The 30th Anniversary of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (III)

Reflecting with Gratitude & Renewing with Vigor

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二OO九年BTTS新書特展記 法興 文

當今這個時代,人類物質文明高度發展,物質生活奢華享受,都是前所未有的。但是縱觀整個世界,眾生的苦難,卻是有增無減,到處充滿了戰爭、饑荒、旱災等等天災人禍。面對這種種的問題,儘管世界各國投入大筆的經費,不斷地嘗試新的方法,企圖解決問題,但是往往只是揚湯止沸,無法從根本上來解除人類的憂悲苦患。宣公上人曾說:「現在這個世界可以說是壞了,唯

Report on New Book Exhibition for BTTS 2009 By Fa Hing

Today's highly developed material civilization and extravagant material lifestyle are unprecedented in the history of mankind. However, if we contemplate the global picture, we see that the sufferings of living beings have only increased. Wars, famines, droughts, and other nd natural disasters are occurring everywhere. The nations of the world invest great amounts of money and employ endless strategies in an attempt to solve these problems, but they can only provide temporary relief. They have no way to remove the ultimate cause of people's suffering. The Venerable Master once said:

"Now it can be said that the world has gone bad. The only thing that can save the world is the Buddhadharma.

有佛法才能救世界。大家若明白佛法,才可以挽回這個世界的惡劫;如果人人都不明白佛法,這個世界恐怕就到滅亡的時候了。我們大家把經典都翻譯過來,給西方人開一個智慧的源泉,令西方人和東方人都明白佛法。大家要抱定這一個目標,不要為我們自己著想,要為將來千百年之後的人著想,令他們容易學佛法,也容易明白佛法。」

今年是萬佛聖城開光三十週年,雖 然上人已圓寂十四年了,然而四眾弟子 皆秉持上人的教誨,繼續修行並宏揚佛 法。為迎接聖城開光三十週年,早在 二、三年前,佛經翻譯委員會各部門傾

冊精裝,新版《妙法蓮華經淺釋》十冊精裝,《白山黑水育奇英——宣化上人事蹟中國篇》;英文部推出《A Home Called Spring Breeze》,《The Surangama Sutra: A New Translation》;越文部推出《Cuoc Doi & Dao Nghiep cua Hoa Thuong Tuyen Hoa》(白山黑水育奇英之越文版)。這幾部新書不但在內容保全原講者精髓,版面設計亦令人激賞。

為了將歷年的努力做一回顧與展現, 在萬佛聖城行政辦公大樓剛裝修完畢之 展示中心舉辦「萬佛聖城30週年回顧展 暨新書特展」,展出書籍分別依性質(經典、開示、童書等)與語文分門別類 展出。書展會場經過法師、居士們的集 體智慧共同創造出一個明亮、寬敞、雅 淨的書香世界,讓人在此得以洗滌身 心,深入經藏。

聖城之行政大樓為訪客進出必經之 處,透過書展,將增進訪客對上人、法 總、聖城的認識,展場寧靜祥和的氛 The evil age can be averted only if people understand the Buddhadharma. If people don't understand the Buddhadharma, then I am afraid this world will reach the time when it will be destroyed. Let us all translate the sutras and open the source of wisdom for the people of the West, so that Easterners and Westerners can all come to understand the Buddhadharma. Everyone should make that his or her goal. We shouldn't think on our own behalf; we should think on behalf of the people who live hundreds and thousands of years in the future. We want to make it easy for them to study the Buddhadharma and understand the Buddhadharma. That's our goal. That's why we are making such strenuous efforts and undergoing so much hardship here.

This year is CTTB's 30th anniversary. Although the Venerable Master entered Nirvana 14 years ago, his disciples of the fourfold assembly still hold on to Venerable Master's teachings and continue practicing and propagating the Buddhadharma. In order to welcome the 30th anniversary, all the

departments in BTTS, exhausting their efforts, worked in collaboration across nations over the last two or three years so that they can show the wonderful results today. The Chinese department published the new version of the *Shurangama Sutra Commentary* in nine volumes, the *Lotus Sutra Commentary* in ten volumes, and "White Mountains & Black Waters, where the outstanding talent were born – Venerable Master's Biography in China." The English department



published A Home Called Spring Breeze and The Surangama Sutra: A New Translation. The Vietnamese department published Cuoc DoiDao Nghiep cua Hoa Thuong Tuyen which is Hoa, Venerable Master's

biography in Vietnamese. People really praised on the work of keeping the true essence of Venerable Master's original lecture content. Even the cover designs won a lot of positive feedback.

