



淨土

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印光大師法語

Quote from Great Master Yinguang

今既發心念佛，當以心佛相應，生前得一心不亂，報盡登極樂上品為志事。
不必求其大徹大悟，明心見性也。宗門以開悟為事，淨宗以往生為事。

• • •

今修念佛法門，當依大勢至菩薩所示，如子憶母之誠心，修都攝六根淨念相繼之實行。
果能死盡偷心，則一心不亂，念佛三昧，或可即得。

Now that one has made up the mind to practice Buddha-name chanting, one should aspire to have one's mind accord with that of Amitabha Buddha, attain One Mind Undisturbed before death, and attain rebirth at the highest grade in the Land of the Ultimate Bliss at the end of one's life. One need not seek *great awakening or enlightening the mind and seeing the true nature*. The Zen school seeks to attain awakening, while the Pure Land school seeks to attain rebirth in the Western Pure Land.

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When practicing the Buddha-name chanting method, one should follow the teaching of Mahasthamaprapta Bodhisattva by practicing the perfect control of the six senses with continuous pure thoughts [of Amitabha Buddha] with the sincerity of a child thinking of his mother. If one could truly practice with the utmost sincerity, then one may be able to immediately attain One Mind Undisturbed and Buddha Mindfulness Samadhi.

恭

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Happy
Holidays

新

禧

順應 淨空老法師之慈悲勸導與籲請，也承蒙 悟行法師及澳洲淨宗學院法師們之大力協助與蒞臨，圖書館自十一月一日開始，一連參與了幾次的念佛共修及「三時繫念」佛事法會：



- 一、十一月初，於本館舉辦了一場念佛共修，並啓建「三時繫念」佛事法會；
- 二、十一月中，主導並促成了巴西聖保羅中觀寺首次舉辦淨宗體系的「三時繫念」佛事法會；
- 三、十一月下旬，協助參與阿根廷淨宗學會之念佛共修法會；
- 四、十一月底，隨喜參加休士頓淨宗學會之念佛共修及「三時繫念」佛事法會。

十一月初於本館舉辦之念佛共修及「三時繫念」佛事法會共邀集了悟行法師、悟永法師、悟月法師、悟勝法師、悟性法師及諦恆法師等六位法師蒞臨，真正盛況一時。悟行法師與本館淵源頗深，已數度前來本館指導大眾，而悟永法師、悟月法師、悟勝法師、悟性法師及諦恆法師等五位法師則是初次蒞臨。

六位法師修學、唱誦及開示俱佳，均極受本地同修大眾之尊崇與歡迎。法會結束後，悟行法師即轉往聖荷西，但難得來此相聚的五位法師則留下來多盤桓了兩日，也讓本地同修大眾有機會與他們多親近了兩日。悟永法師和藹親切、頗有長者之風，其他四位年輕法師則亦真誠率直、可敬可親。幾日相處，大家已深結善緣。而且，十一月四日恰值美國總統大選，五位法師也隨我們去芝加哥西郊的一處投票所參訪、體驗選情，相信這也是他們弘法行腳中一次難忘的經歷。



這次的念佛共修及「三時繫念」佛事法會原不在本館計劃之中，但為響應 淨空老法師護國息災、念佛回向之慈悲號召，也多蒙 悟行法師允諾代為聯絡邀請淨宗學院法師，本館才匆匆決定舉辦法會。而由於本館舉辦繫念法會之經驗及人手兩皆不足，連負責引禮、香燈及花鼓之義工人員都是臨時才向其他道場借將，籌辦過程非常緊張。萬分感謝休士頓淨宗學會譚會長與香燈陳師姐，及費城淨宗學會兩位陳師姐支援之盛情，配合本地義工同修的努力，繫念法會還是辦得非常殊勝莊嚴。

特別難得的，是法會結束後，休士頓譚會長與香燈陳師姐，及費城兩位陳師姐不待休息，又與休士頓另兩位師姐，及加拿大多倫多般若念佛堂之照續法師與兩位女居士，隨同悟和法師與我，總共十一個人，組成了一個南美參學團，一起再去巴西主持在聖保羅中觀寺舉辦的繫念法會。萬里間關、僕僕風塵，真正為法辛勞！

多蒙巴西聖保羅中觀寺印慈法師與其他三位常住法師慈悲惠借道場，也仰賴當地同修大力護持，此次在聖保羅中觀寺舉辦之「三時繫念」佛事法會對許多參與者而言，都是第一次經驗：



