

KMP at the World Book Fair, Singapore Day 6 – Tuesday May 29 2007

We're halfway through the ten-day bookfair and things slowed down quite a lot today. Booths throughout the fair saw very little people today, even the more popular "commercial" ones.

In anticipation of smaller crowds, less people were scheduled for working shifts today while others went to visit various Dharma stores throughout Singapore. Joe and Shin had a busy morning, covering the **Awareness Place** bookshop in Bras Basah Complex, **Evergreen Buddhist Culture Service** (book and Dharma store) in Pearl Centre, the **Green Tara Shop** in the Aljunied area, **Tzu Chi Foundation** in Chinatown which had a little book exhibition, and a few Dharma stores in Bugis such as those in Fu Lu Shou mall. Chia also visited Evergreen on his own.

Very lovely liaison Ruby has come down to Singapore and will be staying until Thursday to support KMP. She dropped by the booth in the afternoon for a few hours.

She also invited Mr. Poh, a friend of Datuk Eric Tan who also knows Rinpoche. Mr Poh came by the KMP booth at about 4pm and purchased a few books (*Be Greedy*, *Compassion Conquers All* and *Gurus for Hire, Enlightenment for Sale*). He then very kindly took Sharon, Susan and Ruby around to visit the Green Tara Shop and Fu Lu Shou in the late afternoon, after they finished their shift.

Within the booth itself, KMP managed to meet some very interesting people again today. Early in the day, a man engaged Yek Yee, Sharon and Susan in an hour-long conversation about the meaning of spiritual practice. Though he identifies with Catholicism, he seemed quite bitter about religion and even started quoting Krishnamurti's philosophy about *not* following a specific path or religion. Susan managed to engage him in a discussion that calmed down his thoughts and he eventually left the booth happy and more relaxed from the talk.

Another lady stopped by for half an hour to share her experiences in Dharma. She is of a Theravadan background but has visited a Buddhism monastery in Ladakh and is interested in Tibetan Buddhism. However, she did say that she found a lot of Tibetan Buddhism quite confusing. Susan again shared information with her and although the lady didn't actually buy any of the teachings, she was very interested and went away quite happy, saying she would think about it further.

What was most impressive was that after only half an hour she observed that it was very clear that Rinpoche meditates and practices because his teachings come across very easily, are simple to understand and very attractive.

Jenny's cousin, Fun, brought round lots of food again to warm our tummies and revive the spirit. The amount of care that she put into making big, wholesome triple-decker sandwiches is just amazing! Jenny's big-hearted spirit must run in the family. Thank you Fun!

One of Rinpoche and Kechara's biggest Singaporean fans, Rosalind also came to visit for the second time this week. She initially chanced upon Kechara Mystical Treasures a few months ago when she was holidaying in KL. She ended up going into Piccolo Galleria because it was raining outside, and while strolling through the shops, she went into KMT. After chats with the people there, she left with a link to Rinpoche's website which she has since been visiting for teachings.



Rosalind gets very absorbed in what Andee is discussing with her

Rosalind bought several of the books during her two visits to the booth and has talked a length with Andee about different topics in Dharma and spiritual practice. She is so interested in Tsem Rinpoche's teachings and Kechara House's activities that she is even planning to come to KL again, with the sole intention of visiting KH! When she dropped by today, she even bought with her a printed copy of bus timetables and enquired about the most suitable accommodation for giving her easy, fast access to the centre. Looks like she'll be in KL sooner than you can say "Kechara"!



Compassion really does conquer all – look at those smiles!

After Rosalind left, Andee was still on a high-spirited roll and spent some time later in the evening talking in great depth to an Indonesian visitor to the booth. After much chats, the guy left to find money to purchase a book. Many people often say that they'll be back and then promptly disappear into the grand Emptiness of the rest of the book fair. However, this guy really made the concerted effort to borrow some cash from his friend and literally came **RUNNING** back towards our booth before closing time to get *Compassion Conquers All!*

The reporter from Singapore's largest evening newspaper, *Lianhe Wanbao*, who visited our booth and Joe's presentation yesterday, returned to the book fair today to have a more detailed discussion with KMP head Joe and our Chinese journalist YekYee. He has promised to write the article by tonight (Tuesday night) and it will be published for Wednesday evening's issue.



Mr Lim (second from right) with KMP members Joe and YekYee and Rinpoche's very dear friend Teo Lai Seng, who introduced him to us.

As an added bonus to the whole week, we have also spotted an encouraging number of copies of KMP titles on the shelves of the huge and much-loved international bookstore Borders, in Wheelock Place, right on the *busiest crossroads of Orchard Road*. Looooook! We're right up there with Vicki MacKenzie and Tenzin Palmo!!!!

Tsem Tulku Rinpoche and KMP are absolutely ROCKIN'!

