

Angulima Prison Project meeting on Thursday, February 26, 2009

Present: Luminous Heart, Steward, Z Zeller, Faith Mind Thorensen and Gary Belton

We spent some time thinking about Nagy and our strong wishes for his complete recovery.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the role of Buddhist chaplains at the Men's Central Jail. We were requested by Lieutenant Wong and the members of the advisory council of the jail(of which the APP is a member) to create a policy about inmates' requests for vegetarian meals. We had been asked to compose a list of questions which could be asked of inmates to "certify" their standing as Buddhists. After much discussion and consideration, we decided as a group that it is not in our purview to decide who is or is not a Buddhist. Although there may be those inmates who make a request for special meals because of the quality of the regular meals served, there are those who genuinely wish to have such diets. While we are in support of these requests, we choose not to be in the position of qualifying any inmate as Buddhist. Luminous Heart will convey this decision to Lt. Wong next week. We also decided to revisit this issue at a later date.

The date for the next meeting was not set. One goal for the next meeting is to begin work on our mission statement.

Submitted by Luminous Heart, Steward, Angulimala Prison Project