- 巴西聖保羅當地之學佛同修們第一次參加淨宗體系的繫念法會；
- 聖保羅中觀寺之四位常住法師第一次全程坐在法師席上，參加法會；
- 休士頓譚會長非常感謝第一次有機緣在肅穆莊嚴之大雄寶殿上當法會之維那；
- 而我，在參學團人手不足、別無選擇的情況下，於臨時匆匆惡補後，也硬著頭皮，第一次當了一整天法會全程的引禮。

聖保羅法會圓滿結束後，休士頓與費城同修由於各自道場有事，又於次日立即返美；參學團剩下悟和法師、照續法師、多倫多兩位女居士與我，繼續取道巴西承天寺，前往阿根廷。



巴西南普陀承天寺位在福斯小鎮，臨近巴西、巴拉圭及阿根廷三國之邊境；寺院宏偉、殿宇莊嚴。在遙遠南美洲偏僻寂寞之邊境小鎮上，乍見莊嚴雄偉之佛教道場，實在令人驚歎！



長年在這樣遠離紅塵的邊地建立道場、度生修行，除了悲心、願心，更需定力。我對建寺住持道容法師及其弟子法空法師多所讚歎，盼望他們堅持大願，讓法雨繼續遍施當地眾生。

在福斯小鎮，除了參訪承天寺，我們也去著名的伊瓜蘇瀑布觀光。這是我於 1999 年之後，第二次造訪聖保羅及伊瓜蘇。九年之間，世間人事已變化萬端，而瀑布卻秀麗壯觀

依然。我們運氣頗佳，不但一路風和日麗，而且聽說瀑布在那幾日創下了十年來水量最大的紀錄。在瀑布有名的景點「魔鬼咽喉」，層層湧下的瀑布白練激起一片迷濛水霧，許許多多燕子不畏激流沖打，奮勇穿過不斷湧下的水牆，飛進瀑布後面。導遊小姐妙慧說這些燕子築巢在瀑布後面的山崖壁上，因此不畏艱險，習於穿梭在瀑布激流中。其實，我們凡夫與眾生迷在紅塵裏，或為生計、或為名利，以苦為樂、日日經營，不也正像這些燕子一樣辛苦、一樣可憫嗎？



離開伊瓜蘇，繼續前行，到達阿根廷首都布宜諾斯艾利斯時，已近晚上十點。結果，一出機場，不但見到許多同修來接機，而且，這麼多朋友都空著肚子，等接到了我們，超過十點，才陪我們用晚餐；用好豐盛晚餐，已近午夜。



離開聖保羅前，當地盛大的歡送宴已讓初次造訪的照續法師、譚會長與參學團同修大德們對巴西朋友之熱情大開眼界，而阿根廷同修的接待，則又讓我們對南美朋友的熱情有了另一層的體會。當然，相信參學團其他成員與我一樣，對阿根廷同修最覺難忘的，不只是他們對「有朋自遠方來」所表現出的自然熱誠，而更是這些同修對念佛的專注與投入。

阿根廷淨宗學會道場在老市區，佛堂不是特別大，念佛同修人數也不是特別多，但同修們念佛極其專注、極其投入，而且幾位老菩薩下午一念四小時不休息，則是真正特別。我們參學團成員輪流打地鐘供養同修們念佛，一位師姐說我打地鐘的聲音特別可辨認；我想，必是由於念佛氣氛特別，連地鐘聲響也就自然不同了。

我自南美回來後，本館譚副館長很快即飛往休士頓，代表本館隨喜參加休士頓淨宗學會於感恩節舉辦之念佛共修及繫念法會。休士頓此次法會總計念佛兩日，並一連三日持續做三場三時繫念法會，非常殊勝難得。譚副館長代表本館，前往隨喜參加，一方面是知恩報恩，對休士頓譚會長與同修大德們素來對本館之支持與愛護略表回饋於萬一之意；另一方面，確實也是代表本館法器組義工前去學習、取經。



同時，因緣湊巧，譚副館長自休士頓回來後，剛好接獲通知，謂已通過重重身家調查，因此，又再於數日前代表本館，前去伊利諾州警戒最為森嚴之一處監獄實地參訪，考量由本館定期派出法師及居士，為該監獄受刑人教授學佛課程之可行性。這是本館因應一位已繫獄三十餘年之受刑人一再來信要求所作的努力，也是本館於最近幾年來持續寄送大批英文佛書給美國各州監獄及勒戒所之受刑人後的進一步服務。

