

2008 Annual Report



Won-Buddhism of North Carolina

From the Head Kyomunim

Rev. WonGong So

Often when I am doing yard work, a whadu will occur to me. Once when I was raking leaves, I questioned, “How many fallen and rolling leaves are there in this Temple yard? Can I count them at all?” The answer was, “So very many leaves... countless numbers.” I was reminded of the Buddhist mantra, “Sentient beings are countless; I vow to save them all from suffering.” The mantra goes on to say, “My troubled and delusive thoughts are countless; I vow to end them all. The teachings in my dharma path are countless; I vow to learn them all. The Buddha Way is above all; I vow to attain it.” These are the aspirations and vows that all the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas carry throughout many life times. When we recite these vows and carry them with us, it means we are walking on the path of buddhas and bodhisattvas.



Ven. Sotaesan, the founding Master of *Won*-Buddhism, guided us with the Ilwonsang vow as a model for our path toward spiritual realization. Following his teaching, I vow to progress, being graced, rather than to regress, being harmed. I vow to practice modeling wholeheartedly after Ilwonsang, the symbol of universal truth and our original true nature. I vow to balance my mind, heart and body. I vow to gain wisdom from life and universal principles. I vow to use my mind, heart, and body mindfully. I vow all these until I attain the great power of Ilwon and until I am united with the essential nature of Ilwon.

I feel as if I am the luckiest person on this earth as I live with these vows, and there are such wonderful dharma friends from the Temple and beyond who are also on this path. Each day is a new day. Joy and bliss are soaring in my heart today and every day.

From the Associate Kyomunim

Rev. IlDug Kim

In *Won*-Buddhism, “dedication means an unremitting state of mind, which is the motive force that will achieve the objective when we try to accomplish anything.”

Ven. Sotaesan said, “No matter what one may be doing, whether a person is wholly devoted to it or not depends on how well he understands its connection to him.” Understanding the connection between us and practice is critical. Once we clearly feel that meditation is spiritual nourishment, we cultivate a need to eat that spiritual food. However, we sometimes are unclear about the connection.

When my brother and I were in college, my parents sent us herbal medicine to be taken regularly for a month. My brother finished his, but I still had 20 doses left. He said, “This is not just a medicine, it is my parents’ love and care for me. So I have tried to be mindful to take it on time.” His example showed me that taking the medicine required dedication, which came from mindfulness.

When some beginners shared their delight in spiritual practice to Ven. Daesan, he asked, “Can you keep that mind for 50 years?” They said, “No, we cannot.” Ven. Daesan asked again, “Can you do it for 10 years?” They answered, “Yes, we can.” Ven. Daesan said, “Then, Do it for 10 years, 5 times.” Once you decide to do something, check your mindfulness, and do it for 10 years. If 10 years is too long, do it for 1 year, 10 times.

I pray that all of you continue on your spiritual journey with dedication.



2008 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 16; Saturdays, 13; and Sundays, 16.
- The Temple held morning sessions to further the practice of those interested in daily meditation. There was an average of 5 practitioners in early morning meditation.
- An average of 8 practitioners attended 11 Saturday afternoon retreats to further their meditation practice.
- Great Enlightenment Day was celebrated by 50 practitioners on April 28 in recognition of Ven. Sotaesan's Great Awakening and the Founding Day of *Won*-Buddhism.
- Sotaesan's Memorial Service (June 1) was attended by 30 practitioners.
- The *Won*-Buddhism Thanksgiving Service (November 30) was celebrated by 18 attendees.
- New Year's Eve and New Year's Day services were held to send off the old year and guide the spiritual path of practitioners for the coming year. A total of 110 people participated in these events.



2008 Event Summary

Continued

- Monthly children and family meditations continued with an average of 11 participants.
- Altogether, over 91 participants attended the spring and fall dharma sessions and summer lectures by a guest teacher, Ven. Chwatawonim.
- Several groups met for the first time in 2008: the first monthly Korean dharma service; the first monthly informal Dharma discussion; the first Raleigh group meditations at a practitioner's home and at Moving Mantra Yoga Studio.



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 368 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 25 series of deliverance ceremony for departed souls.
- The Temple has been conducting 1000 days of prayer to collect the spirit of practitioners and the community for supporting the dharma room building project.



2008 Event Summary

Continued

- The kyomunims and practitioners conducted outreach through lectures and meditation workshops at several venues and events: Piedmont Community College, University of North Carolina, Duke University, and International Peace Day.
- The head kyomunim led a four-day meditation retreat at the Southern Dharma Retreat Center near Asheville, NC.
- The Board of Directors held a retreat and visit to the Washington, Philadelphia, Manhattan, New York, and Richmond Temples.
- An overnight retreat was held for four candidates wishing to receive dharma names.
- A Dharma Name Ceremony was held for four recipients and 25 attended to support their commitment.
- A pilgrimage to Korea was undertaken by two practitioners and the head kyomunim. The head kyomunim extended the pilgrimage by making presentations about the NC Temple at dharma services in various Korean Temples.
- The head kyomunim talked on the topic of “Fourfold Grace” at the 38th World Scout Conference in JeJu, Korea before 1300 world scout leaders.
- The Temple maintains a website, www.wonbuddhismNC.org, and about 600 e-mail recipients are informed monthly about *Won*-Buddhism of NC programs.



