



# 嘉凡媽媽的感恩

## A Mother's Gratitude

陳曼德 文 BY SUSAN CHEN

林秀琴 英譯 ENGLISH TRANSLATED BY BRIDGET LIM

看著只剩最後一張的月曆，才豁然驚覺，嘉凡還有五個多月就畢業了。四年就馬上要這樣飛逝，叫人唏噓惶恐，也頓生許多的不捨。

百感交集中，最多的是感恩；兩個女兒芷儀，嘉凡都有緣在培德女中接受人文道德以及學術科目的教育。

我最記得，當親友們知道我決定讓女兒們來萬佛聖城唸書時，都不約而同的問：『你怎麼捨得？』。結果，「能捨才能得」的不變真理印證在她們身上。我捨出去兩個孩子，得回了兩個好人。

善的磁場總能讓人在不知不覺的潛移默化中，美化心靈、改變氣質。我永遠忘不了芷儀第一次從宿舍回家的第一句話：『媽，我現在才知道妳有多愛我』。那是一句可以溶化每個母親心的柔言軟語；似乎再多的辛苦，在那一瞬間都煙消雲散。雖然因緣牽引，她在別處完成了高中學業，但是她寄情最多的，仍是這裏的師長校友和一草一木。

三年多前，嘉凡帶著勉強、徬徨和許多的不踏實，第一次穿上裙子校服，忐忑的走向升旗的同學們。我遠遠目送她，心中突然生出送她上幼稚園的第一天那樣的不捨。只有求菩薩給她加持和定力。好不容易下課回來，她的第一句話竟是：『我蠻喜歡三皈依的，我已經會唱了』，我懸了一天的心終於輕輕的放了下來。

是同學對她的愛讓重感情的嘉凡決定留了下來。事實上這一群純真的女孩似乎早就約定，要在這片清淨道場和教育園地，重續好緣。她們互相砥礪，合作無間，像家人，



Looking at the last page of calendar, all of a sudden I realized that my daughter Yvonne is about to graduate in five months. It's scary that four years have gone by so quickly, but there seem to be things that I am not ready to let go of.

I have mixed feelings about my daughter's graduation. But the sense of appreciation is more than anything. My two daughters Roslyn and Yvonne are fortunate to have affinities to learn humanities and ethics as well as academics at Developing Virtue Secondary School.

When my relatives first learned that I had made up my mind to send my two daughters to study in CTIB, they asked, "How are you able to let go of them?" The experience with my daughters has proven the old saying — "When you are able to let go of things, you will be able to gain them back." The truth is I let go of my two daughters and in return, I've gained back two righteous persons.

The magnetic field of virtue can change a person without the person actually noticing. It beautifies one from the inside and changes one's charisma. I will never forget the first time Roslyn came home from the dormitory of CTIB and the first thing she said to me was, "Mom, I now realize how much you love me." These words could melt the heart of every mom. No matter how much hardship I had to endure, it all disappeared at that very moment. Though she completed high school elsewhere, her biggest change started in this campus—CTIB. What she cherishes the most are the relationships she has had with the teachers, classmates, and even the grass and trees there.

Three years ago, Yvonne wore her school uniform for the first time and walked reluctantly towards the flag raising ceremony to join a group of students. As I watched her go from afar, suddenly it just felt like the first day I took her to kindergarten. I prayed for the Bodhisattvas to bless her and give her samadhi. It had not been easy until she returned from school and said, "I like the Three Refuge quite a bit, and I already know how to sing it." As soon as I heard her saying that, the worries I'd had all day long vanished.

