

Urgent Relief for a Cambodian Temple and Village Devastated by War

An appeal from Ven. Chhan Vanthy, a Cambodian monk who, after studying in Sri Lanka for ten years, returned to become the abbot of his temple.

I am currently residing in Oddar Meanchey Province, along the border with Thailand. At present, the area where I live has been classified as a red zone or high-risk conflict area due to ongoing border clashes with Thailand. In December 2025, during an invasion by Thai troops, our monastery came under direct attack. Intense shelling caused severe damage to my quarters, the monks' residences, the dining hall, and the monastery school. Most of the monks fled, but three other monks and I tried to stay at the monastery. Finally, we were also forced to flee and spent one month surviving in the forest.

In addition, many buildings in the village, as well as much of the infrastructure, were also heavily damaged. The village has not yet returned to normal. This situation has caused severe hardship, and daily life is extremely difficult and unsafe. Most villagers have fled their homes. Some are now living in refugee camps in the neighboring Siem Reap Province, but about 100 families are surviving in tents near the monastery. They all live in constant fear. There are severe shortages of food, clean water, and all essential supplies. We monks, who traditionally depend on the community for support, now find ourselves in the position of caring for these villagers.

Because of these severe and ongoing hardships, I humbly and respectfully appeal to all compassionate individuals, donors, and humanitarian organizations to kindly offer assistance in any way possible, according to your ability, to help relieve the suffering of Buddhist monks and poor civilians who are victims of this border conflict.

Your kindness and generosity are not only forms of material support, but also a powerful source of hope, encouragement, and dignity for those who are living through fear, hardship, and despair.

May all donors be blessed with peace, happiness, and prosperity.



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Dana for World Peace

Anniwatte, Kandy, Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan Independence Day

February 4, 2026



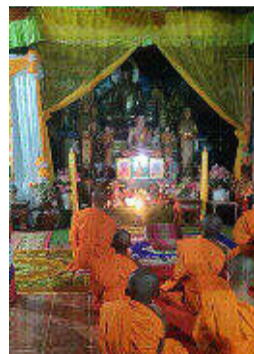
Inspired by the deeply moving monk's Walk for Peace across the United States, Buddhist Relief Mission held a dana for world peace and to share merit with the victims of the recent cyclone disaster in Sri Lanka, of all the wars raging around the world, and of the genocides of the Rohingya and the Palestinians, and with refugees everywhere. We also shared merit with friends suffering from illness and all of our departed friends and relatives. Dana was offered to four monks and three nuns. On that day, eight countries—Austria, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Uganda, the UK, the USA, and Vietnam—were represented. Ven. Dhammarakkhita (Uganda) gave a Dhamma lesson, pointing out that the primary cause of war is anger, which must be subdued and abandoned whenever it arises. Ven. Ratana Nanda (Bangladesh) taught that dana, properly offered, can lead to rebirth in the Brahma Heavens. The anthuriums gracing the altar were a gift from Ven. Nanda (Sri Lanka).



In response to our recent appeal, Buddhist Relief Mission has received \$675, which has been sent to Ven. Chhan Vanthy in Cambodia. In appreciation, he sent the following message:

I have received the money. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all donors and supporters who helped raise and provide financial assistance to us during this difficult time of war. We are deeply thankful for the generous contribution, which has brought meaningful support and encouragement to those affected. Your kindness and compassion have given us hope and strength in hardship. We truly appreciate your support and goodwill.

Click the photo on the right to access a short video with chanting at the temple in Cambodia.



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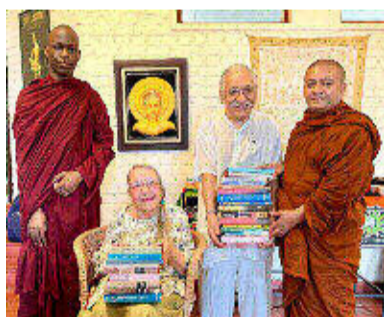
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Buddhist Relief Mission is a small organization. We can't organize grand projects. We can't dispense grants of hundreds of thousands, or even tens of thousands, of dollars. Nevertheless, we are happy that, with neither a proper office nor a paid staff, we are able, because of the support from generous friends and donors and by cooperating with local groups, to make a difference that matters, in places in need around the globe. We extend our deepest gratitude to all those who have joined us in carrying out this meritorious work over the past forty years. Sadhu! Sadhu!! Sadhu!!!



