



Season's Greetings from Myra House

The end of 2010 marks the beginning of the 11th year for Myra House. I feel unfathomable gratitude as I gaze upon the willow tree in our garden. The Weeping willow originated from Asia as her botanical name implies, *Salix babylonica*. The tree was just a bare root when she was planted ten

years ago. Observing the willow tree, she seems to exemplify the Eastern proverb:

“無爲以'無不爲, *while not doing anything, nothing is unaccomplished*”

Withstanding all sorts of harsh weather, the tree has grown over 20 feet high. Standing by the entry gate, she is the first one to greet everyone who passes by. Enduring many days and nights, the trunk has become strong and big. My arms can barely encircle it. Her tender limbs have flourished, reaching out in every direction. Standing next to the pond, she provides ample shade for the fish, turtle and water lilies. Her drooping branches and the abundant leaves gives a green canopy for those who meditate.

Just as the willow tree has grown, the Myra House has also grown and weathered various ups and downs. The Myra House has, from its inception, strived to carry out the following mission: (1) cross cultural learning, (2) eco-spiritual living and (3) service and work. All those angels who support and pray for us have a special place in the heart of the house.

We are exceptionally grateful for all that has happened this past year. The internship program with the three interns, Andrew, Jason, and Max, was rewarding. The patio garden project and earth day event took place. Andrew and James became long term residents. Jason teaches meditative yoga every Monday since fall. Returning back home, Lydia and David added energy and helped to continue morning prayer, weekly communal dinner, and Ecoterra work. The 400 miles backpack trip with David was precious. Last but not least, the Kim family joined the Ecoterra business and they have been amazing partners.

During Advent, the weather gets more chilly and rainy and the willow tree enters into a full respite. Losing all its twigs and leaves, she withdraws into zero active stage. Having name *Weeping willow*, she may enter into deeper silence of mourning with endangered natural species. Possibly, she dreams of a new year, perhaps letting go of many things. Just like the willow tree, the Myra House enters into a winter break—praying with family of illness, friends of loneliness or victims of violence. Letting go of all grief, regrets, failures, and unfulfilled goals, we dream of a new year. Remaining mindful of the proverb, “nothing is unaccomplished while not doing anything” we foresee another new decade.

Sung and Myra House family