



陳偉才
Glenn Chan

多倫多佛光會會長
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受人性親情感召 開啟人生另一扇門

佛光會現任會長陳偉才的人生觀

人生的道路充滿著波折起伏，在告老退休之前，每天都要為生活奔波忙碌，很難抽出時間去思索如何轉換跑道，除非是現實環境突然改變，例如失業了，不得不要另外找工作，又比如家裡至親的人突然病故了，使你對世間事物的看法有所醒悟，否則，人多半是安於現狀的。

母親車禍改變他的人生觀

已連續兩屆擔任多倫多佛光會會長，任期進入第五年的陳偉才(Glenn Chan)，由一位追逐名利的生意人，轉變為熱心的義工和推動者，雖然不好用「脫胎換骨」來形容他，但是這裡頭的落差幾乎令人難以置信。在獲悉被選為2008年「紅楓傳奇」人物之後，陳偉才在市郊的大宅裡接受筆者的訪談，縷述他這些年來的心路歷程。

陳偉才是廣東潮州人，家裡有5個兄弟姐妹，他是最小的一個，1960年出生在香港一個中等家庭，17歲那年以簽證學生的身份來加拿大讀書，畢業於渥太華Algonquin College機械工程系，83年回香港工作，93年才正式移民多倫多，這時他已是兩人世界，因為1987那年，他娶了在多倫多讀書時的戀人李秀梅(Ida Li)，她是他的High School Sweetheart。轉眼超過20年的婚姻生活，兩人互相扶持，Ida Li一直是影響他一生最深的人。

改變他的人生要從他母親撞車的意外事件說起，那是1997年9月，香港慶祝回歸中國的熱潮仍未冷卻，他的母親和堂兄堂姊卻在大陸發生車禍，因為母親沒有繫安全帶，車禍發生時被拋出車外，頭部重傷，命雖然保住了，但成了植物人。為了就近照顧，他把母親接回多倫多養傷，因為太太在佛光山做義工的關係，法師、師兄、師姊們常常鼓勵他們要勇敢面對，那種關懷和慰藉，令他感受到友情的珍貴。母親在車禍兩年後去世，給他的打擊相當大。他曾思索著，母親和他的家人一生都沒有做過傷天害理的事，為什麼這種不幸的事卻發生在他們身上，認為上天不公平。佛光會的法師開導他，又協助處理臨終助念的佛教儀式，闡釋佛家講的前世今生的因緣，許多事情不是現世報的。他接受了事實，開始以積極的態度面對人生，在妻子的鼓勵下，撥出較多的時間，以感恩的心去佛光會做義工。

賣掉乳鴿生意戒殺生

陳偉才說，母親去世時，也正是他所投資的生意面臨轉型或取捨的時候。他回顧93年最初移民來多倫多時，抱著創業的心情，得到妻子的協助，從事中港貿易生意，將加拿大農產品引進中國，其後機緣巧合，更得到家庭用淨水系統的代理權，成為華人經營淨水系統的先驅，事業上的成功，帶領他認識更多的朋友，與此同時，移民潮的來臨，觸發了他的商機，海外華人思念故鄉的飲食，啟發了他經營香港人喜歡的「乳鴿」生意，這在當時是十分冷門的行業。他說，乳鴿的生意不好做，首先他要克服華人對乳鴿價格超越雞隻的抗拒。一隻乳鴿的售價與一隻雞不相上下，若從抵食的角度來說，吃一隻雞遠比吃一隻乳鴿要划算得多。但他相信只

要克服困難，仍然大有可為，果然生意逐漸打開。他與另一名夥伴合作十多年，從選擇鴿種、孵化、飼養、宰殺、送貨都有一套完整的系統，兩年多前，他考慮進一步購置大規模的家禽屠宰場擴大生意時，突然勾起幾年前母親去世時的記憶，感受到生命的脆弱和無常，一夕之間，他改變了想法，得到妻子的支持及諒解，把乳鴿的生意賣掉，不再殺生。