For the past fifty years, we have built an extensive library of Buddhist books. With our failing eyesight, it is difficult for us to make use of them now. We invited the monks and nuns to peruse the library. Several of them found many books which we were happy to give them to keep. What great joy to be able to offer these books to the Sangha for their study!



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Buddhist Relief Mission's Ongoing Activities in 2026



Food to Families and Needy Individuals



Support for Schools and Orphanages



Support for the Sangha



Joining Relief Activities of the Sri Lanka Cancer Society

These are some of the projects which we will be continuing this year. Your donations will help Buddhist Relief Mission carry out these programs—providing food, medicine, and other essentials to families, students, schools, monasteries, hospitals, and other institutions in Sri Lanka; offering support to monks and nuns; assisting refugees; and responding to disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, and war, worldwide.

Thank you for your generous support!
Sadhu! Sadhu!! Sadhu!!!



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Generosity brings happiness at every stage. – *Buddhism*
 It is better to give than to receive. – *Christianity*
 You will never attain happiness until you have given from that which you love. – *Islam*
 When we lift something to give to another, we ourselves are lifted. – *Judaism*



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Support for Refugees Worldwide



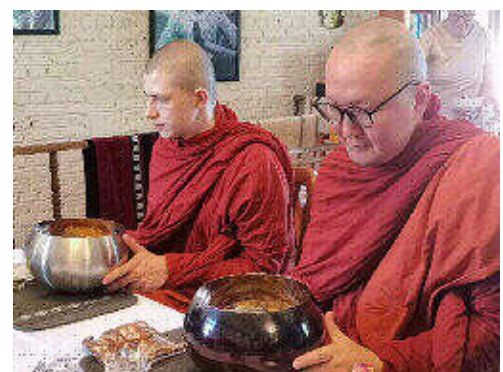
Disaster Relief



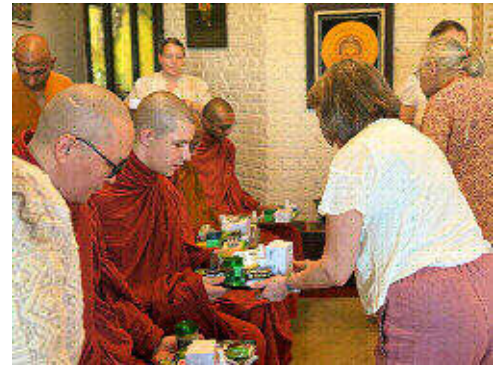
Methasevana Youth Rehabilitation Center

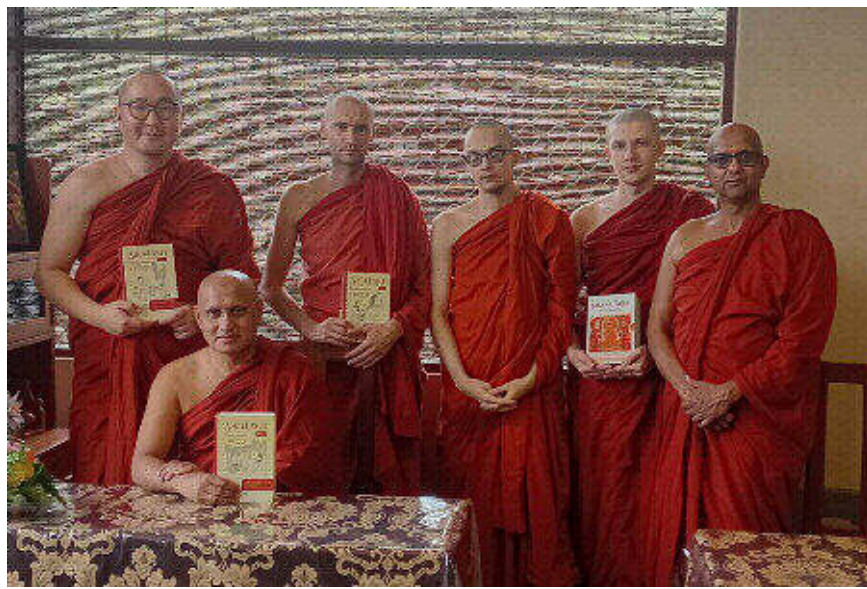
Buddhist Relief Mission Dana, March 22, 2026