In order to do a good job for the theme - Reflection and Renewal, there was a CTTB's 30th Anniversary Reflection and Renewal Exhibit and a Special Book Fair. The books on display were arranged according to genre (sutra texts, instructional talks, children's books, etc.) and also by language. With the group work and wisdom from Dharma Masters and laity, they have created a bright, spacious and elegant show room with scholarly scent. There, people can cleanse their bodies and minds in order to enter the sutra treasury.

The administration building is where all visitors pass by. The book fair,

圍,讓許多人流連忘返。自開展以來,參 訪者相當踴躍,並給予佳評:

- --非常好!圖書被分類。在視覺藝術及音樂上感受很好。
- --BTTS出版品的展覽很有雅韻,令人喝采。
- --這裏很祥和,令人滿足!我願意一直 留在這裏,我會再回來。謝謝您們開始我 對佛法的醒悟。

書展原訂於7月6日閉展,因展覽內容甚 具代表性,將延展至10月底,之後將再規 劃其他展覽活動。若尚未參觀過書展者, 請把握參觀時機。

義工心得——有趣、豐富、不斷自我成長、又美好的生命經歷 莊果藝 文

2007年到聖城參加菩薩戒,對我的生命有 既深且廣的影響,整個人就像被甘露水洗 了一遍。今年適逢聖城30週年慶祝活動暨 傳授在家菩薩戒,於是決定把今年的休假 全用來當義工,參與成就這盛會。至於接 什麼樣的工作,事前並沒有多想,抱著隨 順因緣的態度,那裏需要人就去那裏囉! 但我期待從中發現自己的習氣毛病,並且 改變之。

回首今年在聖城當義工的過程,雖然每 天醒著的時間幾乎都在做事,參加法會的 時間很少,中午很晚才吃午餐,我卻感到 收獲滿滿,更滿了這一次去聖城的期待。 從來沒想過可以做勞力工作,總認為外表 瘦弱的我是提不起重物的,更不用說大部 分的時間做勞力工作,從搬運書籍、清潔 being held there, helps the visitors understand more about Venerable Master, DRBA and CTTB. It exuded a harmonious and peaceful atmosphere and many lingered for a long time. Ever since the book fair, visitors have come enthusiastically and given positive feedback:

- 1) Very nice. Books are categorized. Nice visual arts, music.
- 2) Very aesthetically pleasing display of BTTS publications.
- 3) So peaceful & fulfilling. I could stay here forever, I will be back. Thank you for allowing me to be aware of these teachings.

Originally, the book fair was going to end on July 6th. However, due to the meaningful content of the display, it will be prolonged until the end of October. After that, we will plan for other exhibitions and activities. If you have not gone to the book fair, please take the opportunity.

CTTB was able to hold all the activities for its thirty-year anniversary only because all the conditions were right. The participants, whether they were longtime disciples, newcomers, Easterners, Westerners, elders, or young children, had joyful smiles and were filled with Dharma joy. The young volunteers' amiable attitude and wonderful efficiency really impressed the participants. This journal solicited an essay from Laywoman Chuang, who was one of the preceptees in 2007, because she has the heart to give back to the community and show her gratitude. She took a vacation from Taiwan and came to work as a volunteer in this grand event. The following are some of her thoughts:

The Volunteer Experience: Fun, Rich, Mind-expanding, and the Experience of a Lifetime!

