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

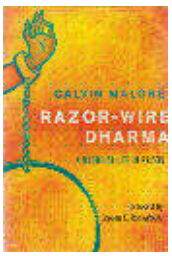
Calvin with one of his teachers in front of the meditation pagoda his group was able to build in his last prison.

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.

PayPal Donate Now

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

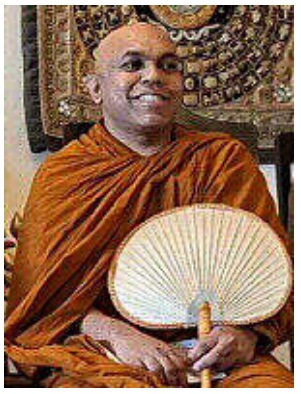
In case of a bank deposit, please send donor's name and the amount of the donation by SMS or WhatsApp to +94-77-964-9292 or by email to buddhist@brelief.org

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

World Refugee Day Dana–June 20, 2026

In memory of Ven, Udadumbara Sumangala Thero and N. G, Anulawatte



Click this photo to hear Ven. Mettajiva's Dhamma lesson about refugees and peace.

"Seeking safety is a right, and it needs to be upheld for every person. Protecting people forced to flee is a collective global responsibility. We have to remember this could happen to anyone, anywhere."–Ben Stiller

Fleeing home to seek safety is one of the hardest choices anyone can make, but becoming a refugee should not define a person's life. Refugees have been forced to abandon their homes, but they should never be forced to abandon their hope: for a safe place to live, for the opportunity to study, for the chance of decent work.

But the unacceptable reality is that millions of refugees today find themselves trapped in dependency, relying on a dwindling amount of aid for their daily survival. For too many, what begins as an emergency becomes years — sometimes decades — of waiting. This must change. Refugees need more than protection from danger; they need opportunities to rebuild their lives with dignity. Being a refugee is meant to be a temporary condition, not a lifelong fate.

Every day, refugees contribute to the communities that have welcomed them — as workers, students, neighbours, artists, athletes, entrepreneurs, and leaders. Given the opportunity, they rebuild their lives and help strengthen the societies around them. (Adapted from a statement by UNHCR)

Click the peace symbol to view all the images posted around the house.

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=2VNPE5P8FZP58

Donations may also be made

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

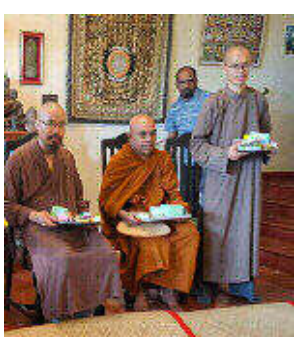
in the U.S. via:
River Bank & Trust
Buddhist Relief Mission
A/C 262527856
ABA Code: 062206567

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

This dana was held to mark World Refugee Day 2026, but Buddhist Relief Mission also supports other projects in many countries. We are helping a nun build a nunnery in Vietnam and a monk build a monastery in northern India. Your donations will help us to carry out programs such as these, as well as to provide food, medicine, and other essentials to families, students, schools, monasteries, hospitals, and other institutions in Sri Lanka during this economic crisis. Thank you for your generous support!

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



Deadly Flood and Landslides in Rohingya Refugee Camps in Bangladesh

URGENT APPEAL

At the beginning of July, relentless rainfall flooded large sections of the refugee camps. Water entered homes built from bamboo and tarpaulins, roads disappeared beneath muddy floodwater, and families struggled to protect their few belongings. The temporary shelters were never built to withstand repeated natural disasters. Families who have already survived violence and forced displacement must now face another battle–this time against nature.

20,000 refugees were affected, and 2000 shelters were damaged or destroyed by the flooding and landslides. Parts of some of the camps, which house more than one million refugees, were completely under water!

With recent cuts in funding, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is unable to provide adequate relief for the displaced refugees, who were already struggling with lack of food and health services. BRM is asking for donations, which can be channeled through an NGO working directly in the camps. Please help save lives and offer some hope to these suffering refugees, who are struggling against disasters, both manmade and natural.

