

Master YongHua, 永化 Thích Vĩnh Hóa

Master YongHua is the founder of Bodhi Light International, Inc. (BLI), a non-profit religious organization dedicated to benefiting all living beings through the teachings of Mahayana Buddhism.

Born in South Vietnam, Master YongHua came to the United States in 1973 to attend college. He earned a BS degree in Mathematics from the University of Minnesota and an MBA degree from the University of Chicago.

After decades in the corporate world, he became a monk to study Chan meditation under Great Master XuanHua, 宣化 Tuyên Hóa, in 1995 and became fully ordained in 1999 under Master Mãn Giác 滿覺. Master YongHua received additional training in Taiwan for an in depth study of Buddhist principles. He returned to the United States in 2001 and in 2005, started teaching Chan and accepting disciples.

Through BLI, Master YongHua has been offering free programs and retreats for over ten years. In 2012, Master founded Lu Mountain Temple, which has been BLI's home base in Rosemead, CA. Lu Mountain Temple currently offers weekly Chan meditation programs and Buddhist Dharma Assemblies. Master YongHua also lectures weekly on the teachings of the Buddha and other Mahayana Sutras. And every year, Master hosts a total of 10 weeks of Chan meditation retreat and 2 weeks of Buddha recitation retreat, held in the Summer and Winter.

Having outgrown their current location, BLI acquired a larger property in 2017 which will become Wei Mountain Temple. Centrally located in Rosemead, CA and closer to public transportation, BLI will have the opportunity to offer more services to the community, including a weekend children's program, and counseling services. Plans are that it will be fully operational in 2019.

There are currently 10 monastic disciples training under Master YongHua, and many more lay students, who come from over 15 different nationalities and range in age from 1 to over 80. Additionally Master's reach is covering the globe, from Europe to Asia, through hosting Chan meditation retreats in Lisbon, Portugal, to Seoul, Korea. Although they come from diverse backgrounds, Master's disciples share a common passion for Chan meditation, and for diligently working to realize their fullest potential by devoting their lives to the service of others.