

What is the meaning of a photo filled
with the spirit of *renwen*?

The Humanitarian Development Department

- Mission of Culture is truly a role model for all of us and leaves a legacy of love forever.
- Volunteers serve others in society, keeping themselves on the right path and on life's true value and meaning, committing to walk the Bodhisattva path.
- The explanation of Tzu Chi's cultural mission is absolute goodness that is from deep within the soul. When being displayed, that is pure truth and goodness. Together they form the beauty of human nature. It is to deliver the truth, goodness, and beauty of human nature.
- Video 1 [人品典範 文史流芳](#)

- How does one keep documenting real-life sutras for all eternity?
- Each photo, sound and image captured and recorded time, location, volunteers and reality by documenting volunteers who have witnessed beauty and goodness, preserving this history.
- It's not just taking pictures. The photos have to show the Dharma, and to bring out the genuine, inspiring Dharma which have to contain deep teachings in it.
- The wellspring for our cultural mission is life's value and meaning, and also can grow our wisdom.

- Seeing manifestations of the Buddha's compassion, bearing witness of moments of truth, goodness and beauty of Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva.
- Dharma Master Cheng Yen expects documentation volunteers to be the way of living bodhisattvas, to inspire more people to give with love, and to continue to bear witness to our times by recording history for humanity and composing real-life sutras for Tzu Chi.
- The documenting volunteers bear witness to our times around the world. They are able to capture and pass on the beauty of goodness for the world.
- Documentation volunteers have to record all of the meanings behind each activity truthfully in learning the Dharma and living it out.
- Video 2 [法入心，法入行](#)

The Tzu Chi's Cultural Mission



Dharma Master Cheng Yen took Tzu Chi volunteers to make home visits to Mr. A-E Huang and his grandchild in Fenglin Township, Hualien County. The driver of the tour bus attempted to cross a wide river. However, the bus got stuck in the river bed and could not move. Volunteers got off the bus to push the bus together in cold weather.

The photo was taken by Dharma Master Cheng Yen on December 12, 1970.

The volunteer's ways, there are stories which are very inspiring and volunteers are always seize time to do good. These work has been recorded by the documenting volunteers through writing, photographing and videotaping.

- The Tzu Chi Organization was established with the spirit of the effort to work for Buddhism and for all living beings.
- "The spirit of selflessness and acting on the belief that innate love resides in everyone" is the guiding principle of discipline, diligence, frugality, endurance.
- Monastic disciples doing handiwork, sewing bay shoes.
- "The bamboo coin banks" were started by thirty housewives donating a NT50-cent coin into the bamboo bank every day before going to the market.
- The first long-term care recipient was Mrs. Zeng Lin.
- Home visits, visiting the poor all over Taiwan: the case of Mrs. Dan-Gui Lu.

Visiting the Poor in Fuding City, Fujian Province, China

Different Time, Space

Tzu Chi Volunteer → The same action and mind



Tzu Chi volunteers had to push the van because its wheels had gotten stuck in the mud on the way to visit care recipients.

Photo by Wang Feng

October 18, 2008



WANG NIEN-CHAN (center) and other Tzu Chi volunteers had to pull their car out of the mud with the locals on the way back from visiting care recipients.

Photo by Wang Feng

May 22, 2006

Disaster Relief in Yongshun County, Hunan Province, China



Because the mountain roads were rugged, jolting, and muddy, it was difficult to drive on. Tzu Chi disaster relief team did not give up. Everyone worked together to push the car forward.

Photo by Chang Yueh-Chao

December 13, 1993

Tzu Chi volunteers survey the drought in order to build water cisterns in Gansu Province, China



A torrential rainfall caused the road to become muddy when Tzu Chi volunteers went to Hongquan town and Pinggou town, Yongjing County, Gansu Province in China to survey the drought situation. For their safety, volunteers had to get out of the car and walk.

Photo by Tseng Mei-Ling
September 4, 2007

The survey team of Tzu Chi volunteers visited the worst-hit areas hit by Typhoon Megi in Ilan



Tzu Chi volunteers sprang into action with clean tools, walking on a small muddy road to help typhoon victims to clean up their homes.

Photo by Lin Chin-An

October 25, 2010

The Tzu Chi path is not a smooth ride, but volunteers in Africa never give up.

Our volunteers in Africa also show us that as long as we have love in our hearts, our lack of resources will not be obstacles for us, and we can still lead very happy, rich lives because love empowers us with unlimited potential and has filled our heart with spiritual riches.



