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**Tuyết Sơn Thiền Tự**  
**Mt Adams Zen Buddhist Temple**  
雪山禅寺

August 2016 Newsletter



Dear Dharma Family,

We have had a busy month or two. An ordination, a retreat, monk and nun guests, visits to other temples, and many visitors to our temple. I am happy about all the activity and also glad to take a bit of space this week to rest and catch up on much needed tasks. I am getting busy at the hospital, doing chaplain support and sharing loving kindness with those in need.

A fun BBC Documentary was recently brought to my attention, "Jesus was a Buddhist Monk" is on Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAaW6BYhfNM> Is this true? I don't know, but it is interesting.

Trout Lake Farm Fest - Aug 20th, 2-10PM a benefit for Cascade Mountain School join us at Treebird Organics Farm. <https://www.facebook.com/events/789666764499179/>

*May we all live in peace.*

*Thay Kozen*

**Thay Z's and Su Co Thich Nu Hanh Minh's Ordination**

Both candidates have served a period of time under a qualified Master, have attended retreats, lived in temples, and followed the rules for monks and nuns for over 2 years, in addition to special training.



**A procession of monks under the direction of the most venerable HT Thich An Giao, walk to the ordination ceremony.**



**Christian, Jewish, and Buddhist Clergy Unite in practicing Loving Kindness during the ordination**



**Newly fully ordained monk and nun accepting the robes of liberation**



**Thay Z (Thich Minh Thien) and Suco Thich Nu Hanh Minh reciting vows.**



**A gathering of attendees for a group photo.**

**You can see more photos at**

<http://ericreedphoto.photoshelter.com/gallery/MtAdamsZenCenterOrdination2016/G0000.vBfY5ZV5WA>

**You can see videos of the ceremony at**

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJjdVF\\_luNEi4AxUnTG94oVPI1v5AK3uM](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJjdVF_luNEi4AxUnTG94oVPI1v5AK3uM)

## We Are Building a Temple

Our plans are being drawn up by a local builder and we hope to start with the foundation by mid September.

Recently, two families have stated that they have added Mt. Adams Zen Buddhist Temple to their will, so that we might inherit some money after their death.

What a thoughtful and beautiful gift.



Many people attended the ground breaking ceremony and stood at the new temple site.



Su Co Hue Hung shovels dirt at the ground breaking for the new temple foundation.



Debbie Nelson starts digging the foundation layout for our new temple.

## Volunteers



A mother daughter volunteer couple take a well deserved rest. Erica and Katen Rench spent the night camping out and happily sharing volunteer activities.

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### **Pilgrimage in the Gorge**



A group of pilgrims started their walk at the Ice Caves in Trout Lake and spent the night at our temple then on to walk for 5 days ending up in Lyle. The journey was one of learning of the Gorge, spirituality, and wonderful fellowship.

You can find out more at: <http://pilgrimageinthegorge.org/>

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**Prison Ministry**



Thay Minh, Su Co Bao, and Thay An visited 2 prisons while they were in the US.  
They provided dharma Talks and meditation instructions.



Left to right: Thay Minh, a prisoner, Thay An, Su Co Bao at the prison in Walla Walla

**Memorial Service for Thich Giac Nhien at Ngoc Son Temple**



Ngoc Son Temple mourners



Ven. Thich Minh Thien, Abbot at Ngoc Son Temple invited Thay Kozen to visit his temple and celebrate the anniversary of Thich Giac Nhien's death.

Left: Thay Kozen participates in Alms Rounds, where lay people offer food to monks and nuns.

Right: Thich Minh Thien inspects Mt. Adams Meditation huts with Thay Kozen.





Visiting monks and nuns pose for a photo with Thay Kozen and Ven. Thich Minh Thien.

### Thich Nhat Hanh continues to slowly recover

Per the latest news release from Plum Village in France: 8 January 2016

Since the dawn of the New Year, Thay has very clearly communicated to us a wish to return to his hermitage in Plum Village, France. Thay is satisfied with the progress he has made so far, thanks to the phenomenal care and attention of the doctors at UCSF, as well as all the many wonderful therapists treating him in the past six months. Thay would now like to return home to benefit from the healing collective energy there and to be with his Plum Village family. The doctors approved of Thay's decision and assured us that Thay could make the journey without risk. The attendant team will continue to care for our teacher around the clock and to find the most appropriate therapies.

We are very happy to announce that Thay arrived safely at Bergerac airport in France this afternoon (Friday 8th January), and returned to his hermitage in Plum Village, to a warm welcome of songs and smiles from his monastic disciples.