The Sangha members receiving dana were four monks from Cittaviveka Monastery, Ven. Abhayatissa and Ven. Samitha (Sri Lankan) and Ven. Nirodha and Ven. Sangharakkhita (Russian); one Sri Lankan nun, Ven. Nanda; and four of our students, Ven. Mettajiva (Sri Lankan monk), Ven. Silacara (Burmese monk), We were pleased that so many, both old friends and new, joined us for this joyful event.

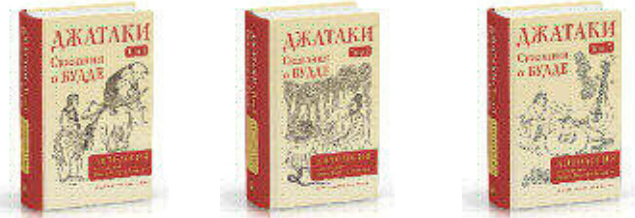








In February, Buddhist Relief Mission learned that there were Russian monks residing at Cittaviveka Monastery, a meditation center near Victoria Reservoir. We were pleased to be able to donate copies of the *Jataka Tales of the Buddha*, both English and Russian, to the monastery. It was two of these monks, a resident Sri Lankan monk, and the abbot who attended the dana.



The Russian translation was initiated by Roger Bischoff, head teacher at the [International Meditation Centre-UK](http://www.internationalmeditationcentre.co.uk), after it was requested by his students in Russia, who carried out the work. The books have been published by [Ganga Publishing House](http://www.gangapublishinghouse.com).

In January, on the occasion of Anton Chekhov's birthday and the twentieth anniversary of the Russian Literary Society in Colombo, Buddhist Relief Mission donated the Russian translation of *Jataka Tales of the Buddha* to the Society. Two girls who are studying Russian at Colombo International School–Kandy attended the ceremony and presented the books. One of the students also presented a painting she had made.



Please donate to Buddhist Relief Mission to support our activities.



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Your donations will help Buddhist Relief Mission to provide food, medicine, and other essentials to families, students, schools, monasteries, hospitals, and other institutions in Sri Lanka, to assist refugees in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Thailand, and to support worthy projects around the world. Thank you for your generous support!

Sadhu! Sadhu!! Sadhu!!!



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Assisting in the Construction of a Nunnery in Vietnam



Tỉnh Thất Tử Hòa is a small nunnery in a village near Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. Currently, there are four bhikkunis, including one of our most diligent students in Kandy, residing there in temporary shelter. The bhikkunis began constructing a new residence hall, but, unfortunately, the price of building supplies has greatly increased, and they are finding it very difficult to complete the task. The resident bhikkunis hope that, when construction is completed, the nunnery might also become a haven of safety for needy and vulnerable young women. They also plan to fill the compound with fruit trees to provide fresh fruit, not only for the nunnery, but for the surrounding residents. They seek the blessings of the devas so that Tỉnh Thất Tử Hòa may maintain the Triple Gem, propagate the Buddha's Teaching, and become a haven of peace and tranquility for the hamlet.

Buddhist Relief Mission would like to assist these bhikkunis to complete their work. We appeal to our supporters for donations to this meritorious project.



