

各位護法、朋友們，大家吉祥！

時光荏苒，又是臘盡春回時，祈祝檀那信施新春平安！

在時光的煙雲中，人間萬象永遠都是悲喜交疊。和往年一樣，二〇〇九年我依然沒有停下雲水的腳步，學習佛陀行化人間的精神。所不同的是，為佛教大事也，無暇顧及色身，雖然視力大幅衰退，我總想著不能辜負信施的發心護持，而更加緊弘法的腳步，卻因此覺得心眼愈加明亮，這也算是另一種收穫了。

檢視二〇〇九年，有令人振奮的一頁歷史，也有教人悲慟的人間一面；八月八日，莫拉克颱風毫不留情地肆虐，台灣發生了五十年來最慘重的風災，僅僅三天時間，就使得南台灣數十個鄉鎮陷入水災的困境，千百戶人家骨肉失散、家園傾毀，「天地不仁，以萬物為芻狗」，世人何忍哉？

我在國外獲悉消息，心知救災不能等，即刻打電話回佛光山，指示成立佛光山救災中心，全球道場同步設立超薦及消災牌位，並在第一時間捐出一千萬元給內政部，做為賑災專款使用。其後中華宗教文化交流協會和大陸中國佛教協會分別捐款人民幣五百萬元，指定由我代為轉交內政部。

我人雖不在台灣，但心繫災民，一時也無法安心作息，乃撰寫「為莫拉克颱風水災災情祈願文」以為祝禱。佛光山福慧家園及旗山禪淨中心，在高雄縣政府的屬意下，設立了讓災民備感溫馨的安置所。此外，普門中學提供大樓校舍讓那瑪夏鄉的學生能順利開學；南華大學招募學生擔任義工，前往災區協助整理校園；佛光山各別分院號召所有信眾，無論是提供便當、物資、人力、捐血、醫療、心靈輔導等等，無不是秉持「人飢己飢，人溺己溺」的同理心，如同在幫助父母手足一樣，不計付出地去做。

我常說，只要事情能圓滿，成功不必在我！讓我感到欣慰的是，做為佛光山護法、佛光會會員的大家，在這次的救災中都做到了。八月三十日，高雄縣政府舉行一場「八八水災高雄縣各大宗教聯合祈福祝禱大會」，單國璽樞機主教、各宗教人士，和朝野兩黨的指導長官，以及參與其中的佛光會員們，萬人雲集鳳山衛武營，以各自的宗教信仰虔心為災民默哀、祝禱。一場大會，宗教慈心憫眾與和諧精神顯露無遺，讓世人矚目。

陽春三月，另一個令世界擊節讚賞的宗教盛會——第二屆世界佛教論壇，由中國佛教協會、中華宗教文化交流協會、國際佛光會、香港佛教聯合會共同主辦，於江蘇無錫開幕、在台北閉幕。計有漢傳、南傳、藏傳等六十個國家，上千位佛教領袖、學者與大德居士參加。五天的會議，以「和諧世界，眾緣和合」為主的十六個議題，分別在無錫靈山與台灣各寺院道場進行分組研討。

主辦者之一的國際佛光會，在這次活動中，負責台灣的主要行政規劃，發揮了純熟的活動能力，讓來台的七百多位貴賓，對台灣佛教高水準的軟實力刮目相看。我在機場迎接大家到台灣進行後半場論壇，與每位貴賓一一握

手當中，感受每個人臉上溢於言表的欣喜之情，我知道：這次論壇的成功，在相互「尊重」、「對等」的原則下，不只創下兩岸宗教首次直航包機的歷史，更是推進了兩岸與世界和平的腳程。

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，到二〇〇九年正值十周年，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，將來每一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總會長心定和尚主持。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，要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、七誡、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，在趙辜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，也應邀參加青海省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「華夏首剎」；登上嵩山少林寺，實踐多年發下必到少林寺參禮的心願，為少林武僧隨緣講話；在南京古雞鳴寺為佛學院和設立於北京法源寺的中國佛學院學僧和信眾，講「和諧」的真義。

弘法講說、課徒會客之餘，為了使出家人瞭解立足現代所應建立的觀念和思想，我以三個月時間錄製一百零四集的《僧事百講》。由慈惠法師提問，我將曾經在叢林參學時期對僧事所見、所聞、所學，與對佛教叢林未來發展的心中遠景，透過影像「傳」給佛光山僧信和十方大眾，做為住持寺院、建寺安僧、弘法度眾及認識佛教的教材。

