



Above: Yin visits an elderly villager and measures her blood pressure.

Left: Yin rows a boat on his way to a patient's home.

a 65-year-old villager who had chronic high blood pressure. He prescribed for her a simple medicine costing only 3 yuan (42 US cents) for a month's treatment. According to a Xinhua news agency report, Yin assured the patient that such medicine was effective, with little side effects.

The good news is that villagers across China are getting better medical coverage and insurance, while more and more college graduates are encouraged to join the ranks of rural doctors.

Yes, rural medical capacity will increase over time, so will rural doctors' salaries, but what makes Yin and the likes of him stand out is their simple pursuit for the basic health of villagers, rather than for pecuniary gains. They are our inspirational role models because, as late Chairman Mao once said, they have cultivated "a noble mind" dedicated to the service of the people.

### 'I want to save lives'

Xinhua reported earlier this year that Liu Qingmin, a rural doctor in Shandong Province who has served villagers for more than 40 years, has a motto: 24 hours on duty, and providing treatment whether a patient has money or not.

Over the past four decades or more, he has treated many poor patients who wrote him



Yin conducts a medical check-up for an old patient at her home.

IOU notes worth more than 90,000 yuan (US\$12,600). Normally his annual income from medical service is 20,000 yuan, but sometimes his clinic has been in dire financial straits owing to the considerable amount of people writing him IOUs.

In 2009, he underwent surgery for a benign bladder tumor.

"By that year, he had been a rural doctor for 31 years, but all his savings amounted to about 4,000 yuan only," his

wife recalled. "He often paid in advance for patients. In most difficult times, we had to sell our own pigs and chicken to be able to replenish our clinic with new medicines."

Liu's medical career began after he saw a pregnant woman dying of hemorrhage in 1979, when he was 16 years old. That year, he had just graduated from high school and become a rural teacher, but the woman's tragedy pushed him to become a doctor.

"I want to save lives!" he

said. Then he studied medicine with a local doctor for two years before opening his first clinic.

Over the years, he has improved his medical skills through professional training at higher institutions, and become a trusted guardian of the health of nearly 2,000 farmers scattered across eight villages in a mountainous region.

His deeds were finally recognized by society, and in 2018 he became a deputy to the

National People's Congress. Thanks to his suggestions to improve rural medical capacity, the government has provided policy support for him to create a rural nursing home, where bereaved elderly villagers can live for free.

Liu and Yin add a new footnote to the meaning of success: Success depends less on material wealth than on spiritual richness. They also reshape and refine our understanding of what it means to be happy.