陳偉才說，賣掉供應乳鴿的生意與他對佛教的信仰有直接關係，佛教戒殺生，他亦認為萬物都有生命，乳鴿在送進屠宰場之前，也是活蹦亂跳的生命。在賣掉乳鴿的生意之後，他與妻子李秀梅騰出更多的時間做「人間佛教」的義工。他最初投身佛光會做義工，是受妻子的影響，當時她經常從佛光會攬回許多義務工作，而且非常投入。陳偉才因為不忍心看到妻子一個人忙，於是就主動幫忙做一點，沒想到越做就越投入，到了欲罷不能的地步。另外一件事令他感受甚深的是1996年冬天，多倫多有位露宿者凍死街頭，佛光會於是發起一項贈送睡袋給街頭露宿者的運動，在攝氏零下廿幾度的嚴寒，他跟隨佛光會的法師和義工們派送睡袋。當時的氣溫雖然非常低，陳偉才凍得直打哆嗦，但是看到佛光會的法師們穿著不足禦寒的袈裟，堅持把派送睡袋的工作做完，令他非常感動，這也是開啟他做義工的原因之一。

人間佛教對他的啟示

陳偉才移民加拿大15年，最初與一般人一樣，忙於工作，工餘則享受體育運動，偶而也參與社區的籌款晚宴，如龍宴、公益金、北韓飢饉籌款、和諧運動、史維會等，從中結識了很多好朋友，但由隨緣認捐到積極參與且帶領義工，則是受佛光山開山始祖星雲大師主張「人間佛教」的影響。

佛家說：「一池落花兩樣情」，同一件事可以有兩種截然不同的看法，人們常認為「社區名人，沽名釣譽」，但陳偉才看到的，卻是他們以身作則的積極帶動。

在今天這個時代，宗教如果只是信徒聚集在寺廟或教堂裡誦經膜拜，已不足以喚起人心，要參與社會，要關懷文化、教育及慈善，才能深入世道人心，佛光會走的就是這條路。這些年來，佛光會捐了不少錢給許多文教慈善機構，包括向頤康認捐了加幣50萬元，捐給多倫多大學25萬元，捐給公益金(United Way)12萬5千元，捐給大多倫多中華文化中心10萬元，捐給多倫多大學社工系15萬元，捐給四川地震災民11萬元，其他還有許多小額捐贈，所有的善款都是信徒奉獻的，也有部份是靠舉辦素宴之類的活動和義賣籌得的。佛光會還帶動會員、新移民及年輕人參與市府主辦的街頭節、賀龍匯、環保及推廣多元文化等的義務工作。

陳偉才認為，一名義工的力量有限，但是每一項善舉都有可能牽動更多的人投入，發揮更大的力量。他舉出下面一個令他印象最深刻的例子：多倫多大學社工系曾要求佛光會捐一筆錢給該學系，雙方經過數度商談後，佛光會答應捐助15萬，使得社工系得以設立，萬萬沒料到有一名企業家獲悉佛光會的善舉後，慨捐一千萬元給該系。他說，當初要不是有佛光會「拋」出15萬的「磚」，就不會「引」來一千萬的「玉」，這不就是因緣嗎！

他認為做義工除了開心以外，還能帶動氣氛，感召更多的人站出來，樹立榜樣給年輕的一代。他以「發展中的國家」來形容華人社區的現狀，多數人都是抱著「各人自掃門前雪」的心態。他希望義工能影響我們的下一代，參與及回饋社會。義工受到社會的尊敬，並不是靠地位或財富，靠的

是投入和對別人展現的關懷及愛心。

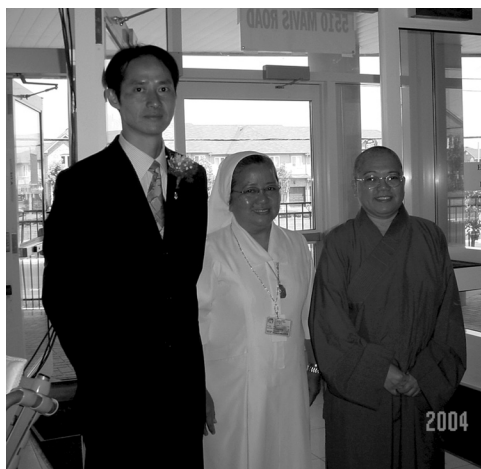
震裂大地 彌合人心

陳偉才談到不久前四川發生的大地震，傷亡的慘重，港台同胞慷慨解囊，捐出的數額遠遠超過中國大陸許多新興的富豪，港人台人發揮高度的同胞愛，相信給所有大陸同胞和大陸移民留下深刻的印象。本地非大陸移民社團對救援川震的無私奉獻，相信對大陸移民社團會有正面的意義，來自中港台的華人今後會更熱心投入慈善活動。他認為，四川大地震雖然震裂了大地，卻彌合了人心。

