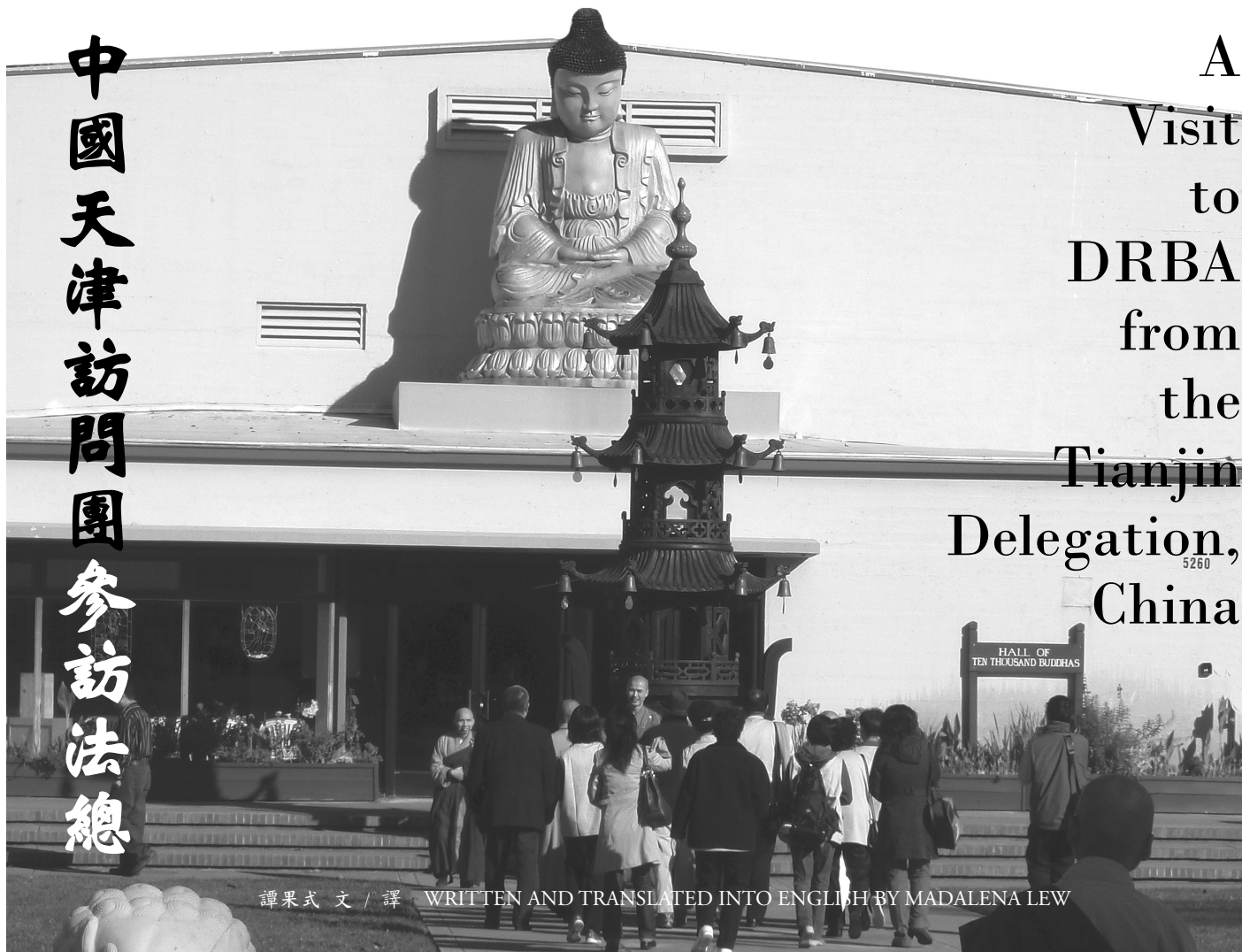


中國天津訪問團參訪法總

A Visit to DRBA from the Tianjin Delegation, China



譚果式 文 / 譯 WRITTEN AND TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY MADALENA LEW

在去年十一月十八日，中國天津薦福觀音寺的住持妙賢法師，和天津佛教慈善基金會的張江龍副會長，帶領十多位居士一行到美國萬佛聖城參訪。

前年二零零七年法總訪問團到中國天津訪問時，妙賢法師已給我們烙下了深刻的印象。據說她是中國四川省著名的佛學教育家^上隆^下蓮法師門下出類拔萃的弟子，而^上隆^下蓮法師更是中國政府特准在八十年代早期倡辦尼眾佛學院的第一人。

