



# 向下紮根・往上結果

## ——中小學在萬佛聖城三十年的經驗(二)

### Planting the Roots Down, Producing the Fruits Above: A Thirty-year Experience of the Elementary and High Schools at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (II)

法界佛教總會董事釋近梵 2009年3月29日發表於第二屆世界佛教論壇

A talk by Bhikshu Shi Jin Fan of Dharma Realm Buddhist Association at the World Buddhist Forum on March 29, 2009.

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自1992年起，上人以「老吾老以及人之老，幼吾幼以及人之幼」的悲懷，指示學校每年在春季舉辦懷少節，邀請鄰近學校學生約四百人同樂；在秋季則舉辦敬老節，邀請社區內的老人到萬佛聖城內，由學生表演各項節目，並提供美味可口的素食來招待嘉賓。這兩項活動讓學生們身體力行「敬老懷少」的美德，已受到瑜珈市民眾的肯定與響應。暑假期間則舉辦青少年夏令營，每年以不同的主題和課程，讓青少年能在佛教道場體驗不同的生活方式，深受歡迎。

教育是最神聖的工作與使命，而老師是教育成敗的關鍵。老師若能以身作則，必能教育出品學兼優的學生。上人以自身創辦義學的經驗，提倡義務教學，因此於1992年召募義務老師，成員有出家人與在家人，他們有些完全不受薪，有些則支領基本生活津貼而已，他們不會為要求加薪而罷課，成為本校特色之一。現在義務老師分別來自美國、英國、西班牙、中國大陸和臺灣、馬來西亞、越南、日本、南美等地，越來越多的老師願獻身於這項神聖的工作。

現任法界佛教總會會長的比丘恒實法師說：「要學佛，首先要做個好人，所謂『人道盡，佛道成。』因此修行佛道始於良好的人格，這正是

In 1992, the Venerable Master, based on the idea of “Honoring all elders as we honor our own parents, caring for all children as we care for our own child,” instructed the school to hold a “Cherishing Youth Day” event in the spring and invited some 400 students from local schools to participate. And in the fall, an “Honoring Elders” event was held. The senior citizens in the town were invited to attend this event at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. The students performed for them and delicious vegetarian dishes were served to all the guests. These two activities give the students a personal experience of the wonderful virtue of honoring elders and cherishing the youth; and both were well-received by the people in Ukiah. A summer camp is held every summer, each year the theme and activities are different. The camp, which is quite popular, gives young people a chance to experience a different lifestyle in the monastery.

Education is the most sacred work and mission, and teachers are the key to its success or failure. If the teacher sets a good example, then the students turn out great, excelling both in conduct and academics. The Venerable Master, based on his own experience in providing free education, promoted volunteer teaching; in 1992, he started recruiting volunteer teachers. The faculty was comprised of monastics and lay people. Some of the staff declined to take any salary, while some would only take the minimum needed for their basic expenses. They wouldn't go on strike because of money -- a distinct feature of the school. Currently, there are volunteer teachers coming from different parts of the world -- US, England, Spain, China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Japan, South America, etc. More and more teachers are willing to devote themselves to this sacred work.

Rev. Heng Sure, the current President of Dharma Realm Buddhist Association, said, “Learn from the Buddha, and first become a good person. When you can become a good person to the ultimate point, Buddhahood accomplishes itself. So in the 21st century, as at the beginning of the teachings, cultivating to Buddhahood begins with one's character. In our schools we don't ask the students to spout catechism slogans or to parrot Buddhist phrases. We do ask them to show respect to their teachers and elders and to repay the



二十一世紀教育當務之急。在學校，我們不要求學生教條口號要應答如流，也不要求他們背誦經典。我們只要求他們尊師重道、報答親恩。這種孝順之德乃為大智大悲之本。我曾在育良小學教三年級，自忖這算得上是我修行中最艱鉅的一項任務。學生無時無刻不在考驗我的耐心，每一堂課莫不迫使我將創意和想像力發揮到極點。」

美國籍的比丘恒順法師，自1994年即在男校任教，他說：「根據上人的辦學指導願景，我發現要灌輸學生做好人的基本道德，就首先要自己修行。例如，如果我對人不高興或發脾氣時，就難以教導學生之間和睦相處。老師以身作則很重要。」又說：「很早我就發現，面對學生，自己必須保持一個標準：即完全誠實，敞開心胸。如果你要邊帶個假面具，邊隱瞞甚麼的話，他們會很快看穿。在教育學生向善的同時，也培養自己的內在道德——我認為這是個人修行與栽培品德的最好方法了。」

在童年時憧憬著做幼稚園老師的比丘尼恒音法師，當她來到萬佛聖城後，她的夢想一一實現了，現在更肩負著女校校長的重任。她說：「在萬佛聖城，孩子們可以保持他們的純真，並不會因為做一個自己想做人而受到嘲笑。這是一個年輕人學習與同學、家人及大自然和諧相處的地方；是一個年輕人深深以人類幸福與地球安寧為己任的地方。因此，在他們長大成人後會成為改善社會的一股動力。」因為恒音法師致力於教育的誠心，現在她的父母葉祖堯博士夫婦在退休後，也來到萬佛聖城做無私的奉獻。

葉教授夫婦在萬佛聖城，盡己所能，在



kindness of their parents. The virtue of filial respect is indeed the beginning of both great wisdom and great compassion. I taught third grade at Instilling Goodness Elementary School, and I consider it the most difficult cultivation I've done. The students tested my patience at every hand and pushed the limits of my creative imagination with every class."