八月一整月，我趁著各種空隙，日日拈筆濡墨，寫下八千多幅字，我自認筆下龍鳳從來不堪與名家相比，聽說多少人求字、求法，為了給人歡喜，因而不揣淺陋地振筆疾「書」。由於我四十多年的糖尿病，導致眼底鈣化，在視力微弱下，只能憑著心裡的衡量，一氣呵成，一筆到底不容間斷；因為只要中途停頓，就會看不清、抓不準筆畫而難以完成了，所以我就定名為「一筆字」。承蒙各界看得起，為這七千多幅字，辦了「一筆字」墨跡展，十月十三日從馬來西亞開始，接著是新加坡、台北、佛光山、台南、台中、高雄等地巡展，義賣所得將全數捐給「公益信託教育基金」。

這個公益信託基金於二〇〇八年成立，委由銀行管理，辦理各項公益活動，如 Power 教師獎、真善美新聞貢獻獎及贊助南京大學增設中華文化研究所等。首屆真善美新聞貢獻獎於十一月舉行頒獎典禮，分別頒發給成舍我、徐佳士、黃年和南方朔，這四位對新聞工作有相當貢獻的資深媒體人。這一次「拋磚」只是一個開始，相信未來能引發新聞事業更多真善美的音聲。

此外，去年也拍攝了「佛光山的故事」，在人間福報三年刊登圓滿的《人間萬事》結集成十二冊、五十五冊的《法華藏》、法文版《人間佛教的戒定慧》、尼泊爾版《佛光菜根譚》、《往事百語》電子版等出版品，陸續問世。義大利插畫家朱里安諾將我闡釋心經的小故事，藉由《繪本心經》在兒童的小心田裡，將佛法扎

根。在靈感偶發時，也做了一首「雲湖之歌」抒發我對祖庭大覺寺旁雲湖景物的感懷，歌詞是這樣的：

山明水秀 煙雨朦朧 宜興的雲湖在群山之中  
向東是百里洋場的上海 向西是六朝繁華的金陵  
南有杭城 北有揚州  
要與宜興的陶都媲美 要與宜興的竹海爭勝……

感謝劉家昌先生譜曲，曲調十分優美動聽，把歌詞的意境傳達得淋漓盡致，哼唱之間彷彿雲湖之美近在咫尺。

二〇〇八年上海大覺文化正式成立至今，欣見中國大陸對人間佛教的渴求，在和當地出版單位合作下，已出版簡體字版的《佛學教科書》、《人間佛教書系》、《佛光菜根譚》、《迷悟之間》、《談讀書》等著作，在噹噹網、博庫圖書網、《亞洲週刊》熱門文化指標、《新京報》等新書排行都是榜上有名，持續不墜。而在美國 Book Expo America、加拿大街頭曬書活動、法蘭克福國際書展、上海台商廟會等國際書展上，佛光山各類出版品也大放異彩。

普門中學體操隊一直以來表現優異，去年代表高雄縣參加全中運，拿下國女及高女組團體雙料冠軍，連續四年拔得頭籌；女籃隊勇奪「九十八年全國高中籃球甲級聯賽」冠軍盃；由佛光山申請成立的「三好體育協會」，也在五月通過內政部核准正式立案，這是一個以推廣全民體育運動，淨化社會風氣為宗旨的協會，經由各項運動競技活動來接引青年學佛。

我更積極推動校園三好運動，鼓勵學生做好事、說好話、存好心，佛光

會未來也計劃每年選出一百戶「佛光三好人家」，每戶十萬元做為鼓勵與回饋，以此慢慢建立起三好校園、三好家庭、三好社會。

前香港大學副校長李焯芬博士接任西來大學校長，均頭中小學由田正美校長接任。座落於台東的均一國中小學校舍於八月啟用，首度招生即額滿，相信在曾漢塘校長帶領下能打造一個三好校園，培育出三好學生。佛光大學與南韓國立慶尚大學簽訂「學術交流合約」及「雙聯學制」，並和西來大學簽訂學術交流合約。南華大學也與河南平頂山學院簽署協議書，聘用雙方教師為客座教授，並進行學生交流。連接嘉義大林鎮與南華大學的「南華路」，於七月舉行通車啟用，是全國第一條以學校名稱命名的道路。