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Aware of the suffering caused by exploitation, social injustice, stealing, and oppression, I vow to cultivate loving kindness and learn ways to work for the well-being of people, animals, plants, and minerals. I vow to practice generosity by sharing my time, energy, and material resources with those who are in real need. I am determined not to steal and not to possess anything that should belong to others. I will respect the property of others, but I will prevent others from profiting from human suffering or the suffering of other species on Earth.
-Thich Nhat Hanh



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HELPING HANDS CEYLON

Support a Rural School in Anuradhapura



**A small village school is struggling with basic needs.
Children from single-income families are facing hunger and a lack of
school supplies. Support is minimal, but together we can make a change.**

Students



Preschool: 23
Grades 1-5: 53

Urgent Needs



Dry ration packs
School bags



Stationery packs

Urgent Needs



Dry ration packs
School bags



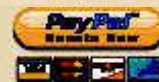
Stationery packs

Our Initiative

- We aim to provide:
- Dry rations for families
- School supplies for each child

You Can Help

- Sponsor a child
- Donate supplies
- Contribute financially



075 524 3240



helpinghandsceylon.org@gmail.com



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Two Projects of Buddhist Relief Mission

A Village Nunnery in Vietnam



Click this photo to watch a short video of our student, working on the construction in the mud.

Work continues at this nunnery in Vietnam. Our student has taken a break from her studies at University of Peradeniya for more than one month to assist her mother and aunt in the construction of a residence hall. When completed, the compound will provide a safe haven for abused women, as well as a source of fresh fruit for the village. The donations we received were a great help, but much more is needed. The cost of building materials is steadily increasing. Buddhist Relief Mission would like to help speed the construction so that our student can return to her studies in Peradeniya. We invite all of our supporters to join in this meritorious project.

High Tea at the Kandy Cancer Home



High Tea at Kandy Cancer Home	
In Memory of:	
May they have auspicious rebirths	
With wishes on a special occasion for:	
With wishes for good health for:	
With Birthday wishes for:	Offering made by:
With wishes for safety for:	Food preparation by:
<i>Bhavantu sabbamangalam</i>	May there be every good blessing.
<i>Rakkhantu sabbadevata</i>	May the Devas protect everyone.

On the fifteenth of every month, Buddhist Relief Mission offers High Tea to the residents at the Kandy Cancer Home. This vitally important institution, operated by the Sri Lanka Cancer Society, Kandy Branch, provides free full board and lodging to out-of town patients receiving extended treatment at Kandy National Hospital. The home depends entirely of private donations. Our meal consists of soup, egg-salad sandwiches, vegetable cutlets, yoghurt, bananas, tea, and juice. Each month, we also donate dry rations and essential medicine. All donors are listed on the form shown above and receive a blessing from the patients before they partake of the meal. You may dedicate your donation to a departed friend or relative, to someone who is ill or recovering, or to celebrate a birthday or other auspicious occasion. Please indicate your wish with your donation!

For the Vietnamese Nunnery



https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=CQCGY3UFFCMAW

For the Kandy Cancer Home



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Generous giving is a wonderful entry point to Buddhist practice as well as expressions of mature practice. At its essence, Dana is revolutionary because it is a giving freely without any expectation of receiving something in return. Not only is it an alternative to selfishness, greed, and possessiveness, it is an alternative to the commercial economy that is the basis of our society. –Anonymous from Tricycle Magazine



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Buddhist Relief Mission Joins Helping Hands Ceylon in Anuradhapura



Anuradhapura Rural School Initiative A Step Towards Hope, Education, and Humanity by Vandana Rajapakse, Founder/Director of Helping Hands Ceylon

Helping Hands Ceylon recently carried out a meaningful empowerment initiative for the children of a rural school in an impoverished and isolated village, 70 kilometers from Anuradhapura. This small school provides education for children from nursery through Grade 5. Despite many challenges, the school continues to function with a dedicated staff of only five teachers and a principal.

Most of the families in this area are struggling for survival. Many parents work as domestic laborers and have been severely affected by kidney diseases caused by the long-term use of contaminated and toxic water. During our visit, one little child quietly shared that the family's daily meal sometimes consists of only a few spoonfuls of rice with green chillies. Hearing these words was heartbreaking.

Reaching the school was rather difficult because the area surrounding the school is dangerous. Wild elephants often wander into the school premises and sometimes strike the walls while children are inside the classrooms. The road leading to the school was destroyed by Cyclone Ditwah, and children and villagers have to walk along an alternative route which borders a lake inhabited by crocodiles.

