

KMP at the World Book Fair, Singapore Day 7 – Wednesday May 30 2007

It was another fairly quiet day today, with sales totalling only S\$72 for the day. But seeing as KMP staff and volunteers are never the sort to get down and out, the day still saw lots of good experiences and encounters with visitors to the booth.

First off, the article about Tsem Tulku Rinpoche that was promised by the Chinese reporter from *Lianhe Wanbao* was published today. The article focused on introducing Rinpoche and covered a bit about our booth at the book fair and KMP's first Chinese book, *Be Greedy*.

The newspaper even delivered copies of the newspaper over to us which we have placed up on our display and distributed to customers.



Sharon was very excited about the new article!

Jenny's great cousin, Fun, has been consistently bringing around lots of food for us working at the booth. Every day's menu is varied and, what is most touching is that she hand delivers the food herself every day. Today, she brought round vegetarian rice and the *most enormous* strawberries you'd ever seen!

Again, though we did not make that many sales, we had the valuable chance to talk to interesting new people. A Christian man, Chan, stopped by to talk to us and share his thoughts about spirituality and religion. He spoke particularly at length with liaison Susan (our former Christian missionary girl!) about the overlaps between Buddhism and Christianity. Though there were several things in Dharma which he didn't feel he really believed, he was still very open to listen, discuss and share. The



conversation with him proved that there is so much to be gained from sharing similarities between faiths, rather than focusing on the differences.



Deep in conversation...

Interestingly, his son, Sherman, will be travelling to Tibet soon as he has been long fascinated and interested in Tibetan Buddhism. Before we knew it, Chan called his son to come over to our booth to meet us. He turned up soon after



Tibet's bravest traveller Irene, and Sherman

and shared a long conversation with Susan and Irene, and had the chance to meet a few of the other KMP volunteers on duty. We invited him to come visit us and Kechara House if he ever came up to KL and exchanged contact details.

Chan was very happy about the conversation; when he left, he even told to Susan that he found it a very “enlightening experience” and said very warmly and happily, “May God bless you all,” which is so characteristic of that wonderful, peaceful Christian spirit.

An interesting question that was repeatedly asked throughout the day was what “Be Greedy” actually meant. Visitors who looked at the Chinese book of the same name seemed puzzled by its message, perhaps finding it to be quite at odds with the prominent photo of a Lama on the cover, and the Buddhist context it’s in. This gave us the chance to explain what the “greed” of this book refers to, namely that of spiritual wealth and being greedy for creating ultimate happiness of others as well as ourselves.

Something on the side: KMP writer Kelvin Hong’s sister Rosalind very, very kindly agreed to have Susan, Sharon, Shin and Yek Yee stay over at her apartment throughout the duration of their stay. Considering she had never met them at all before they turned up on her doorstep last week, this was an incredibly generous offer!

Rinpoche sent over some gifts to her, including a Tara statue and a chunky mug, which the four girls presented to her today. She was very appreciative and kept saying thank you to Rinpoche – she loves Tara!



Rosalind sure looks smappy!

It's Vesak day tomorrow and a public holiday throughout Singapore, so we're expecting a larger turnout of visitors. There is an IT fair starting tomorrow in the same convention centre so hopefully a "spillover" from the people attending that exhibition will find its way to our cosy little corner in the book fair too. We hope that this means there'll be lots more stories to tell tomorrow!