

2007 Annual Report for Won-Buddhism of North Carolina



From the Head Kyomunim

Rev. WonGong So

Dear friends in dharma,

Won-Buddhism is a religious movement founded in South Korea in 1916. The founder, Sotaesan, realized that while material aspects of our lives have advanced, our spiritual capacities have not kept up. So, it is critical to develop our spirituality to overcome the challenges of modern life.



Won-Buddhism of North Carolina endeavors to realize the religious ideals of spiritual cultivation and reach out to all living beings to relieve suffering. Won-Buddhism enshrines the *Il Won Sang* (“One Circle Image”) as the model of spiritual awakening. The image symbolizes our original true nature and the great oneness and truth of the universe. An essential tenet of Won-Buddhism is to live with gratitude because we are indebted to a Fourfold Grace: Grace of Heaven and Earth, Grace of Parents, Grace of Fellow Beings, and Grace of Laws and Universal Principles.

The Won-Buddhism Temple in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, started in May 2003 and has added more programs each year. I am thankful to Dharmakaya Buddha Fourfold Grace that the Temple has settled and evolved in this beautiful place, such that many wonderful people come here to search for their true self through dharma practice. I pray that all dharma practitioners and all living beings continually advance and transform themselves as they realize their true, empty, clear, and bright nature.

Palms together,

WonGong (소원공)

From the Associate Kyomunim

Rev. IIDug Kim

“I wish and pray, sincerely and truly, where my hands touch the world, where my feet walk on the ground, where my voice echoes through the hills, and where my mind is penetrating, that we share a true affinity for attaining Great Enlightenment and for reaching out to all living beings.” — Ven. Daesan’s Prayer.

This has also been my prayer and vow since beginning this walk on a spiritual path. Won-Buddhist priests carry out roles that help people come together with truth, come together with teachers, come together with dharma, come together with community, and come together with their original true nature and the vow to attain Great Enlightenment while reaching out to all living beings.

I am grateful to be serving in the Won-Buddhism Temple of Chapel Hill. In my first assignment since being ordained as a kyomunim, it has been my pleasure to serve the community and Temple practitioners in meditation services, as well as in its many other programs. The Temple has reached out to the community and beyond through these programs, in addition to offering deliverance services for the deceased, cultural and educational camps for children, and tutoring services for students. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as a kyomunim in this Temple and for the chance to fulfill my priesthood as I support others in our dharma journey.



Palms together,

IIDug (김일덕)

2007 Event Summary

The Won-Buddhism Temple of NC supports the spiritual cultivation of community members through the teachings of Ven. Sotaesan, the founder of Won-Buddhism. A variety of spiritual sessions and services were held throughout the year:

- The Temple conducted meditation services on Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The average attendance on Tuesdays was 9; Saturdays, 10; and Sundays, 20.
- The Temple held morning sessions to further the practice of those interested in daily meditation. There was an average of five practitioners in early morning meditation.
- An average of seven practitioners attended eight Saturday afternoon retreats for furthering their meditation practice.
- Great Enlightenment Day is celebrated April 28 each year in recognition of Ven. Sotaesan's Great Awakening and also the Founding Day of Won-Buddhism. Eighty people participated in Great Enlightenment Day.
- New Year's Eve and New Year's Day services were held to send off the old year and direct the spiritual path of practitioners for the coming year. A total of 125 people participated in these events.
- Children's meditations continued, with an average of 11 participants. The Temple embraced cultural diversity by starting monthly programs for teens, Hispanics, and Koreans
- Altogether, over 270 participants attended the spring and fall dharma sessions and summer lectures by a guest teacher, Ven. Chwatawonim.



2007 Event Summary

Continued

The Temple also provided much individual support and a number of special outreach services:

- Through supportive individual and dharma counseling, the kyomunims provided service to 334 individuals/families in the Temple or at their homes. In addition to counseling, the Temple also offered special visits for blessing homes, birthday celebrations, and family events as requested.
- Deliverance ceremonies were offered to deliver the souls of the deceased and support the families and friends in their grief. The Temple provided 21 series of deliverance ceremonies for departed souls, including the 33 who died at Virginia Tech.
- The Temple conducted 100 days of prayer to collect the spirit of practitioners and the community and to bless benefactors supporting the dharma room addition.
- The kyomunims and practitioners conducted outreach through lectures and meditation workshops. The venues included Piedmont Community College, Wake Forest University, University of North Carolina, Duke University, the Integrative Medical Center, and the “Change Your Mind Day” event in Durham.
- The kyomunims led a three-day meditation retreat at the Southern Dharma Retreat Center, as well as a meditation retreat/workshop for a women's yoga group and at Thich Nhat Hanh Sangha, both in Raleigh.
- The head kyomunim and one Temple member joined with the staff of Won-Buddhism Scout in facilitating a two-week program for the World Scout Jamboree in England. The team reached about 5,000 youths and adults through meditation workshops, explanations of Won-Buddhism, and dharma services.
- The NC Temple also hosted the Richmond Temple in a dharma name ceremony for practitioners from both groups.
- About 500 email recipients are informed about Won-Buddhism of NC programs. In addition, the Temple maintains a website, www.wonbuddhismNC.org.

