

# Eckerd 大學義工團 服務報導

## Eckerd College Service Trip Report



親道文·朱佳敏 中譯

Written by Kien Po, Chinese translation by Jia-Min Zhu

On a cold Sunday evening, March 18, Brooks, Don and I drove to the local Greyhound Station to pick up 12 Eckerd College students from St. Petersburg, Florida. They had just traveled 19 hours to get to CTTB. When we arrived, they were shivering in the cold while waiting for us. The week before, during the Guan Yin session, it had rained almost every day in Ukiah.

Why would a group of 18 years old to 22 years old come to a Buddhist monastery on their spring break when they can go and party in Cancun or somewhere else? Eckerd College is a private school that has roughly 1800 students and was listed as the top 40 colleges that change lives in 2006 by Loren Pope. The college provides 20 service trips all over the world i.e. Iceland, Mexico, Australia and the U.S. doing jobs such as building houses, serving meals to the homeless etc...The trips are coordinated by students and faculty.

In this case, the coordinators were here two years ago and had such a profound experience at CTTB that they decided to arrange another service trip back to the monastery. Students who wish to do a service trip apply to their top 5 service destinations. This year the Eckerd coordinators in charge of the CTTB service trip selected the students from different grade levels. This time, the majority was Freshman. The reason is to give the lower class an opportunity to coordinate the next trip when the upperclassmen graduate from college.

三月十八日，一個寒冷的星期天晚上，Don和我開車到灰狗巴士站，接十二位遠從佛羅里達州St. Petersburg Eckerd大學來的學生。他們飛行了十九個小時



才抵達聖城。當我們到車站時，看到他們在寒風中哆嗦地等我們。在這之前的一個禮拜，正巧是觀音七，當時 Ukiah 幾乎每天都下雨。

放春假期間，這群十八歲到二十二歲的青少年們，原本可以去Cancun或其他地方參加派對狂歡的。為什麼會選擇來道場做義工呢？Eckerd大學是一所私立大學，大概一千八百位學生，且根據羅馬教皇羅仁(Loren Pope)在2006年調查，Eckerd大學被列為全美前四十所

The goal for coming is to serve the CTTB community. The original intent and request was to work on the organic farm which they have done twice before. In 2008, it was the Eckerd college students who helped build the green house and worked with Mr. Fan. In 2010, they also worked on the farm with R2. However, due to the unusual weather, it rained almost every day so the students had to work on the loading dock. The men moved heavy boxes of sutra texts and Venerable Master's Dharma talks from Building 123 to the book warehouse. The women worked on organizing the warehouse to create more spaces for the books. In addition, the women were lucky enough to work on the farm behind the nuns' quarters when the clouds cleared. On one of those days, Heng Yin Shr brought a group of 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders to work with the girls.

The Eckerd students also participated in the schedule of CTTB: waking up at 3:30a.m. and ending the day at 9:00p.m. They attended all the ceremonies, meditation, work, and evening lectures with the monks, nuns and Doug Powers. By attending all the ceremonies, they learned to appreciate monastic life the immersion of a Buddhist culture. One of the students commented that she love to see all the monks and nuns. Many said that they came to a Buddhist monastery to push them out of their comfort zone and to immerse in another faith, other than the one they know.

Before they came, the two coordinators told them not to



bring their cell phones or be plugged in and to always be respectful and take the experiences as they are. Toward the end of the week, many of them took turns (two at a time) doing the vow of silence for a day or two. They learned to do this by following the examples of the students who came to CTTB before.