**DONATE TO SUPPORT HIS RECOVERY at:**

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=tnh&id=6>

We are a small Thien (Zen) Buddhist Temple practicing "laughing farmer zen" - living our practice, sitting zazen, being here - right now!

#### Services & Meditation

Morning Meditation

6:30AM

Monday - Friday

Morning Service



### Thich Minh Thien's Column Liberation

The Buddhist Path is often described in terms of freedom and liberation. It was the Gautama Shakyamuni's original intention, as he set out on his spiritual path, to free living beings from suffering. Upon his awakening as the Buddha, his first teachings on the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path gave every sentient being the opportunity to live in such a way that our suffering is relieved and thus, our hearts and lives open to freedom and liberation. The Buddha saw that people's ignorance of the nature of change was the cause of suffering. Because we desire to hold on to what we value, we suffer when life's inevitable process of change separates us from those things. Liberation from suffering comes, the Buddha taught, when we are able to sever our attachments to the transient things of

9 AM  
Saturday

Evening Meditation  
6:30 PM  
Friday

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**Remote Locations**

**Hood River, OR**  
Monday at Noon  
Trinity Natural Medicine  
1808 Belmont Ave., Hood River  
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**Vancouver WA**  
first Sunday of the month  
at 3pm  
Buu Hung Monastery  
17808 NE 18th St.  
Vancouver WA

## AUGUST

3 Grief group - The Dalles

10 PEACE CAMP

## SEPTEMBER

10 Retreat - one day  
Meditation - please register +

10 - 18 Red Cedar Zen hike

24 Autumn Equinox - Druid  
Event

30-Oct 2 NCNM Qigong  
Retreat - *Private*

## OCTOBER

3 Grief group - The Dalles

7-9 NCNM Qigong Retreat -  
*Private*

10 - Nov 3 Taiwan Retreat

14-16 NCNM Qigong Retreat  
- *Private*

29 Samhain - Druid Event

## NOVEMBER

18-20 FALL RETREAT

## DECEMBER

this world. One might argue that it is impossible to live in the world without attachments, or indeed to eradicate them. Our affections for others, the desire to succeed in our endeavors, our interests and passions, our love of life itself - all of these are attachments and potential sources of disappointment or suffering. They are however, the substance of our humanity and the elements of engaged and fulfilled lives. The challenge is not to rid oneself of attachments, but to become enlightened concerning them. It is in the transformation rather than the total elimination of desire that reduces our suffering and brings about liberation.

From an article I recently read, it stated: "...Early Buddhist teachings focused on the impermanence of all things. In this perspective, the practice was oriented away from the world: life is suffering, the world is a place of uncertainty; liberation lies in freeing oneself from the attachment to worldly things and concerns, attaining a transcendent enlightenment...". This focus regarded enlightenment, or the final liberation of Buddhahood as a goal to be obtained at some future point in time. A revision of this focus however, found in the Lotus Sutra, teaches that each person is inherently and originally a Buddha. Through our Buddhist practice, we develop our enlightened qualities and exercise them in the world here and now for the sake of others and for the purpose of positively transforming society. That allows the true nature of our lives, our inherent Buddha nature, to realize the expansive freedom and liberation in each moment.

In their proper perspective, when we can see them clearly and master them rather than being mastered by them, desires and attachments enable us to live interesting and significant lives. Consider that it is our "small ego" or "lesser self" that makes us slaves to our desires and causes us to suffer. Our Buddhist practice enables us to break out of the shell of our lesser self and awaken to the "greater self" of our Buddha nature. This expanded sense of self is based on a clear awareness of the interconnected fabric of life which we are part of and which sustains us. When awakened to the reality of our relatedness to all life, we can overcome the fear of change and experience the deeper continuities beyond and beneath the ceaseless flow of change.

The basic character of our greater self is compassion. Ultimate freedom is experienced when we develop the ability to channel the full energy of our attachments into compassionate concern and action on behalf of others.

And so consider the following from the Prajnaparamita:  
"How amazing. All living beings have the Buddha nature of awakening and freedom, yet they do not realize this. Unknowingly they wander on the ocean of suffering for lifetimes. It is time to realize your own Buddha nature."

Namo tassa bhagavato arahato samma sambuddhassa

Kozen's grandson, Sebastian, has moved to Olympia Washington to attend the Evergreen State College. We all miss him.