Tzu Chi volunteers visited care recipients and distributed rice in Durban, South Africa.

Photo by Pan Ming-Shui

September 21, 2003

The Tzu Chi path is not a smooth ride, but volunteers in Africa never give up.

A Taiwanese volunteer Pan Ming-shui brought Tzu Chi to South Africa. He has inspired and led 5,000 local volunteers.

Tzu Chi volunteers from South Africa provide help for the local needs and have started to sprout and grow in Swaziland and Mozambique. They are sustained by a strong sense of commitment. They staunchly march forward on the path of helping the needy. Despite being in difficult circumstances themselves, they radiate light and warmth through their benevolent and altruistic actions. They shine as brightly as black pearls.



Photo by Yen Lin-Chao
July 12, 2002

The Tzu Chi path is not a smooth ride, but volunteers in Africa never give up.



Local volunteers from Ladysmith, Harrismith and Newcastle, South Africa and Lesotho took a volunteer training session in Ladysmith. They interacted and learned visiting care recipient experiences from Durban local volunteers.

Photo by Chen Mei-Chuan

March 22, 2014

The Tzu Chi path is not a smooth ride, but volunteers in Africa never give up.



Two Tzu Chi volunteers from Durban, South Africa on the way to Muoanba, Mozambique to distribute rice that was provided by the Council of Agriculture of the Taiwanese government. They had to change buses and walk a long distance to get to the distribution place. For safety reasons, they slept under a tree and waited for daybreak to continue their trip.

Photo by Li Yi-Ju
August 13, 2013



After participating in a local leadership training session in South Africa, volunteers from Mozambique were too late to cross the border to get through customs, so they slept in front of a gas station near a convenience store.

Photo by Tsai Tai-Lin
March 2, 2014

The Tzu Chi path is not a smooth ride, but volunteers in Africa never give up.

A truck filled with goods is the most important tool for volunteers to visit and distribute aid to the care recipients.



Volunteers in Durban, South Africa making home visits and distributions.
Photo provided by Durban, South Africa branch office
August 8, 2009



Volunteers in Durban, South Africa making home visits and distributions.
Photo by Huang Chun-Kai
August 14, 2008

The Tzu Chi path is not a smooth ride, but volunteers in Africa never give up.



A group of Tzu Chi volunteers from Durban going to Mozambique to visit homes of the poor with volunteers from the local area to begin charity work in Mozambique.
Photo provided by Brenda Matebula
April 20, 2013



Volunteers from Durban, South Africa going to Swaziland to provide help with distributions. The new vehicle, called New Tzu Chi No. 3, enabled volunteers to reach people far and wide and to inspire more people to give with love.
Photo provided by Gladys Ngema
June 20, 2013

The Tzu Chi path is not a smooth ride, but volunteers in Africa never give up.



Tzu Chi volunteers from Durban, South Africa and Swaziland working together to visit families that require special care in Swaziland.

Photo by Gladys Ngema

January 22, 2014

The Tzu Chi path is not a smooth ride, but volunteers in Africa never give up.



Tzu Chi volunteers in Zimbabwe walking on mountain trail to visit care recipients.

Photo provided by Chu Chin-Tsai

February 12, 2013

The Tzu Chi path is not a smooth ride, but volunteers in Africa never give up.



Tzu Chi volunteers distributing purification liquid bottles to locals in Zimbabwe.
Photo provided by Chu Chin-Tsai
November 8, 2013

The Tzu Chi path is not a smooth ride, but volunteers in Africa never give up.



Volunteers attending the South Africa Local Volunteer Leadership Conference going to the countryside to visit the poor.

Photo by Tsai Kai-Fan

October 13, 2012

The three-year counter poverty project in northern Thailand



Refugee orphans from northern Thailand, facing problems with the difficulties of life, identity, and education, so they appear to have no sense of hope in their future. PU KAI-HSIU is second from the right.

