



DRBA Gains Another New Way-place The Establishment of Gold Dharma Monastery

喜見法總增添新道場--

金法寺在路州成立

編按：喜見法總又增添新道場，新道場位於美國南部，路易絲安娜州的紐奧良市，並且有一個閃亮的名字「金法寺」，路州佛教會是金法寺的前身。該會前會長張國寶為文介紹成立的歷程以誌慶賀。

Editor's note: It is delightful to see Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA) gain another Way-place. This new Way-place is in New Orleans, Louisiana. It has a brilliant name: Gold Dharma Monastery. It was formerly known as the Louisiana Buddhist Association (LBA). Chang Gwo Bao, former chairman of LBA, wrote this account of how the monastery came to be.

張國寶 文 BY CHANG GWO BAO 孫果維 英譯 ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY WENDY SUN



我們非常感謝法總，接受路州佛教會，使我們如願在路州有一所正法的道場，由法師帶領我們修行。在1990年12月之前，當地沒有一個正法道場，我們必須開六個小時車，到離我們最近的德州一座寺廟去。幾位初學者，一致認為佛法太好，佛理太妙，也因為佛法難聞難求，所以學佛的

First we would like to express our gratitude to the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA) for accepting LBA, giving us a Way-place of Proper Dharma in Louisiana and Dharma Masters to guide us in our cultivation. Prior to December 1990, there were no orthodox monasteries in the vicinity; we had to drive six hours to the nearest temple in Texas. A few beginners felt that the Buddha's teachings were so wonderful and yet lamented that so few people had the opportunity to study it because it was not widely available. In order to make it easier for people to study the Dharma, under the guidance of some

人這樣少。爲了方便大家學習佛法，在幾位法師的指導下，我們有了佛教會，在一位居士的家裡定時共修誦經念咒。

到了91年夏天，我們收到了一箱佛書及錄音帶，上人深入淺出的開示帶領我們進入佛法的大海裏，我們非常的開心

，這些法寶改變了我們大家的思想，了解什麼是真正的佛教，如何供養三寶，如何修行，如何持戒，而且每一年都有人前往聖城進修充電，學習唱誦、佛門禮儀及遵守上人的六大宗旨，慢慢地上人的弟子多了，形成一股很強的力量。

在當時大家心裡都有個共同的願望，希望能有一個道場，因此每週一次誦持楞嚴神咒，一年後因緣具足，我們看上了一座小

Dharma Masters we established a Buddhist association and gathered at a layperson's house regularly to recite sutras and mantras.

In the summer of 1991, we received a box of DRBA's books and cassette tapes. The Venerable Master explained profound teachings in a simple manner, helping us in our study of Buddhism. We were delighted. These Dharma jewels changed our way of thinking and helped us to understand what the true teachings of Buddhism are, how to make offerings to the Triple Jewel, how to cultivate and how to uphold the precepts. Every year, people would go to the Sagely City to learn how to do the chanting and rituals and how to follow the Six Great Principles. Slowly, the Venerable Master's disciples grew in number and became a strong force.

At that time we all wished to have a Way-place, so once a week we gathered together and recited the Shurangama Mantra. One year later the conditions become ripe. We noticed a little church that we liked, but a Hindu Society and a Greek Society had already been eyeing it. This little church was very conveniently located and had parking



教堂，當時印度教及希臘教比我們先看上這個地點適中，交通方便又有停車位的小教堂，幸虧有上人默默的護念我們

，及佛菩薩護法龍天的加持，順利的在1999年10月買了這座小教堂，我們平常做早晚課及晚上的聽經，同聖城一樣，只是沒

spaces. We all felt that the Venerable Master was helping us, and that the Buddhas, Bodhisattvas and Dharma protectors were blessing us. In October 1999, we successfully purchased this little church. We did the morning and evening recitations as well as listening to Sutras in the evenings just like at the Sagely City, except that there was no Dharma Master to lead us. In November the same year we joyfully requested Dharma from DRBA and asked for Dharma Masters to staff our place. However, since the Proper Dharma is not easy to