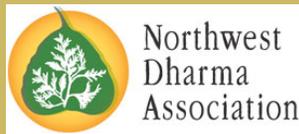
**Goodbye Dear Friends**

8 Bodhi Day - meditation  
12/7 at 11:30pm to 12:30am  
12/8  
*Please Register +*

17 Winter Solstice - Druid  
Event

30 Midnight Meditation -  
12/30 at 11:30pm to 12:30am  
1/1 *Please Register +*

Is your group part of the Northwest  
Dharma Association?  
If not, it is time to join! If you are a  
solitary practitioner or without a  
sangha, you can still donate dana  
(money). They are a clearing house  
for Buddhist Activity in the Northwest  
and need our support.



read more about the NWDA at  
<http://www.northwestdharma.org/>



*Front row left to right: Thay An, Thay Minh, Thay Kozen, Debbie, Thay Z  
Back row left to right: Su Co Minh, Su Co Bao*

This photo was taken in Hood River overlooking the Columbia River and Gorge. All of our guest monks and nuns have gone home for now but will return in the Spring.

### Tibet Aid



Needs our financial help  
Sponsor a:  
Child  
Monk  
Nun  
the organization  
at  
[www.tibetaid.org](http://www.tibetaid.org)

*May the Infinite Light of Wisdom and Compassion so shine within us that  
the errors and vanities of self may be dispelled; so shall we understand the  
changing nature of existence and awaken into spiritual peace.*

## What We think we become.

Buddha

### Travel to Taiwan

Our travel to Taiwan is scheduled for October 2016. Do you want to join us for a 2 week tour of temples and ceremonies?



#### Master Nguyen Kim

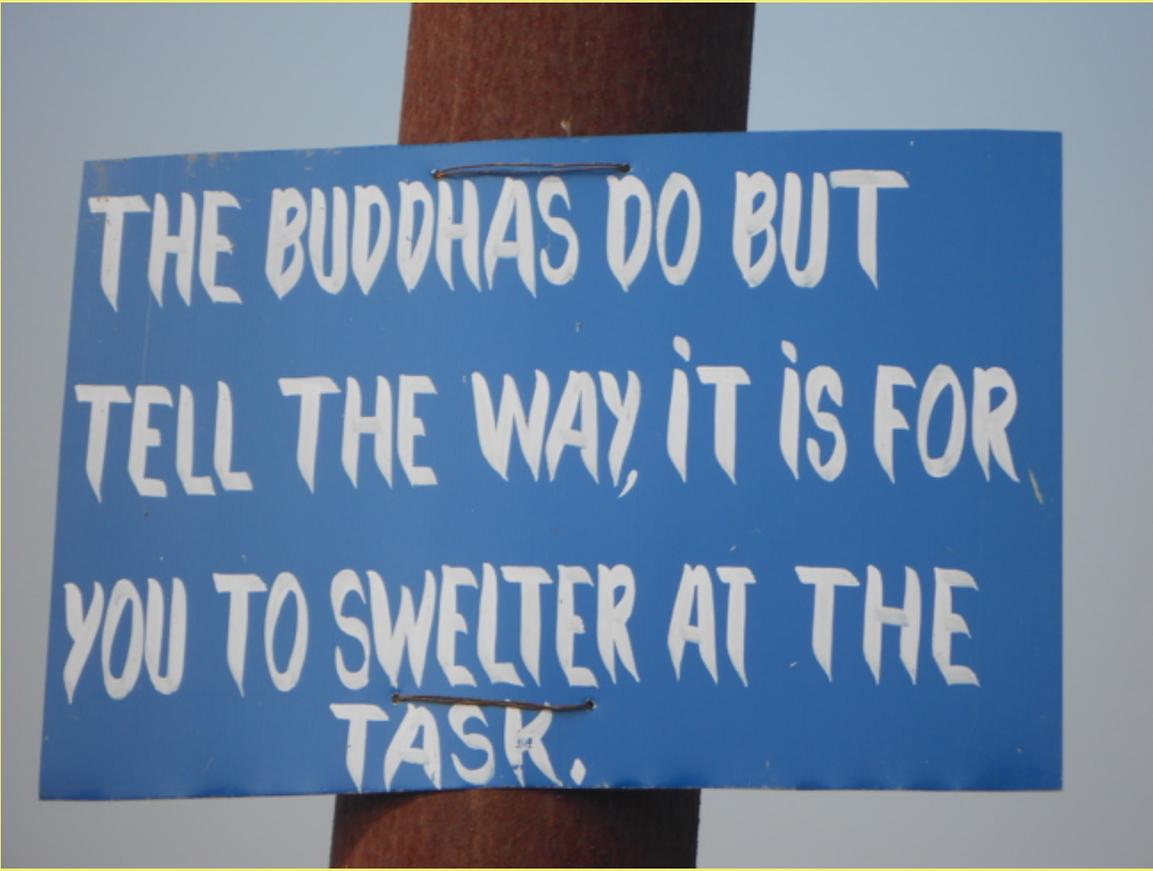
is at home now in Co Lam Pagoda. He has caregivers with him 24 hours a day and is on hospice. He seems at peace with his life, faithful and content knowing the Amitābha Buddha.

