



The three-week-long winter Chan meditation session was held in the midst of storms and cold. The atmosphere in the men's Chan Hall on the second floor of the Tathagata Monastery was exceptionally good this year. All participants, monastic and lay, diligently practiced meditation from before dawn to nearly midnight. The daily evening instructional talks were also different from the past; many questions on cultivation were asked and wonderful answers were given. Everyone benefited greatly from these exchanges.

To establish the good tradition of practice and to encourage more people to join the Sangha. Immediately following the conclusion of the Chan session on the evening of January 20, a ceremony for entering monastic life was held at the Buddha Hall in CTTB. Two good men renounced the householder's life and received the Ten Novice Precepts. This not only made a perfect conclusion for the meditation session, but also marked a good start for the new year. The fourfold assembly participating in

the ceremony all felt a joyful energy. This certainly was the first auspicious event of the new year at CTTB.

Guo Du Shi came from Taiwan and his lay family name was Wei. He enrolled in DRBU in 1992. He and his former wife became residents and volunteers of CTTB in 1994. He vowed to become a monk a long time ago; however, because his former wife had been sick for years, he had to take care of her and could not fulfill his vow. Hence he had always felt that his former wife was his obstacle to practice. However, after she passed away

聖城喜見



編輯部文 By Editorial Staff



The First Joyful Event of the New Year at CTTB

三週的冬季禪七，在風雨及嚴寒中綿綿密密地舉行著。位於如來寺的男眾禪堂，今年的修行氣氛特別的好，不管出家或在家眾，從早到晚參禪打坐，大家都感受了一股精進向上的力量。乃至於晚間開示，也不同於往年；當有人在修行用功上提出問題探討時，更常有許多巧妙的問答，讓大家別有一番收穫。

要建立良好的道風，接引更多的人修行，就必須有更多的人投入僧團。就在一月二十日晚間禪七圓滿後，有兩位善男子緊接著剃度出家，不但為禪七畫下圓滿句點，也為新年度帶來一股新氣象，在萬佛寶殿觀禮隨喜的四眾弟子們，都沾染上了這份喜氣，這無疑是聖城今年度的第一件大喜事。

果度師，俗姓魏，臺灣人，移民美國。1992年到聖城就讀法大，94年成為常住眾，與其同修一起在聖城做義工。他早就發願出家，但其同修體弱多病，需要照顧，不能如願，因此總覺得在出家的路上，同修是他最大的「障礙」。可是在去年二月他的同修在念佛聲中安祥往生後，回顧十幾年來他在身心上所

peacefully amidst the chanting of Amitabha Buddha's name last February, he reflected upon the various physical and mental tests and training that he had gone through for over a decade and realized that his former wife not only had not obstructed him, but had helped him to enter monastic life to practice. His determination to renounce the householder's life was thus strengthened.

Chin Rong Shi also came from Taiwan and his lay family name was Ho. He had been a volunteer at DRBA's branch monastery in Taipei since 1994. He had

come to CTTB to attend Dharma sessions twice since 2000 and had thus developed a deep affinity with CTTB. While in Taiwan he worked in funeral service for three and half years and saw the various sufferings that the dying went through as well as the various causes of death. On a daily basis, he faced the myriad scenes at the end of a human life. As a Buddhist, he compassionately recited Amitabha's holy name for the dead and at the same time planned for his own great matter of birth and death. He became a resident at CTTB in 2006. As a professional electrician and plumber, he

worked hard day and night and never complained. Having created enough merits, he finally fulfilled his wish to join the Sanghas.

Since 2004, several young men have become monks at CTTB, some in their 20's or 30's. They are the new blood of the Sanghas. This also means that the way we practice at CTTB has been well accepted by the younger generation. Currently quite a few young men also plan to become monks at CTTB. We hope they can make up their minds soon so that they can join the endeavor to propagate the Buddhadharma.

出家法會



— Ceremony for Entering Monastic Life

遭遇到的種種磨練，才體驗到原來同修不是來「障礙」他，反而是來「成就」他出家修行的。這樣的轉變，更堅定他出家的信念與決心。

親榮師，俗姓何，臺灣人。1994年開始在臺北法界印經會共修並擔任義工，2000年後曾兩度到聖城參加法會，種下了與聖城深厚的因緣。在臺灣工作期間，曾在葬儀

社服務三年半，看到人在臨終時的種種掙扎，以及各種不同的死亡因素，每天所面對的都是人生終點時的百態。因學佛的關係，他以慈悲心為這些往生的人助念，並為自己的生死大事做打算。2006年到聖城常住，以他從事水電的專業技術與經驗，任勞任怨地工作，為自己儲備了修行的資糧，終於滿願加入僧

團的行列。

從2004年開始，在聖城出家的男眾年齡層大幅的下降，二、三十歲的年輕出家眾為僧團注入了活力，成為新血輪。這也代表了聖城的修行道風，已被年輕的一代所認同與接受。目前尚有多位年輕人計劃或準備出家，希望他們能及早下定決心，共同為佛教而努力。