Photo by Huang Chin-I

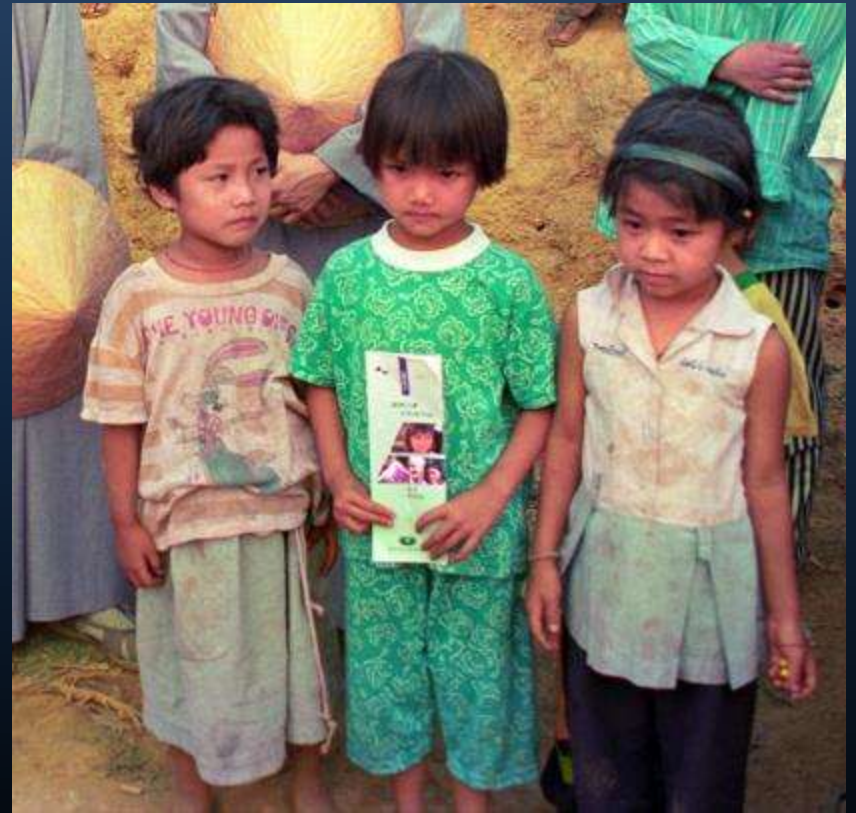
April 22, 1994

The three-year counter poverty project in northern Thailand

In 1994, Tzu Chi organization started the three-year counter poverty project in northern Thailand. Volunteers had rebuilt the refuge camp that brought hope to orphans.



PU KAI-HSIU
Photo by Huang Chin-I
April 22, 1994



PU KAI-HSIU is on the right side.
Photo by Huang Chin-I
April 15, 1995

The three-year counter poverty project in northern Thailand



PU KAI-HSIU
Photo by Lin Yen-Huang
June 1, 2012

Unlike other children who got married or left their homes to do manual work at a very young age, PU KAI-HSIU was educated. She has a job at the airport now.



PU KAI-HSIU
Photo by Lin Yen-Huang
May 27, 2012

Huang Wan-Yu, a volunteer from Luoshui town, Sichuan province, China



The last of the Year-end Blessing Ceremonies for 2012 for overseas Tzu Chi volunteers. Huang Wan-Yu (left) was so moved and burst into tears. Jen Shih-Hsiang handed her a handkerchief to comfort her.

Photo by Chie Hung-Cheng

November 25, 2012

Huang Wan-Yu, a volunteer from Luoshui town, Sichuan province, China

A volunteer, Huang Wan-Yu, lost her job, home and had a sense of despair and hopelessness after the devastating Sichuan earthquake on May 12, 2008. Tzu Chi volunteers have been with her and helping lift her from the traumatized state to inspire her to find her sense of hope. When Huang Wan-Yu does volunteer work, she gains joy and is able to bring her husband in to Tzu Chi as well to do recycling work. She realizes that a person can attain happiness by being filled with contentment .



Tzu Chi volunteers visited Huang Wan-Yu's (center) home.

Photo by Lin Hsin-Hsuan

February 5, 2009



Huang Wan-Yu (second from right) was a volunteer to visit a blind old woman.

Photo by Chang Su-Chen

February 26, 2009

Volunteers: Ho Ming-Tsun and Ho Kuo Li-Yu

Tzu Chi volunteers, Ho Ming-Tsun and Ho Kuo Li-Yu are a married couple who have turned their home into a recycling station and lead neighbors to do recycling work. They sell recyclable materials to support the Da Ai TV.



Photo by Li Cheng-Chih

Volunteers: Ho Ming-Tsun and Ho Kuo Li-Yu



Tzu Chi volunteer Ho Kuo Li-Yu (middle) explaining how to sort recyclables to members of Tzu Chi Collegiate Association.
Photo by Hsiao Chia-Ming
March 3, 2014



Tzu Chi volunteer Ho Ming-Tsun leading members of Tzu Chi Collegiate Association in recycling work.
Photo by Chen Ching-Hsiang
March 16, 2013

Volunteers: Ho Ming-Tsun and Ho Kuo Li-Yu



Tzu Chi volunteer Ho Kuo Li-Yu (right) explaining how to sort plastic bags to masters on a visit at the Tzu Chi Guandu Complex in Taipei, northern Taiwan.