What touched our hearts the most was the innocence and hope carried by these children. Many of them have never traveled outside Anuradhapura in their entire lives. They dream of one day visiting Kandy, seeing the city, and experiencing the beauty of Sri Lanka's heritage sites through a school field trip. Such simple dreams remind us how precious and deserving these children truly are.

As part of this initiative, Helping Hands Ceylon provided every child with a complete stationery pack to support their studies throughout the year, along with a high quality school bag to encourage and strengthen their educational journey. We were also able to extend financial assistance to every child's family in order to ease a small part of their burden during these difficult times.

At Helping Hands Ceylon, we strongly believe that every child deserves a proper education, safety, and nutritious food. In the near future, we hope to provide a parcel of dry ration for each family connected to this school, helping them overcome at least a part of their daily struggles.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Buddhist Relief Mission and to every donor, supporter, volunteer, and well-wisher who stood beside us in making this initiative possible. Your kindness has brought hope and comfort to children who are often forgotten by society. Every contribution, no matter the size, became a reason for these children to smile.

Together, we can continue creating meaningful change.



Buddhist Relief Mission is pleased to have been part of this project, and we thank all of our supporters who contributed. We admire Vandana's energy, enthusiasm, and careful planning and look forward to her future projects. Buddhist Relief Mission is always open to cooperation with other such organizations assisting the needy here in Sri Lanka and in other countries, as well.

"Generosity is the most natural outward expression of an inner attitude of compassion and loving-kindness." – Dalai Lama



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International Refugee Day! June 20, 2026



The United Nations has designated June 20 as International Refugee Day. There are, currently, an estimated 42.5 million refugees in need of international protection globally. When internally displaced persons (IDPs) are included, the number increases to over 117 million people. Many of these refugees are fleeing from the danger of war. (There are, at present, more than one hundred armed conflicts raging in the world, with, at least, ten of them classified as wars.) Other causes include genocide, persecution, oppression, hunger, environmental damage or deterioration, and severe economic hardship. Most refugees are confined in squalid and overcrowded camps with inadequate shelter and sanitation facilities. The enormity of the situation is beyond the capacity of the UNHCR, so that many refugees are dependent on private donations and other organizations for survival and medical needs.



Buddhist Relief Mission has been active in refugee relief since its establishment in the 1980s. Currently, our focus is on the Rohingya refugees, fleeing genocide in Myanmar, both in Bangladesh, where the largest refugee camp in the world houses more than one million people, and in Sri Lanka, where more than 200 asylum seekers are trying to make lives for themselves.



Your donation will bring smiles to the faces of these refugees, provide much-needed food and other supplies, and, in some cases, save lives. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.



"Refugees are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children, with the same hopes and ambitions as us—except that a twist of fate has bound their lives to a global refugee crisis on an unprecedented scale." --Khaled Housseini



Dana for World Peace and All Refugees Saturday, June 20, 2026 152/1 Riverdale Road, Anniwatte, Kandy

Serving international monks and nuns
All are invited to participate.
All donors will be honored
in the ceremony, and
we will share merit with them.
R.S.V.P.



Click to download the entire book in PDF

Born Free and Equal by Maung Maung Tinn

A refugee from Myanmar

The UN Declaration of Human Rights
Reworded simply for children in five languages
With beautiful illustrations by the author

We have received translations in Polish and Marathi. Let's translate this wonderful book in many languages and get it published worldwide!

<https://www.brelief.org/reports/112/Born%20Free%20and%20Equal,%20Pan%20Rak.pdf>



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An Appeal for Assistance for The Way Home Project and Its Founder, Calvin Malone



Calvin with one of his teachers in front of the meditation pagoda his group was able to build in his last prison.

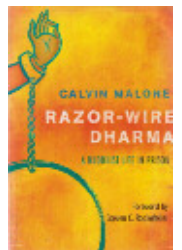
More than thirty years ago, while we were living in Japan, we received a letter from Calvin Malone, an inmate at a State prison in Washington State. Calvin told us that, having become Buddhist in prison, he had found a book in the prison library which had been donated by Buddhist Relief Mission and was writing to express his appreciation. The correspondence which this short letter initiated added a new dimension to Buddhist Relief Mission and truly changed our lives. It became apparent from his frequent letters that Calvin had a keen intellect and great depth.

