

澳洲兒童讀經班有感

Sunday School at GCDR

鍾親謙文

by Richard Chung

柳映如中譯

Chinese Translation: Ying-ru Liu



DHARMA REALM NEWS | 法界音

2014年8月，金岸法界開立兒童讀經班，我有幸被任命為「校長」。雖然我有大學的教學經驗，但是從沒有教過小孩。兒童讀經班的教學，對於我來說，相當具挑戰性。在澳洲這個寬鬆的國度裏，很多華人父母一直擔心小孩學壞，例如喝酒、抽煙。我認為通過中文教學的兒童讀經班，能吸引孩子和父母一起來佛堂學習，從而讓大家學習佛法。

如我所料，兒童讀經班效果很好。在2015年的春節期間，包括兒童讀經班父母和孩子，總共有二十位求皈依佛。現在回想起來，讀經班的成立一直起伏不斷。第一位教學老師是一名大學在讀學生，雖然有一定的中文教學經驗，但是對於教育小孩，需要更多的母愛，她還欠缺經驗和技巧。於是我只能繼續找尋更合適的人選。

感謝佛菩薩，我們發現了兩位很優秀的老師，Annie和Lesley，她們是孩子的母親。Annie負責教弟子規，Lesley負責教中文。有一天，Annie對我說，她來自一個很傳統的中國家庭，年輕時在中國春節都會向父母叩頭，祝願他們新年快樂。這也令我想起一個佛教故事，我們應該頂禮家裏的兩尊佛——我們的父親和母親。所以我想，這個向父母叩頭的習俗應該繼續流傳下去，以保持中國的傳統。

為了感謝佛堂對我們的支持，今年三月一日我們自發排練了一個表演——向父母叩頭禮，朗誦「父母恩」和演唱歌曲《阿彌陀佛在心間》。首先，父母向佛菩薩和祖先頂禮，然後孩子各自向父母叩頭。整個儀式莊嚴而感

When Gold Coast Dharma Realm (GCDR) started the children Sunday School in August 2014, I was appointed the 'Principal' of this Sunday School. Although I teach students at the University level, I have no experience teaching children before. Teaching the children has been a major challenge for me. I understand that the Chinese parents in Australia are always afraid that their children will learn bad habits, like drinking and smoking. So, I thought children Sunday School, conducted in Mandarin, at the temple could attract both the children and their parents to the temple, and this could slowly introduce them to Buddhism. This endeavour turns out to be quite successful. These children and their parents were among the twenty people who took refuge in 2015 Chinese New Year (CNY) at GCDR.

There are some minor ups and downs. For example, the first teacher for the children Sunday School was a university student. Although the teacher had a lot of training in Chinese classics, teaching children require a lot of maternal instinct and experience. Then, I tried to find other teachers. Thanks to the help of Bodhisattvas and Buddhas, we have two new excellent teachers for the children Sunday School, Annie and Lesley, both of them are parents themselves. Annie teaches the standard for students, while Lesley teaches the written Chinese.

One day, Annie told me that she came from a very traditional family in China and had to bow to her parents, wishing them happy new year during Chinese New Year time, when she was young. From an old Buddhist story, I also remember that we should bow to the two Buddhas at home, our father and mother. Then, I thought this bowing to parents tradition should continue with the children, to keep the Chinese tradition alive.

To express our gratitude to the temple for arranging the children Sunday School, we designed a program for the children to 'perform' for CNY, bowing to parents, reciting a poem *The Kindness of Parents* and singing a song *Amitabha Buddha in Our Heart*. We did this on March 1. The parents first bow to their ancestors and Buddha, and then the



人，在場所有人都哭了，我也包括在內。表演結束以後，二位小孩寫下自己的感想。

1. 黎嘉淇 (10岁)

我學到什麼？

我在每年的正月初一，
都會給父母親叩頭拜年，
感謝他們的養育之恩
謝謝他們愛護我，教導我，
陪伴慢慢長大。
我覺得很開心，
感謝父母親們照顧我，
我要尊重他們，孝順他們
還有菩薩會保佑我們。
釋迦牟尼佛，阿彌陀佛，
和佛堂的每位師父。
阿彌陀佛

2. 陆浩怡 (14岁)

今天，是非常感人的一天，因為有機會向父母表達感謝，謝謝父母的養育之恩。我被Kara and Josephine的行為深深地打動了。我也禁不住哭了，因為這是我第一次很正式地向媽媽說她是最好的母親，感謝她對我的照顧。

對於我，哭的原因是想起了一首詩：
樹欲靜而風不息 子欲養而親不在

小孩有機會向父母叩頭，我替他們高興。我再沒有機會向我父母叩頭了，因為他們早已經往生了。我以前不是一個孝順的兒子，總是找藉口逃避照顧父母的責任。我跟他們說，我很忙，要讀博士，要娶妻生子等等藉口。現在，就像那首詩說的「一切，都太晚了。」

感謝金岸法界給我這個機會負責兒童讀經班，希望這個班對小孩有更多正面的影響。阿彌陀佛！✽

children bow to parents. This was done family by family. During the ceremony, almost everybody, including myself, cried. The following are two reports written by our students on the lesson learnt from bowing to parents,

1. Kara, 10 years old:

What did I learn?

Every first day of lunar year, I will bow to my parents to say thank you. Thanks for bringing life to me and looking after me all the time. Thanks for their love, education and company. I am so happy I am from a good family. I should respect them and be nice to them. I know Buddhas are blessing all of us. Amitofo.



2. Theresa, 14 years old

This day was an emotional and also moving day because it was a day to commemorate our parents and to tell them of our appreciation for their love and advice. I was extremely moved by both Kara and Josephine and of how they acted and felt. I was also very sad because I realised that this was the first time that I sincerely told my mother that she was the best mom ever and I was very grateful to her for raising me.

As for me, I cried because I remembered an old Chinese poem:

The tree wants to rest but the wind keeps blowing;

The son wishes to take care of his parents but his parents have passed away.

I am very happy that the children had a chance to bow to their parent, I don't have this chance any more because my parents passed away many years ago. I was a bad son, who always tried to find excuses to avoid the responsibility of taking care of my parents. Excuses such as: I had to finish my PhD degree, I had to find a wife to build my own family, ... Soon, it is too late.

I am very grateful to GCDR for giving me the opportunity to lead the children Sunday School. I hope that the children Sunday School have made some positive influence on the children. Amitofo! ✽