在鳳凰花開的六月，來自南非、阿根廷、加拿大、新加坡、馬來西亞、泰國等八個國家的第一屆英文佛學碩士，於佛光大學佛教學院取得學位；而從一九九四年開辦至今的勝鬘書院，計二十二期的歷屆畢業生也回到佛光山大團圓，在十五周年聯誼會上暢談未來的「選擇」。

台北佛光合唱團參加在韓國舉行的「世界奧林匹克合唱團錦標賽」，在數百個合唱團中脫穎而出，拿下宗教音樂組銀牌。如是我聞出版的《慈悲三昧水懺》，榮獲「第二十屆金曲獎傳統暨藝術類」活動，頒贈「最佳宗教音樂專輯獎」；《人間萬事》獲第三屆金印獎圖書印刷類第一名殊榮。另外，我也受中山大學頒贈「榮譽文學博士」學位，做了中山大學的「畢業生」。六十年前，我來到台灣至宜蘭住持弘法；半個世紀後，幸得宜蘭縣、市長頒給我「榮譽縣民」與「榮譽市民」暨「榮譽市鑰」。

一甲子的歲月，弘法的腳程由宜蘭逐步行遍五大洲，全球各地的佛光山別分院就像轉動不息的法輪，晝夜為弘揚佛法而轉動：

建寺十五年的溫哥華佛光山首傳在家五戒菩薩戒戒會；西來寺舉辦首屆「漢傳佛經翻譯會議」，在舉行三壇大戒期間同時啟建一場萬緣水陸法會；佛香講堂舉辦消災祈福大悲懺法會，有三千人參與；宜興大覺寺舉辦第一屆徒眾親屬會，喜氣非常；南非南華寺通過向國稅局申請的免捐贈稅，「佛光山南華寺」由此取代「南非佛教協會 IBASA」寺廟運作；中天寺及國際佛光會昆士蘭協會分別獲得洛根市政府多元文化團體獎及洛根市教育獎……。

四月，南屏別院落成啟用，奧地利維也納佛光山道場舉行安基典禮；十月，墨爾本博士山佛光緣舉行安基典禮；芝加哥禪淨中心、西班牙佛光山道場也相繼落成啟用。

一年殘冬一年春，冬天過去，春暖花開，「人間福報」即將屆滿十周年，在新的一年，我也將持續以「一筆字」與有緣人共勉，而「百萬心經入法身」活動，仍然熱烈進行著……。總之，法輪常轉是佛弟子夙夜匪懈的使命。由於二〇一〇年歲次屬「虎」，我為檀施寫下「威德福海」春聯，祈願人間祥和如沐慈光福海之中；眾生和諧共存，彼此互惠，盡未來際。祝福大家！

星云 合十

二〇一〇年元月一日

Dear Dharma Protectors and Friends,

Auspicious blessings to you all!

Time has passed quickly; as another year draws to a close, I would like to send my prayers to all our benefactors for a peaceful new spring.

As the river of time flows, this world continues to be filled with both joy and sorrow. Just like the previous years, I have not stopped traveling in 2009, in order to follow Buddha's example in covering the world with his footsteps and teachings. The only difference is that having dedicated most of my time to Buddhism, not much had been spared to care for my physical health. Despite the continued degradation of my vision, my mind tells me that I cannot disappoint the devotees for their dedication and support. Therefore my footsteps have only sped up for Dharma propagation. Somehow, this has enabled me to find a brighter and clearer mind, which can be considered a type of unexpected benefit.

An overview of 2009 reveals both exciting developments in history, as well as heart-breaking tragedies. On August 8th, Typhoon Morakot struck Taiwan and caused the most devastating damages in fifty years. In only three days' time, dozens of towns and villages in Southern Taiwan were washed out by the flood that dislocated thousands of families and took countless lives. "Heaven and earth are so ruthless that human lives are regarded as livestock." How can the world bear to see this?