By Chuang Gwo Yi

In 2007, I participated in the Bodhisattva Precepts Ceremony at CTTB; an experience which profoundly changed my life. At that time, I felt that both my body and mind were being bathed in sweet dew. Remarkably, the Bodhisattva Precepts Ceremony and the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of CTTB were held around the same time this year, in 2009. So I was able to save up all my accrued vacation time for the year to volunteer at CTTB and attend the great 30th Anniversary event. I felt willing to do whatever work I was assigned to. "Whatever needs doing, I will do!" That is the attitude I had. In addition, I hoped to uncover my defects and bad habits so that I could change.

In retrospect, I see that I worked most of the time and seldom participated in the sessions. I also usually ate lunch quite late. However, it feels like a "full harvest" and all my expectations in regard to coming to CTTB have been fulfilled. For example, I never thought that I'd be able to do anything too physically demanding due to my size and weak appearance, much less to lift heavy objects. But as it turns out, I actually spent most of my time delivering booklets, cleaning, mopping the floor at the Book Fair, hanging pictures, etc.

One day a Dharma Master asked, "How do you feel about your stay in CTTB this time?" "I've discovered that physical work actually helps with my contemplations," I answered. "It's true," she replied. "Before I entered

打掃的粗工到書展會場掛圖美工的細工都 有。

有一天法師問我:「你這次來聖城有什麼心得感想呀?」我回答說:「我發現做勞力工作,很能夠觀照起心動念。」法師回答:「沒錯,確實如此。我出家以前很少做勞力工作,出家以後學習什麼都做,刷油漆,還爬上屋頂換瓦片修繕。」看著法師瘦小的身軀,我聽得瞠目結舌。這時才深切地領會到「事情做不到,不是真的不會,而是被自己的想法侷限了,沒有給自己機會去經驗和學習。」

30週年慶祝活動前幾天,天氣異常地炎熱,書展會場的準備工作卻是不斷地趕工中。午後總熱得我頭昏腦脹,再加上工作累了,事情做著做著就想「偷懶」、「打馬虎眼」。但又看到法師和一起工作的義工是那麼任勞任怨地投入,就覺得自己很慚愧,告訴自己「打起精神繼續做吧!」上人教我們要能吃苦,學習體驗一下!當我試著讓自己專注投入時,不舒服和累的感覺就消失了。

從菩薩戒戒期到30週年慶祝活動這段期間,有太多事情要做。到處都缺義工,很多義工接到不只一處的工作,而我也加入早餐的工作行列。記得有一天,早餐組的義工組長讓我拿大鍋鏟,幫忙攪拌正在熱炒的青菜。我又不會煮菜,面對這麼一大鍋菜,抓不到適當的攪拌力道和速度,只覺得像在拌土和水泥,當然有一些就燒焦了。居然沒有人罵我,還有一位早餐的工作伙伴對我說:「在聖城裏並不會因為你不會做什麼事,就不給你做。反倒是會給你機會學習。」聽了覺得好感動,又覺得對吃到燒焦菜的大眾很不好意思。

又有一次到小廚房烤麵包,事先備妥一輛推車準備烤完運送用。那時小廚房裏還有另一組人正在做烘培。當我烤完麵包趕急著運送時,就看著推車被一位年長的居士推走了。我跟她說:「那推車是我準備運送用的,並且我正趕時間呢!」她也說:「這推車是我推來的,你需要就自己去推一輛。」然後頭也不回地就推著她的東西走了。我感到一陣錯愕。她平常對我和藹可親的樣子,怎麼現在帶走我的推車

the monastic life, I had done very little physical labor, but becoming a monastic, I learned to do everything, including painting and changing the shingling on a roof!" I was kind of shocked to hear that, but then I came to understand that if a person can't fulfill a task it's not due to limited ability but rather due to a limited mind. That is, we have to give ourselves the opportunity to experience, and to learn how to do new things.

A few days before the 30th Anniversary event, the weather was unusually hot, and we were really rushed to finish all the preparation work for the Book Fair. The afternoon heat had always made me dizzy, and with the extra workload, I felt extra tired, so I just lay back and acted lazy. However, when I saw the Dharma Masters and the other volunteer workers working so hard, I started to feel ashamed of myself, and told myself to cheer up and get to work! The Venerable Master taught us to endure hardship, and to learn to become one with the work at hand. I noticed that when I really concentrate on the work at hand, the discomfort and the feeling of tiredness goes away.