It was the loving and caring of her classmates that made Yvonne decide to stay in CTIB. Actually these innocent schoolgirls seemed to have already promised one another that they would carry on their fate



像姊妹。一起籌劃活動、研究功課、為社區服務，不但感情融洽，而且互為善知識。所以雖然學校的許多物質條件非常基本，多年前甚至可以說十分欠缺，但是從不曾影響孩子們的向上心和同學愛，反而讓她們磨練心性、感情緊密。

中國文化的薰陶，是我和許多家長送孩子來聖城求學的另一個主要原因。她們有許多是第一次觸摸中國樂器，第一次學習中國舞蹈。看著這些孩子漸漸的在中國文化洗禮下，越來越有屬於中國女性的典雅氣質，心裡就有說不出的感動。

嘉凡最大的收穫之一，是代表學校參加中國文化常識比賽。這個寶貴的經驗讓她常常津津樂道，反覆回味：近育師培訓的練習過程，參賽的緊張，團隊默契帶來的榮譽，以及到美東參加總決賽的點點滴滴。這個經驗已為她的人生寫下豐富的一頁，也把她的中文和中國文化常識，帶進了另一個讓她無限欣慰的層次和領域。

所以我們每每談到這個話題，她總會真心的對我說：『謝謝妳，媽媽，把我帶來聖城，讓我有這麼多的成長和收穫』。我也會由衷的讚嘆：『妳現在懂的好像比我還多了』。

曾經也有朋友善意的提醒，聖城清淨是否會有讓孩子成為溫室花朵之虞？但是看著嘉凡一路走來，這層疑慮早不復存在。她在這個社會的縮影裡，感受到人的習性、考驗和衝擊。學到如果善解，便可包容，學會知足，便能感恩；進而從中體悟出這都是成就她人格，啟發她佛性的好因緣。

嘉凡也常常發抒感嘆，她在這三年中有太多的改變。她以前喜歡打扮，愛好肉食，不吃水果。但是現在，她已經脫胎換骨；素食和水果成了她生活中的主食，樸素成了她的新主張。她不由自主的對我說：『如果我留在舊金山唸高中，也許我會是個和現在完全不同的人，一個可能讓妳有些擔心和失望的女兒』。她的這番摯誠表白，讓我不禁更

and affinities in this purified campus. They would encourage each other and cooperate as if they were a family and sisters. They would plan all the activities together, study together, and help out in the community. They would all be in harmony and be good advisors for one another. Although the school's facilities and supplies were very basic and limited, and were considered primitive years ago, it had never affected their desire to learn to learn and their caring for one another. On the contrary, it helped to strengthen their souls and drew them even closer together.

Chinese culture and influence was another key reason for me and many other parents to send our children to CTTB. It is the first time for many students to actually touch Chinese musical instruments and learn Chinese dances. Witnessing these kids being gradually exposed to and influenced by traditional culture and value and seeing each one embody more and more the temperament of a traditional Chinese female, I was so touched deep in my heart that I couldn't even put that in words.

Yvonne's biggest achievement was to represent Developing Virtue Secondary School in the Chinese Culture Competition. The valuable experience has become a frequent subject in her conversations: Jin Yu Shr's training and the process of practicing, the nervousness and excitement of the competition, the teamwork that brought honor, and all the bits and pieces of the participation in the final competition on the East coast. From a girl who was unsure about herself, to a girl who bravely took on challenges and responsibilities, she ended up as one who is full of confidence and proud. The experience has enriched her life and brought her Chinese language and the knowledge of Chinese culture to another level. It also gave her unexpected satisfaction. Therefore, every time we talk about this topic, she would say to me with all her heart, "Thank you, mother! Thanks for bringing me to CTTB and allowing me to grow up and achieve so much!" And I would speak from my heart and sigh, "You seem to be knowing more than me nowadays in a lot of areas."

There were friends who reminded me gently in the past whether the pure environment in CTTB would have "the flowers in the hothouse" effect on the children. But having witnessed the path that Yvonne took, my initial worry has long since faded. Living in this society, she's experienced human nature, been through obstacles and challenges. She's learned if one can be more understanding, one can be forgiving; if one can easily be satisfied, one can be more appreciative. These elements were the good causes that help to shape her character and to motivate her Buddha nature.