我聽譚副館長於參訪後敘述該監獄之種種苦狀，心大惻然。善導大師說，九品往生，總在遇緣不同；其實，人生際遇千差萬別，何嘗不也在遇緣不同？佛教我們引業、滿業，而這些受刑人，總因惡環境、惡因緣，又無善友提攜，才致犯下大錯，即如中峰國師所說：「只因迷悟之有差，遂致現量之不一」。幸好佛門常說：「放下屠刀，立地成佛」；迷途人只要一念回光，仍是有救。而「萬法是心光，諸緣惟性曉；本無迷悟人，只要今日了。」我們有緣遇上，還是要盡力幫助這些苦惱人。

近日以來，芝加哥一帶氣候嚴寒，雨雪連連，令人想念起南美的燦爛陽光。不過，巴西治安很差，很多朋友晚上不敢出門；阿根廷則是政府貪腐、建設停頓，當地同修對該地前途完全失去

信心。想一想，何處有樂土？而「原夫徧十方是極樂世界，山光水色、似空合空。」再想一想，隨遇而安，心安則身安、心淨則土淨，又何處不是淨土？

倡導、舉辦繫念法會之宗旨，在勸導參與之大眾及亡靈同心念佛、求生淨土。但念佛應該心心念念、時時刻刻繫念於佛，不止三時惟然。念佛人體念祖師悲心，於法會之外，更當信受大勢至菩薩於念佛圓通章之教誨：「都攝六根、淨念相繼」；心不離佛，佛不離心。

參訪巴西承天寺時，道容法師師徒不但熱誠招待我們，而且致送大量印有大勢至菩薩聖像及念佛圓通章經文的佛卡，請我們帶回各自道場與同修結緣。確實，人心不善，感得世界多難；我們生於末法濁世，非念佛何以自救？而每讀繫念經文，更生大警惕：不自度，何以度他？還是老實念佛！阿彌陀佛！

• Translated by Bert Tan

Since November 1, in response to Venerable Master Chin Kung's compassionate entreaty, and with the assistance of Venerable Wu Shin and other venerables some of them are from the Pure Land Learning College in Australia, the library has been involved in several retreats that included Buddha-name chanting and the Thrice Yearning Ceremony:

- At the beginning of November, the library hosted a retreat
- In mid-November, the library helped the Tzong Kuan Temple in Sao Paulo, Brazil host its first Pure Land school Thrice Yearning Ceremony
- In late November, the library assisted the Pure Land Association in Argentina to host a retreat
- Also in late November, the library participated in the retreat hosted by the Amitabha Buddhist Society of Houston

In the retreat held by the library, we hosted six venerables: Venerable Wu Shin, Venerable Wu Yung, Venerable Wu Sheng, Venerable Wu Yue, Venerable Wu Shing, and Venerable Di Heng. Having this many venerables at our retreat was unprecedented. Although Venerable Wu Shin has visited the library many times, it was the first visit for others.

The practice, singing, and lectures of the six venerables were all excellent. They earned the respect from the local Dharma friends. After the retreat, Venerable Wu Shin left for San Jose on the second day while the others stayed for two more days. This provided us with additional opportunities to interact with them. Venerable Wu Yung is warmly approachable and is like a big brother. The other four younger venerables are also sincere, straightforward, and respectfully easy to approach. We developed very good affinities over the few days. Since November 4 was Election Day, we took the five venerables to a voting station Naperville to experience an American election. We believe this was a memorable event for them on this trip.

This retreat was not in the library's planned events. It was held to support Venerable Master Chin Kung's compassionate entreaty for the reduction of potential disasters by the accrued merit from the retreats. The event was possible because Venerable Wu Shin helped to invite the venerables from the Pure Land Learning College. The decision was quickly made. The library did not have enough volunteers and is especially lacking in experience to perform the Thrice Yearning Ceremony. Consequently, we had to rely on other Pure Land organizations to perform the ceremony. Therefore, the preparation was very stressful. We want to especially thank Ms. Chen and Mr. Tan from the Amitabha Buddhist Society of Houston as well as the two Ms. Chen's from the Amitabha Buddhist Society of Philadelphia. With their help and with the effort of the library's volunteers, we were able to hold the unprecedented retreat and the Thrice Yearning Ceremony.

A few days after the retreat, Ms. Chen and Mr. Tan from Houston and the two Ms. Chen's from Philadelphia without adequate rest, two other friends from Houston plus Venerable Zhao Xu and two others from the Prajna Temple in Canada, together with Venerable Wu He and myself flew to Brazil. There we helped the Tzong Kuan Temple host a Thrice Yearning Ceremony. All of us were busy traveling for the Dharma!

