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五月十日，由環保署、國際佛光會中華總會與佛光山寺共同主辦的「國定佛誕節暨母親節」浴佛法會，史無前例的在總統府前凱達格蘭大道上莊嚴登場。自一九九九年當時的總統李登輝先生正式宣布，將佛誕節訂為國定假日，到二〇〇九正值十周年，距離我最初為佛誕節爭取為國定假日，也有五十年了，我有感而發，寫下「千僧萬眾祝佛誕，一心十願報母恩」做為這次慶祝活動的主題。

那天烈日高懸，仍有十萬人湧進凱道浴佛、祈願。承蒙總統馬英九先生、國民黨主席吳伯雄、台北市長郝龍斌、聯合國NGO和平促進會發言人Miss Gina Otto，與各國駐華使節、各宗教界代表等嘉賓光臨參加，共享佛陀的庇佑，甚至天主教梵蒂岡教廷特地從海外傳來祝賀之意。佛教的祥和氣氛，讓一向被用來當做抗議、政爭的凱道，化戾氣為和平，寫下不凡的史頁，因而奠定了總統府對佛光山再去凱道慶祝佛誕節的信心。同時，在南半球紐西蘭北島佛光山，總理Mr. Hon John Key也親臨浴佛，吸引了全紐西蘭各大媒體爭相採訪，也為佛教史添上一筆佳話。我們期盼，將來每年都能到凱達格蘭大道上舉辦佛誕節浴佛法會，讓萬千信眾的歡喜祈求，能帶給國家和平進步。

九月九日，韓國通度寺贈送佛光山一襲佛陀金襴袈裟，並由僧眾、信徒百位護送至台灣。當天佛光山僧信兩序排開，從菩提路迎請至大雄寶殿，隆重舉行「恭迎韓國通度寺佛陀金襴袈裟儀式」。這是繼一九八二年兩寺締結成為兄弟寺，二十七年後再結殊勝法緣。未來金襴袈裟將恭奉在佛陀紀念館，讓全世界佛教徒瞻仰禮拜。

同這一天，泰國第一座唐式建築「泰華寺」也舉行奠基儀式。儀式由泰國僧王Ven. Somdej Phra Buddha Jan和國際佛光會中華總會會長心定和尚主持。寺內除了規劃佛學院、譯經處、大殿等仿唐式建築外，象徵南北傳佛教融和的菩薩鐘樓、羅漢鼓樓也將高高聳立，恆久擊叩著佛教的梵樂法音。

攬筆至此，向大家報告一件千載難得的盛事：以四方形基座象徵「四聖諦」的佛陀紀念館，周圍有八座寶塔烘托，分別為「一教、二眾、三好、四給、五洲、六度、七誠、八道」，表示做人基本修行的「八正道」。主體建築裡有四個地宮收藏世界各地佛陀寶物和信徒文物；容納萬人的大會堂、豎立一尊百米高的銅佛坐像，象徵佛陀「偉大與崇高」……種種規劃，無非希望再現佛陀說法景象，讓每一位前來參訪的人都能睹景而生起渴求佛法的道心。

為了讓信眾的願力道心，能具體與佛陀同在，佛陀紀念館籌建委員會發起「百萬心經入法身」全球信眾抄經活動，要徵集百萬人的寫經，奉納在佛陀的法身中，留存千載。活動至今，已有數十萬人報名參加了！

「封人」以後，我仍然席不暇暖地為佛教之發展，常作佛事，也不時在心中構思著更適合現代人的弘法方式。縱觀時下趨勢與人心所向，我指示佛光山各相關單位開辦生活美學班、行政秘書班，以四個月為一期，聘請優良的專業師資，免費提供未婚青年一個培訓專長的機會。案例成功後，去年又再陸續開辦了編藏人才培訓班、餐旅服務人員培訓班及傳播媒體培訓班，旨在培育具專業素養的青年人才，同時提供懷抱理想的青年更多元的學習場域，在佛門裡大展長才。

繼「揚州講壇」於大陸造成熱潮後，在趙幸懷箴女士大力奔走下，「中美文化講壇」在休士頓中美寺開講。先後邀請到白先勇、于丹、葉篤行、心定和尚、依空法師等，分別就文化、藝術、佛學及醫學等題為當地華人和西方人士講說，場場都深獲好評。值得一提的是，甫落成的美洲休士頓中美寺有了新住持，十一月，我為來自南京棲霞山的住持隆相和尚，主持「中美寺住持晉山陞座典禮」。我一生不怕給人，對我來說，這是「得人」，是大陸佛教走出去的契機，也是我和大陸法緣的延伸。為此，趙元修先生發心捐贈一千萬美元，繼續護持中美寺的工程。

也是在初秋時節，我授衣傳法給北普陀山方丈、遼寧省佛教協會副會長道極法師，及河北省佛教協會副會長真廣法師，這是大陸佛教界繼隆相和尚後，成為臨濟宗第四十九代傳人。接著，應吉林大學及長春般若寺邀請，到哈爾濱的寶聖寺、淨覺寺，及倓虛大師創建的天台宗道場——極樂寺講說佛法，也應邀參加青海市靈珠山菩提寺落成典禮，為方丈明哲長老「送座」。