Between the Bodhisattva Precepts Transmission and the 30th Anniversary, there was an enormous amount of work to do and not enough volunteers to do it, so most of us had more than one job. I added "breakfast prep" in the morning to my own list. I remember one morning when the group leader of the breakfast team asked me to use a big wok shovel to stir the green vegetables. Now, not only do I not know anything about cooking, but also I don't have the strength to stir the food fast enough. Therefore, I ended up stir-frying the vegetables like I was mixing soil and cement. Consequently, the food got burned. Remarkably, no one scolded me. A team worker there told me at the time, that at CTTB, people will not stop assigning you work to do just because you don't know how to do it. On the contrary, they will give you the opportunity to learn. I was very touched when I heard that, but I also felt sorry for those who had to eat the burnt food!

On another occasion, I was sent to the small kitchen to bake. I had prepared a cart in advance to hold the finished baked goods. At the time, there was another group baking as well. After I finished baking, I hurried to put the bread on the cart, but an elderly layperson appropriated my cart. "Hey, I put that cart there to put my bread on when I finished," I told her. "I'm in a hurry!" "Too bad," she replied, "I pushed this cart over for my stuff. If you need one, you'll have to get it yourself." Then without a backward glance, she pushed my cart away, loaded down with all her stuff. I was so astonished. I could not help but complain in my mind, "She was usually so kind and friendly, and now she is taking my cart away and giving me a dark look, to boot!"

"But I have bread to deliver right away!" Then, as I quickly fetched another cart, I realized that I had become afflicted. I thought about it and concluded that maybe we were both right. I just didn't realize the causes and conditions at that moment had changed and we both thought that particular cart was pushed over "by me" for "my stuff". The fact was that we both certainly needed the cart in order to finish our tasks. So I finally

還給我臉色看呢?心裏不由得埋怨起來。

但是我還得趕緊送麵包哩!就在快步走去再推一輛推車的路上,發現了自己怎麼起了煩惱。反思一下,其實老居士和我可能都是對的,只是不知道中間因緣有何變化,後來我們兩人都視這一輛推車是各自先前推來的。然而當時的情況是,我們都急著用推車完成各自的工作,其實誰對誰錯並不重要,或者說也沒有所謂的對錯。比較好的處理方式是放下自己對所認定事實的堅持(推車是我的),轉而互相幫忙,成就對方盡快完成工作;並且她是長輩,

推車理應由她優 先使用,我應該 的。想到這裏, 這事情的煩惱也前 這事情的與時向向 方望去,另一位早 餐的工作伙伴正推 著一輛推車前來!

七月三日至五日正值30週年期間,大 巴士一輛輛地進入聖城,每天早上好多人 吃早餐。典座法師用心堅持讓大眾有中西 式早餐可選擇並且能吃飽,義工們可就忙 碌了,早上四點就要進廚房。有一天洗菜 時覺得水好冷,就想讓別人洗,自己挑別 的工作做。赫然發現我怎麼自私自利地挑 工作呢?!於是繼續留在水糟前把菜洗 完。又有一天忙得心裏犯嘀咕:「為什麼 要義工忙成這樣,大眾吃得簡單點不就好 了嗎?!」自私和不想付出的想法又冒出 來了。當天午齋聽聞上人的開示說道:「 若想要真修道,就要進廚房為大眾準備餐 食。」真是給我當頭棒喝。

此次義工經驗,讓我學習最多的是「 在日常的工作中,察覺自己的習氣毛病, 實實在在一點一點地改過。在情境中,將 想法、情緒、和行為反應一步步與佛法相 應。」這點將為我往後的生活注入活力與 意義的泉源,並體會到修行是這麼有趣、 豐富、不斷自我成長、又美好的生命經 歷。來到萬佛聖城這一處修行聖地,經驗 與際遇如此的奇妙,我已找不到言語足以 讚歎您——萬佛聖城。 realized that it didn't matter whose fault it was, or whether there was a "right" or "wrong" about it. "A better way to approach this situation," I finally concluded, "...is to put down the insistence on 'fact' and focus on how we can help each other out in order to get the work done. She is elderly, for one thing, and should have first priority to use the cart, anyway, and I should indeed take another one." Thinking like that, my distress went away. Meanwhile, I noticed that my fellow volunteer was pushing a cart over toward my direction!!