2007 Event Summary

Continued

The Temple continued to work with an architect and a Temple building committee on the design and permitting process for a new dharma room addition. It conducted six events in support of the project:

- An English-language camp was provided to six Korean children in January and seven Korean children in February. Thirteen host families and about 30 volunteers supported this program on many levels to help the campers improve their English and expand their cultural learning.
- A dharma camp was held in the summer to teach 27 children meditation skills, appreciation for cultural variety, and creativity in arts and crafts. Fifteen volunteers supported this program.
- In December, a Korean college student took part in a language study program to improve her English and cultural awareness. Two host families and about seven volunteers supported her effort.
- A bazaar was held in September, and about 25 volunteers served in preparing and running the event. One hundred people visited on the day of the bazaar.
- A flower-arranging class was taught by a top professional floral artist from Korea who was visiting the Temple in December. She offered four flower-arranging classes, benefiting a total of 44 participants.
- Five movie nights were held in 2007, benefiting an average of 18 participants per night in their discussions of spiritual and social themes.



2007 Event Summary

Continued



Reflecting on all these achievements accomplished in 2007, we are deeply grateful. This was only possible with all the sincere practice and generous contributions from our wonderful dharma practitioners and visitors. We pray that in 2008 we continue to deepen our quality of practice and expand the outreach of this great work.



Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities.

BALANCE SHEET

	Year Ended Dec.31, 2007	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2006
ASSETS		
Cash equivalents and cash	\$ 22,476.42	\$ 24,816.95
Investments	<u>180,000.00</u>	<u>140,000.00</u>
	202,476.42	164,816.95
 LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accrued expenses and other payables	<u>3,095.34</u>	<u>2,337.03</u>
Total Liabilities	3,095.34	2,337.03
 Net assets or fund balances	 <u>199,381.08</u>	 <u>162,479.92</u>
	202,476.42	164,816.95

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2007
REVENUE	
Contribution and gifts	\$ 60,379.72
Interest	4,220.25
Special events ^a	<u>16,257.07</u>
	80,857.04
 EXPENSES	
Operating expenses	35,872.15
Fundraising expenses ^b	<u>8,083.73</u>
	43,955.88
 Increase in net assets	 36,901.16
 NET ASSETS	
Beginning of year	<u>162,479.92</u>
End of year	199,381.08

^a Bazaar, flower arranging class, children's English language camp, youth English language study, children's Dharma camp, movie night.

^b Expenses from all special events.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2007
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Increase in net assets	\$ 36,901.16
Increase in accrued expenses and other payables	<u>758.31</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	37,659.47

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Purchases of investments	<u>(40,000.00)</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	(40,000.00)

Net increase in cash equivalents and cash	(2,340.53)
Cash equivalents and cash at beginning of year	<u>24,816.95</u>
Cash equivalents and cash at end of year	\$ 22,476.42



* Form 990 is available for inspection.

From the Dharma Practitioner

Michael Macklin (WonHyong)

All my life, I have been a spiritual person, but I have never found a spiritual tradition in which I could rest. So I have been a seeker, but not a joiner, and not a dabbler. I have been a committed agnostic, with a strong feeling of there being a real "truth". For many years, I have satisfied my spiritual inclination through my work as a psychotherapist. Believing in people and seeking the deepest possible understanding is a kind of spiritual quest, but it is limited in some way.



In Buddhism, I have found a complementary pathway in spiritual development. Studying Buddhist writings has been a type of spiritual practice for me, but it is not the practice of Buddhism. To practice Buddhism, I feel I need a teacher and a sangha.

In the fall of 2003, I wandered into a free meditation session taught by a Won-Buddhist priest (kyomunim). As many found, the atmosphere surrounding this Won-Buddhist meditation was a delightful, welcoming, and loving practice that made them feel at home from their first contact. Won-Buddhism is free from rigidity and dogma and is a practice that I can embrace. I have continued an active practice ever since and have had the opportunity to meet many priests, both here in the U.S., and also on a trip to Korea two years ago. The priests of Won-Buddhism are the embodiment of Buddhist practice: loving, joyful, and inspiring.

Since coming to the Won-Buddhism Temple in Chapel Hill, I have also had a chance to study the scriptures of Won-Buddhism and have found them to be a practical approach to living a good life and striving for enlightenment. In addition, Won-Buddhism is an active social action organization, working for peace and reconciliation throughout the world. They are active against world poverty, both through providing charity, as well as creating opportunities for education. I foresee our Temple becoming more socially active as we grow.

I have found in Won-Buddhism a spiritual tradition in which I can rest and continually renew myself in seeking awakening.

Board of Directors

YonSuk Chung
Head of the Eastern Diocese
143-42 Cherry Ave., Flushing, NY 11355

YieRi So
Administrative Assistant to the Head of the Diocese
143-42 Cherry Ave., Flushing, NY 11355

WonGong So
Head Kyomunim of the Temple
8021 Old NC 86, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

IlDug Kim
Associate Kyomunim of the Temple
8021 Old NC 86, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Michael Macklin (WonHyong)
President (Interim)
617 Bayberry Dr. , Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Maura High (WonMyeong)
Secretary (Interim)
307 Blueridge Rd., Carrboro, NC 27510

Chon Shoaf
Treasurer (Interim)
10030 Hammock Bend, Chapel Hill, NC 27517





Won-Buddhism Meditation Temple
8021 Old NC 86
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
919-933-6946
WonbuddhismNC.org