

# NYING-JEY

## NEWS

Nying-Jey Projects for Tibetan Communities (Australia) Inc.  
Geelong. 3219

December 2002



As this is our first Newsletter the Committee would like to say a big hello to all our sponsors and supporters! We plan to send out a Newsletter twice a year to keep you informed of what is happening both here and in Tibet and India.



Sangye Kusho Rinpoche, the Abbot of Sangye Monastery in Ganze Tibet is working hard to develop health and educational services for the poor in the province of Ganze. His two major projects are a school and a hospital.

### AN OUTLINE OF SANGYE SCHOOL.

Sangye school opened on 1st September 1999 with 120 students and six teachers. At present the subjects taught are Tibetan, Chinese, English and mathematics.

The majority of students are from poor farming families who live long distances from the school and town of Ganze. There is a long waiting list of children wanting to attend, but currently there are no free places.

Conditions at the school are very poor both in relation to the building itself, the standard of food and bedding and the qualifications of the teachers. The Rinpoche believes that in order to develop the curriculum at the school he needs at least four more teachers, this would mean the school could also teach sewing, painting, science and geography.

Currently the wages of teachers at the school are much lower than the wages of teachers who work at the local government school. In order to encourage more and better qualified teachers to work at Sangye School the Rinpoche would need to be able to increase their wage from 300 yuan per month to 1300 yuan per month.

### THREE STORIES FROM STUDENTS AT SANGYE SCHOOL.

#### GELEK THUBTEN.

Gelek Thubten is a boy of ten who is being raised by his mother. His parents divorced when he was a baby and as there are no laws in Tibet requiring fathers to pay child endowment the situation for this boy and his mother is very difficult. They live alone and exist through the generosity of others in the community and the money earned by his mother from casual farm work always had to be used to pay for his schooling. Now that he attends Sangye School for under privileged children there are no school fees.

Gelek Thubten wears old and tattered clothing and does not own anything new. His mother cannot afford to supply him with pencils and paper so the teachers at the school buy them for him with their own money.

He is described as a very enthusiastic and clever child; he enjoys learning and is a conscientious worker who is improving daily. He wants everyone to know that "conditions are improving thanks to help from overseas. There are many kids at the school in my situation. Thank you for helping us, tashi delek."

#### JAMPA CHOEDRON

Jampa Choedron's parents are very poor. They have a small farm which is their only source of income. Her parents could not afford the fees to send her to the local government school but fortunately Jampa was offered a chance to receive a free education from Sangye School. Jampa is described as a very polite and quiet girl, who is very keen to learn.

## RINCHEN DHARGYE.

Rinchen Dhargye is the middle child of a family with three children. His father is always in search of work to support his family and this has led him to be separated from his wife and children for three years as he can only find work far away from home.

All three children are of school age but were unable to go to school as their parents couldn't afford the fees. When Sangye School opened one of the three children received an offer to attend. The parents wanted all three children to go but many other families are in the same position and Sangye School could only offer one place for underprivileged families in the surrounding area.

The middle child, Rinchen Dhargye is now attending school. He is described as a very good student and all the teachers admire him. He has received a few awards already for his academic achievements. The clothes he wears are either too big or too small and he badly needs new winter shoes as he says that his feet are very cold in winter.



## GIFTS AND LETTERS

The Nying-Jey Projects for Tibetan Communities (Australia) Inc. is a non-profit organisation run by volunteers.

Many people ask if they can send small gifts to the students they are sponsoring. Others have made generous offers of books, clothing and other items that would improve the situation at the school or clinic.

We want to encourage people to become involved and letters, gifts and other practical donations would be greatly appreciated. However, because we have no money to meet the expense of postage, we ask that the individuals who want to send these do so themselves using the address at the end of the Newsletter which could be photocopied as you need more.

Could you please ensure that your parcel/letter is clearly marked with the child's name and ID number.

In regard to sending letters to the children you are sponsoring, arrangements have now been made to have the letters translated at the school. As the cost of postage from Ganzi is expensive, letters from the children (including translations) will periodically be sent together to our organization. We will forward them to individual sponsors. This will take time. Please be patient!

## HOW YOU CAN HELP IN OTHER WAYS.

We have had a number of enquiries about giving financial assistance to Sangye Rinpoche's School and Clinic in Ganzi, Eastern Tibet. We now have many generous sponsors contributing to the education of the children at the school but other ways of giving assistance could be through donations to the school or hospital.

Below are some of the approximate costs per item to give you an idea of how far your dollar would go. Any amount would be most helpful.