**Nam Mô A Di Đà Phật**

### Signs in Limbini on the path to visit the Buddha's birthplace

We took these photos as we walked to the site of Buddha's birth in Lambini, Nepal several years ago. There were recent archeological digs going on there - tracing the history of Buddhist building sites.

*We published these photos last year in this newsletter and I think the message is still very valid. Kozen*

A blue rectangular sign is attached to a weathered wooden post with two horizontal wooden pegs. The sign features white, hand-painted text in a bold, sans-serif font. The background is a clear, light blue sky.

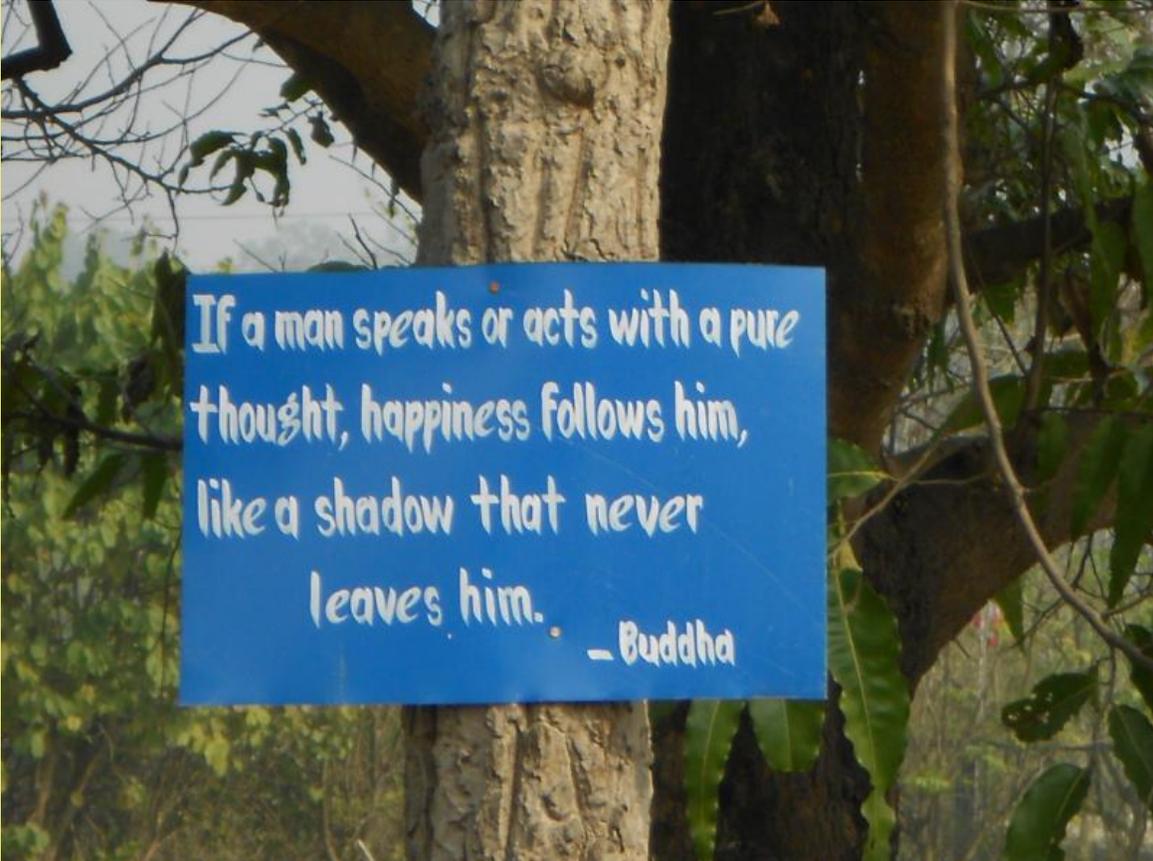
THE BUDDHAS DO BUT  
TELL THE WAY, IT IS FOR  
YOU TO SWELTER AT THE  
TASK.

