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Newsletter and Annual Report, May 2017

In this newsletter I had planned to give you a detailed account of how things are going with the projects and the Tibetan people, but life once again showed how unpredictable it can be. My project visit was planned for mid-February to end March, with the first three weeks in Mundgod. To be able to stay in Mundgod one needs a special permit from the police, and this time, it caused problems. My request got stuck somewhere between India and the Netherlands, with the result that there was no permit waiting for me. When I arrived in Delhi, the Tibetan authorities gave me an accompanying letter, and as I had already bought all the train tickets, I nevertheless boarded the train that would take me to Mundgod in 40 hours. There was time enough to prepare myself for the possibility of a change in programme. And indeed, on arrival it was confirmed, both by the monastery and by the Tibetan Community Office, that the letter I had with me was of no value and that I should definitely not show my face in public. The police would surely arrest me, and they provide only one kind of accommodation – a police cell. I therefore chose a monastery cell instead of a police cell and hid there for 3 weeks. It was a challenge to fill my days usefully in a room of 3m x 3m, at a temperature of 30°. But I was very aware of the fact that my enforced stay there was only temporary. The Tibetans have already lived for 60 years without their own country where they can feel safe and freely do what they want to do.

Fortunately my trusted friend and translator, Chime, visited a number of people on my behalf and came in the evenings to report on these visits. A few times I also dared to go and visit some of the projects in the evening, in the dark, to see for myself how they were progressing. All in all, it was a journey with obstacles. How thankful I was to be able to board the train on the way to Dharamsala, a free man, at the end of the three weeks! It is fortunate that one of the committee members is planning to visit Mundgod in November.



In my monastery cell, the beads of my mala went around a good many times.

In spite of this, I can still tell you some things about Mundgod. In the dark of the evening I went to visit the workshop of the Agricultural Cooperative. There is still a big job to be done there which will be of benefit to the entire Tibetan community. The Agricultural Cooperative was set up many years ago, as a service provider for the farmers, and every farmer is a compulsory member. One can hire from them all that one needs, such as agricultural machinery and equipment, water tanks to irrigate fields and orchards, tractors to pull the machinery, etc. Maintenance and repairs are done there, and because there is also a welding facility, metal structures such as stair railings and window frames can also be made there. Farmers are trained and advised there, and seed is purchased collectively. So it is an organisation of general benefit, and it should certainly be maintained. The whole undertaking is seriously antiquated through lack of funds, and improvements are badly needed. The manager has presented us with the following programme:

Repair of the workshop and an initial adjustment of the inventory is estimated at € 1.360. This includes the building of a bridge to make the repair of tractors a lot of easier.

Training of the staff, to make the enterprise more dynamic. About € 2.140 is needed for this. From each village, someone who is prepared to be trained as a mechanic is presently being recruited. They will also be able to do the maintenance and repairs of the many motorbikes. At present, people need to go to the Indian part of Mundgod for such repairs. It would be great to have provided a number of Tibetans with permanent employment in this way.



In the dark I also visited the Central School (secondary school) with its 1000 students. Computer technology is now making its way into the classroom. Current teaching technology asks for smartboards, which will replace the old blackboards. This is a screen on which information is projected and it has many other possibilities. (These are found in every classroom of the primary schools in the Netherlands). For the coming years, three such smartboards would already be an improvement. Each one costs € 2.160, a hefty price. What do you feel about a three-year plan for this – one per year? We hope this can succeed.

It also turns out that the teachers are forced to prepare their lesson materials and to process student reports in the evening hours – so they are always working overtime. The teachers do not have their own computers at the school to do their work, so they have to use the students' computers in the evenings. It would be a solution to have 6 computers at the school reserved for the use of teachers. They would cost € 400 each. This would enable teachers to do their computer-based work during the day, to be free in the evening. We hope you too can see the value of this.

There are also several requests for bursaries. Of course we investigate these requests thoroughly, to ensure that they will have a good chance of success. This time we ask you to consider two requests from students who live in Tibet. Via reliable sources we understand that they are very keen to further their studies, one of them as a teacher, and also have the required ability, but no money. We need € 450 per person, per year, for a period of 4 years, i.e. a total of € 1.800 per person. Will you give this your consideration?

It is delightful to receive good results from students we have helped. For example, in six months' time the dental student will have finished her training and can start working. Our student in Tibet is also doing very well – from nomad boy to 2nd year chemistry student. He also seems to have a talent for drawing. Isn't this wonderful?

And so I boarded the train for Dharamsala with relief, a free man, and first visited the Sarah School. The Dolma Foundation has contributed to the financing of a sewage treatment plant, and the dirty overflowing of the septic tank is a thing of the past. Naturally they are very pleased with this and thank you for your help! A few years ago, the Dolma Foundation provided furniture for the intensely used library, and this time we received a request concerning the expansion of the library. There is a kind of patio next to the library, and if this could be roofed the additional space would be very useful. This is estimated at € 2.200. In this way we could help to improve the complex and provide more studying space for the students. Will you help with this?



This is the current construction - a half-roof of flimsy plastic corrugated sheets

It is important and good to study. It is even better to be stimulated to have a positive attitude in life. With the school management we brainstormed about a reward not only for good academic results but also for positive

attitudes and behaviour. We considered it to be useful to do this for a number of years. For this we would provide € 150 per year to reward students who stand out both academically and by their behaviour, with a book on spirituality. In this way we hope to contribute to ensuring that not only do the students study hard, but also that attention is paid to a positive attitude to life. Do you think this is a good idea?

