

## World Dharma's Burma Project International

2768 West Broadway P.O. Box 74709

Vancouver, BC, V6K 2G4 Canada

Email Marcia Jacobs: marcialjacobs@hotmail.com

Email Alan Clements: contact@worlddharma.com

Tel: 604-251-1781 I. www.WorldDharma.com

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings. Please allow me to share some extraordinary news, and a heartfelt request for your generous support of a vision that will bring hope and meaning to peoples around the world.

Our dear friend Alan Clements, after 16 years of being blacklisted from Burma for his activism, books, and outspoken support of Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and her country's nonviolent struggle for freedom, was recently "unblacklisted" by Burma's President Thein Sein. A week or so ago Alan received his "Official Entry Visa" back to Burma, his spiritual homeland, a country where he once lived for nearly five years as a Buddhist monk.

Alan's mission in returning to Burma is to reconnect with his Burmese activist friends (many of them recently released from long prison terms, and in some instances, solitary confinement), see his 91 year old Buddhist meditation teacher Sayadaw U Pandita, and document the country's *voices of hope and freedom* — political prisoners, returning refugees, dissident artists, reformed government leaders, farmers, filmmakers, tea shop owners, activist monks, nuns, and quite possibly Aung San Suu Kyi herself along with her innermost colleagues, mentors, and spiritual teachers.

Burma is undergoing one of the most epic reforms in human history; overcoming decades of dictatorship to establish a feminine-inspired democracy rooted in fairness, non-retribution and politics without violence. This next phase of Burma's "revolution of the spirit" is being led by Aung San Suu Kyi, "an icon of democracy...all around the world," as declared by President Barack Obama during his recent visit to Burma.

To introduce myself, I am Marcia Jacobs, and work as a social worker and trauma therapist. Over the past 2 decades I have been creating programs for refugees in conflict and post conflict situations in Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Darfur, through the UN and various NGOs.

I have known Alan for well over twenty years. I have been deeply moved and inspired by his life's work — retreats and books — exploring

freedom and our responsibility in safeguarding this precious value as the oxygen of our lives. Alan's work has continuously brought international awareness to the importance of global freedom and Burma's uniquely nonviolent struggle for democracy.

Alan has authored several books on the complexities facing Aung San Suu Kyi and her people. The Dalai Lama writes: "rallying support and increasing awareness is crucial...Alan Clements' work at The Burma Project USA is most valuable." Alan's photographic essay of the struggle, *Burma's Revolution of the Spirit*, offers essays by eight Nobel Laureates. *The Voice of Hope, Conversations with Aung San Suu Kyi*, moved President Jimmy Carter to say "*The Voice of Hope* is a message the world needs to hear now." Alan's latest book, *A Future to Believe In: 108 Reflections on the Art and Activism of Freedom*, has also received distinguished acclaim from world leaders and activists.

In addition, Alan has appeared on hundreds of TV, radio and print interviews, including ABC's Nightline, CBS News, Time and Newsweek, the Guardian, and The World Forum, as well as delivering the keynote address for Amnesty International's 30th year anniversary. He gives his time freely and generously, with no financial remuneration

We are sharing our inspiration to move you to join us in supporting Alan to travel to Burma to take the first steps in producing a new and expanded edition of his acclaimed book, *The Voice of Hope: Conversations with Aung San Suu Kyi (to include numerous new voices of hope and freedom)*.

U Tin Oo, one of Aung San Suu Kyi's principal mentors and a political prisoner who has been detained for most of the past 16 years, who as well was a Buddhist monk with Alan, recently made a profound request of him. He has asked Alan to return to Burma during this fragile transition from dictatorship to democracy to see the situation for himself in order to better serve the Burmese people in their quest for reform, reconciliation, and lasting peace. In addition, Alan recently met with Aung San Suu Kyi during her historic visit to the US, at which time he spoke with her about his plan to return to Burma.

Please help us to enable Alan to bring these heroic stories of hope and freedom out of Burma and to the rest of the world.

Our fundraising goal is to raise an initial \$25,000 to accomplish this timely mission. This is for a bare bones initial 28 day journey. If we receive more, Alan will stay longer and do more. Please be aware that in 1995, while conducting interviews in Burma for the Voice of Hope, Alan spent 6 months in Burma.

This is a rare opportunity for many timely historical and political reasons.

Please help Alan keep his promise to the leaders of Burma's democratic revolution by contributing as much as you can.

Thank you for your part in supporting this dream coming true – for us, for Alan, and for Burma.

With love and gratitude,  
Marcia

Contributions can be made by check or online at the WorldDharma.com website. Go to the SUPPORT page of the MENU BAR. Once on the page scroll to: "Offer a 1-time Contribution." You can use your PayPal account or, if you do not have an account, you can easily use your credit or bankcard.

If by check, please make it payable to *World Dharma* and mail it to:

World Dharma's Burma Project International  
2768 West Broadway P.O. Box 74709  
Vancouver, BC, V6K 2G4 Canada

If you would like to discuss your contribution please feel free to contact me.

—Marcia Jacobs, Psychotherapist and former Witness Support Officer for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. She has also worked with The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF, and the International Rescue Committee, founded by Albert Einstein in response to the plight of refugees after WWII.

"As spiritual and political beings we are all activists at heart.  
No one is outside of society...It's about our freedom. That means everybody. We must see that nothing and no one is separate from this freedom. No one is an island in this world."  
~ Aung San Suu Kyi, excerpted from "The Voice of Hope"