

pack containing two free baby books, reading advice, information and an invitation to join the local library. This pack is presented at the time of the baby's 7-9 month health check. In the initial trial of the Bookstart program, the Bookstart pack was given to 300 families. The University of Birmingham continued to monitor the original Bookstart families and discovered an increased interest and involvement in parent-child reading. The parents of these families were several times more likely to buy books for their children or take them to the library as a result of the Bookstart program.

Bookstart babies also performed noticeably better than their peers on the U.K.'s Baseline Assessment test. The results of Bookstart have since attracted widespread interest, with 92% of the local governments in the U.K. currently participating in the program and giving away over 100,000 books a year. The organizers of the Taichung trial Bookstart reading activity hope to achieve equally outstanding results in Taiwan.

### Taiwan Rolls Out First Mobile Library

Taiwan's first "mobile library" hit the road in the central Taiwan township of Puli thanks to support from Chan World of Chung Tai. In order to further encourage the development of a climate of culture, literary pursuits and social virtue in Puli following the establishment of a community library in the township by Pu Tian Ching She Monastery, Master Wei Chueh of Chan World of Chung Tai donated an NT\$800,000 vehicle to the Puli town hall to serve as a mobile library. The mobile library will visit remote areas of Puli to provide convenient access to books for residents in these areas. The project was designed especially for children in the hope that every child in the township can experience the joy of books as they grow up.

Master Wei Chueh said that Chan World of Chung Tai is a part of Puli and

made the donation out of its concern and care for the township. He said that he hoped this gift would yield fruitful returns by encouraging more people in Puli to engage in cultural and educational pursuits. The venerable monk noted that since children are the future masters and social pillars of our country, the education of the next generation will affect the stability and development of the country and society, and thus requires special attention. Promotion of the mobile library project, he said, can help enhance the educational level of Puli, adding that with the concern and hard work of the public, the township can enjoy a new and better future.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the mobile library donation was held on August 29 at the small outdoor book plaza of the Puli Public Library. During the ceremony, Master Wei Chueh handed a large symbolic key for the mobile library to the town mayor, who in turn presented an appreciation plaque to Master Wei Chueh in recognition of the kind donation.

### Sun Yat-sen Memorial Library

On November 12, the eve of the anniversary of the birthday of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) announced the planning results for the world's first Sun Yat-sen Memorial Library. The library will be located at the former site of the KMT Central Committee, and construction is scheduled to begin in March next year. The library will consist of several sections, including a study service center, reference service center, and reader service center on the second basement level; an exhibition area in the main floor lobby; a Taiwan studies information center on the sixth floor; an ROC and KMT historical records center on the seventh floor; and a rare books center on the ninth floor. The library will store the KMT's vast collection of rare books, feature exhibits, and provide comprehensive services to the public. It will also cooperate with various foundations to pro-