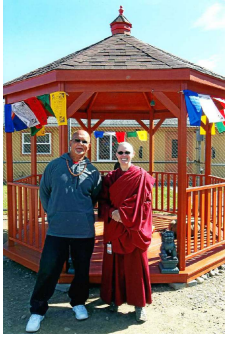


An Appeal for Assistance for The Way Home Project and Its Founder, Calvin Malone



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

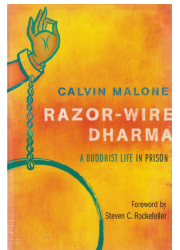
More than thirty years ago, while we were living in Japan, we received a letter from Calvin Malone, an inmate at a State prison in Washington State. Calvin told us that, having become Buddhist in prison, he had found a book in the prison library which had been donated by Buddhist Relief Mission and was 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.



https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=4SVX7ARPRMCS2

Donations may also be made

in Sri Lanka via:
Commercial Bank,
Anniwatte Branch
A/C 8254001210
Kenneth Kawasaki

in the U.S. via:
River Bank & Trust
Buddhist Relief Mission
A/C 262527856
ABA Code: 062206567

In case of a bank deposit, please send donor's name and the amount of the donation by SMS or WhatsApp to +94-77-964-9292 or by email to buddhist@brelief.org

For international bank transfer, please send a request for instructions.



Buddhist Relief Mission
www.brelief.org
buddhist@brelief.org
and WhatsApp
+94-77-964-9292