Being abroad when I received the news, I knew that disaster relief cannot wait, and called Fo Guang Shan immediately to establish the Fo Guang Shan Emergency Relief Center. I also instructed Fo Guang Shan branch temples worldwide to set up prayer plaques, and donated an emergency relief fund of ten million dollars (NT) to the Ministry of the Interior. Subsequently, China Religious Culture Communication Association, and the Buddhist Association of China also donated five million dollars (RMB) and entrusted me to redirect this money to the Ministry of the Interior.

Although I was not physically in Taiwan, I was very concerned about those affected, and wrote "A Prayer for the Victims of Typhoon Morakot" in order to send my prayers to them. At the request of the Kaohsiung County government, Fo Guang Shan Fuhui Home for Spiritual Cultivation and Cishan Center were transformed into shelters to provide comfort and warmth to the dislocated victims. Furthermore, Pu-Men Senior High School made available one of their buildings to ensure that students from the destroyed Namasia Village could start the new semester. Nanhua University recruited student volunteers to help clean up and restore damaged school campuses. Devotees of Fo Guang Shan came together to do all they could to help; whether it was to pack meal boxes, help transport supplies, donate blood, provide medical care, or counseling, each of them devoted their efforts selflessly and helped the victims as if they were family during a time of difficulty.

I always tell others that just as long as there is a favorable outcome, we do not always have to be the success factor. It was most comforting to see our devotees and Buddha's Light International Association (BLIA) members fulfilling such spirit when they participated

in the relief work. On August 30th, Kaohsiung County government organized a joint-religious prayer ceremony for the Morakot Typhoon disaster, several religious leaders, government officials and BLIA members were amongst the crowd of ten thousand who gathered at Fengshan Weiwu Military Camp. Prayers were given under different religious ceremonies and condolences were sent to the victims. This ceremony brought the world's attention to the sympathetic compassion of religions, as well as inter-religious harmony.

In the spring, the month of March was graced by the Second World Buddhist Forum, a much applauded world class religious event. Jointly organized by the Buddhist Association of China, China Religious Culture Communication Association, Buddha's Light International Association, and Hong Kong Buddhist Association, the forum opened in Wuxi, Jiangsu and closed in Taipei. This five-day forum was attended by more than one thousand Buddhist leaders from over 60 countries, representing the Chinese, Southern, and Tibetan traditions. With the theme, "A Harmonious World; A Synergy of Conditions," the sixteen subforums took place at Lingshan, Wuxi, as well as Buddhist temples across Taiwan.

As one of the organizers, BLIA was responsible for most of the organization and planning for the Taiwan portion of the forum. The more than 700 guests who arrived in Taiwan were highly impressed by the experienced event-planning abilities displayed by the association, and marveled at the sophisticated soft power demonstrated by Taiwan's Buddhist organizations. When I welcomed our guests at the airport in Taiwan for the second half of the forum, I saw the joy on their faces as I shook hands with them. I knew that under the principles of respect and equality, the success of this forum not only sets an unprecedented example of direct flights across the Taiwan Strait, but also a milestone for cross-strait and world peace.

On May 10th, the National Buddha's Day and Mother's Day Celebration was co-organized, for the very first time, on the Ketagalan Boulevard in front of the Presidential Office, by the Environmental Protection Administration, BLIA and Fo Guang Shan. It has been a decade since the then Taiwan president Lee Teng-hui declared Buddha's Day as a national holiday in 1999, and half a century since I first started petitioning for this day to be recognized as a national holiday. With much feelings, I gave this celebration a theme, "A Thousand Monastics and Ten Thousand Devotees Celebrate Buddha's Day; One Mind, Ten Vows Express Our Gratitude for all Mothers."

Despite the scorching sun, a crowd of more than one hundred thousand poured into Ketagalan Boulevard to bathe the Buddha and say their prayers. The event was also graced by the presence of President Ma Ying-jeou, Nationalist Party Chairperson Wu Po-hsiung, Taipei Mayor Hao Long-bin, the United Nations NGO Peace Making Division Director Miss Gina Otto, the world's ambassadors and representatives in Taiwan, and leaders from different religious organizations. Together, we shared the blessings of the Buddha; even the Vatican sent a letter of congratulations to rejoice in the celebration. The peaceful atmosphere presented by Buddhists, turned the boulevard from its usual location for violent protests and rallies into a place of peace and joy, which has never happened before. In the Southern Hemisphere, New Zealand Prime Minister Hon. John Key also participated in the Buddha's Day celebration

organized by our branch in Auckland, attracting the attention of the media and making yet another memorable event for Buddhism. It is hoped that Buddha's Day can be celebrated annually on Ketagalan Boulevard, so that thousands of Buddhists can share their joy and pray for peace in the country.

