

Timeline: The Life of Grand Master Weichueh

1964

Ordained as a novice under the Venerable Lingyuan at the Shifang Dajue (Great Enlightenment) Chan Monastery in Keelung, Taiwan.

Received full ordination at the Shifang Dajue Chan Monastery.

Early 1970

Entered secluded practice in the Wanli mountains of northern Taiwan for over 10 years.

1973

Completed a solitary retreat at Yuanming Monastery in Hsinchu.

1987

Built Lingquan Chan Monastery at the site of his retreat in Wanli after followers requested him to spread the Dharma.

Late 1991

Held seven consecutive Chan-7 retreats at Lingquan Monastery, the first such meditation retreats in Taiwanese Buddhism. Their success revitalized Chan practice in Taiwan. The Grand Master would continue to hold hundreds of retreats in Taiwan and overseas.

1992

Completed a two-month solitary retreat in Deji, Taichung and described his insights in the *Pear Blossom Songs*, four poems explaining the stages of cultivation.

Opened the first meditation center, Pu Guang, in Taipei and began establishing other centers throughout Taiwan to provide meditation classes for the public.

Began planning the construction of Chung Tai Chan Monastery.

1993

Invited to spread the Dharma in the United States and lectured in New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. This marked the beginning of Chung Tai's overseas Dharma transmission.

Established the Chung Tai Buddhist Institute in Taiwan to educate and prepare monastics to spread the Dharma around the world.

Conducted a Chan-7 retreat in Vancouver, Canada at the invitation of the Vancouver North American Buddhist Society, the first Chan-7 held overseas.

1994

Established the Chung Tai Collegiate Chan Association in Taiwan.

Returned to the United States to deliver a Dharma lecture, "Chan and Modern Life", at the University of California, Irvine and conducted a one-day meditation retreat at the California Polytechnic State University.

Conducted a Chan-7 retreat at the Zhuangyan Monastery in New York.

Held the Chung Tai Chan Monastery's groundbreaking ceremony.

1996

Went on an alms-begging round to raise disaster relief funds for the victims of Typhoon Herb.

1998

Began planning the construction of Pu Tai Elementary and Junior High School.

Transmitted the Triple Platform Ordination for monastics and the Bodhisattva Precepts for laity at the Shifang Dajue Chan Monastery.

Went begging for alms to raise funds for the Keelung municipal government.

1999

Established the Immediate Disaster Relief Headquarters and Fundraising Branch in response to the 921 Earthquake in Taiwan.

Mobilized the entire sangha, including lay disciples, to participate in the earthquake rescue and relief efforts. The sangha helped distribute emergency supplies and provided hundreds of free meals daily to Puli residents for almost six months.

Established the Chinese Century Buddhism Association.

2000

Received the Ministry of the Interior's award for "Religious Organizations with Exceptional Service in 921 Earthquake Relief".

Completed a six-month solitary retreat in Ruisui, Hualien.

Honored with Taiwan's "Good People Doing Good Deeds" award.

Opened the first overseas meditation center in Lafayette, California—Buddha Gate Monastery.

2001

Organized the "Chung Tai Chan Monastery Delegation for Religion, Art, and Culture" to mainland China.

Received the annual award for "Excellence in Charity Work and Contributions to Social Education and Reform".

Held groundbreaking ceremony for Pu Tai Elementary and Junior High School.

Held the “Inauguration, Consecration, and Purification Ceremony of Chung Tai Chan Monastery”.

Organized the “World Religions Cultural Exchange Seminar”.

Transmitted the Triple Platform Ordination for monastics and the Bodhisattva Precepts for laity.

Held the first “Cross-Strait Art and Culture Exchange Seminar” and the “Welcome Symposium for China’s Buddhist Studies Delegation”.

Joined the government’s efforts in Typhoon Nari disaster relief and received recognition from the Taipei municipal government.

Conducted the Grand Opening Ceremony and the first Chan-7 retreat at Buddha Gate Monastery.

2002

The Chung Tai Cultural Educational Foundation received the annual “Taipei City Model of Excellence for Service-Learning Award”.

Welcomed the Buddha’s finger bone relics from the Famen Temple in Fufeng, Shaanxi, China, which were enshrined in Chung Tai Chan Monastery for 10 days.

Organized the “Buddha’s Finger Bone Welcome and Blessings Ceremony” in association with Nantou County.

Held a memorial ceremony for the crash victims of China Airlines Flight CI611.

2003

Organized the “Symposium for Cross-Strait Technological Development and Spiritual Purification”

Held a blessing ceremony dedicating merits for the end of the SARS epidemic.

Donated a vehicle to the Mobile Public Library program in Puli Township.

Held a three-day Chan meditation retreat for business executives.

2004

Initiated the “Chung Tai One Stick of Incense” program which offers daily sitting meditation sessions in the Upper Chan Hall.

Held the first annual Medicine Buddha Blessing Ceremony to pray for social prosperity and world peace.

Joined the Typhoon Mindulle and Seven-Two Flooding disaster relief efforts.

Pu Tai Elementary and Junior High School officially opened.

