

Grace will lead us home

First of all, I would like to thank you for all your support and care during my internship for the last three months in this beautiful Temple. Thanks to all your supportive presence, smiles, and encouragements, I was able to manage my internship training very well in peace and happiness.

I truly feel blessed to participate in many different programs in meditation and services with you. I remember..., for the first time when I had a laying down meditation in this room, I felt strange and I was thinking, “How I can lay on the floor, I’m wearing my uniform. What if I wrinkle my fancy clothes?!” However, now I love lying down meditation. One day, during the lying meditation, my consciousness accidentally went away and then, it came back by my own loud snoring sound. I felt embarrassed. I felt sorry to interrupt others’ quiet resting meditation. Then, I also experienced an awakening moment of coming and going when hearing my snoring. After that, laying meditation was a time for me to let go of whatever I have done and whatever I will have to do, and then I really enjoyed free from my long days of work.

The best part of learning during my internship was having fun and joy in my daily dharma work and practice as a Kyomunim.

During the times of children dharma care, my young dharma friends have taught me how to bring joy into the moment. When I was assigned to work for children’s dharma services, of course, I worried so much, because I did not know how to take care of them with my broken English. For the first sessions, I was nervous and I would like to avoid that time with them, if I can. But, the children have been very sweet and kind bodhisattvas, encouraging me with their cute sparkling eyes. My cute English teachers corrected my English without judgment and made me feel safe.

Children reminded me how to have fun by being together in their activities. For instance, each child held a Mok-Tak and I showed them how to make the

sound on the Mok-Tak. And I taught them the chanting words, “나무아미타불” with a rhythm of Mok-Tak. I was impressed by children’s deep concentration with Moktak chanting while having so much fun with it, even though they may not understand well the meaning of the chanting words, “Namuamita-bul.”

One day, children accomplished 3 times of 3 minutes-long chanting meditation. It was total about 10 minutes chanting and they did not seem to be exhausted, but instead more energized, preparing them for being calmer in their sitting meditation later. With the merit of an early start in their dharma practice, I believe that they will have a bright and promising future.

Last three months, I was surprised to see many people who come for meditation practice.

I was very impressed by their sincerity as they came to temple, every week, to study the Won-Buddhist teachings and as they had Kyohwadan meeting at home, every month, to share dharma. I also appreciated those volunteers who came to help us to take care of this beautiful temple. Through meditating together, studying together, and working together, I feel Won Buddhist Temple of North Carolina is very lovely and lively, and I have received such a great energy during my time here.

Now, I know more clearly that coming to this temple has been such a blessing to me. Now I can see my vision and hope more clearly realizing that I can share some qualities with people in this country. I feel more hopeful and confident about my role here in America.

I also learned about the joy of practice with Rev. Wongong and Rev. Lee.

I admire the beautiful kyomunim’s full dedication and great sense of humor with anyone and anytime. Rev. Wongong loves to sing or dance in order to create a better moment with others and in order to have true affinity. Sometimes, I felt embarrassed when she danced because I suddenly had to

dance with her to follow the flow. But, it was good. Actually, it helped me to relax my rigid mind-muscle. It opened my view to be free from a certain ideas or thoughts about who I am or how I should act.

Soon, my service as an internship trainee at this temple is finished, and this is my last course to become a Kyomunim. In the beginning of my internship, I thought that Rev. Wongong and Rev. Lee were simply judges for this test period because I “OFFICIALLY” need an evaluation form from them. But now, I know that they are compassionate judges, and skillful guides on my spiritual journey as a kyomunim. Moreover, as I see you, you all are beautiful members of this temple who have warm and dedicated hearts towards the world. Your dharma practice has deepened my vow. I have felt that I was nurtured so much by being in this delightful temple.

It has been such a blessing and honor to have met all of you during my internship. I had unforgettable experiences from great events such as Kimchi day, Temple bazaar, garden, Dr.Chung’s dharma lectures, as well as visiting Kyowhadan meeting at Michael’s home. I believe that this temple community is truly One family which is the goal of Won Buddhist teaching.

On Monday, I will go back to Won Institute graduate school in Philadelphia to greet the teachers and students. Then I will be receiving ordination as a Kyomunim in December in Korea. In January, I will be assigned to a Temple in United States.

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Again, I am deeply grateful for your support and your care for this great temple and the kyomunims. All these experiences will be cherished and remembered for a long time in my heart.

As a farewell greeting, I would like to introduce you with dharma message from Master ChungSan. ***“World peace is realized by everyone’s harmonizing mind, thus, harmonizing mind is the cardinal point of world peace.”***