Photo by Wu Chia-Po

April 4, 2012

Nanilita Alburo, a Tzu Chi volunteer in the Philippines

A local Tzu Chi volunteer in Barangay Nangka, Marikina City in the Philippines, Nanilita Alburo used to serve as a political campaign worker, drink alcohol, gamble, and engage in other vices in the Philippines. She participated in the cash-for-work relief program after Typhoon Ondoy (Ketsana) struck the Philippines in 2009. At that time, she was deeply moved by Tzu Chi volunteers doing recycling, so she changed her wayward ways and became a trainee volunteer.



Nanilita Alburo sharing with people her experiences of doing Tzu Chi's work in a distribution.

Photo by Hsu Shu-Huan

June 13, 2010



Nanilita Alburo moving recyclables materials.

Photo by Erika Z. Vizcarra

May 5, 2009

Nanilita Alburo, a Tzu Chi volunteer in the Philippines



Tzu Chi volunteers in the Philippines raised funds for the victims of the devastating earthquake and tsunami which struck Japan on March 11. Nanilita Alburo (left) fundraising for the Japan Earthquake at a bustling market.

Photo by Camille Nepomuceno
March 19, 2011



Recycling volunteer Nanilita Alburo (right) using a three-wheeled cart to help residents carry recyclable materials.

Photo by Lin Yen-Huang
January 2, 2012

Nanilita Alburo, a Tzu Chi volunteer in the Philippines



Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) struck the central island of Leyte, in the Philippines. Tzu Chi volunteers started a cash-for-work relief program in the city of Tacloban. The residents participating in the cleanup are willing to donate what they could to help others. Nanilita Alburo is in the right of the photo.

Photo by Richaro Bolisay

November 24, 2013

The pure truth, goodness, and beauty of human nature is no need to make distinction among races, religions, etc.



A confluence of love from Allah and the Buddha. The photograph of Dharma Master Cheng Yen will be hang in every classroom at Al-Ashriyyah Nurul Iman Islamic Boarding School. Liu Su-Mei, chief executive of the Indonesian branch of Tzu Chi, gave the photograph of Dharma Master Cheng Yen to Elder Habib.

Photo by Sutar Soemithra
October 1, 2007

The pure truth, goodness, and beauty of human nature is no need to make distinction among races, religions, etc.



Tzu Chi volunteers are paving interlocking bricks in front of a church at the construction of Shanlin Great Love community on the northern outskirts of Kaohsiung.

Photo by Lin Yen-Huang
February 8, 2010

The pure truth, goodness, and beauty of human nature is no need to make distinction among races, religions, etc.



A Tzu Chi relief team distributed goods to an Eastern Orthodox Church benefiting more than 40 families in Haiti. The priest was grateful for the help of Tzu Chi foundation.

Photo by Wu Shu-Ching
March 8, 2010

The pure truth, goodness, and beauty of human nature is no need to make distinction among races, religions, etc.



Tzu Chi volunteers in Jordan went to the city of Sahab to distribute relief goods to Syrian refugees. Volunteer Chen De Xiong (right) helped a kid put on a pair of shoes which were made by volunteers from Taiwan.

Photo provided by the Jordan branch office

January 19, 2014

The pure truth, goodness, and beauty of human nature is no need to make distinction among races, religions, etc.



Stephen Huang (right) was grateful for Archbishop Fernando Saenz Lacalle's joining the opening ceremony of Great Love Village in El Salvador and giving the blessing.

Photo by Yen Lin-Chao
October 31, 2003

The pure truth, goodness, and beauty of human nature is no need to make distinction among races, religions, etc.



Local Volunteers who attended volunteers training sessions were enthusiastic about having a vegetarian diet and supporting the Veggie Country Passport.
Photo by Lin Yen-Huang
March 25, 2012.

The pure truth, goodness, and beauty of human nature is no need to make distinction among races, religions, etc.



Tzu Chi volunteers held relief distributions in the southeast Australian state of New South Wales, which had been hit by heavy rainfall and caused severe flooding. Volunteers presented relief goods with both of hands, bows and respectful hearts.

Photo by Fan Hsiao-Nan
March 24, 2012



A Tzu Chi volunteer and a resident hug warmly.