On September 9th, one hundred monastics and lay devotees of Korea's Tongdosa Temple escorted the Buddha's gold embroidered kasaya to Fo Guang Shan. The monastics and devotees of Fo Guang Shan lined the entire path that leads to the Main Shrine to welcome this precious gift. Twenty-seven years after Fo Guang Shan and Tongdosa Temple became brother temples; the bond was once again strengthened by this event. The kasaya will be enshrined within the Buddha Memorial Hall in order for Buddhists around the world to pay their respects and behold this treasure in person.

That same day also witnessed the foundation laying ceremony for Tai Hua Temple – the first Tang dynasty style Buddhist temple ever to be built in Thailand. The ceremony was presided over by the Thai Sangharaja Ven. Somdej Phra Buddha Jan and Buddha's Light International Association, Chunghwa president Venerable Hsin Ting. The temple will consist of a Buddhist college, translation center, and Main Shrine that imitate Tang dynasty architecture. There will also be a tall bodhisattva bell tower and arhat drum tower that symbolize harmony between the Northern and Southern schools, where the Buddhist melodies will be sounded from these towers constantly.

At this point, there is an extremely rare matter worth mentioning: The main complex of the Buddha Memorial Hall consists of a square base that symbolizes the Four Noble Truths and is flanked by Eight Pagodas which are named: One Religion, Two Communities, Three Goodnesses, Four Givings, Five Continents, Six Paramitas, Seven Admonitions, and Eight Paths, respectively. These represent the Eightfold Path, the basic guidelines to our spiritual cultivation as humans. Inside the main complex, there will be four underground palaces that hold Buddhist artifacts collected from around the world and those donated by Fo Guang Shan's devotees, a conference hall that seats more than ten thousand, and a one-hundred-meter tall bronze sitting Buddha statue that symbolizes the grandeur and loftiness of the Buddha. All the design concepts are based on the hope of reliving the days when the Buddha expounded the Dharma, so that every visitor can be inspired to follow the path of the Dharma.

In order to allow devoted Buddhists to feel the presence of the Buddha, the preparatory committee of the Buddha Memorial Hall introduced the "One Million Heart Sutras in the Buddha" sutra transcription event that will involve Buddhists from the entire world. The goal is to collect one million transcriptions, which will then be enshrined within the Buddha statue for the next thousand years to come. To date, several hundred thousand Buddhists have already participated in the event.

Since announcing the scaling down of my public appearances, I have still been active in contributing to the development of Buddhism and the propagation of Buddhist affairs. At the same time, I have continued to contemplate an approach to Dharma propagation that is suitable to the needs of modern times. After observing contemporary trends and modes of thinking, I instructed Fo Guang Shan's departments to organize programs such as life

aesthetics and administrative secretaries. Lasting four months per session, professionals are recruited to help train single young adults with new skills. Following the success of these two pilot programs, additional programs for Buddhist text editors, hospitality, and media communication were subsequently started in order to help train young adults to become professionals, provide youth with diverse learning grounds, and offer an opportunity to utilize their skills for Buddhism.

Following the success of the Yangzhou Forum in China, Lydia Zhao dedicated her efforts to starting the Chung Mei Culture Forum at the Chung Mei Buddhist Temple in Houston. Speakers such as Pai Hsien-yung (Writer), Yu Dan (Beijing Normal University Professor), Edward T.H. Yeh (Professor and Chairman, Department of Cardiology, University of Texas), Venerable Hsin Ting, and Venerable Yi Kung were invited to give talks on culture, art, Buddhism and medicine to local Americans and Chinese; each panel received wide acclaim. Also worthy of mention is that Chung Mei Temple has a newly appointed abbot, Venerable Long Xiang, who is also the current Venerable abbot of Qixia Temple in Nanjing, China. His inaugural ceremony took place in November. I am never one who is afraid to give. In my mind, not only does this appointment signify the recruitment of excellence, it is a chance for Buddhism in China to come out, as well as an extension of the connection that I share with China. In support of this idea, James Y.H. Zhao offered to donate ten million (US) dollars to continue the construction of Chung Mei Buddhist Temple.