陳偉才擔任的佛光會會長，明年十二月屆滿，但他表示，只要妻子的支持及大家的鼓勵，將終生投入義工行列，無怨無悔。



陳偉才與母親及妻子李秀梅



陳偉才與佛教法師及天主教修女



探訪密西沙加頤康護理院耆老



參與大多倫多公益金籌款活動



參與佛光會為心臟病及中風基金會籌款



與密西沙加頤康護理院耆老新春同樂



參與盪頌春暉慈善義跑



捐款協助設立多倫多大學社工系，
為社會作育英才



與眾多耆老同樂



與佛光會合唱團



支持溫暖行動，派送睡袋給街頭露宿者。



陳偉才與李秀梅伉儷情深，經常結伴旅遊

The Life Philosophies of Glenn Chan: how love for his mother opens a new door in his life

The road of life is full of unexpected turns, and like others whose lives are completely changed when something traumatic happens, the life philosophies of Glenn Chan were completely changed when his mother had a horrific car accident.

Glenn Chan was born in 1960 in Hong Kong to a middle class family. He has five brothers and sisters. Glenn came to Canada to study when he was only seventeen, graduating from Algonquin College with a Mechanical Engineering honours diploma a few years later. In 1983, he returned to Hong Kong to work, marrying his high school sweetheart, Ida Li, in 1987. The couple immigrated to Canada in 1993. Ida, Glenn firmly believes, out of all the people around him, is the one person who has the most affirming influence on him.

In September 1997, a traumatic accident completely changed Glenn's life. His mother and some of his cousins were travelling in China when they had a car accident. While his mother survived the horrific accident, she suffered severe damage to her head. To better take care of his mother, who was living a vegetable-like existence, Glenn brought her to Toronto. Ida was working at Fo Guang Shan Temple as a volunteer at that time, and there the Venerable Master and the devotees encouraged him to deal with life's challenges head on. The caring and concern that he experienced in those difficult times made Glenn realize how precious their friendship was.

Glenn's mother passed away after two years in Toronto. Her death was a terrible blow to Glenn, who wondered at the

unfairness of it all when his mother and their family had never done anything to deserve such a fate. The Venerable Master of Fo Guang Shan Temple gently guided him and counselled him through his grieving. She explained the Buddhist beliefs in reincarnation and karma, and how the consequences of one's actions might not be manifested in this life. She also performed a Buddhist ceremonial ritual at his mother's funeral. Over time Glenn was able to find peace within him through the Buddhist teachings. From that point on, Glenn, with Ida's encouragement, has taken an active role in volunteering at Fo Guang Shan Temple, and he has done it both wholeheartedly and gratefully.

At the time of his mother's death, Glenn's business was at a turning point. When he first immigrated to Toronto, with Ida's help, Glenn started a China/Hong Kong trade business, bringing Canadian farm produce to China. In addition to that, Glenn secured sole representation and became the forerunner for the business of water filtration systems in the local community. His successful business led to many friends and other business opportunities.

Taking advantage of the wave in immigration, Glenn started a new business in the sale of squabs (young pigeons), a delicacy in Hong Kong, but rare in Canada. Although this is not an easy business, since squabs are more expensive than chickens, pound for pound, Glenn felt if he could overcome the initial resistance in the Chinese community to the higher price, it would turn into a good business. As he expected, the squab business grew over a number of years, and with a partner, Glenn developed a complete system from selecting, breeding and feeding, to slaughtering and delivering the squabs. Two years ago, while Glenn was considering purchasing a large-scale poultry slaughtering plant to expand his

squab business, he suddenly remembered his mother's passing a few years ago. The vulnerability and unpredictability of life struck him and over night, he changed his thinking entirely. With the understanding support of Ida, Glenn sold the squab business. He would no longer be involved in the business of taking the lives of animals.