Photo by Fan Hsiao-Nan
March 24, 2012

The pure truth, goodness, and beauty of human nature is no need to make distinction among races, religions, etc.



Tzu Chi volunteers in Gualeguay, Entre Rio, Argentina held a ceremony to celebrate Buddha Day, Mother's Day, and Tzu Chi Day. Volunteers put the cross and Buddha sculptures on the table symbol for the friendship between the two religions.

Photo by Wu Ming-Hui
May 14, 2012

The pure truth, goodness, and beauty of human nature is no need to make distinction among races, religions, etc.



Tzu Chi volunteers held a Buddha Day ceremony in Ciudad del Este, Paraguay. Nuns from Hogar de Anciano San Agustin attended the ceremony with sincere hearts.
Photo by Tsai Chen-Kuang
May 11, 2014



Tzu Chi volunteers held a Buddha Day ceremony in Asuncion, Paraguay. Nuns attended the ceremony with sincere hearts.
Photo by Li Chin-Hsiu
May 11, 2014

The pure truth, goodness, and beauty of human nature is no need to make distinction among races, religions, etc.



The school's directress (middle) from the Sacred Heart College of Tacloban in the central island of Leyte, the Philippines attended Tzu Chi Year-end Blessing ceremonies.

Photo by Chen Kuo-Lin

January 19, 2014

The pure truth, goodness, and beauty of human nature is no need to make distinction among races, religions, etc.



One year after Hurricane Sandy struck the U.S. Northeast, Tzu Chi volunteers held a blessing ceremony in Staten Island. Volunteers invited residents to write down their blessing on Bodhi leaf cards.

Photo by Lin Chin-Cheng

October 29, 2013

The Beauty of the Jing Si Abode: showing The Buddhist teachings



Tzu Chi volunteers line up in ranks to visit the Jing Si Abode in Hualien.
Photo by Liu Sen-Yun
July 7, 2012

The Beauty of the Jing Si Abode: showing The Buddhist teachings



The view of the main Buddha Hall eaves at the Jing Si Abode in Hualien.
Photo by Hsiao Chia-Ming
February 7, 2013

The Beauty of the Jing Si Abode: showing The Buddhist teachings



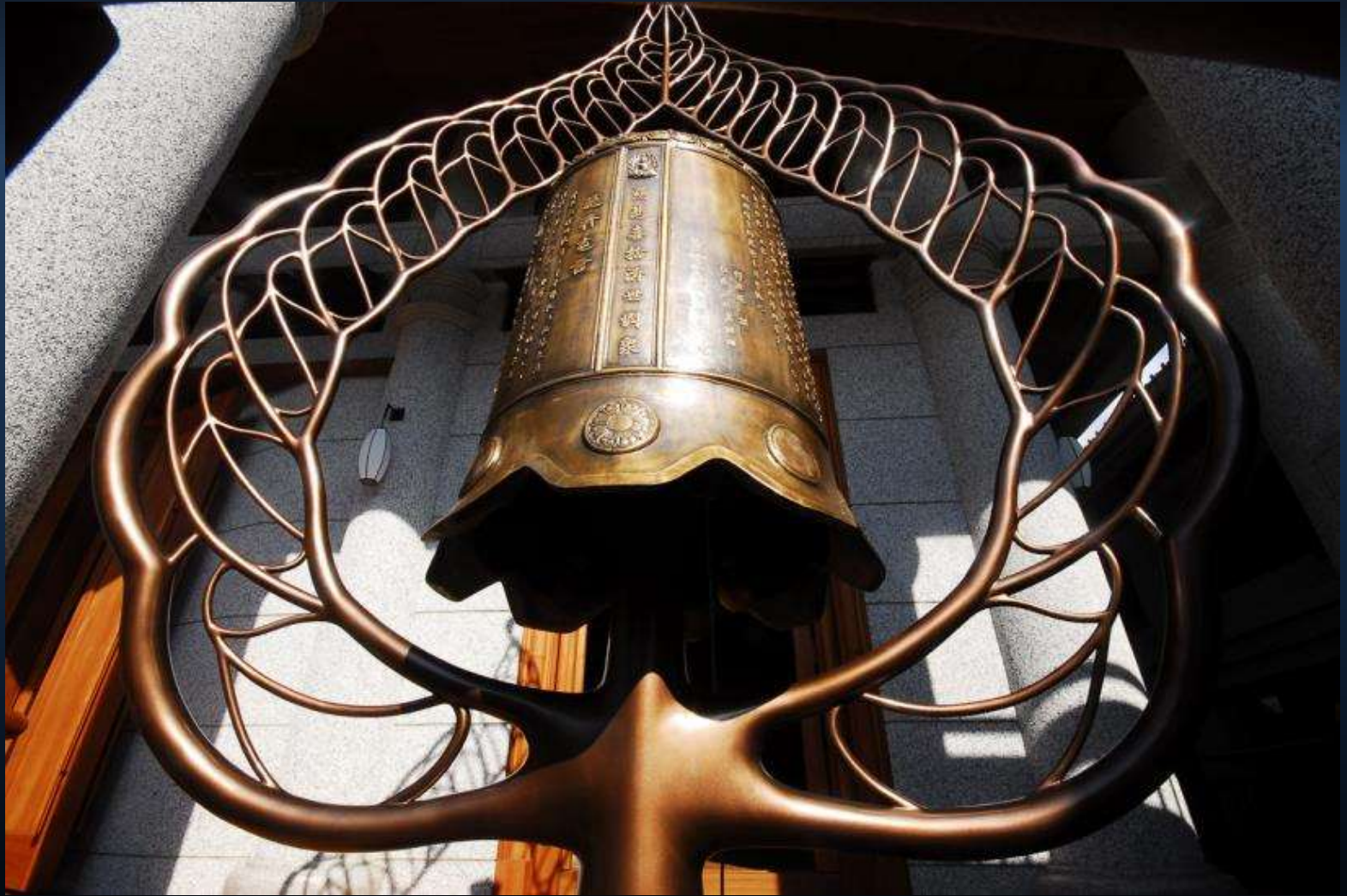
The morning recitation at the Jing Si Abode in Hualien.
Photo by Ku Ting-He
May 28, 2012