A blue rectangular sign is attached to a weathered wooden post with two horizontal wooden pegs. The sign features white, hand-painted text in a bold, sans-serif font. The background shows a tree with green leaves and dark seed pods on the left, and a hazy landscape with trees in the distance on the right.

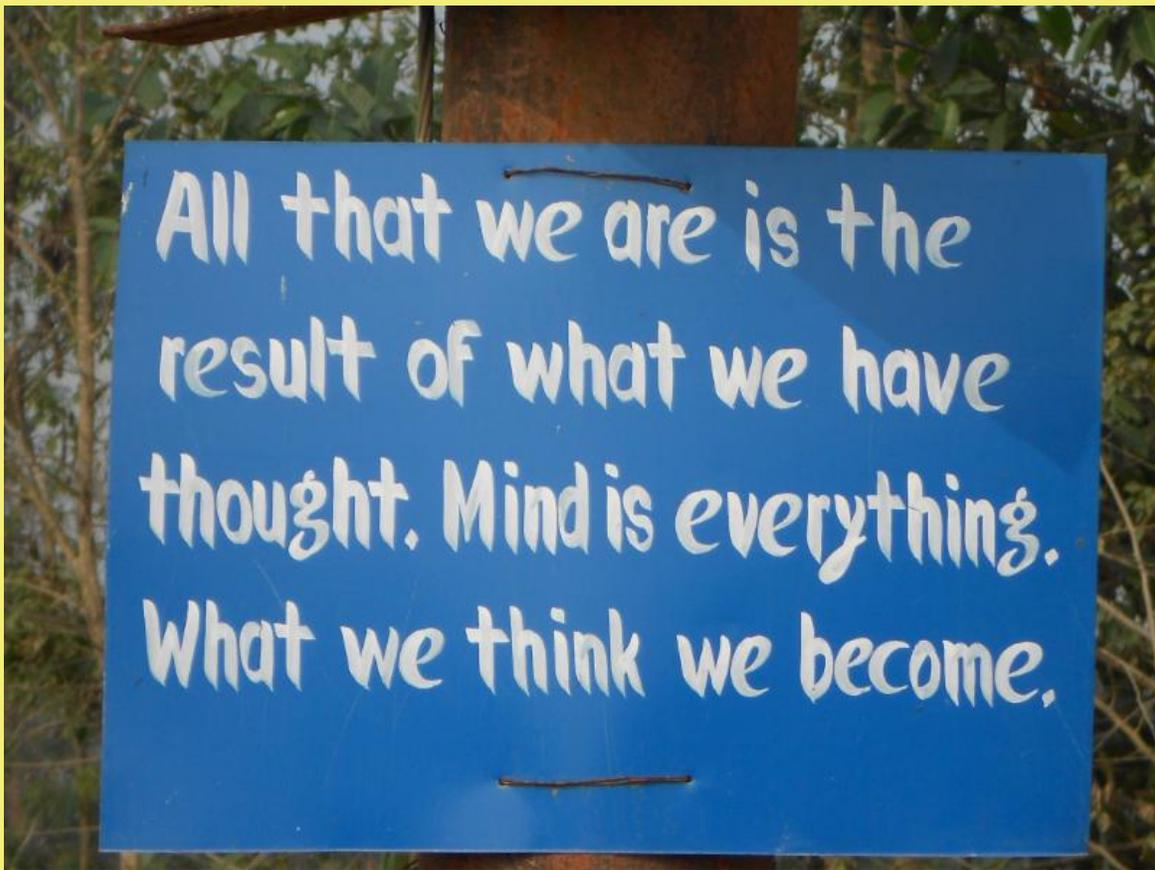
PEACE COMES FROM  
WITHIN, DO NOT SEEK  
IT WITHOUT.

A blue rectangular sign is mounted on a tree trunk. The sign has white text in a bold, sans-serif font. The text reads: "HAPPINESS NEVER DECREASES BY BEING SHARED". The sign is held in place by two metal pins. To the right of the sign, there are green leaves and red flowers of a plant.

HAPPINESS NEVER  
DECREASES BY BEING  
SHARED

A blue rectangular sign is mounted on a tree trunk. The sign has white text in a cursive font. The text reads: "If a man speaks or acts with a pure thought, happiness follows him, like a shadow that never leaves him. - Buddha". The sign is surrounded by green leaves and branches of the tree.

If a man speaks or acts with a pure  
thought, happiness follows him,  
like a shadow that never  
leaves him. - Buddha



TUYẾT SƠN THIÊN TỰ + MT ADAMS ZEN BUDDHIST TEMPLE + 雪山禅寺

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