An American Bhikshu, Dharma Master Heng Shun, who has taught in the Boys School since 1994, said, "Based on the Master's guiding vision of what the school's purpose is, I have found that in order to inculcate the basic virtues of being a good human being, one must first cultivate one's own self. For example, it is difficult to teach the students to be kind and harmonious with other students, if I myself get upset or angry with others. It is so important for the teacher to be a good model to the students." Also he said, "I learned early on that one must maintain a standard of total honesty and openness to the students. They quickly see through any façade that one may wish to hide behind. I cannot think of a better way to develop one's own spiritual practice and virtue, and at the same time help others - the students - to, as the Master said, "go towards the good."

Bhikshuni Dharma Master Heng Yin longed to be a kindergarten teacher when she was a child. When she came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddha, her dreams came true and she is now the principal of the Girls School. She said, "CTTB is a place where children can keep their







多方面貢獻他們的經驗與智慧。他們說：「當家庭教育普遍的缺乏時，想要有效的教育出有用之才，學校不得不雙管齊下，品德與學術並重。但要這樣做實在是相當困難，不但教材得大篇幅的修整，要找能做學生榜樣、有愛心、有品德的師資更是不易，絕對不是有幾千學生的公立學校在短時間內辦得到的。育良小學與培德中學就是一所品德與學術並重的學校。學校的老師都是極富愛心的修行人，絕大多數都是義務老師。」

在馬來西亞高中教數學與物理的顏亞日，已經擔任義務老師十六個年頭，並曾任男校校長，他說：「一九九二年，我妻子帶了四個孩子來萬佛聖城。上人看到孩子們，對著妻子微笑，說孩子們可以念這裏的育良小學。妻子天真地問：『那我丈夫在馬來西亞怎麼辦？』上人回答：『他可以來當義務老師啊！』我們立即幫孩子們註冊上學。來年，我來學校擔任義務老師。」現在顏老師的子女已紛紛從大學畢業，或取得碩士學位，或已成為合格教師，小女兒今年即將從培德女校畢業，並已得到太平洋大學之獎學金。「這是我從未想像會成真的美夢！」義務老師制度徹底改變了顏老師及其家人的人生。 ㄟ待續



innocence and be themselves without fear of ridicule; a place where young people can learn to live in harmony with each other, with their families, and with Nature; a place where they assume a deep sense of responsibility for the well-being of humanity and the planet, so that when they grow up they will act as catalysts for positive social change.” Because of Dharma Master Heng Yin’s devotion and sincerity towards education, her parents Dr. Raymond Yeh and his wife, after retiring, came to City of Ten Thousand Buddhas to offer their time and energy.

Dr. Yeh and his wife have contributed their wisdom and experience to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. They said, “When a good family education is lacking and cannot serve as the foundation for school education, the responsibility for educating today’s youth falls entirely to the schools. That means that schools must focus both on building character and teaching academics. Although this dual mission is clearly crucial, many schools will find such a transition difficult. Not only will most schools need to significantly modify their curriculum, but it is critical that the schools staff both administrative and teaching positions with people who can serve as virtuous models for the students they teach. Staff members will need to weigh equally the importance of helping students find their life path and teaching the knowledge and skills necessary for adulthood. Such a radical transformation will be very difficult for large public schools with thousands of students to achieve in a short time. Instilling Goodness Elementary School and Developing Virtue Secondary School are schools that emphasize both the building students’ characters and the teaching of knowledge and skills. First, all teachers are cultivators who love to work with young people. Almost all of them are volunteers.”

Agis Gan, a Malaysian high school math and physics teacher, has already been a volunteer teacher for sixteen years. He was once the principal of the Boys School. He said, “In 1992, my wife brought our four children to CTTB. When the Venerable Master saw the kids, he smiled at her and said that they could come to study at the Buddhist school here. Naively, my wife asked, ‘What about my husband in Malaysia?’ He answered, ‘He could come to be a volunteer teacher.’ We enrolled our children in the school immediately. The next year, I came to the school and became a volunteer teacher.”

Now Mr. Gan’s children have graduated from college, earned a Master’s degree, or become a credentialed teacher. Their youngest daughter is graduating this year from Developing Virtue School and has been awarded a scholarship from Pacific University. “Being able to come to CTTB is a dream I never imagined would come true.” The voluntary teaching system definitely has changed the life of Mr. and Mrs. Gan’s family.

ㄟTo be continued