truck, while carrying his one-year-old sibling on his back," recalls Elaine. "It was really heartbreaking to see that."

Staying true to her profession, Elaine volunteered her services



during the SARS epidemic, despite her husband's concerns. "It would have been my greatest regret if I, being a nurse, had refused to help because of fear," she says simply.

"Once a nurse, forever a nurse," says Elaine. "Nurses touch lives in the most intimate way. We

are privileged to be able to care for patients during the most sacred times of their life, from birth to death. I know that it is impossible to help everyone all the time, but it is gratifying enough knowing that I have helped someone at some point."

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