

November 29, 2010

To whom it may concern:

I am almost an empty nester with only one child still living at home and attending college. Having found a bit of leisure to deepen my Buddhist practice, I thought of avenues to pursue.

Attending my monastery, The Gyuto Wheel of Dharma Monastery in Minneapolis, MN, I--like many others who belong--always stumble to pronounce the Tibetan words. I always wanted to have a better command of that as well as understanding the texts and prayers. It seemed overwhelming. Tibetan was a language for ultra smart scholars. I am not in that category. Then I heard of David Curtis and the Tibetan Language Institute. Here at last was a man whose mission it is to open the door of understanding the Tibetan language for the general mass of regular people. I now feel empowered in my practice to have this skill. It did not come over night, and I am far from any kind of mastery, but it is a start,

First I did the Level I and Level 2 teleconference sessions, followed by one that focused on translating the various texts. At first when I started translating the texts I felt it was over my head. But that reminded me of *patience*. So I stayed the course. Just keep doing it! Now that our class has just translated the *Heart Sutra*, I find my skills have improved, and I could easily keep up with the class. That is not to say that the memorization part is as easy. But again I think *diligence*. *Focusing* is another skill that has improved. So yes, I am using the virtues found in Buddhism in my approach to language studies. It is not too far afield to say that studying with David is practicing Buddhism.

I can't stress enough that David's gentle, encouraging style is the gift he gives to his students. All questions are answered, and I have never felt bad about asking him to clarify some thing for the 100th time. He always responds gently as if the question was never before asked.

I am now taking a private weekly class with David. This is like being fed with a silver spoon, and it keeps my command of Tibetan words and grammar current.

David, his wife Deanna, and all of TLI should be supported for their mission in teaching Tibetan and the Dharma to students all over the world.

Sincerely,

Nancy Potek,
Dresser, WI

Tibetan student