



Dear Reader,

Here our minds meet again!

The weather is cold & wintry in North America but bright and sunny in Australia.

Ven. Haiyun was in North America at the beginning of November. He gave a 3-lecture talk on "How to live happily ever after..." (祖師西來意) at the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM). The lectures were conducted in Mandarin with simultaneous English translation. HeShang then left for Chicago to give a 2-day Dharma lecture on Chapter Six of the Surangama Sutra - "Penetration through Sound" (大佛頂首楞嚴經, 第六卷: 觀世音菩薩耳根圓通章). The MP3 file of the Chicago lectures, which is in Mandarin, can be downloaded at HYBC-NA website: <http://www.huayen.org>. The photos of HeShang's Toronto visit can be viewed at <http://www.huayentoronto.com> under "Activities". We are all very grateful for HeShang's distinctive and in depth Dharma teachings. He is scheduled to be back in North America next May for a Chan Retreat and more Dharma lectures. Please stay tuned for further announcements.

Dr. Tony Prince of Australia wrote: *"Even in the age of the internet, a printed magazine can be an effective means of spreading and sharing knowledge of the teachings, and I hope that the Huayen Quarterly will continue to grow and develop, so that one day it will be able to speak for the entire international Huayen Community and will be of benefit to students and practitioners everywhere."* On behalf of the Journal, I want to thank him for his ongoing contributions to the magazine (check out "Fa Zang's Dedication Prayer" in the current issue) and his encouragement.

Danny Floh Back writes in, "Reflections: Life on a Shoestring" - *Finding myself on the cover of a Buddhist Newsletter this month has prompted this reflective piece, a look back on the past 2 years' experiences that have challenged the person I was and shaped the direction of my current life path.*" He is the handsome young man in the cover of this issue. I have known him since he was two; he is the son of a long-time friend of mine. I asked for his help to proofread articles for us while Miles was in the hospital; that was how we got connected again. He has a great talent for photography and I love his photos. It is very generous of him to let us use his photos in the journal. He is not a Buddhist but his compassion and positive attitude towards life is very Buddhist-like.

On December 4, we started an introductory course in Buddhism, conducted in Cantonese, in Mississauga. It is for newcomers who would like to find out what Buddhism is all about. We will continue our tradition of reciting the *Chapter on Chief in Goodness from The Avatamsaka Sutra* at midnight, the start of Chinese New Year. This is our fifth year of doing so. Great merits are accumulated not because of the metaphysical reading of the sutra, but because the recitation reflects our priority in life. The first thing we do in celebrating a New Year is have the Triple Gem on our mind, and praise for the Tathagata, instead of feeding our desires for greed and ignorance.

"The Dawn of Enlightenment" is now available at Amazon.com (please encourage your friends to purchase a copy). May we all reach the Dawn of Enlightenment soon!

Olivia Tsang