During early autumn, I transmitted my Dharma lineage to the abbot of Northern Putuo Mountain, also Vice-President of Liaoning Province Buddhist Association - Venerable Dao Ji, and also Vice-President of Hebei Province Buddhist Association - Venerable Zhen Guang. These two Venerables became the forty-ninth generation of the Linji Dharma lineage after Venerable Long Xiang. I was also invited to give Dharma talks at Jilin University, Banruo Temple in Changchun, Baosheng Temple and Jingjue Temple in Harbin, and Jile Temple - a Tiantai temple founded by Master Tanxu. In addition, I was also invited to the Inaugural Ceremony of Puti Temple on Lingzhu Mountain in Qinghai, where I witnessed the inaugural ceremony for their new abbot - Master Ming Zhe.

Afterwards, I went directly to Kuala Lumpur to preside over a Triple Gem Refuge and Five Precepts Ceremony as well as a reading event involving one thousand people. Next, I continued to Singapore for the BLIA World Headquarters Board of Directors Meeting, which took place in Singapore and Malaysia between 17th and 21st of November. The meeting took place aboard the Star Virgo Cruise, where I was able to inspire over four thousand members to take on the mission of guiding youths into Buddhism, protect and support the Dharma, purify the world, and broadly deliver sentient beings through the following four points: 1) family harmony and observance, 2) inter-personal harmony and respect, 3) social harmony, and 4) world peace. It is hoped that BLIA members will propagate Humanistic Buddhism that was taught by the Buddha himself, that is needed by human beings, that is pure, and that is virtuous and beautiful, joy, peaceful, and can add to the happiness of humanity, so that the whole world can share such a wonderful religion.

From the months of early through late autumn, I tirelessly traveled to Dongbei and

Shandong in Mainland China, and Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand, where I saw radiant and enchanting mountains and waters, beautiful sceneries, and the richness of humanity. Nevertheless, the most beautiful aspect was witnessing the deep earnestness with which the local people sought the Dharma. Time and again, I continue to be deeply touched by this memory. This reminds me of my experiences from the beginning of last year: when I visited Baima (White Horse) Temple in Luoyang, Henan, where I wrote “The Top Temple of Hua Xia” ; the realization of my wish of many years to visit Shaolin Temple when I ascended Mt. Song and spoke to the Shaolin monks; and when I spoke about the truth of “harmony” to the monastics and devotees at the Buddhist College of Ancient Jiming Temple in Nanjing, and the Buddhist Academy of China in Fayuan Temple, Beijing.

In addition to propagating the Dharma, instructing disciples, and meetings with guests, I also spent three months’ time to record 104 episodes of One Hundred Lessons on Monastery Languages and Affairs in order for today’ s monastics to understand the principles and positions that they should hold in order to keep up with the times. Answering questions raised by Venerable Tzu Hui, I shared what I had seen, heard and learned during my learning and study period in the monasteries, as well as my prospective on the future development of Buddhist monasteries. Through these episodes, I hope to transmit to Fo Guang Shan’ s monastics, devotees, and everyone from all ten directions a teaching reference for: managing a temple, maintaining the Sangha community, Dharma propagation, liberating sentient beings, and the means of getting to know Buddhism.

During the entire month of August, I used my free moments to dip the calligraphy brush into ink and wrote over 8,000 pieces of calligraphy. I personally believe that my calligraphy is incomparable to those of the famous calligraphers. However, in order to please those who I have heard that earnestly seek my calligraphy as well as the Dharma, I have continued to write despite my shallow calligraphy skills. My forty years of diabetes has led to calcification within my eyes. Barely able to see clearly, I could only rely on my senses to write characters in one breath; completing them in one stroke from beginning to end without discontinuation. Once there is a discontinuation, as I cannot see clearly, I would be unable to judge the continuing stroke of the character, and the work would thus be difficult to complete. Thus, I named my writing One-Stroke Calligraphy. I am grateful to those who think highly of these 8,000 pieces of calligraphy, and who have organized the One-Stroke Calligraphy Exhibition. Having started on October 13th, 2009 in Malaysia, followed by Singapore, Taipei, Fo Guang Shan, Tainan, Taichung, and Kaohsiung, the proceeds from the sale of the exhibits on tour will go to the Public Trust Fund established under my name.