The deadliest single incident occurred on July 8, when monsoon rains triggered a landslide that tore through a girls' school. Students had been getting ready for class when part of the structure suddenly caved in. "Those of us who were on the western side managed to get out," a teacher said, "but everyone on the eastern side was buried under the debris." Residents of the camp began pulling survivors from the rubble. Emergency personnel later took over rescue operations, treating the injured and recovering the bodies. The search was officially called off that evening. Six girls were killed.

The Rohingya are a Muslim minority who have been living in Rakhine State, Myanmar, for many centuries. Successive governmental regimes, claiming that they are migrants from Bangladesh, have not recognized them as an indigenous ethnic group. They have been severely discriminated against by Bamar and Rakhine Buddhists. In 2017, the current Myanmar government instigated a military campaign against this community, which rapidly developed into a concerted genocide, displacing more than one million Rohingya, most of whom escaped across the Naf River into Bangladeshi refugee camps. Entire villages were burned, and thousands of Rohingya were killed.

Donations may also be made

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=X2Z7984XKFEGU

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

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

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Dana for World Peace
and
An End to Wars

Birthdays of
Vandana, Beverly, Sylvia, Vivi, Tikiri
Rajah, Ross, Shehan, Ken

152/1 Riverdale Road, Anniwatte, Kandy

Please add your own dedication
and
join us on that day.
RSVP
May all beings be happy!

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

PayPal Donate Now

Flood Relief for Rohingya Refugees in Camps in Bangladesh

Warm greetings to you, and my heartfelt thanks. With your generous support and kindness, we were able to distribute food in a very organised and meaningful way among the Rohingya families affected by the disaster. Your help has brought not only food, but also hope to people who are going through extremely difficult times.

All the families who received food today expressed their deepest gratitude to the Buddhist Relief Mission. Many of them had been suffering for a long time, and receiving this food brought smiles to their faces and relief to their hearts. They are sincerely praying for you and will always remember your kindness and compassion.

Your generosity and compassion give us strength and motivation to keep helping those in need.

Once again, thank you so much. May God bless you with good health, happiness, and endless kindness. Your support is truly a great blessing for us.

–Rohim Ullah, organizer of the relief distribution

PayPal Donate Now

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=2VNPE5P8FZP58

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

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

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

THE TARO LEAF: A Symbol for the Rohingya Experience

Click the leaf for a video explaining the symbolism

Our thanks to Dr. Jessie Wells, who facilitates our grants to the camps. She is deeply dedicated to the Rohingya, and her assistance is invaluable. She knows many of the refugees personally and is familiar with most of the relief groups.

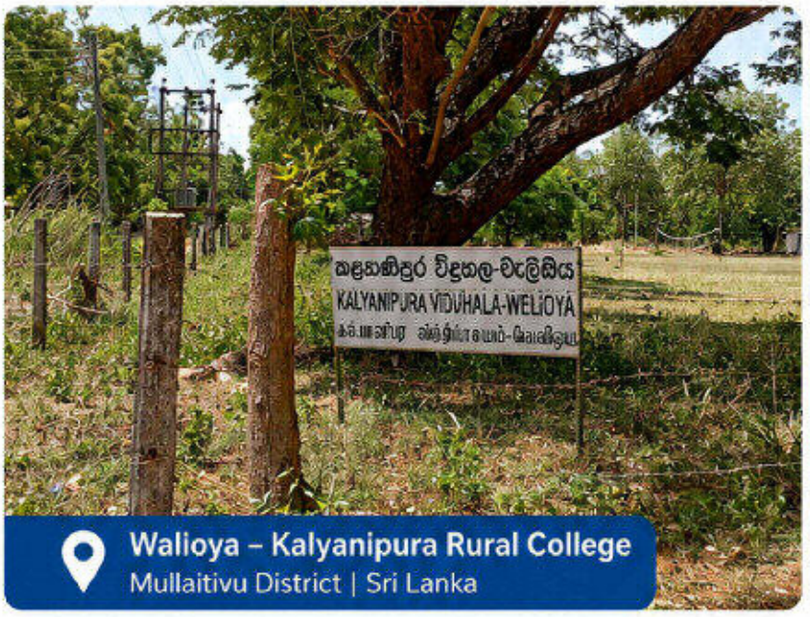
Buddhist Relief Mission
www.brelief.org – buddhist@brelief.org
☎ and WhatsApp: +94-77-964-9292

HELPING HANDS CEYLON

Help as much as you can.