In Dharamsala I visited the Department of Home. I was updated on the emergency help for farmers who have suffered crop failures in different regions of India. The Dolma Foundation contributed € 3.000. Several other issues were raised and it was a pleasure to contribute to discussions on general improvements such as housing and communal provisions. Through these regular visits and contacts with government officials and Ministers, a strong, valuable bond has developed. So a visit to Dharamsala is always worthwhile.

Of course there has been financial support for people who have had to pay big doctor's bills. This will always continue. A problem with health will immediately put people in a dependent situation, from which they can hardly extricate themselves. It is wonderful that we have the possibility to help these people.

Such a situation of dependency applies to the following people, who sent us a request.



Dawa Dolma (50) takes care of 5 daughters and an elderly mother. She herself has kidney disease and needs dialysis twice a week (see the plaster on her throat). This is a serious situation and a sponsorship of € 40 is urgently needed.



Tsering Dolkar (41) has two children (11 and 8) and an elderly mother who is in poor health and needs medicines. They live in dire conditions. She does seasonal work on the land. A sponsorship of € 30 per month is badly needed.



Dolma has 2 children, a son in the army and a daughter who is training to be a nurse. She hopes that they can help to support her later. She earns a little money as a seamstress. She has stomach problems and high blood pressure. A sponsorship of € 20 would help.

You will, as usual, find our financial report for 2016 on the last page. There you will see that together we have achieved a lot, and made people happy. This happiness, and also the gratitude that is always expressed, I naturally want to pass on to you. Without you it would not work.

We do expect a drop in revenue in the future. Existing donors are very faithful, but are getting older and find themselves in various situations which oblige them to stop sponsorship or to donate less. It also seems as if, in general, there is less interest in the Tibetan community. The news covers so many other areas in the world in dire straits: war, hunger, loss of home and country, helpless people and children in need. Some of this is close to home. We all make our contributions where we have the strongest bonds. Yet, in this world of upheavals, it remains important to continue to support the Tibetan community. It is there that we find the basis of the power of compassion, absence of violence and inner peace, taught by Buddhism. These are qualities badly needed in the world. The Tibetan community is under considerable pressure. Some people give up hope and are tempted to move to other countries to earn money. That leads to the breaking up of families and the undermining of communal life.

Our work is still badly needed and our experience is that word of mouth advertising is still the best and most effective way to inform people of the work of the Dolma Foundation. If you would like folders to give to your friends or to place somewhere, we will gladly send you these.



Jampa € 90



Dolma € 90

This year I again received several gifts. We would like to sell some thangkas for a reasonable price and offer these via our newsletter. Later we will put them on our website for a larger public, but as donor you have the first option. You may phone me for more information. The revenue this will generate will be used for our projects. The prices given do not include postage,



4-armed Chenrezig
€ 90



appliqu , Sakyamuni
Buddha
€ 25

Summer is nearly here. Together with you, we as management will continue along the same path of helping as many Tibetan people as possible. Although India is hospitable, living conditions and the climate there are difficult and harsh. With a feeling of gratitude that I can live here in freedom, and can thus make my contribution, I wish you a good summer in which you can freely do what you want to do.

Tashi Delek

Fraus de Reeper

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Dolma Foundation		overview 2016		
Contributions		2016		2015
Donations and sponsorship contributions	€ 33.176,26			
From donation agreements	€ 16.202,00			
Legacies	€ 0,00			
Individual gifts	+ -----	€ 49.378,26		€ 57.672,52
Sale of books	€ 1.942,09			
Markt van Hoop	212,5			
Broeders Joannes de Deo	€ 500,00			
Putoshan	€ 360,00			
Het Consultancyhuis	€ 12.500,00			
Stichting De Schelp/de Boekenboog	€ 10,00			
Rebuild your Life	€ 270,00			
Zen.nl	€ 600,00			
Donations from legal entities	+ -----	€ 16.394,59		€ 23.600,10
Interest		+ -----	€ 236,90	€ 242,27
Total income		+ -----	€ 66.009,75	€ 81.514,89
Expenditures				
Individual sponsorship	€ 29.225,00			
Transfer costs individual sponsorship	€ 707,00			
	+ -----	€ 29.932,00		€ 34.136,12
<i>Projects</i>				
Medical help*	€ 2.444,00			
Scholarships	€ 3.511,00			
Winter school	€ 1.200,00			
Ladakhi Nuns Association dr. Palmo	€ 410,00			
School near monastery in Tibet	€ 1.500,00			
Renovation large community hall	€ 5.709,00			
Mower, Camp 5	€ 220,00			
Improving water pipes camp 5	€ 3.000,00			
Library camp 6	€ 220,00			
Improving water pipes camp 8	€ 1.500,00			
Construction new Camp 10	€ 680,00			
School text books	€ 800,00			
English readers	€ 800,00			
Contribution to running costs Atisha School Kath.	€ 1.000,00			
Sewage treatment, Sarah School, Dharamsala	€ 2.055,00			
Rato Dratsang mango and cashew saplings	€ 2.500,00			
Ligmincha project	€ 700,00			
Emergency help failed harvest via CTA	€ 1.550,00			
Water tank sports complex C3	€ 1.235,00			
	+ -----	€ 31.034,00		€ 34.332,00
Transfer costs projects	€ 214,50			
Travel expenses visit 2017 (paid in advance)	€ 500,06			
	+ -----	€ 714,56		€ 1.046,41
Secretarial costs	€ 60,09			
Stamps	€ 294,91			
Printing	€ 392,00			
Telephone/internet	€ 239,00			
General bank costs	€ 310,59			
	+ -----	€ 1.296,59		€ 971,89
Total expenditure			€ 62.977,15	€ 70.486,72
Balance end 2016**	€ 36.741,31			€ 33.708,71

* this project will continue in 2017

** for the balance, see our website