Established in 2008 and managed by the bank, this Public Trust Fund, has organized various types of public welfare activities to benefit society, such as the Power Teacher’ s Award, the Hsing Yun’ s Award for Contribution to True, Beautiful and Good News, as well as supporting Nanjing University’ s addition of the Institute of Chinese Cultural Studies, and others. The first award ceremony for Contribution to True, Beautiful and Good News was held in November, and awards were given to Cheng She-wo, Hsu Chia-shih, Huang Nian, and Nan Fang-shuo. These four media veterans have contributed greatly to the work of news reporting.

This is just the beginning; I am confident that in the future it will be able to inspire the media have a voice that is more truthful, sincere, and beautiful.

In addition, I also filmed *The Story of Fo Guang Shan* last year. There are also new publications such as the twelve-volume *Ten Thousand Affairs in the World*, which initially appeared as a column on *Merit Times Newspaper*, the fifty-five volume *Lotus Canon*, *Discipline, Concentration, Sagesse dans le Bouddhisme Humaniste* in French, *Humble Table*, *Wise Fare* in Nepalese, and the digital version of *Hundred Sayings*. Furthermore, Italian artist, Giuliano Ferri drew illustrations for my stories on the *Heart Sutra* and published *Illustrated Heart Sutra*, which will enable Dharma to take root in the minds of children. Under a burst of inspiration, I also wrote “*The Song of Cloud Lake*” to express my feelings about the scenery of Cloud Lake beside the ancestral temple, Da Jue Temple. Parts of the lyrics are as follows:

Amidst the green hills and clear waters,  
The misty rain and clouds,  
There exists Yixing’ s Cloud Lake.  
Towards the east is the far-stretching foreign trader’ s market of Shanghai;  
Towards the west is the Jinling city that once enjoyed six dynasties of prosperity.  
In the South there is Hangzhou,  
In the North there is Yangzhou,  
Must be comparable to Yixing’ s clay arts,  
Must be victorious against Yixing’ s bamboo forests...

I am grateful to Mr. Liu Jia-chang, who composed the music; the melody is absolutely beautiful, and thoroughly captures the meaning behind the lyrics. When singing it, it is as if the beauty of Cloud Lake is within reach.

Since Da Jue Cultural Enterprise’ s official establishment in Shanghai of 2007, there is much joy in seeing that Mainland China is eager to learn of Humanistic Buddhism. Under the cooperation of local publishing companies, titles such as *Fo Guang Textbooks*, *Humble Table*, *Wise Fare*, *Between Ignorance and Enlightenment*, *A Discussion on Reading*, and so forth have been published. These books have all made the top sellers charts on online shopping sites such as Dang Dang, BookUU, Yazhou Zhoukan’ s hottest cultural topics, and Beijing News. *Fo Guang Shan*’ s various publications have also made impressive sales at international book fairs at Book Expo America in the U.S., Canada’ s Street Festival, Frankfurt Book Fair, and Taiwan Meeting Expo in Shanghai.

The Pu-Men Senior High School gymnastics team has always done well. Last year, they represented Kaohsiung County in the National High School Games, and won the Junior High Female and High School Female Team Integral Champion, making it their fourth consecutive victory. The girl’ s basketball team won the 2008 National High School Basketball League Championship. As of May, *Fo Guang Shan*’ s application to establish Three Acts of Goodness Physical Education Association was passed by the Ministry of the Interior. The association’ s objective is to encourage and promote exercise within the nation, purify society, and, attract youth to learn about Buddhism through various sports activities,.

I have become more proactive in promoting the Three Acts of Goodness in schools to encourage students to do good deeds, say good words, and think good thoughts. In the future, Buddha's Light International Association plans to annually choose one hundred Buddha's Light Three Acts of Goodness Families. Each family will be awarded a prize of ten thousand dollars (NT) as a form of encouragement and recognition. Through this, we wish to slowly build up the Three Acts of Goodness in schools, families, and society.