PROJECT SOLRA - 2026

Clean Water. Better Education. Brighter Futures.



Walioya – Kalyanipura Rural College
Mullaitivu District | Sri Lanka

Every child deserves access to safe drinking water and quality education.

Walioya–Kalyanipura Rural College serves children in a rural community where access to reliable water remains a daily challenge.

Through **PROJECT SOLRA – 2026**, Helping Hands Ceylon aims to improve the school's learning environment by providing a sustainable water supply system together with essential educational materials.

OUR VISION

Access to clean water and educational resources creates healthier children, stronger schools, and brighter futures. By investing in these essential needs, we can help rural children learn with dignity, confidence, and hope.

CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE

- Installation of a water pumping motor for the existing tube well.
- Installation of water storage tanks.
- Construction of a complete pipeline network throughout the school.
- Installation of water taps to provide safe and reliable drinking water for students and teachers.

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME

- Provide a full year's stationery pack for every student.
- Supply essential learning materials that support classroom education.
- Help reduce the financial burden on families while improving children's learning opportunities.

Help Build a Better Future

Your generosity can provide clean water, educational resources, and renewed hope for children in one of Sri Lanka's rural communities.

EVERY CONTRIBUTION MAKES A LASTING DIFFERENCE.

GET IN TOUCH
www.helpinghandsceylon.org
helpinghandsceylon.org@gmail.com
+94 75 524 3240

OFFICE ADDRESS
Helping Hands Ceylon
Charitable Organization
Kandy 20000, Sri Lanka.

FOLLOW US

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

DONATE VIA BANK TRANSFER

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 an international bank transfer, please send a request to <buddhist@brelief.org> for instructions.

DONATE WITH PAYPAL

Safe. Secure. Easy.
Every donation helps us bring hope.

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

A Shameful Genocide by Myanmar Buddhists!
The Rohingya Refugees Urgently Need Your Help

Click the photo to watch a short, but moving, report published by *The New York Times* in 2017, shortly after the genocide mass exodus began.

There are more than one million Rohingya refugees in the camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Conditions in these camps are almost unbearable, but the majority of the refugees have been staying there for nine years. For a few months in 2017-18, when the genocide in Myanmar began, the world paid attention to this crisis. Some Western Buddhist groups, human rights organizations, and journalists visited the camps. There were urgent calls for assistance, and many articles appeared in newspapers, magazines, and journals. TV news graphically exposed the horror of the brutal genocide in Myanmar, with burned villages, slaughtered families, and raped women and girls. Fanatical Buddhist monks under Wirathu's leadership labeled Rohingyas "Bingalis," despite their having lived in Myanmar even before British rule, and urged their expulsion and/or slaughter. (Rohingya is not included among the 135 animist, Buddhist, Christian, and Muslim ethnic groups on the official list in Myanmar.) Since 2018, there has been little coverage of the genocide or the refugee situation, and relief aid has been highly inadequate. Recently, largely due to President Trump's end to USAID funding, NGOs and the United Nations have had to reduce or suspend many programs. Food has become critically scarce. Hospitals have had to curtail their services. One hospital even closed completely! With serious medical problems, refugee patients must go to Bangladeshi hospitals, where treatment is expensive. The Rohingya have organized their own schools and training programs, but, for these, they need funding. In desperation, some refugees have fled the camps by boat, hoping to find educational or employment opportunities and a better life elsewhere, but few have succeeded, and many lives have been lost at sea.

Almost all Rohingya want to return to Myanmar, where they have lived for generations, but, until the military regime or a new government is forced to recognize their identity and to guarantee their rights, that is impossible. In order to survive in the camp, they urgently need food, clean water, medicine, and money for other basic needs and to continue their social programs. In cooperation with a dedicated Australian aid worker who is thoroughly familiar with camp conditions, Buddhist Relief Mission has a secure and reliable conduit for sending aid directly to the refugees. We appeal to our donors and supporters for contributions to help these refugees in distress. Thank you all for your generosity and compassion.