Yvonne always says that she has changed a lot within three years. She used to like dressing up and eating meat, and never ate any fruits. But now, she has changed completely. Vegetarian food and fruits have become her main diet. Frugality has become her new motto. She once said to me, "If I had stayed in San Francisco for high school, I probably would have become an entirely different person who bears no resemblance to who I am today, and likely a daughter who would make you worried and disap-



加的感恩這份因緣，這份成就了嘉凡正確的價值觀人生觀，鞏固了她明辨是非、誠正信實品德的好因緣。

相信嘉凡和我以及其他家長校友一樣，會永遠懷念和感恩這個像家的學校。

「培德、育良」這兩個教育園地也很快將屆滿三十週歲。我們感恩所有無私付出的師長們。如默默耕耘、愛心灌溉的農夫，樹木樹人，付予五濁社會許多希望。僅以此文做為賀禮，祝福良校，與學子教學相長，英才滿天下。

pointed.” Her genuine confession makes me value and appreciate even more the affinities of her attending school at CTTB. These affinities gave my daughter a chance to learn an accurate approach towards the value of life, to be able to distinguish right and wrong, and to be trustworthy and virtuous.

I believe Yvonne and myself, along with other parents and her classmates will always miss and appreciate CTTB. CTTB is just like a family to all of us.

Developing Virtue Secondary School and Instilling Goodness Elementary School are almost 30 years old. We appreciate all the teachers who are dedicated and giving. They are just like farmers who constantly nurture and work diligently in their farms. They give tremendous hopes to this polluted society. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best. May you create lots of great

## 2006年萬佛聖城青少年夏令營 Youth Summer Camp at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas

主題/Theme：保護地球 Global Awareness

日期：六月二十六日（星期一）至七月七日（星期五） Dates: Monday, June 26 ~ Friday, July 7

活動簡介：**佛學**—所有學員都參加倫理道德、法會、打坐和素食獲得第一手寺廟經驗。介紹佛法與因果和慈悲等觀念。**多元文化活動**—透過美勞、戲劇音樂、食物、遊戲與運動來介紹語言和文化。**自然保護**—讓學員思考如何推展永續性生活、有智慧地運用地球資源，以及長養慈悲心對待一切眾生。活動項目包括：健行、資源回收藝術和社區服務。

年齡：五至十四歲 費用：美金二百元（含午餐、恤衫和報名費廿元）。

住宿費（住宿生須滿十一歲）美金三百元（含報名費）；歡迎家長擔任義務老師或參加夏令營。家長帶孩子的膳宿費美金二百五十元，兒童（十一歲以下）一百五十元

**Brief Program Description: Buddhism** - Students will gain a firsthand experience of being in a monastery by participating in ceremonies, meditation, and vegetarian meals. Participants will be introduced to Buddhist teachings and values, such as the law of cause and effect, and compassion. **Multicultural Activities** - Chinese and other cultures will be introduced through language, arts and crafts, drama and music, food, games and sports. **Environmental Awareness** - Participants will reflect on ways in which we can promote sustainable living and wise use of resources on this planet, and nurture compassion for all living things. Activities include nature hikes, recycled art, and community service.

**Ages:** 5 - 14 (Boarding students must be at least 11) Parents are welcome to apply as volunteer teachers, counselors and helpers.

**Fees:** **Day Student** (includes tuition, lunch, T-shirt, \$20 registration fee): \$200 **Boarding Student** (\$230 tuition, T-shirt, \$250 room & board, \$20 registration fee): \$500 **Room and Board for parents with children:** \$250/adult, \$150/child under 11

截止申請日期：六月一日或名額滿時。報名費：美金廿元（恕不退還）報名或申請工作請聯絡萬佛聖城  
Deadline: **June 1 or until spaces are filled.** Application Fee: **\$20** (nonrefundable). To enroll your child or volunteer as a teacher or counselor, please contact CTTB for an application. **E-mail: boysschool@drba.org Tel/Fax: (707) 468-1138 E-mail: girlsschool@drba.org Tel/Fax (707) 468-3847**