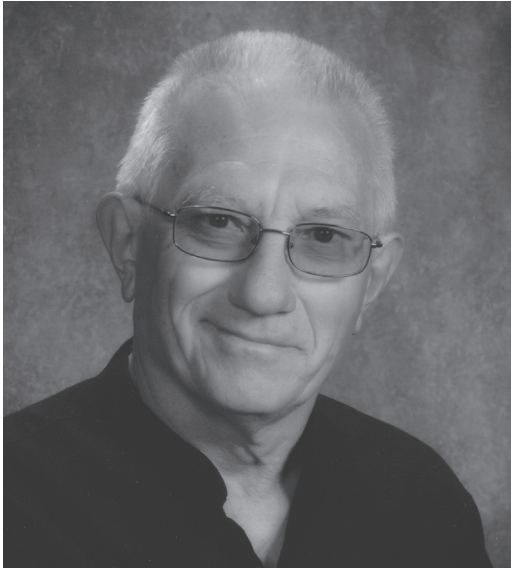




A Multi-tasking Volunteer at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas—Steve Setera

萬佛聖城的多方位義工 — 史蒂夫·塞特拉



By Yean Nee Cha

謝燕妮 文

Chinese Translation by Fan Yi

伊凡 中譯

Steve Setera is one of the very few Westerners who came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) to do volunteer work. He brought his family over from Malaysia after his first visit to CTTB in early 2008.

Steve first visited CTTB because a Theravada monk in Malaysia, Venerable Mahinda, asked Steve to accompany him on a tour of temples and monasteries in Oregon and California. Venerable Mahinda said that among those destinations, he needed to visit Shasta Abbey and the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, places Steve had never heard of before. When he visited CTTB in early 2008 with Venerable Mahinda, he was shown the Girls' School by the Abbot and Ron Epstein, and he felt strongly that this was the school for his daughter.

True enough, in 2010, his wife and daughter moved to CTTB, a year after him. This year is his seventh year as a volunteer and resident at CTTB. One could say that it is rare for a Westerner to be able to stay at CTTB for seven years, because

史蒂夫·塞特拉是萬佛聖城目前的義工中，極少數的西方人之一。他於2008年初首度參訪聖城之後，將住在馬來西亞的家人全部遷入聖城定居。

當初來到聖城的因緣，是因為陪同馬來西亞的一位南傳法師馬欣達長老來美，一起參訪加州與奧瑞岡州的佛教道場。馬欣達長老指名非去不可的道場，正是萬佛聖城與北加州沙思達道場。但史蒂夫從未聽過這兩座道場。他們於2008年初抵達聖城後，由方丈恒律法師與易果容居士共同引導參觀。史蒂夫在參觀女校後，深深感覺這就是女兒應該就讀的學校。

果然，2010年，他的同修與女兒也來到聖城常住——比他晚一年。史蒂夫在聖城擔任常住義工至今已有七年，對西方人而言，是相當難得的。對他來說，要融入聖城這座亞裔社區也是不容易。因為文化、觀點、生活方式等各方面的差異，在在都是挑戰。聖城早期住眾中，西方人比亞裔多得多，當時上

it is more difficult for him to adapt to this specific Asian community. There are many challenges in terms of different cultures, views and ways of living. It was very different during the time when the Venerable Master was around; then, there were many more Westerners than Asians.

Steve's previous career in Asia was working with two different international companies in a forest products chemical field. In his work, he sold and oversaw the construction of three chemical plants, one each in China, Malaysia and Thailand. In Asia, Steve worked closely with several US Ambassadors, high ranking government officials and international business leaders as Chairman of the US Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors. He was also requested to sit on the Board of Directors of the Education Commission to interview and select Fulbright Scholars.

He earned his MBA in Asia-Pacific Management in Asia and a Doctorate in Metaphysics. He became a vegetarian in 1997 for the sake of his health and the following year he read Buddhist books and came across Buddhist monks. Later, he took the Three Refuges in 1998 and then the Five Precepts. In 2014, he and his wife Amanda both received the Bodhisattva Precepts at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas.

From a young age, Steve was trained to work hard and to do his best in all matters. He is well known as a hard working volunteer and for several years in a row, he worked over 60 hours a week. He is also known as the, "Yes! Man," because he never says, "No" to any request from Dharma Masters. He is a very dedicated and responsible man.

Steve is a multi-tasker. He works in all areas of building and ground repair and fixing, such as putting down carpeting; building shelves and cubicles; and repairing old chairs, tables and cabinets. The list goes on. He also takes care of the safety of CTTB by overseeing the alarm systems in all buildings with the security company. He is also a teacher at the Boys' School and for the academic year 2015-2016, he had the opportunity to teach "US Government and Micro Economics" at the Girls' School in his own daughter's senior class.

On June 10th, Dharma Master Heng Shun presented Dr. Steve Setera a special award of grateful appreciation for his seven years of outstanding dedication, patience and service as a volunteer teacher and administrator (2009-2016) of Instilling Goodness and Developing Virtue Schools.

During his speech at the Girls' School graduation, he shared a quote from Ajahn Brahm:

"Those who do voluntary community work often begin with the idea that they are giving something back to society. However, they usually finish up realizing that they have received much more than they ever gave. Their experience tells them that giving your time to a good cause is not an expense but an investment, always with a high rate of return."

Steve feels he has more to give and will strive to do so despite his age. He is currently 72. For him, age is just a number. ❀

人仍然住世，情況頗不相同。

史蒂夫從前在亞洲曾為兩家不同的跨國公司服務，工作項目是在森林產品的化學領域；曾負責監督中國、馬來西亞與泰國三座化學工廠的興建與出售。史蒂夫在亞洲曾任美國商會理事主席，與多位美國大使、政府高官、以及國際企業領袖密切合作。也曾應邀擔任教育委員會董事，負責面談並挑選傅爾布萊特學者。

他獲有亞太企管碩士與形上學博士學位。1997年因健康因素開始吃素，1998年有機會接觸佛教僧侶與佛書，同年即皈依三寶，其後並受五戒。2014年，他與同修在萬佛聖城一起受了菩薩戒。

史蒂夫從小就被訓練得吃苦耐勞，做任何事都全力以赴。大家都知道他擔任義工也是非常勤奮，連著數年，每週工作60小時以上。他對法師提出的任何要求，一律來者不拒，是有名的「好！好！」先生。非常投入，十分負責。

在聖城他什麼都做，從維修、木工、做架子、隔間，到修復舊桌椅與櫃子等；項目繁多，不及備載。他也負責聖城的保安，各建築物的警報系統，並與保全公司聯繫。可以說他是「多方位義工」，因為他也是男校老師；2015至2016學年度，他在女兒就讀的培德女中應屆畢業班教「美國政府與微觀經濟學」兩門課程。

2016年6月10日，恒順法師頒發特別獎給史蒂夫，表揚他從2009至2016年，在育良小學與培德中學擔任義務教師與行政工作的傑出貢獻、耐心與服務。

在今年女校畢業典禮的演講中，史蒂夫引用布拉姆長老的話，和大家分享：「從事社區義務工作的人，一開始都自認是回饋社會。但往往到最後才體認到，他們的收獲遠比付出的多。他們的經驗顯示，為一個美好的理想投入自己的時間，並不是支出，而是高報酬率的投資。」

史蒂夫認為，他還有更多可付出之處，也想努力做到，無論自己的年齡有多大。對於現年72歲的史蒂夫·塞特拉而言，年齡只是數字罷了。 ❀