隨後即輾轉趕往吉隆坡，主持一場三皈五戒法會及千人讀書會，之後參與十一月十七到二十一日國際佛光會世界總會在星馬泰舉辦的理監事會議。此次會議在郵輪上舉行，我以「人間佛教」是「家庭和順、人我和敬、社會和諧、世界和平」四點，勉勵與會四千多名幹部，大家肩負起接引青年、護持佛法、淨化世界和廣度眾生的使命，發揚佛說的、人要的、淨化的、善美的、歡喜的、快樂的、安全的，能夠增加人類幸福的「人間佛教」，讓普世人類也可以來共同分享。

從初秋到深秋，幾月來一路僕僕風塵，走訪東北、山東、星馬與泰國，山水明媚、風景秀麗與濃厚的人情味，但最美的仍是當地人求法若渴的信仰，不時的感動在心。由此回想去年初，到訪河南洛陽白馬寺，並提寫「華夏首刹」；登上嵩山少林寺，實踐多年發下必到少林寺參禮的心願，為少林武僧隨

Temple Visit

On November 21, 2009, Hsi Fang Temple hosted a visit by a group from the Ladle Fellowship, a charitable service program of the First Presbyterian Church of San Diego. Ladle Fellowship has been helping the homeless and poor in downtown San Diego since 1983.



The group visiting the temple was led by Allen Randall, who as accompanied by five Ladle Fellowship students currently taking a course which explores world cultures and religions.

They were met by Ven. Yung Chia, Tsung Hsin, and Carl Ewig. Carl talked with them for an hour and answered their questions, mainly about the temple and the basic tenants and practices of Buddhism.

The students had many thoughtful questions and were sincerely interested in learning about Buddhism and its growth in America.

Reflection of Five Precepts

- by Xi Deng

The majestic temple and venerable assemblage at the five precepts, brought back the intense memory of the many masters that have been my good fortune to study and practice under these past 54 years. All through outwardly different in external appearance, all agreed on one common truth, that being "gate, gate, paragate. parasamgate bodhi savha."

Beyond the splendor of the temple, beyond the glistening gold statue of the Buddha in the setting sun, was the reflection of the perfect jewel glowing in the hearts of the venerable master Hsing Yun and all those present whose many years of cultivation and practice showed most brilliantly.

Smallness Is Not to be Overlooked

- by Venerable Master Hsing Yun

At age twenty-three, in order to pass the time while standing guard in the wooded hills of Fa Yun Temple, on the frigid ground in a barren shed, I penned the book, Singing in Silence. It was an instant hit and, for my confidence, another impetus. Privately I pledged to carry on with my literary endeavors so that devotees would continue to bask in the verve of the Dharma.

At age twenty-five, I was a teacher of the Taiwan Buddhist Teaching Group. Between classes, a colleague, Kuan Kai-tu, volunteered to give me and Venerable Yanpei lessons in Japanese. It went on for six months. It was this humble beginning of mine in the Japanese language that equipped me to take on the formidable translation of the Japanese Buddhist text which Venerable Chih Tao later gave me. With reinforcement from Wang Fa-lien, who came up with the paper, Venerable Sheng Jui, who came up with the

funding, Venerable Sheng Yin, who copied the contents, Venerable Hsin Wu, who proofread, and Venerable Chu Mo, who rendered the calligraphy, the tiny volume of the Discourse on Avalokitesvara's Universal Gate Chapter was quickly finished and successfully published. This translated work from Japanese to Chinese was the culmination of numerous causes and conditions which, without question, exemplified the revelation of Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva at the Universal Gate!

At age twenty-seven, in a small room of Lei Yin Temple and by using the sewing-machine as a makeshift desk, I authored two major manuscripts: the National Master Yulin and the Life of Sakyamuni Buddha. The former was made into a motion picture and a miniseries for television. I honestly never expected this book to be transformed into moving pictures for the propagation of the Dharma. Each word of the second book that I wrote was to me a resonance with the Buddha and every line, a bonding. Furthermore, the royalties that I collected from these two texts helped expedite the purchase of properties and the construction of more temples. The prajna of language in the form of a couple of books not only sustained wisdom as life, but also opened up a vast resource for the great cause of the Dharma.

Upcoming Events Highlight:

- 1/1/2010, Friday
 - 2009 Vigil for Peace Lantern Service
- 1/2/2010 - 1/3/2010, Saturday & Sunday
 - Amitabha Buddha Ceremony
- 1/10/2010, Sunday
 - 2010 Lamp Offering Service
- 1/31/2010, Sunday 11:30am
 - BLIA Young Adult Division Establishment Ceremony
- 2/13/2010, Saturday 8:30pm
 - 2009 Lunar Year Eve Service
- 2/13/2010, Saturday 11:00pm
 - First Incense for 2010 Lunar Year
- 2/14/2010, Sunday 7:30pm
 - (1/1/2010 Lunar Year)
 - Homage to Thousand Buddhas

Hsi Fang Temple Class Schedule

Tuesday	10:00-12:00	Hsi-Fang Buddhism Class
Wednesday	10:00-12:00	Chinese Buddhism Class (North County)
Thursday	17:30-18:45	English Yoga Class
Friday	19:00-21:00	Chinese Sutra Study (Every Even Week)
Saturday	14:30-15:30	Children's Dance Class (1st, 3rd and 5th Saturday)
Sunday	10:00-12:00	Children Sunday Class
	14:30-15:30	English Buddhism Class
	15:30-16:30	English Meditation Class
	14:00-16:00	Cantonese Buddhism Class

