



English Section

The English Section of the Kluang Buddhist Society has about 60 members, 40 of whom are very active while the remaining 20 drop in when they are free: Headed by Bro. Lee Kim Hiang and Sister Tan Lee Peng, the group meets every Friday from 8.00 pm - 10.00 pm in the temple. The Friday's gathering encompasses Pall Chanting, offerings followed by either the study of the Dhammapada or "The Buddha and His Teachings" by Rev. Narada. Each full moon night is reserved for fellowship when everyone brings a vegetarian dish for 'pot-luck party'.

The English group organises interesting activities such as talks by invited guests e.g. Prof. Fram Seng Lin, Bro. Tan Teik Beng, etc. and we are inviting Bro. Victor Wee from Kuala Lumpur to give us a talk soon. These talks are held 3 to 4 times a year, depending on the availability of speakers and they attract many non-members. Outstation trips such as visits to temples in Singapore and Malacca had been successfully organised too. Within Kluang, we had visited Salem High Country, located near Pusat Haiwan and we also visited Pulau Tioman.

The English group had come a long way to achieve its present membership. Having started in 1980, its founder members were Bro. Tan Ah Ba and wife, Bro. Henry Tan and wife, Bro. Thomas Tan and wife, Bro. Tong Wahy Chye and Sister Tan Lee Peng. At that time the temple was just a wooden shack with no proper facilities except for some tables and chairs. Bro. Tan Ah Ba was the driving force behind the closely-knit group. He acted as mentor while Bro. Henry Tan and family fired most of the questions. Coming from a so-called Buddhist family with no knowledge of Buddhism, Bro. Henry Tan and wife lost

no time in learning all they could. They are to be commended for driving 40km each Friday night from Simpang Rengam just to attend the weekly discussion.

The group then expanded slowly to include Bro.Chee Swee Chin and family, Sis.Chee Kam Ling, Bro.Lim Hong Kai and family and Dr.Chun Lee Hsieh & family. During the early years, several member attended Buddhist retreats in Malacca, Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Cameron Highlands. Today the English group has a few Dhamma Stewards with us namely, Bro.Henry Tan, Helen Loo, Bro.Chee Swee Chin, and Bro.Lee Kim Hiang.

In conclusion I would say that although the English group is by no means big, there is a feeling of care; love and concern within the group. We feel that we are all brothers and sisters in a big family and this, I think is the most concrete achievement of the English group.

摘自《缘之旅》

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