The Beauty of the Jing Si Abode: showing The Buddhist teachings



The large Taiko drum in the Main Hall at Jing Si Abode in Hualien.
Photo by Hsiao Chia-Ming
February 8, 2013

The Beauty of the Jing Si Abode: showing The Buddhist teachings



The bell in the Main Hall at Jing Si Abode in Hualien.
Photo by Liu Sen-Yun
July 8, 2012

The Beauty of the Jing Si Abode: showing The Buddhist teachings



The pottery light in the Main Hall at Jing Si Abode in Hualien.
Photo by Liu Sen-Yun
July 7, 2012

The Beauty of the Jing Si Abode: showing The Buddhist teachings



The view of gallery in the Main Hall at Jing Si Abode in Hualien.

Photo by Wang Hsien-Huang
September 19, 2013



The garden path at Jing Si Abode in Hualien.

Photo by Chen Li Shao-Min
October 28, 2012

The Beauty of the Jing Si Abode: showing The Buddhist teachings



The external appearance of the Jing Si Hall in Hualien.
Photo by Hsu Yao-Ming
April 18, 2014

The Beauty of the Jing Si Abode: showing The Buddhist teachings



The Three Treasures finial at the ridge ends on the roof of the Jing Si Hall in Hualien.
Photo by Ku Ting-He

The Beauty of the Jing Si Abode: showing The Buddhist teachings



Photo by Yen Lin-Chao
April 28, 2001



For the roofs of the Jing Si Hall in Hualien, its ridge ends are decorated with the Three Treasures finials, which serve as the symbolic focal point of the building. The curved gable roofs in the shape of 人, meaning human in Chinese, are decorated with relief sculptures of modern day flying Bodhisattvas.

Photo by Lin Ying-Tzu
October 13, 2001

The Beauty of the Jing Si Abode: showing The Buddhist teachings



“Project Hope” of Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation –Jhushan Elementary School, Nantou.

Photo by Tung Fang-Wen
June 28, 2002

The Beauty of the Jing Si Abode: showing The Buddhist teachings



“Project Hope” of Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation – Tai-Ping Elementary School,
North District, Taichung City.

Photo by Teng Han-Nan

December 27, 2012

The Beauty of the Jing Si Abode: showing The Buddhist teachings



“Project Hope” of Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation – Nantou Shihkuang Senior High School.

Photo by Hung Jui-Chin

July 24, 2002

The Beauty of the Jing Si Abode: showing The Buddhist teachings



“Project Hope” of Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation –
Tong-Lin Elementary School, Wufeng District,
Taichung City

Photo by Hsiao Chin-Tan
August 15, 2002



“Project Hope” of Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation – Puli Elementary School,
Nantou.

Photo by Hsu Ming-Chiang
August 13, 2002

Thank You