Conducted the Consecration and Purification Ceremony at the grand opening of the Chung Tai Zen Center of Houston and Chung Tai Zen Center of Sunnyvale in the United States.

Raised disaster relief funds for the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

2005

Transmitted the Triple Platform Ordination for monastics and the Bodhisattva Precepts for laity.

Held the formal inauguration ceremony for Pu Tai Elementary and Junior High School.

Passed abbotship of Chung Tai Chan Monastery to Venerable Master Jiandeng.

Established the Soaring Cloud Art Center in Pu Gao Meditation Center, Kaohsiung.

Contributed disaster relief funds for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

2006

Co-founded the First World Buddhist Forum and delivered a keynote address on the forum's main theme: "A Harmonious World Begins from the Mind."

Lingyin Monastery in Hangzhou, China, one of ten great ancient Chan temples, and Chung Tai Chan Monastery affirmed their unity as monasteries from the same lineage.

Delivered a lecture at the invitation of Sichuan University, China and accepted honorary professorship at the university.

Held the Nantou Bonsai Exhibit and Chung Tai Buddhist Art Exhibition in coordination with the Nantou County Flower Festival.

Opened the Chung Tai Martial Arts Center to promote the oneness of Chan and martial arts.

2007

Established the Preparatory Committee for the construction of Chung Tai Museum.

Held groundbreaking ceremony for Pu Tai Senior High School.

Pu Ren Medical and Dental Clinic opened to serve the community.

Held the 2007 Peace and Blessing Ceremony and the Ceremony for the Installation of Unity Bridge at Chung Tai, a gift from Lingyin Monastery.

Held the Nantou Bonsai Exhibit and Chung Tai Shan Buddhist Art Exhibition in coordination with the Nantou County Flower Festival.

Held the Cross-Strait Buddhist Cultural Conference.

2008

Donated disaster relief funds to the Sichuan Wenchuan earthquake disaster area.

Transmitted the Triple Platform Ordination for monastics and the Bodhisattva Precepts for laity.

Held the "Winter Vegetarian Meal Service for Thousands" in the town of Puli, which offered free vegetarian meals to residents for five days.

Reached the milestone of establishing 108 meditation centers in Taiwan and overseas.

2009

Planted a “Cross-Strait Peace Tree” with the director of China’s Bureau of Religion, Ye Xiaowen.

Unveiled the Unity Bridge Plaque in a ceremony with the deputy secretary of Zhejiang Province, Xia Baolong.

Attended on invitation the Second World Buddhist Forum with the theme: “Make the Conditions Come Together for a Harmonious World ”.

Held Cross-Strait Peace Blessing Ceremony.

Donated to the Morakot Typhoon relief effort.

Inauguration of Pu Tai Senior High School.

Inauguration of Chung Tai Museum with the special exhibition, Heavenly Treasures Sprung from the Earth, displaying Zhejiang Provincial Museum’s collection of artifacts from Leifeng Pagoda.

Opened the Lotus Cloud Art Center in Pu Lian Monastery in Hualien.

Held the “Cross-Strait Cultural Artifacts Exchange Symposium”, attended by the Director of the Association of Cross-Strait Relations, Zhang Chenyun, and the Chairman of the Straits Exchange Foundation, Jiang Bingkun. Held Cross-Strait Peace Blessing Ceremony.

2010

Held ceremony to receive 1,273 titles of stele rubbings from the Xi’an Beilin Museum as a gift to Chung Tai.

Held Cross-Strait Peace Blessing Ceremony.

Chung Tai Museum featured the special exhibition: True Treasures in Stone and Ink.

Inaugurated the Texas Pagoda Chan Monastery in Shepherd, Texas and Middle Land Chan Monastery in Los Angeles, California.

Transmitted the Eight Prohibitive and Fasting Precepts, Three Refuges and Five Precepts at Buddha Gate Monastery for its 10th anniversary service.

Delivered Dharma talks in Chung Tai Zen Center of Sunnyvale and Chung Tai Zen Center of Houston.

2011

Held the Chung Tai Chan Monastery 10th Anniversary Celebration Ceremony.

Transmitted the Triple Platform Ordination for monastics and the Bodhisattva Precepts for laity.

On its 15th anniversary, the Chung Tai Shan Buddhist Foundation donated NT \$9.5 million to various educational, medical, and social welfare organizations throughout Taiwan in the spirit of unconditioned compassion.

2012

Held Cross-Strait Peace Blessing Ceremony.

Accepted invitation to speak at the Third World Buddhist Forum with the theme: “Unity of Vow and Action for a Harmonious World.”

Delivered Dharma talks and transmitted the Three Refuges at Hong Kong’s Pu Guang Meditation Center.

Held groundbreaking ceremony for the Chung Tai World Museum.

2013

Contributed to the Sichuan Ya’an earthquake disaster relief fund.

Chung Tai Museum held the special exhibition: All Dharma Leads to the One Truth.

2016

Conducted a tonsure ceremony—his last Dharma ceremony.

The Chung Tai World Museum was inaugurated.