

# 「烏干達兒童——希望之光」造訪 萬佛聖城

## Children of Uganda—2012 Tour of Light visits the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas.

「烏干達兒童—希望之光」美國首站的演出選擇了萬佛聖城，這個成立十八年，以幫助三百五十萬烏干達孤兒為宗旨的慈善組織，一行二十餘人於一月十一日上午抵達聖城，女校校長恆音師帶領學生在展示中心接待他們，做了簡短的介紹和討論，也就地教他們打坐。

烏干達前總統之子畢拿薩 (Patrice Binaisa) 旅居舊金山灣區多年，並皈依宣公上人座下，法名「果薩」。果薩居士不但擔任這次節目主持人，也陪同他們參觀有機農場、祖師殿以及萬佛殿；巨大莊嚴的千手觀音雕像及佛殿四壁的萬佛，令他們印象深刻。

烏干達是第一個發現愛滋病病例的國家，嚴重的愛滋病發生率以及長期的戰亂，造成烏干達有高達三百五十萬的孤兒，其中包括許多這次來訪的團員。這些年輕的團員在「烏干達兒童」組織幫助下，得以順利就學。抱著一份回饋與感恩的心情，投入這次「希望之光」巡迴表演，希望藉著他們的舞蹈音樂，能籌募更多的錢幫助國內其他需要幫助的孩童。

此次來到萬佛聖城，城內濃厚的佛教叢林氣息，開拓了團員們嶄新的宗教視野；而與年齡相仿的培德中學學生相識，令這趟募款之行添上一筆友誼的存款。

◎詳細報導請見內文「他們真的從烏干達來了！」

The Children of Uganda—2010 Tour of Light chose to make CTTB the first stop in their North America tour. The two dozen student delegates of the organization, which was established some eighteen years ago to promote charity benefiting the 3.5 million children of Uganda, finally arrived at CTTB on Jan 11, 2012. Principal Heng Yin, accompanied by the students from CTTB, received the group in the A/O exhibition hall and facilitated a round of introductions followed by showing the guests some basic meditation techniques as a welcome gesture.

Our host for the event was the son of the former Ugandan president is a longtime resident of the San Francisco Bay Area and a committed Buddhist; he took refuge with the Venerable Master and was given the Dharma name of Gwo Sa. He guided the students on their tour of the organic farm and group visit to the Venerable Master's shrine, and finished the tour at the Buddha hall. The immense golden statue of the thousand-hand Guan Yin Bodhisattva encircled by the figures of ten thousand Buddhas on the four walls of the Buddha hall was a deeply memorable sight.

Uganda was the first country discovered to have the AIDS/HIV epidemic. The prevalence of the disease and the ongoing civil war were the major causes that led to 3.5 million children becoming orphans; some of them are among the delegation today. The Children of Uganda organization has funded many operations to support these vulnerable children through ways such as education. With 'the light of hope' as the theme for their musical performance, they hope to raise sufficient funds to support the vulnerable children back home.

The event opened the Ugandan children to new understandings about the way Buddhism is lived and practiced at CTTB. Through the fund raising event, they also created connections and established valuable friendships with the young people at Developing Virtue Secondary School.

◎ For a detailed report of the event, please refer to the article "They Really Came All the Way from Uganda!"