Former Hong Kong University Pro-Vice-Chancellor Lee Chak-fun has assumed the post of president at the University of the West and Tian Cheng-mei is the new principal of Jiun Tou Elementary and Junior High School. Jiun Yi Elementary and Junior High School of Taitung was inaugurated in August, and all seats were filled for its first recruiting season. I believe that under Thomas H.T. Tzeng's leadership, the school will be able to become a Three Acts of Goodness School, fostering the three acts of goodness in the students. Fo Guang University signed an Academic Exchange Agreement and Double Degree Program with Gyeongsang National University of South Korea, as well as an Academic Exchange Agreement with University of the West. Nanhua University and Pingdingshan University in Henan signed an agreement to exchange professors and students. Nanhua University's Nanhua Road, which connects it to the Dalin Township of Chiayi, has been in use since July. It is the first road named after a university in the nation.

In the month of June, which is a time for the blossoming of flame tree flowers, the first graduates of the English Master's program in Buddhist Studies, who hail from a total of eight countries including South Africa, Argentina, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and others, received their degree from the College of Buddhist Studies at Fo Guang University. Additionally, the alumni from the twenty-two terms of graduates of the Srimala Institute, which was established in 1994, returned to Fo Guang Shan for a reunion. During the 15th anniversary reunion, we held a discussion on "choices" of the future.

The Taipei Buddha's Light Choir participated in the World Choir Championships - Open Choir Competition held in Korea. Competing against hundreds of choir groups, we returned home with a silver medal in the Buddhist music category. The Compassionate Samadhi Repentance, which is published by Voices of the Ganges, received the Best Religious Music Record Award in the 20th Golden Melody Awards - Traditional and Artistic Music Category. Ten Thousand Affairs in the World was awarded the top special honor in the 3rd Taiwan Golden Print Awards - Book Printing Category. Additionally, I also received an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from National Sun-yat Sen University and became a graduate of the university. Sixty years ago, I came to Taiwan and went to Yilan to propagate the Dharma; half a century later, the Yilan County Magistrate and Mayor conferred to me Honorary County Citizen, Honorary Citizen, and Key of the City.

Over the last sixty years, the journey of propagating the Dharma started from Yilan and has spread to the five continents. The branch temples of Fo Guang Shan around the world are like the continuously turning Dharma wheel, propagating the Dharma day and night.

With a history of fifteen years, the Vancouver I.B.P.S. finally transmitted the five precepts and bodhisattva precepts for the very first time. Hsi Lai Temple organized the first

Council on the Translation of Buddhist Sutra, and organized a Water and Land Dharma Service while holding the Triple Platform Ordination Ceremony. I.B.P.S. Hong Kong organized a Great Compassion Repentance Ceremony, which was attended by 3,000 people. Da Jue Temple in Yixing, China organized the first Fo Guang Family Day, creating an unusually festive family atmosphere at the temple. Nan Hua Temple in South Africa successfully passed its application to the South African Revenue Services for charity taxes, and “Fo Guang Shan Nan Hua Temple” will now replace “International Buddhist Association of South Africa (IBASA)” as its formal title. Chung Tian Temple and Buddha’s Light International Association Queensland Chapter received the Logan City Council - Ethnic Organization of the Year 2009 and The Albert and Logan - Education Award from the Logan City Government.

In the month of April, Nan Ping Temple was inaugurated, and Austria’s Vienna Fo Guang Shan held a Foundation Laying Ceremony. In October, Fo Guang Yuan Box Hill Buddhist Centre in Melbourne held a Foundation Laying Ceremony while the Chicago Buddhist Culture Center and I.B.P.S. Spain were also inaugurated.

The final days of winter always mean the coming of a new spring. Once winter passes, the warm spring will bring blossoming flowers. The Merit Times Newspaper is about to reach its tenth anniversary. In the new year, I will also continue to share my One-Stroke Calligraphy with those whom I share affinities with. The “One Million Heart Sutras in the Buddha” Campaign is still actively on the move. All in all, the continuous turning of the Dharma wheel is the ongoing daily mission of the Buddha’s disciple. As 2010 is the year of the tiger, I wrote the characters “Awe-inspiring Virtue and Ocean of Prosperity” for the benefactors, with wishes that the world will be filled with an auspicious peace with the likes of bathing in an ocean of prosperity and compassionate light. May all sentient beings coexist in harmony and mutually benefit each other for future generations. Best wishes to all!

With joined-palms,  
Hsing Yun  
January 1, 2010