

The Bodhi Stand

Upasika Christina Sy



In October of 1983, Cristina was in Los Angeles looking for a Buddhist Temple. She hadn't been able to find one until one day when she was walking down Sixth Street. As she passed by Gold Wheel Monastery, she stopped and went in to see if she might find what she was looking for there. She did. She arrived about 7:30 P.M. and heard the evening lecture. The next day she came back at 10 A.M. and stayed the entire day. After that she came regularly and helped out on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. She did whatever needed doing--helping in the kitchen, cleaning the halls and altars, arranging the flowers, and so forth. Gradually she was introduced to more and more of the teachings, and the more she learned, the more she knew she wanted to study.

In October of 1984, one year later, she came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas to gain training in how to be a Buddhist layperson. "I like a quiet place. I don't like to talk much. The people here are sincere Buddhists. I can feel it. I used to blindly follow people and went to temples to seek for things--to ask for blessings in my life. It's different here. It's a quiet place and I'm learning how to approach the Buddhadharma in an entirely different way--without any seeking."

Cristina contributes her talents and skills in whatever ways are needed. She attends the Translation Revision Committee meetings regularly and helps with the technical and clerical aspects of that work. She devoted nearly full time to teaching and aiding in the classrooms of Instilling Virtue School during the past year.