



彌陀聖寺 提供 Provided by Amitabha Monastery  
徐秀儀 英譯 Translated into English by Siewyee Chee

## Praying for Blessings at the Lotus Land

# 在蓮花地上 為民祈福

民國九十九年逐漸進入尾聲，在迎接中華民國建國百年的歡慶聲中，花蓮縣政府特別舉辦「花蓮各宗教祭天為民祈福」活動，此次活動結合佛教、道教、基督教、天主教與原住民祖靈祭等五大宗教團體，期望藉此提倡善良風俗，並祈願國泰民安，風調雨順，同時促進不同宗教的相互融合與尊重。十二月二十六早上法師們帶領著義工，參加開幕儀式；位於花蓮壽豐的彌陀聖寺也從十二月二十六日至二十八日舉辦了佛三法會。

此次活動中，有一項是全縣花車繞境祈福，29日是壽豐鄉分配到的繞境日期，延續念佛法會的法喜，此日法師和義工們參與壽豐鄉鎮繞境活動。上午8點不到，我們整裝出發前往鯉魚潭集合，三輛車插著「彌陀聖寺」紅藍相間的旗子，在青山翠谷間行駛，飄揚的旗子為靜謐的山區帶來另一種風味。「壽豐」這個鄉鎮，民風純樸，人口不多，卻有著多種族群——閩南人、客家人、原住民、外省人……，一般大多數信仰道教，原住民則信仰天主教或道教，因此以道教的車隊居多；佛教只有彌陀聖寺和另一個寺廟，我們慶幸我們參加了，為佛教增添一份光彩。

車上的佛號聲伴隨著我們走進壽豐鄉的各村落，路旁的民眾或手持清香、或備香案、或雙手合十，恭敬歡喜的迎接繞境隊

At the end of year 2010, to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Republic of China, the Hualien municipal government organized a special event – Praying for blessings from all religious groups from Hualien. This event incorporated religious groups such as Buddhist, Taoist, Christian, Catholic, and aboriginal tribal ancestor worshippers, with the sincere intention to promote a culture based on kindness and to collectively pray for peace, prosperity, and mild weather. At the same time, it aimed to promote respect and tolerance among different religious groups. On the morning of December 26, the Dharma Masters along with volunteers attended the opening ceremony. Amitabha Monastery, which is located at Shoufeng Town of Hualien County, also organized a three-day Amitabha Session from December 26 to 28.

At this event, a float parade went around the entire county. The floats were scheduled to reach Shoufeng Town on December 29. Continuing the Dharma bliss from the Amitabha Session, the Dharma Masters and volunteers participated in the parade. On that day before 8:00 a.m., we started our journey to the gathering at Koi fish pond. Our three cars displayed the red-blue striped flags of Amitabha Monastery. The cars drove through the green hills, bringing a different vibe to their silence. The people of Shoufeng are down-to-earth and the population is small. However, the people are comprised of many different tribes – Minnan, Hakka, aboriginal and people from other provinces. The majority of the people are Taoist; the aboriginal people are either Catholic or Taoist. Therefore the Taoist entourage was by far the largest. The Buddhist representatives were from Amitabha Monastery and another temple. It is fortunate that we took part in the activity to increase the exposure of Buddhism.

The sound of Amitabha Buddha's name recitation from the cars accompanied us as we went to all corners of Shoufeng. The crowds gathered along the road--some were holding incense, some prepared the

伍。當車行至彌陀聖寺山下，法師與義工們早已在道路兩旁恭候，揮舞著也是紅藍相間、鮮明的彌陀聖寺旗子高呼阿彌陀佛聖號，既莊嚴、法喜又整齊的一群人吸引洄瀾網的採訪車駐足拍攝。當繞境的車輛經過時，參與盛會的民眾們亦熱情的回以「阿彌陀佛」聖號。

十點左右，大隊人馬在壽豐鄉公所前廣場休息，把握與大眾結緣的良機，法師帶領著義工們發送食譜與上人開示等書籍給參與此次盛會的各方宗教人士，並鼓勵大家吃素。看到他們翻閱著食譜，臉上掛滿笑容，並讚歎義工們的發心，讓我們越是振奮，隨後還有聞風而來索取食譜者；「食譜」，真是接引一般民眾的好橋樑！

花蓮，好山、好水、好風光，沿途有了佛法的滋潤更顯得清淨。民國七十七年十月三十日宣公上人踏上花蓮這片土地時，這麼開示——

我來過臺灣很多次，來花蓮這個地方，還是頭一次。我們這花蓮啊，也就是蓮花，蓮花的地是佛地、是菩薩地、是聲聞緣覺地！我們在這塊土地上居住，都應該是與佛有緣的，不管有信佛、沒有信佛，都得到佛光普照，雨露均霑。我們在這塊土地上可以把它創造成極樂世界，創造成清涼安樂的一塊土地……。

願藉著此次彌陀聖寺首次參與地方宗教活動，歡喜地將佛法種子散播出去，期望花蓮能成為極樂淨土，人人無量光、無量壽，這不就是真正的「壽豐」嗎？阿彌陀佛！

incense altar, and some put their palms together. With utmost respect and joy, they welcomed the parade. When the floats arrived at the foot hills of Amitabha Monastery, the Dharma Masters and volunteers were waiting by the road. They were waving the red and blue flags of Amitabha Monastery and chanting the name of Amitabha Buddha. The group was adorned, filled with Dharma bliss, and orderly. They attracted the attention of the news crew from poja.com.tw who stopped to film them. When the cars from the parade passed by, the crowd responded enthusiastically by chanting Amitabha Buddha's name.

After the tour, around 10:00 a.m. when everyone was resting in front of the Shoufeng administration building, the Dharma Master along with the volunteers took the opportunity to create Dharma affinities with the participants. They gave out copies of recipe books and books with commentaries from Venerable Master to representatives from all religious groups, encouraging everyone to adopt a vegetarian diet. The people flipped through the recipe books with smiles on their faces and praised the volunteers for being compassionate. The positive responses gave us a great boost. Some people later heard about the recipe books and asked for copies. The recipe books were great bridges to reach the public.

Hualien has good mountains, good water, and good scenery. Along the way, the nurturing of Buddhadharma made it even more serene. On October 20, 1988, the Venerable Master Hua came to this piece of land and said: "I came to Taiwan many times, but this is my first time coming to Hualien. Hualien is also Lienhua (lotus flower). The land of lotus flowers is also the land of Buddhas, the land of Bodhisattvas, the land of Hearers and the land of Sages Enlightened to Conditions. Living on this piece of land, we should consider ourselves as having affinities with the Buddha. Whether or not one believes in the Buddha, one and all are equally blessed by the Buddha's light. We can turn this land into the Land of Ultimate Bliss; turn it into a serene and peaceful land."

This is the first time that Amitabha Monastery has participated in a local religious event. We sincerely hope we have spread the seeds of Buddhadharma through this event and await Hualien's transformation into the Pure Land of Ultimate Bliss. Everyone will have limitless light and a limitless life span. Wouldn't this be a true "Shoufeng" (Rich and Long Life)? Amitabha!