From Glenn's perspective, the decision of selling the squab supply business is directly related to his Buddhist beliefs. The practice of Buddhism prohibits taking life, and he believes every pigeon is a life on its own. After he sold his business, Glenn and Ida have more time to work for Fo Guang Shan Temple (FGS) and Buddha's Light International Association (BLIA) of Toronto, two organizations under the same umbrella of Master Hsing Yun. At first Glenn was only working there because Ida was very much involved in volunteer work at Fo Guang Shan and Glenn was just helping her whenever she was overwhelmed by her workload. But as time went on, Glenn found himself getting immersed in the work himself. Glenn cited an example of the kind of work the Temple was doing. In the winter of 1996, which was an extremely harsh winter, a few homeless people died on the streets because of the cold. Fo Guang Shan Temple initiated a movement to provide sleeping bags to the homeless. With the temperature dropping to minus 20 degree Celsius, Glenn accompanied the Venerable Master and volunteers to deliver sleeping bags. When he saw the Venerable Master with her thin saffron robes insisting on finishing the delivery of the sleeping bags despite the cold, Glenn could not help but be moved by her dedication and selflessness.

Glenn has moved to Canada for fifteen years now. At the beginning, he was like most people. After work, he would enjoy playing sports, attending the odd charity dinners, such as Dragon

Ball, United Way, and fund raising events. Through those events he got to know many good friends. However, for the change from a casual volunteer to a dedicated leader of charity, Glenn credits the influence of the founder of Fo Guang Shan Temple, Venerable Master Hsing Yun, and his 'humanistic buddhism'. (Note: Humanistic Buddhism encourages followers to integrate Buddha's teachings into their daily lives, through kindness, compassion, joyfulness and equanimity. Followers take an active role in the improvement of the world through education, charitable events and cultivating Buddhist practices in their lives.)

Given the same situation, different people might have totally different perspectives. Some people may think the community leaders are there for fame and glory, but Glenn feels that they act as important role models for the community.

In today's world, if a religion only lets its followers pray or study the sutra in a temple or the bible in a church, it will no longer hold any attraction for people. Today if a religion wants to be integrated in the lives of its people, it needs to be part of society, part of culture, part of education and charitable work. For the past fifteen years, Fo Guang Shan Temple and Buddha's Light International Association are following this road, giving donations to charitable organizations, including \$500,000 to Yee Hong, \$250,000 to University of Toronto, \$125,000 to United Way, \$100,000 to Chinese Cultural Centre, \$150,000 to University of Toronto Social Sciences and \$110,000 to Sichuan earthquake victims. All the donations have been contributed by the Buddhist followers, with a portion coming from vegetarian banquets and auctions. In addition, FGS Temple and BLIA led their followers, new immigrants and youths to participate in local community services, such as Toronto street festivals, United Way

Walkathon, Big Bike fund-raising, environmental and multi-cultural activities.

Glenn believes that there is limited strength from one volunteer, but each act of volunteerism motivates other volunteers and from there the momentum builds. He cites an example that illustrates this point very clearly. The Social Sciences Department at the University of Toronto asked for a donation from FGS Temple and BLIA, and after a number of meetings, they agreed to donate \$150,000 to start the faculty of Social Work. He did not anticipate this donation would trigger a much bigger one. When an entrepreneur found out about this donation, he generously donated ten million dollars to the same Faculty. If not for the initial small donation of \$150,000 from Fo Guang Shan Temple and BLIA, the large ten million dollar donation might never happen!

Glenn feels that volunteer work not only brings happiness for the person, but also motivates others to stand up and become role models for the younger generation. 'The Chinese community is like a 'developing country', he says, and many people have the belief that they should look after their own well being first. Volunteers can do a lot to change this thinking and influence the younger generation, to pay back to the community. Volunteers get the respect of our community, not because of their position or wealth, but because of their dedication and their loving hearts.

Glenn talks about the recent Sichuan Earthquake, the disastrous toll of deaths and injuries. Both Hong Kong and Taiwan compatriots have been generous in their donations, which far exceed the donations given by the nouvelle rich in China. He believes that the depth of patriotic love demonstrated through these selfless acts of love from organizations with their origins outside

Mainland China have made a lasting impression on associations with immigrants from China. Although the earthquake inflicts physical damage to Sichuan, it has unified the spirits of all those affected by it.

Glenn will finish his term as President of Buddha's Light International Association of Toronto in December 2009. What are his plans for the future? Glenn says, with Ida's support and everyone's encouragement, he will do charity work for the rest of his life without any regret.