



*Family at Weekly Communal Dinner - December 3rd*

*Greetings with Peace and Joy!!!*

*We want to thank you for being faithful friends to the Myra House Ministry. The ministry has been filled with energy that comes from Earth, Kinship and Holy Presence each season throughout the year.*

*Winter came to Myra House vividly as a Mulberry tree lost all her leaves within a week since Thanksgiving Day. The winter garden, a fruitless thick tree full of various heart-shaped foliage including other deciduous fruit trees and even water lilies, clearly showed her lifeless posture and pale-colored branches. Even the chilling air from the snow-white frost on the mulch ground*

*seemed to suppress the life force in the garden. Yet, we are hardly insensitive to the essence of life when we take a deep breath. We feel the rich layer of moisture and mixed fragrances. We are invigorated with Earth energy in the middle of this chill barren season.*

*Blessings flow like a waterfall in the Myra House as over one hundred guests, residents and patrons from all over have dwelled here in the past year. Ted, a youth minister from Dallas, taught us the best "Bistec conqueso (hot-stuffs with tortillas)" as a skillful chef. Jordan, a Harvey Mud graduate, joined morning prayers for four months as he overcame his sleeping in college habits. Lay leaders from Maine and Minnesota brought their native wisdom, professors from New York and Ohio enlightened our minds, the garden shaped up with the extra help from intern ministers from Berkeley, students and the district superintendent from Korea, especially our extended family: Living Waters College fellowship members. Ministers from New Heaven and Berkeley became our residents for several months and devoted their hearts, minds and strength. Faithful patrons contributed special gifts such as: fruit cakes, pumpkin-pies, candles, extra kitchen ware, books and special prayers including financial contribution. The chapel was dedicated with the hands and prayers of UMC Korean Pastors and friends from Claremont. And thanks to the Professor who made the special lecture for the day. We are energized with kinship energy in the midst of the afflictions from the brush fires and financial shortage.*

*Messianic good news comes to people in a community who are holding their hope together. Mary, a pregnant woman, goes to a community, the house of Zechariah, and shares her big news of life with a person, Elizabeth, whom she can be open with and trust. Luke reports that Mary lived together within the community for about three months and then returned to her home. All other needs are provided in sharing life in the community. Scripture teaches us of a model community for Christian living, nurture and transformation. Our needs are provided for as we find a place where we belong: friends and extended families and the community come together and we share our joys and concerns. We try to live communally as we hunger for connectedness in an individualistic society. We strive to live in non-polluting ways as we sense urgency in this consumeristic culture. We struggle to live counter-culturally against the present demonic power of the evil spirit which brings scars, sorrows and pains of our neighbors and the world. While we share burdens, sorrows and hope and dream as we dig, pull, clip, spray, stake, rake and haul in the garden the energy from the Holy Presence rekindles our life.*

*Thank you one more time for your connectedness to our community that is linked to the messianic community that brings leaping joy to the world. We pray that the Messianic good news comes to you and your community too. Blessed are you among communities, and blessed is the fruit of your kinship!!*

*Have a Merry Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! - Sung Jacob Sohn & Myra House Family*