Sadhu! Sadhu!! Sadhu!!!

Buddhist Relief Mission, which we established to assist Indochinese refugees after having worked as teacher trainers in camps in Thailand and the Philippines, is a small organization with no staff and no overhead expenses. One hundred per cent of the money we receive goes to relief projects. For donors in the United States, contributions are tax deductible.

PayPal Donate Now https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=X2Z7984XKFEGU

in Sri Lanka via:	in the U.S. via:
Commercial Bank	River Bank & Trust
Anniwatte Branch	Buddhist Relief Mission
A/C 8254001210	A/C 262527856
Kenneth Kawasaki	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 an international bank transfer, please send a request for instructions.

Click the leaf for a video explaining the symbolism

May you receive all blessings. May the devas protect you. By the power of the Buddha, the Dhamma, and the Sangha, may you enjoy well-being.

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

Sunday, September 13, 2026

An International Dana
for
World Peace,
An End to Genocide, and
Relief for all Who Are Suffering

Celebrating birthdays of
Ven. Mettajiva, Visakha, Joyce,
Bonnie, Mike, Lily, Susan,
Nedra, Cindy, and many more

Sharing merit with
departed friends and relatives
and with friends far and near

152/1 Riverdale Road, Anniwatte, Kandy

Please inform us of your own dedication
and, if you can, join us on that day.
R.S.V.P.

May all beings be happy!

Buddhist Relief Mission
www.brclief.org – buddhist@brclief.org
☎ and WhatsApp: +94-77-964-9292

PayPal Donate Now

Devastatingly Destructive Glacial Collapse, Flash Flood, Wreaks Havoc in Nepal and Tibet

This 43-minute broadcast fom Sky News gives an overview of the damage and the rescue operations.

Relief Aid Urgently Needed!

On August 26, 2026, a glacier collapse sent a flood of ice, mud, and rocks cascading downstream on the border between Tibet and Nepal at up to 190 km/hour. Entire villages were buried. It happened so suddenly and moved at such great speed that many people could not escape. The death toll has risen to almost 800, with more than 2500 missing. Those who escaped were unable to carry any belongings, and, with mud filling their houses, they have lost almost everything with nothing to return to. Because of the steep slopes, rescue operations are difficult and hazardous. Furthermore, with the formation of a lake midway upstream, there is imminent danger of a secondary flood, which could be equally disastrous. This glacier collapse was certainly caused by rising temperatures, and global warming portends more to come.

This 16-minute composite video shows the destructive force of the water and early rescue operations.

Ven. Tsundue is a Tibetan nun of Canadian origin. A stiudent of the late Lama Zopa, she has been practicing for more than ten years in Nepal, India, and Malaysia. She is now back in Nepal. One of her deepest expressions of compassion has always been concern for animal welfare. While she was in BodhGaya, she very conscientiously fed the temple dogs every morning throughout the pandemic, even when her own food was scarce. Immediately after this disaster occurred, she sent us information about two relief organizations, as below.

Sneha's Care

The flood has devastated settlements and critical infrastructure, destroying 35 concrete bridges and approximately 40 kilometers of roads, severely limiting access to some affected communities.

The impact on animals is not yet known. With entire settlements affected and access severely constrained, determining how many community animals—including pets, farm animals, and others—may be injured, displaced, stranded, or without access to food and care will take time. <https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=MCQYLSAG5E7FN>

Tzu Chi Foundation

As many of the dead bodies of flood victims have been washed along the river to a place not far from Lumbini. Tzu Chi Volunteers stationed at Lumbini are getting ready for the relief work. With an educational centre in place in Lumbini, Tzu Chi Foundation is prepared to assist with rescue operations wherever needed. <https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=Y6YCNRZPT2PWQ>

Donations may also be made

in Sri Lanka via:	in the U.S. via:	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. Also, please indicate which program you wish to support.	For an international bank transfer, please send a request for instructions.
Commercial Bank, Anniwatte Branch	River Bank & Trust Buddhist Relief Mission		
A/C 8254001210	A/C 262527856		
Kenneth Kawasaki	ABA Code: 062206567		

An 8-minute updated video, YouTube

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