In the mornings, the CTTB kitchen was especially busy from July 3rd through 5th due to the 30th Anniversary Celebration. Why? One bus after another arrived, and many people showed up for breakfast. The Dharma Master who manages the kitchen insisted on serving both Eastern and

Western-style breakfasts for everybody, so people would have a choice. One morning while washing vegetables, I felt the water was icy cold and thought, "Someone else can wash vegetables in ice water! I'm going to find something else to do!" Then suddenly I realized that to

"pick and choose" in terms of work is selfish, so I just continued washing the vegetables.

A n o t h e r morning, my mind went crazy again and I thought, "Hey!

We're volunteers! Why do they make us work so hard? People could eat more simply!" Then, as the mental "whine" ground on, I suddenly realized that selfishness and not wanting to give to others had popped into my head yet again. That day during lunch, I heard the Venerable Master say: "If we really want to cultivate, then we have to work in the kitchen and help with food prep," which for me was a big wake-up call.

In my daily work as a CTTB volunteer, what I have learned the most is to be aware of my bad habits from the daily work and honestly change them bit by bit. Regardless of what state of mind we find ourselves in, we should gradually align our views, emotions and behavior with the Buddhadharma. This point will become the source of energy for a meaningful life in the future. Not only that, but I've learned that cultivation can be fun and that it is actually an enriching and mind-developing process. To encounter such a sacred place as the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas is not only the experience of a lifetime, but also a great resource for my future. Why? Because of the wonderful experiences and conditions here, my future life will surely be more vigorous and more meaningful. No words can express my appreciation to you, City of Ten Thousand Buddhas!

迎向另一個光明的三十年

30前,上人成立萬佛聖城和開辦法界佛教 大學,並把學費全免(給美國人)(當年有 效),作為1976年美國獨立建國200年的禮 物,這也是上人留給我們不朽的遺產。

歲月如梭,30年很快過去了。聖城30 週年慶祝活動主題是「感恩回顧・精進 前瞻」,或許「感恩回顧」此活動落幕 了,但「精進前瞻」——另一個新的30 年即將開步。未來的聖城將帶給世人什 麼樣的禮物?身為上人的弟子又將留給 後人什麼?這都值得我們去深思,去努 力。

Moving Toward and Welcoming Another Thirty Years of Brightness

Thirty years ago, the Venerable Master established CTTB and Dharma Realm Buddhist University. He waived all the tuition fees for Americans (only effective then) as a present to the Bicentennial of United States of America's Independence in 1976. It is also the monumental heritage the Venerable Master left us with.

Time flies and 30 years have passed by quickly. The theme of CTTB's 30th anniversary is, "Reflecting with Gratitude and Renewing with Vigor." Perhaps, the activities of reflecting with gratitude are almost coming to an end; however, we are now just starting to look forward to another thirty vigorous years. What kind of presents will CTTB bring to the people in this world? As Venerable Master Hua's disciple, what are we going to leave the future generations with? These questions are worthy of our deep reflection and exertions.

On the main entrance to CTTB, a gate of three arches, the words "The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas" are engraved at the top in the center. "Tathagata Monastery" is engraved on the left and "Dhar ma Realm Buddhist University" is engraved on the right. On the other side, "Teaching and Protecting All Nations" is inscribed in the center, "Educating for Outstanding Abilities" is on the left, and "Adorning with Dharma and Precepts" is on the right. This reveals the Venerable Master's ideals in establishing CTTB – a balanced progression of education and cultivation. This also represents the vision of CTTB and DRBU – the Rome of Buddhism and Nalanda University. Upholding the Venerable Master's vows and vision, the fourfold assembly

should collaborate to work even harder toward this goal - fully developing CTTB. Consequently, CTTB, which is a sacred city appearing only once in tens of millions of years, will welcome all the living beings and all the Buddhists in the world to gather here and cultivate the Path.