At the end of the week, we asked the students what was their most memorable experience, one of them said, "A nun taught me how to use a fork lift. This same student learned about

可以改變人生的大學之一。這所大學每年提供學生二十個全球服務計畫，例如到冰島、墨西哥、澳洲和美國本土，服務那些無家可歸的人，乃至幫他們蓋房子等等。這些旅行是由學生或教職人員策劃的。

這次來聖城的因緣，源起於兩年前在聖城深刻的體驗，於是決定再安排一趟聖城之旅。希望在春假做義工的學生們，可以申請他們心中前五志願的服務地點。今年，Eckerd的策劃人選了不同年級的學生參加這次的服務。主要成員是大一的新鮮人，因為將來高年級的學生畢業時，就可以把策劃活動的機會交給低年級的學弟妹。

這次學生來訪的目的是服務萬佛聖城社區工作。他們在聖城有機農場已有兩次的工作經驗：2008年，范居士帶著Eckerd大學的服務團搭建了現在使用的溫室；2010年，他們也和王沛儒(R2)一起在田裡工作。因此，今年仍是計畫到有機農場幫忙。然而，天公不作美，這次來聖城幾乎每天都下雨，學生們只好到小書庫幫忙。男同學幫忙把一箱箱厚重的經典和上人的開示從原本存放的建築物，搬到小書庫；女同學就留在小書庫幫忙整理，並規劃空間以便放置更多經書。稍後天氣逐漸晴朗時，女學生們很幸運有機會到喜捨院後面的田裡幫忙。其中有一天，恆音師帶了小學4-6年級的小朋友和小姐姐們一起工作。

不僅如此，Eckerd的學生更參與聖城的日常功課：早上三點半起床，到晚上九點才結束一天的行程。他們不但參加了所有的課誦、打坐、出坡，晚上還聽法師們和Doug Powers上課，學習佛法。隨眾作息，他們因此學習和體會道場生活和佛教文化。其中一位學生說，他喜歡見到出家人。很多人說住在道場裡，可以幫助他們跳出既有的生活框架，有機會體驗不同的宗教信仰。

來聖城前，計畫負責人就提醒他們不能帶手機，要尊重道場規矩和珍惜服務的機會。當一週快結束時，很多人輪流（一次兩個人）發願禁語一兩天，這是他們從來過聖城服務的學長姐那兒學來的。

週末，我們問學生最難忘的經驗為何？其中一位說：「有一位女法師教我怎麼用起貨機！」這位學生也從晚間的課程中學到甚麼是孝順，他說以後父母若到學校看他時，他要給他們頂禮。

其中有一位學生做了一件令我吃驚的事：當一位法師給他一部《萬佛寶懺》時，他向那位法師頂禮。我好奇地問他從哪裡學的？他說在Eckerd時，有三個禮拜的密集課程，他拿的是佛學課。當三個禮拜的課接近尾聲時，教授對全班說：「現在我要做的這件事，從來沒有



filial piety in the evening class and said that when his parents visit him later in school, he will bow to them.

One of them did something that surprised me. He bowed to a Dharma Master when she gave him a copy of the *Ten Thousand Buddhas Repentance*. I asked him where did he learn to do that and he said that in Eckerd, they have 3 weeks of intensive classes and the class he took was Buddhism. At the end of the 3 weeks class, the professor said that no one will ever do this to you and after saying that, the professor bowed down to all of his students. This made such an impression on this student that he said, this was the only way that he knew how to express his gratitude to the nun whereas for James (the other coordinator) and I, he could thank us with words.

At the end of week, when we were debriefing, the students told James and I that they know there were a lot of people involved in making their stay a successful. They would like to thank each and everyone for their support. They thanked Dharma Master Ran for preparing a special dinner for them on Saturday evening which was the best food they have ever had. They stuffed themselves so much that they weren't hungry the next morning. ❀

人會對你們做過。」說完，教授向所有的學生頂禮。教授的示範令他印象深刻，他說這是他知道唯一可以對法師們表達感謝的方法。然而對James（另一位活動負責人）和我，他可以用言語來表達他的感激。

最後心得分享時，學生們說這次服務之旅能夠如此成功，要歸功於很多人的付出，並且要感謝所有支持他們的人，特別要謝謝廚房工作人員星期六晚上準備了一頓特別的晚餐，他們說那是他們吃過最好吃的食物。那一頓豐盛的晚餐，讓他們直到隔天早上都還不覺得餓！❀