We would like to thank Venerable Yin Tze, the Abbott of the Tzong Kuan Temple, and the other three resident venerables who so willingly offered their temple as well as the local friends for their support. There were many first-time experiences to many Thrice Yearning Ceremony participants:

- This was the first time for the Buddhists in Sao Paulo to participate in the Pure Land school's Thrice Yearning Ceremony
- This was the first time for the resident venerables in Tzong Kuan Temple to participate in the complete ceremony sitting in the designated seats for venerables
- This was the first time for Mr. Tan to lead the ceremony in the majestic main hall of a major temple
- For me, it was the first time I served as the ceremony mentor for the entire ceremony.

The second day after the retreat in Sao Paulo, the friends from Houston and from Philadelphia returned home. The others continued the journey to Argentina, with a stop-over at Chen Tien Temple, Brazil.

Chen Tien Temple is located in Foz Do, Iguacu, very close to the borders of Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay. The temple and its architecture are majestic. It was a stunning surprise to see such a splendid Buddhist temple in a distant small village.

To stay long term in a distant border city to establish a temple and help people practice Buddhism requires a mind great compassion and determination mind. More importantly it requires openmindedness and patience—a calm mind. I personally highly praise Venerable Dao Jung, the Abbott, and his student Venerable Fa Kung. I hope they will continue to uphold and carry forward their great vow to let the Dharma indiscriminately shower the local friends.

While at Foz Do, we also toured the famous the Iguacu Fall. This was my second visit since 1999. Although the personnel have been changed greatly over the nine years, the beauty of the falls remain unchanged. We were very fortunate as not only was the weather beautiful, but also I heard that the water level was at a record high of the past ten years. At the Devils Throat, the huge waterfall created dense fog, and many swallows bravely flew through the waterfall over to the other side without any fear. The tour guide, Ms. Miao-Hui Chen, said that these swallows nested behind the waterfall, therefore, they are used to zigzagging through the waterfall. Actually, if we reflect on ourselves, we zigzag between fame, money, and livelihood everyday, and take it as happiness. Aren't we just like these swallows or as pitiful as they are?

We continued our journey after saying good-bye to Iguacu. It was almost ten o'clock at night when we arrived at Buenos Aires, Argentina. Many friends already waited outside of the exit without having had their dinner yet. They picked us up and treated us to a feast. It was close to midnight when we finished eating.

The farewell banquet in Sao Paulo and the enthusiasm of the Brazilian friends there opened the eyes of many first-time visitors like Venerable Zhao Xu and Mr. Tan. The welcome they received from the friends in Argentina brought us all to another level of experience of the enthusiasm of the Dharma friends in South America. But as impressive as their enthusiasm was, their deep concentration and dedication in Buddha-name chanting was even more impressive.

The Pure Land Association in Argentina is located in an older area of Buenos Aires. The cultivation center is not too large and the number of Dharma friends is good. But their minds are very focused when doing Buddha-name chanting. Several senior friends chanted non-stop for four hours. We took turns playing the ground bell to offer them a good chanting rhythm. One friend told me that the ground bell sound produced by me was unique. I guess the sound presented itself uniquely because of the special chanting atmosphere.

Soon after I returned from the South America, Co-director Bert flew to Houston and represented the library by participating in the retreat held by the Amitabha Buddhist Society of Houston. The retreat had two days of Buddha-name chanting and a three-day Thrice Yearning Ceremony. Bert's attendance was to repay just a little the kindness and support from Mr. Tan and other friends in Houston. In the meantime, on behalf of the library Bert also learned how to play instruments for the Thrice Yearning Ceremony.

When Bert returned, he was informed that his months-long security clearance process had been approved. Therefore, after a few days, he was able to visit one of the maximum security correctional centers in Illinois to discuss the possibility of offering Buddhism classes, by either lay people or by venerables, to the inmates on a periodic basis. This was in response to repeated requests from an inmate who has been there for more than thirty years. For several years, the library has been sending Buddhism books to the inmates in many correctional centers in the United States. This can be considered as a continuation or an extension of such service.

I listened to Bert talking about the extreme conditions and restrictions the inmates have to live with and felt very sad for them. Patriarch Shan Dao said that one's conditions determine which of the nine grades in the Pure Land one could be reborn in. In fact, don't one's conditions determine how one's life differs from others'? The Buddha told us about the leading karmas and the fruition karmas. These inmates committed serious crimes essentially because they had bad environments and conditions and they did not have good friends to provide good advice. This is just as the imperial teacher Venerable Zhong-Feng said: "Because the views of those who are enlightened and the views of those who are deluded are different, the present will be conceived differently by them." Fortunately, Buddhists often say: "As soon as one can drop the butcher's knife, one can immediately become a Buddha." As long as a person on the wrong path has a thought to return from it, this person can be helped. "All dharmas are the reflections of one's mind, and all conditions are the reflections of one's Buddha nature. Fundamentally there are no enlightened ones or deluded ones as soon as the true mind is realized." Now that we have the affinity to meet these inmates, we should do our best to help them.

