

## 金聖寺參加聖荷西春節書展圓滿成功

### Gold Sage Monastery Participates in 2005 Lunar New Year Book Show



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2004歲末的南亞海嘯大地震，造成令人震驚的重大傷亡，社會頓時陷入一片惶恐不安的情緒之中。因此當有人發起報名參加聖荷西的春節商展時，大家都異口同聲地贊成，因為再沒有比舉辦佛教書展來迎接新的一年更有意義！，

此次的春節商展係由華美商業協會發起，日期訂在一月廿九、三十日兩天舉行，居士們以金聖寺的名義登記一個攤位。活動當天，在下了將近十天的大雨之後，天空突然轉晴，陽光普照，令大家都驚喜萬分。後來得知，原來有位追隨上人多年的弟子，每天在家向佛菩薩懇切祈求天氣能轉晴，否則這些經書恐怕都要泡湯了，佛菩薩果然滿了他的願。

第一天一大早八點鐘，居士們就趕來佈置會場。由於第一次參加此類的書展，大家都擔心因為時間倉促、經驗不足，會使得展示內容不夠豐富，無法吸引大眾前來參觀。可是沒想到，當我們把金聖寺法師設計的「法界佛教總會——萬佛聖城」招牌掛上，再將一箱箱上人的淺釋、開示書籍和CD、錄音帶等，整齊地排列出來後，搭配著四幅內容豐富、版面精美的超大型海報，扼要地描述法總的歷史以及上人生前的三大願，整個攤位的佈置宛如出自專業的設計家之手，於是金聖寺的書攤成為整個春節商展中，最精緻、最充實而且最有意義的攤位。大家事前的憂慮都變得多餘了！

兩天的活動裏，蒞臨書展攤位的有中國

At the end of 2004, a massive earthquake and tidal wave devastated South Asia. While society was still mourning the enormous casualties caused by the tsunami, the laypeople of Gold Sage Monastery had already registered for a booth in the San Jose Lunar New Year Festival. We unanimously felt that participating in this book show was the most meaningful thing to do to welcome the New Year.

The festival, sponsored by American Chinese Commerce, took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of January, 2005. The laypeople registered a booth for the book show on behalf of Gold Sage Monastery (GSM). On the 29<sup>th</sup>, we were all pleasantly surprised to see sunny blue skies because it had been raining for almost ten days and we were worried about the sutras and books getting damp in the show. Later on, we learned that a longtime lay disciple of the Venerable Master had been praying for two weeks straight for sunny weather at the show, and so his prayers must have evoked a response from the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas.

At 8 o'clock that morning, laypeople gathered at the show to arrange books and other media, set up display boards, and decorate the booth. At first, we were afraid our material was not sufficiently attractive and interesting because we were inexperienced and had less than two weeks to prepare. After we hung up the colorful banner "Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA) – CTTB" designed by the Dharma Masters of GSM, laid out sutras, the Master's commentaries, CDs and videotapes on the shelves and tables, and put up four large beautiful posters which briefly introduced the history of DRBA and three great vows of Venerable Master, our worries subsided. Our exhibit looked as good as a professional one and to us it was the most profound, refined, and meaningful booth in the whole fair.

During the two-day event, many Chinese, Vietnamese, and American people visited our booth. For most people this was their first encounter with the Buddhadharma. Some had heard of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, but few had been there and were surprised to learn that CTTB had a branch, Gold Sage Monastery, right in San Jose. Some of the visi-



人、越南人和美國人，大部分的人都是第一次接觸佛教經典。有些人聽說過萬佛城，有少部分的人曾到過萬佛聖城，他們都很驚訝地發現，竟然近在咫尺的聖荷西，有一座萬佛聖城的分支道場——金聖寺。

在來訪的人中，有人一見到上人的偈誦專輯就愛不釋手，認為是一部經典之作，希望能帶回去研讀，但可惜這本書僅供展示，不能結緣。而有孩子的家長們更是被書攤上的兒童佛書所吸引，並且詢問金聖寺育良佛學班的課程，因此所有的兒童書籍全被一掃而空。

兩天的書展，在天時、地利、人和的條件下圓滿結束。雖然師父教弟子修行要老老實實，腳踏實地，不要到處打廣告、賣修行，但是身為弟子的我們，卻有義務實踐上人的宏願——把佛法傳播到世界每一個角落。雖然這次短短兩天的春節書展，看起來只把有限的佛書送到有緣人的手上，但事實上這份影響力是不容忽視的。就拿我親身的經驗來說，十七年前還在美國東岸時，當時對佛教一無所知的我，在一個偶然的機緣下看了朋友從加州寄來的上人開示錄，從此之後，佛法就像磁鐵似地，把我這塊頑固不靈的廢鐵給緊緊地攝住，並且在上人的教誨中獲益良多。而今日有幸成為上人眾多皈依弟子中的一員，又有機會為佛教盡上一份棉薄之力，想想這不正是當年那本上人的開示錄所促成的因緣嗎？

金聖寺的居士們都非常高興能以這樣的佛教書展，來迎接新一年的到來。所謂「好的開始是成功的一半」，因此大家決定將繼續這項有意義的任務，參加更多類似的書展，希望能以此為出發點，將佛法「由點連線、由線成面、由面成方圓」地傳播出去，讓更多的人聽聞正法之音，令佛法的種子遍灑世界每個角落。



tors treasured the Collection of the Venerable Master's verses. They considered it a masterpiece of Dharma and wished to bring it home, but learned to their disappointment that it was for display only and not for distribution. Many parents were attracted by the children's Dharma books on display, and interested in finding out about classes at Instilling Goodness School in GSM, so all the children's Dharma books had been given away by the end of the show.

The book show was very successful because of three conditions – the good weather, the profound content and the diligent personnel. Although the Master had taught us disciples to focus on internal cultivation, not on external publicity, nonetheless it is our responsibility to carry out the Master's great vow to propagate the Buddhadharma to every corner of the world. In this short two-day event, although it might seem that we have merely delivered a limited number of books to a few people who have an affinity with us, actually we should not underestimate its influence. My personal experience can serve as an example: seventeen years ago while living on the East Coast of the United States, I didn't know anything about Buddhism. One day I happened to glance through a book of the Master's commentary mailed from a friend in California. Since that time the Master's Dharma teachings have exerted a magnetic pull on me, and eventually I became one of the Master's many disciples. Perhaps the opportunity to help in the book show this time sprouted from the seed planted 17 years ago.

"A good beginning takes one halfway to success." The laypeople of GSM were very happy to welcome the year of 2005 with the Buddhadharma book show. We would like to continue this meaningful and profound task. Hopefully this first book show is like a dot, and we can turn it into a line by connecting many dots, then create a plane by combining many lines, and finally fill the space by constructing all different planes and volumes. Someday many people will receive benefit from the distribution of the Buddhadharma. Let's now plant the seeds of Proper Dharma in every corner of the world.