

Dharmagiri Hermitage & Outreach

PO Box 270, Underberg 3257



KwaZulu Natal South Africa

www.dharmagiri.org / www.dharmagiri-outreach.org / www.khuphuka.org

April 27th 2011

Congratulatory Message on the Occasion of the United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations & Buddhist Conference 2011/B.E 2554 & the 84th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the King

On behalf of Dharmagiri and the Buddhist Community of South Africa, we most sincerely congratulate the Supreme Sangha Council and The Royal Thai Government for hosting the International Council of United Nations Day of Vesak. We also most sincerely congratulate His Majesty King HM Bhumibol Adulyadej on the occasion of his most honorable 84th birthday.

Message

A Way of Life for a Sustainable Planet: *'Give what you can, take only what you need.'*

We are delighted that the focus of this 2011 Vesak theme is *'Buddhist Virtues in Socio-Economic Development.'* This theme is particularly dear to our heart. At Dharmagiri we strive to expand our Dhamma practice beyond the boundaries of our hermitage to include our surrounding rural communities who suffer from lack of resources, poor educational opportunities and the scourge of HIV/Aids. To this effect we have initiated and supported a number of successful Outreach projects. Both our hermitage and Outreach work depend on Dana.

We believe that the principle of Dana, coupled with the ancient African principle of Ubuntu which states *'we are who we are through others,'* is key to furthering a more equitable society that can overcome the mindset that seeks self benefit at the expense of others.

The practice of generosity transforms greed and supports an inner attitude of letting go and renunciation. In these times when global resources are severely challenged, we face the reality that our collective sustainability is under threat. Therefore a direct remedy is for each of us to learn to live more simply. The Holy Dhamma teaches us that endlessly seeking the fulfillment of desires can never bring about peace. Peace and deep contentment arise with the letting go of desire. May all beings dwell in peace, abundance, fearlessness and with an open heart and clear mind.

With deep appreciation for the opportunity to represent my community,

With metta,

JP Meyer - Director, Dharmagiri Hermitage