Lately, the weather in the Chicago area has been severe. This makes me feel missed the beautiful weather in South America. However, the friends in Brazil hesitate to go out in evenings due to security concerns, and the friends in Argentina have lost the confidence in their future due to the administration corruptions and the nearly stagnant economy. Think! Is there a paradise? "Originally, the Land of Ultimate Bliss is everywhere." Think again! If one's mind can be settled on the present, then one can be settled physically, too. If one's mind is pure, then one's environment will be pure, too. In this regard, isn't there a place not a Pure Land?

The purpose of advocating and holding the Thrice Yearning Ceremony is to advise and urge the participants and the deceased to chant Buddha Amitabha's name and to seek rebirth in the Pure Land. When chanting, one's mind should always be on Buddha Amitabha thought after thought, moment after moment, and not just in the three sections of the ceremony. Buddhists who chant should follow the teaching of Mahasthamaprapta Bodhisattva in the "Chapter of Perfect and Complete

Realization of Buddha-name Chanting: “Perfectly control the six senses and let one’s pure thoughts continue one after another.” One’s mind is not separate from the Buddha and the Buddha is always in one’s mind.

While in Chen Tien Temple, Venerable Dao Jung and his student not only enthusiastically took care of us, but also generously gave us the card imprinted with the image of Mahasthamaprapta Bodhisattva and the text of the Chapter of Perfect and Complete Realization of Buddha-name Chanting. Venerable Dao Jung gave us the cards to be distributed to our friends here. Indeed, if our mind is not good, it will manifest into disasters. We are now in the Dharma ending age and a turbulent world. If we don’t chant the name of Buddha Amitabha, how can we save ourselves? When reciting the text of the Thrice Yearning Ceremony, we should alert ourselves: If we cannot save ourselves, how can we help others? Let us return to sincere and genuine chanting! Amitufo!

特別通告 - 2009 月曆

Announcement – 2009 Calendar

- [本館編輯室 \(Editor’s Room\)](#)

本館於十一月中收到佛陀教育基金會所寄贈之2009年護生月曆，共三百份。由於印刷精美，廣受歡迎，目前只剩約四、五十份，歡迎同修前來索取，送完為止。

另外，本館接獲通知，另有高雄淨宗學會寄贈之2009年蓮花月曆，約兩百份左右，將於十二月底抵達，歡迎各地同修前來索取。

We received 300 copies of the beautifully printed 2009 Reverence for Life Calendar from the Corporate Body of the Buddha Educational Foundational in Taiwan in mid-November. It was widely welcomed, and there are less than 50 copies remaining. Please feel free to stop by and get one if interested while they last.

Also, we received notification that another 200 copies of the 2009 Lotus Flower Calendar printed by the Kaoshung Pure Land Association will arrive at the end of December. If you are interested, please plan to stop by and get one.

幫助受刑人

Dharma Teaching for Inmates

- [本館編輯室 \(Editor’s Room\)](#)

因應一位監獄受刑人一再的懇請，副館長譚祖德經過重重身家調查，終於於十二月五日

拜訪了伊利諾州警衛最森嚴的監獄之一，Stateville Correctional Center，與獄方專司之神職人員討論為該監獄受刑人提供基礎學佛課程的可行性。雖然獄方神職人員一再警告該監獄環境極為險惡，但基於「佛氏門中，不捨一人」的原則，本館仍然決定由副館長先嚐試不定期的到該監獄講解基礎學佛概念，再決定是否演進成定期的課程，或者是基於環境而不得不放棄。課程大約會從2009年一月份開始。

After repeated request from an inmate over the past several months, Co-director Bert Tan, after going through a months-long security clearance, was finally able to visit the Stateville Correctional Center, one of the maximum security facilities in Illinois, on December 5. He discussed with the Department of Chaplaincy the possibility to offer Buddhism classes to the inmates. Although the chaplain repeatedly warned about the extreme environment of the correctional center, based on the principle that “the Buddha never gives up any one” (since we are all learning from the Buddha), nonetheless the library will ask Bert to go to the correctional center to give lectures on a trial basis. After a few visits we will assess the situations to determine whether to develop the lectures into a formal program or to discontinue the visits due to the difficult conditions. The lectures will start in January 2009.