2008 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. Four fund-raising events were conducted in support of this project and Temple operations:

- A dharma camp was held in the summer to teach 17 children meditation skills, cultural awareness, and creativity in arts and crafts. Fifteen volunteers supported this program.
- A Korean college student took part in a language study program to improve her English and cultural appreciation. Two host families and about seven volunteers supported her effort.
- A bazaar was held in October, and about 25 volunteers served to prepare and run the event. Two hundred people visited on the day of the bazaar.
- A movie night was held to view and discuss movies relevant to spiritual ideals.



Reflecting on all the achievements of 2008, 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 2009 we continue to deepen our quality of practice and expand the outreach of *Won-Buddhism*



Statement of Financial Activities^a

BALANCE SHEET

	<u>Year Ended</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2008</u>	<u>Year Ended</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2007</u>
ASSETS		
Cash equivalents and cash	\$ 51,818.23	\$ 22,476.42
Investments	<u>203,618.70</u>	<u>180,000.00</u>
	255,436.93	202,476.42
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accrued expenses and other payables	<u>562.68</u>	<u>3,095.34</u>
Total liabilities	562.68	3,095.34
Net assets or fund balances	<u>254,874.25</u>	<u>199,381.08</u>
	\$ 255,436.93	\$ 202,476.42

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE

Contribution and gifts	\$ 70,021.35	\$ 60,379.72
Interest	12,400.91	4,220.25
Special events ^b	<u>1,010.75</u>	<u>16,257.07</u>
	83,433.01	80,857.04

EXPENSES

Operating expenses	16,381.56	35,872.15
Fundraising expenses ^c	<u>2,299.36</u>	<u>8,083.73</u>
	18,680.92	43,955.88
Increase in net assets	55,493.17	36,901.16

NET ASSETS

Beginning of year	<u>199,381.08</u>	<u>162,479.92</u>
End of year	\$ 254,874.25 ^d	\$ 199,381.08

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u>Year Ended Dec. 31, 2008</u>	<u>Year Ended Dec. 31, 2007</u>
Increase in net assets	\$ 55,493.17	\$ 36,901.16
Increase in accrued expenses and other payables	<u>(49,770.06)</u>	<u>758.31</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	5,723.11	37,659.47
 CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchases of investments	<u>(23,618.70)</u>	<u>(40,000.00)</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	(23,618.70)	(40,000.00)
Net increase in cash equivalents and cash	29,341.81	(2,340.53)
Cash equivalents and cash at beginning of year	<u>22,476.42</u>	<u>24,816.95</u>
Cash equivalents and cash at end of year	\$ 51,818.23 ^d	\$ 22,476.42 ^e



^a Form 990 is available for inspection. () indicate a negative amount.

^b Bazaar, youth English language study, children's dharma camp, movie night.

^c Expenses from all special events

^d Includes \$203,618.70 in certificate of deposit and \$50,000 to be invested in 2009, all dedicated to Dharma Room Expansion Project.

^e Includes \$16,835.49 dedicated to Dharma Room Expansion Project and invested in certificate of deposit in 2008

From the Dharma Practitioner

Maura High (WonMeyong)

For a little over three years, I have been attending the Won-Buddhism Meditation Temple, a few miles from my house. I go there in all weathers and seasons, for morning or evening meditation, for weekend services and retreats, and many of the special services, programs, and events held throughout the year,



And still, there are some things happening at the temple that I have not attended, some service or program that the kyomunims have thoughtfully offered to people in our community and that people have gratefully participated in. Throughout the year, Rev. Wongong and Rev. IIDug are there, smiling and full of grace, always anticipating and responsive to people's individual needs.

One doesn't need to attend all the events at the temple, of course, in order to have a rich and fulfilling spiritual life with our temple as a spiritual center. Many people live further away from the temple than I do, and have work and other commitments that limit their time. Our kyomunims encourage them to attend services regularly and to devise a plan for a consistent practice in which they can grow spiritually, with the end of realizing their inherent buddha nature and reaching out to other beings in need. In fact, without such a plan, one will never advance, no matter how many services and programs one attends.

I have, in the last three years, come to see how even small acts or thought processes are the workings of a profound truth. In each of our actions, we can choose to be kind and generous, careful and attentive, or their opposites. We can cultivate the empty mind all the time, not just in seated meditation. How fortunate we are to have this temple, and these kyomunims, to guide us on this path!

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