妙賢法師在短短的三年之內，便將位於天津市中心的一個小小庵堂改建成現在雄偉的佛教道場——天津薦福觀音寺，並在該寺內成立一所尼眾佛學院，現有學生200多人；又成立一個慈善組織「天津佛教慈善基金會」。

A delegation of Buddhists led by DM Miao Xian, the Abbess of Tianjin Jianfu Guanyin Monastery, and Mr. Zhang Jianglong, Deputy Director of Tianjin Buddhist Benevolent Foundation, came to visit the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) on November 18, 2008.

When a DRBA delegation visited Jianfu Guanyin Monastery in Tianjin, China, in year 2007, DM Miao Xian had impressed us with her accomplishments. She is one of the outstanding disciples of DM Long Lian of Sichuan Province. DM Long Lian was the first Bhikshuni to establish a government-approved Buddhist Academy for female Sangha in China in the early 1980s.

DM Miao Xian established a Buddhist Academy for Bhikshunis after she took over a small Taoist temple in central Tianjin and turned it into a large Buddhist monastery in just three years time! The Academy currently houses more than 200 students. She also established a charity organization called Tianjin Buddhist Benevolent Foundation.

去年五月四川省大地震時，妙賢法師帶領一群人幾次到災區現場。除贈送金錢、食物、藥品等，最主要還給予災民們最需要的安慰、無畏施以及延伸佛教的無緣大慈的精神。她告訴我們，她親身見證佛法不可思議的感應，在災區內，無論哪一所被摧毀或倒塌的寺廟，其廟內的佛像卻絲毫無損！(請看附圖)

訪問團於十一月十七日晚抵達三藩市時，恒實法師和幾位居士一同在舊金山機場歡迎，妙賢法師一行人等均極為感激。

天津訪問團經過一個漫長的飛航後才抵達三藩市，卻不辭勞苦，即於翌日(十八日)一早就到萬佛聖城拜訪。法總的尼眾法師和居士們熱烈歡迎，並以一部萬佛聖城的短片作為介紹以及美味的素宴款待。

萬佛聖城方丈恒律法師也親自為天津訪問團導遊及講解介紹，並到「無言堂」參拜釋迦牟尼佛、虛雲老和尚和宣化上人等之舍利。

雖然這次天津訪問團到萬佛聖城訪問時間很短促，但團員都感受到萬佛聖城清新的空氣、安謐和恬靜！

十一月廿四日天津訪問團前往首府華盛頓時，也去參觀法總在馬利蘭省的道場「華嚴精舍」，而且他們還參加華嚴精舍的念佛法會。正如妙賢法師說，「這次能到萬佛聖城參訪，又有機會在美國參加念佛法會，真是不虛此行啊！」

During the major earthquake disaster that hit Sichuan Province in May last year, DM Miao Xian led several missions not just to provide earthquake victims with money, food, and medicine, but to comfort frightened victims and extend the utmost kindness of Buddhism. She reported that everywhere she went, no matter how badly the temples were destroyed, the Buddha statues remained untouched! (Attached some photos that were published in China's newspaper and online)

The group arrived in San Francisco late on November 17. DM Sure and a few lay people went to the airport to greet their coming. DM Miao Xian was overwhelmed by the presence of DM Sure and the lay people at the airport.

After a long flight to San Francisco the night before, the Tianjin Delegation left early in the morning to come pay the visit at CTTB.

A group of DRBA Bhikshunis and laypeople welcomed the Tianjin delegation by showing a brief video introducing CTTB and inviting them to a vegetarian lunch.

The Abbot of CTTB, DM Lyu, led them on a tour of CTTB and a visit to the No Words Hall to pay respects to the sharira of Shakamuni Buddha, Venerable Master Xu Yun, and Venerable Master Hsuan Hua.

Although it was a very short visit, everyone was very impressed by the clean air, tranquil and quietness environment of CTTB.

On November 24, the Tianjin delegation went to Washington, D.C. and visited Avatamsaka Vihara, the DRBA branch monastery in Maryland, where they observed a recitation session. DM Miao Xian said she found this trip most worthwhile because she had the chance to visit CTTB and to participate in a recitation session in America.

