

The Bodhi Stand



Introducing Ho Kuo Bing

Ho Kuo Bing came to visit Vancouver about six months ago. She comes every year for a while to stay with three of her daughters who are attending school in Canada. Since coming, she has attended the daily ceremonies and lectures at Gold Buddha regularly.

"It's very unusual for a Buddhist Monastery to have so many activities every day of the week," she comments. "In Kuala Lumpur I go to temple on the first and fifteenth of the lunar months and often on Sundays as well. But rarely are the Sutras explained. Usually the door is open and one is welcome to go in and light incense and bow, but there are few opportunities to recite the Sutras and listen to lectures on the Dharma."

Kuo Bing has visited Gold Buddha Monastery before. She first came in 1984 when the Monastery had just been established and joined the first Gold Buddha pilgrimage to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas to celebrate Shakyamuni Buddha's birthday. It was also at Gold Buddha that Kuo Bing took refuge with the Triple Jewel and bowed to the Venerable Elder Abbot as her teacher.

"I remember my mother telling me that when I was young, I was always sick. Each time my illness got serious, my mother would go to the Buddhist temples and bow to Gwan Yin Bodhisattva. Once when my illness was particularly severe, she went and bowed, beseeching Gwan Yin Bodhisattva to bless and preserve her daughter so that they could live in peace without any more problems." Kuo Bing's mother claims that then Gwan Yin Bodhisattva informed her that her daughter's name should be changed to Ya-bing (亞冰). After she was given that name, Kuo Bing never got sick again during her childhood. From that incident, Kuo Bing's mother's faith in Gwan Yin Bodhisattva deepened and Kuo Bing herself has always remained Buddhist.

Each day she recites mantras and Sutras in her own home at her altar. While in Vancouver, she has come on a daily basis to join sessions, repentances, the recitation of the Earth Store Sutra, and celebrations of special holidays. In addition, she has contributed her time and talents untiringly in helping the monastery in whatever ways have been needed.