有法師的帶領；所以在同年的11月，我們一群人歡喜無比的向法總請法，申請法師主持道場，但因正法難求，我們也經過很多的考驗：因為我們先有廟，可是沒有法師，經過了很久的考驗，其中有法師表示願意以百萬元買下佛教會，也有法師告誡我們「你們只是在家人，不可以做出家人的事」還說這不如法。另外，我們最擔心的是房子的付款，當時離我們要簽字買廟還有兩星期的時間，我們沒有足夠的錢付頭期款，當時四面八方的壓力考驗，因為最早成立佛教會的成員，全都走得差不多了，有人搬走了，有人走修行的路去了

，有人去了聖城，只剩下三兩人，不知能不能守到法總來接管。唯有咬緊牙關忍耐

，我就是報著「一切是考驗」，傻傻的不問未來路，雖然人不多，大家還是信心滿滿的誦《地藏經》、拜願祈求上人，求佛菩薩加被，終於通過考驗，有了金法寺並在2003年二月份法師蒞臨住持。

非常的感恩，我們有一群合群又真誠的上人的弟子聚在一起，只要佛教會有事情，大家是開心的做著護法的事：出錢、出力，全是自動自發，就怕自己沒有機會做功德，甚至於小朋友們都是很天真的搶著做，搶著幫忙。有法會的時候，家有急事把急事放在一邊，甚至有的生意也不做了，專心在法會上。記得有一年邀請法總法師來路州，小朋友在機場搶著獻花，看見穿著黃色衣服的人就大叫「來了！來了

！（法師）」，走近一看根本不是，大家笑成一團。因為我們對上人有最大信心

，有多人見過上人，在虛空中打坐，坐在雲上；有人見到上人從相片上走出來；也有人見到上人在我們繞佛時，在佛殿中加持我們。上人曾告訴我們「有願就有緣，願有多大，緣就有多大」，願我們大家繼續努力，讓正法住世，十方善信如雲來集，金法寺法務興隆。阿彌陀佛！



obtain, we had to go through many trials. As we had our temple first and no Dharma Master, we endured many years of tests. A Dharma Master from Taiwan offered \$1 million to buy LBA. We also had Dharma Masters telling us that we are just laity and cannot perform the work of the Sangha. They said that we were not conducting things properly. What worried us most was the payment. Two weeks before we were to purchase this temple, we still didn't have enough money to pay the first installment. Pressure came from all directions. The original founders of this Buddhist Association had mostly left. Some had moved away, while others had gone to the Sagely City. Only two or three people were left. We were very worried as to whether we could hold on till the day DRBA Sangha members took over. I relied on the Master's saying, "Everything is a test," and gritted my teeth, not worrying about what the future would bring. Although there were not many people left, we were extremely faithful in reciting the *Earth Store Sutra*, bowing to the Venerable Master, and praying to the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas. Finally we passed the test: Gold Dharma Monastery came into being and in February 2003 Dharma Masters from DRBA came to manage the monastery.

We are extremely grateful to have a group of very sincere cultivators who work very well together. When there are things to be done to support the Association, everybody happily rushes in, contributing their money and services, completely self-motivated and taking the initiative, fearing only that there are few opportunities for them to create merit and virtue. Even little kids are eager to do work and help out. When there is a Dharma assembly, urgent family matters are set aside. Some even put their businesses aside to put their full effort into the Dharma assembly. I recall one year when Dharma Masters from DRBA came to Louisiana. Children rushed to the airport to offer flowers. Upon seeing people dressed in yellow, they shouted, "They're here! They're here! [meaning the Dharma Masters]" Everybody enjoyed a jolly good laugh when it turned out to be a false alarm. Since people have great faith in the Venerable Master, many have seen the Master floating in space meditating or sitting on clouds; some have seen the Master walk out from his photo. Others, while circumambulating the Buddhas, have seen the Master in the middle of the Buddha Hall bestowing blessings. The Venerable Master used to tell us, "To have vows is to have affinity; however great one's vow is, it will evoke an affinity of equal size." Let us continue to work hard, so that the Proper Dharma will dwell in the world, the faithful in the ten directions will gather like clouds, and the Dharma will prosper at Gold Dharma Monastery. Amitabha!