

Buddhist Council of New South Wales

Incorporated



Regional Centre of the
World Fellowship of
Buddhists

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9th March, 2000

Buddhist Compassion Relief
Tzu-Chi Foundation
57 Archer Street
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Amitabha!
Dear Dharma Friends,

On behalf of the Buddhist Council of New South Wales, I feel very honoured to be invited to offer a message to the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation on the occasion of its 8th Anniversary Celebrations and the Tzu Chi Academy of Australia on its 2nd Anniversary.

The Buddhist Compassion Tzu Chi Foundation has always been dear to my heart, especially since I had the great honour of meeting Venerable Master Chen Yen in Hua Lien several years ago. Being with this humble Buddhist saint gave me the feeling of being in the presence of Bodhisattva Kuan Yin, the very embodiment of compassion. When one of my fellow visitors to her humble abode remarked that she should be nominated for the Nobel Prize, her response was: "Fame and fortune are a burden. I want to be free to do my work."

During the devastating earthquakes in Taiwan last year, the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation was first on the scene to assess the needs of the people and to provide them with their immediate necessities such as shelter and medical care. Just prior to the Taiwan earthquake, Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation was present in Turkey offering assistance in their earthquake disaster. Their compassion transcends ethnic and religious differences. Where ever there is a national disaster with an urgent need for assistance, you can be sure that, while the international community discusses what assistance they will provide, Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation will already be there serving the needs of the sufferers.

In Australia, although it has only been established here for eight years, Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation has demonstrated itself to be an ideal citizen by funding medical and educational equipment to the tune of several million dollars. Not only has it provided for these financial needs, it has involved itself in the 'Clean Up Australia Campaign' as well as encouraging many people to register with the Red Cross Blood Bank for both blood and bone marrow donations. Last year, when the freak hailstorm devastated the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney, members of Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation volunteered to fill sandbags to fasten the tarpaulins on the thousands of damaged homes.

Two years ago, the Tzu Chi Academy of Australia was established to educate young Australians in Buddhist principles and to provide an opportunity for these young people to preserve the culture and language of their ethnic background in the spirit of multiculturalism. Our young people are the future of our nation and it is essential that they realise the value of ethical principles as a guide to their successful lives as Australian citizens.

Australia is a richer country for having the presence of this wonderful socially conscious organisation. I hope that, eventually, the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation will gain the overdue recognition from our governments that it richly deserves.

Yours in the Dharma,

Graeme Lyall
Chairman.

澳洲新南威爾斯州佛教協會主席

葛瑞米·盧爾賀文

各位居士大德：

阿彌陀佛。欣逢佛教慈濟基金會澳洲分會八週年會慶及澳洲慈濟人文學校二週年校慶，本人至感榮幸受邀代表新州佛教協會致賀文。

慈濟基金會在我心中彌足珍貴，尤其是從數年前我有極大的榮幸在花蓮拜見上人後，能與這位謙卑的佛門聖人同在，讓我有觀世音菩薩再現之感，簡直是慈悲的化身。當我的一位同行信徒拜訪她簡陋的精舍，提及她應榮獲諾貝爾獎提名時，她回答道：「名利是重擔，我只想自由自在做我的事。」

去年台灣發生毀滅性的大地震，慈濟是第一個趕赴現場了解災民需要，並提供他們諸如避難處所、醫療照顧等即時必要措施。就在台灣大地震之前，慈濟曾現身土耳其提供他們經過地震洗劫後的救助，慈濟人的慈悲已超越了種族、宗教上的分歧。無論全球何處有國家級的災難需要緊急救援，當國際社會還在討論他們需要何種協助時，你可以確信，慈濟基金會已經在那裡提供災民所需的服務了。

雖然慈濟基金會在澳洲才剛成立八年而已，但它撥款捐助醫療及教育設備數以百萬計，足以展現它的理想公民的典範。慈濟不僅提供此類財務需要上的援助，而且積極參與「澳洲清潔日運動」，同時鼓勵人們登記紅十字會血庫的捐血、捐骨髓活動。就在去年，難以預料的「電暴」侵襲損壞了東雪梨地區，慈濟志工義務協助數以千計的受災家庭裝填沙包、栓綁遮雨布。

兩年前，澳洲慈濟人文學校成立，讓年輕一代接受佛法的教育，而且在多元文化的精神下，也讓他們有機會保有自己的民族背景的語言及文化。年輕人是我們國家未來的希望，能讓他們了解到：道德倫理價值也是他們作為澳洲公民擁有成功生活的導引，那是極不可或缺的。能有慈濟這麼一個美好、對社會充滿感知的組織，澳洲這個國家更益形豐實。我衷心的期望，佛教慈濟基金會最終能獲得我們政府遲來的承認，而它絕對是完完全全值得承認的。

新南威爾斯州

佛教協會主席 葛瑞米·盧爾

合十共修

公元2000年3月9日