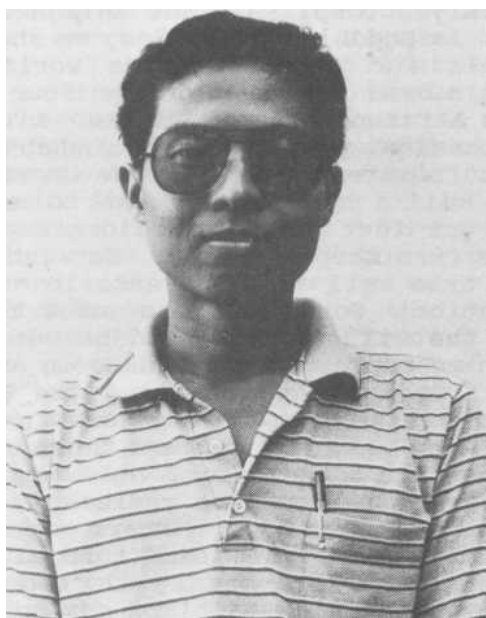


## *The Bodhi Stand*



### *Introducing Khoo Thean Beng*

Khoo Thean Beng, a technician from Penang, Malaysia, visited the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas in 1989. During his stay, he wrote down some of the events that led him to the Sagely City:

"In Penang, my family frequented the Penang Buddhist Association and several years back, the Venerable Master and the Delegation from the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas came to Malaysia. When the Delegation was in Penang, we attended every lecture and ceremony led by the Venerable Master and Delegation. Before every lecture, we recited Amitabha Buddha's name and the Venerable Master would walk up towards the lecture hall's platform. I can still remember at these moments I would feel something different inside me. I don't know how to describe the feeling; I guess I was very much moved and felt very happy to see the Venerable Master. For every lecture, I found the English to be very clear and precise. We decided not to let this opportunity pass by in vain, and so, in 1978, all of us (the whole family) took refuge with the Triple Jewel and bowed to the Venerable Master as our Teacher. The Venerable Master and the delegation left, and after quite some time, we were invited to an opening ceremony, but we did not have the opportunity to attend.

"In everyday life, whenever I felt low (from studies or job) I would read Sutras with the Master's commentaries. A lot of these commentaries have advice for people and their daily lives; I found that to be very helpful and relieving.

"I thought of visiting the Master and making a trip to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas for a long time. A couple of years back, I was searching for an organization or group making such a trip, and I found Mr. Tham Khai Beng. He was planning his second trip. Later, Mr. Tham and Mr. Ho Alek jointly organized a group consisting of twenty-one people. I am grateful to both of them, especially Mr. Tham who had difficulty making his own arrangements, but still spent lots of time and effort to arrange the trip for us.

"The atmosphere and environment here are very suitable for and conducive to studying the Buddhadharma. It is well organized, peaceful, and serene. Daily, one chants, bows at ceremonies, and attends lectures. When time permits, one does some work. You eat and sleep the proper amount. I guess all these wholesome activities give little chance for false thinking. I wish I could stay longer to get well adjusted and participate in the ceremonies and lectures more attentively."