Over the years, Calvin described his life in prison and told us how, as a Buddhist, he was able overcome many hurdles he daily faced. He also wrote about exchanges he had had with various officers and chaplains, and his efforts to gain recognition of and equal rights for Buddhists in the institutions where he had been held. In one of his letters, he explained that, through his lucrative jobs, he had saved enough money to send his German mother back to Europe for a final visit, but that he was not able, from prison, to make the arrangements, and he requested our assistance. We were happy to contact a travel agent. It was easy; everything went splendidly; and the trip meant the world to her.

We became so inspired by Calvin's activities that, in 2000, we accepted his invitation to the annual Buddhist Celebration at Airway Heights Corrections Center in Spokane, Washington. We were happy finally to meet Calvin and to share stories with members of his Buddhist group and some of the volunteers assisting them. Calvin's dedication encouraged us to write to the Michigan Department of Corrections while we were in Flint. We were honored that the Department gave us recognition as volunteer assistant chaplains. During our six years in Michigan, we were able to visit several prisons, to meet Buddhist inmates, and to cooperate with chaplains throughout the state. From these encounters, one of our key concerns became the improvement of conditions and support for Buddhist projects in prisons in the United States.

Through Calvin's introduction and our own prison-work experience, we corresponded with several inmates. We were also able to meet a few prisoners after their release and to assist them in their reentry into society. Recently, one of these correspondents visited us in Sri Lanka, and it was a memorable and rewarding experience for us, him, and many Kandy friends!

In 2008, Wisdom Publications released Calvin's book, *Razor-wire Dharma*, an inspiring collection of essays on life in prison as a Buddhist. This book has been universally praised as a guide not only for those incarcerated, but for anyone open to using Buddhist teachings to deal with the problems of hatred, anger, frustration, fear, and jealousy that face us everyday. Unfortunately, the book is out-of-print (Amazon has only one copy in stock.), so, if Wisdom does not reprint it, we are searching for another publisher for a second edition.



Since his release, Calvin has suffered a relapse of cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy. Nevertheless, he has spent most of his time and energy remodeling a house in Olympia, WA, for the owner, who was completing his prison sentence. To carry out this work Calvin hired ex-convicts. When it became possible, Calvin opened the completed rooms to released prisoners to assist in their reentry into society and to prevent homelessness. This was entirely in line with Calvin's long-cherished dream, The Way Home Project.

In addition to providing a safe, temporary residence for those leaving correctional facilities, The Way-Home Project intends to empower individuals with inner tools for self-improvement, to foster community support, and to build a strong network of post-release assistance. Thus, a central pillar of the project is to ensure a smooth and successful reintegration process for those transitioning back into society.



Before and After

The Way Home Project also aims to develop various programs to support prisoners who are practicing Buddhism. Taking advantage of the network developed through his activism, Calvin has enabled us to donate copies of *Jataka Tales of the Buddha* to prison libraries in many states. In order to firmly establish The Way Home Project and to develop it into a national movement, Calvin needs the support, cooperation, and involvement of interested Buddhist leaders and other charitable organizations. Considering the direction the increasingly privatized for-business prison industry in the United States is taking, The Way Home Project offers an outstanding model for the entire nation.

The owner of the remodeled house was recently released and, finding the property much more valuable than it had been before Calvin began his work, has decided to sell the house and make an immense profit. This came as a great shock to Calvin, for he had understood that his friend and the house would be part of The Way-Home Project.

Despite his vulnerability from ICE in the current situation, as a black naturalized citizen (His black father was a soldier in Germany after World War II.) with a criminal record, Calvin remains very active.



He was a leading advocate in the 2018 abolishment of the death penalty in Washington State. He was also a crucial party in a successful lawsuit requiring Washington State Prisons to provide smoke-free facilities for inmates. Calvin has also joined his friends at Olympia Zen Center in No Kings and anti-ICE protests.

In addition to his expensive cancer treatment, Calvin now faces the prospect of homelessness. Buddhist Relief Mission would like to support his projects and to provide for his safety and well-being. Our assistance, however, is dependent on donations from our supporters. Thank you all for your generous cooperation.



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