### School:

Annual teacher's wage (one teacher)	\$4000
Refrigerator for kitchen	\$1000
Double bunk for dormitory	\$25
Unit of shelving for dormitory	\$50
Wash basin for boarders	\$20
Table for meals	\$ 25
Chair for meals/multipurpose	\$ 10
Computer and printer for administration	\$1000
Textbooks and stationery per year (per child)	\$20
Down jackets and warm boots (per child)	\$70

### Hospital:

Vermin-proof cupboards (total)	\$1700
Iron bed for patient	\$ 15
Bedding (covers and sleeping mat)	\$ 25
Single gas cooker (carer to use for patient's food preparation)	\$70
Lead apron (x-ray)	\$ 170
Wheelchair	\$ 120
Crutches	\$ 12
Stretcher	\$ 35
Operating table	\$1900
Operating lamp	\$850
Ultra violet lamp	\$30
Ultra violet lamp tube	\$30

## DONATIONS COULD ALSO BE MADE FOR:

- Maintaining and heating all rooms in both the school and hospital
- General equipment for the operating theatre and the hospital.
- Wages for medical and teaching staff.
- Specialised equipment and materials for the school .

### Thank you for your sponsorship of our projects.

Any donations can be sent by cheque (with your name, address and the purpose for which the money is intended written on the back) to:

The Treasurer  
Nying-Jey Projects for Tibetan Communities  
(Australia) Inc.  
160 Portarlington Rd.  
Newcomb. 3219.

If you have decided not to continue with sponsorship could you please return the photo of the monk/student so that we can find a new sponsor for them.



## INVITATION

We will be showing a video of Tibet and the School and Hospital project in Ganzi.

**DATE;** Saturday March 15th.

**TIME:** 3.00 pm — 4.00pm.

**PLACE:** Drol Kar Buddhist Centre.  
160 Portarlington Rd.  
Newcomb. Geelong.

Everyone welcome!  
Afternoon tea.

## THE MONKS SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

### Sera Je Monastery, India.

The largest Monasteries that existed prior to 1959 were Sera, Drepung and Ganden Monasteries.

In 1959 there were 9,000 monks at Sera Monastery in Tibet and of these about 500 fled to India. At first Sera-Je was established in North India in the 1960's, but after 6 or 7 years the monks decided to move the Monastery to South India. Of the original 500 only 360 moved south as many fell ill and others decided to leave.

After Mao Tse-tung's death in 1980 conditions in China and Tibet relaxed a little and many Tibetans sought refuge in India. Sera Je began to expand as many were seeking an ordained life and the freedom to study Buddhism. Now there are about 4,000 monks living at Sera Je.

The monk's studies consist of both Buddhist and non Buddhist philosophy. To receive the title of "Lharampa Geshe" the monks need to study continuously for about 25 years. Those monks who do not pass the rigorous exams take up roles working for the benefit of the community of monks within the monastery.

### THE DAILY PROGRAM AT SERA JE:

5.00 am	Wake up.
5.00-7.00am	Meditation, Puja and breakfast.
7.00-9.00am	cleaning, one hour of prayer, memorizing texts, or attending teachings.
9.00-11.30	Classes.
11.30-1.00pm	Lunch break.
1.00-5.00pm	Teachings for those who didn't go to morning teachings, rest period for the others. Reading, private study and home work for all.
5.00-6.30pm	Dinner
6.30-10.30	Evening classes.

When at Sera Je the sound of 4,000 monks can be heard throughout the monastery irrespective of time or day as they recite, memorise and debate.

## TWO STORIES OF MONKS AT SERA JE:

### Lobsang Tashi

Lobsang Tashi is 12 years old. At the age of four he left Tibet and was carried by his Father for one and a half months over the Himalayas. They were very fortunate to cross the Tibetan border and arrive safely in Nepal. From there they traveled to India and sought refuge.

Lobsang's uncle was already living in India and thought the boy should receive a "modern" education. His parents were not happy as they wanted their son to become a monk. In 1997 Lobsang went to Sera Je Monastery in South India, there he studies Buddhist Philosophy and attends primary school within the monastery.

Lobsang now speaks English well and will continue with his studies for another twenty years. His books, clothing and food are paid for through the sponsorship program as the Monastery cannot support all the needs of so many monks. In India twenty or thirty Australian dollars a month means a comfortable existence within the monastery.

**Geshe Lobsang Delek.** (a senior monk at Sera Je).

Geshe Lobsang Delek was born in Ganzi, Tibet. He became a monk at the age of seven and lived and studied at the local Ganzi Monastery.

In 1959 he went to India due to the extreme conditions within Tibet. When he arrived in India conditions at Sera Je were very harsh, but his goal was to study hard and achieve the title of "Lharampa Geshe". After many arduous years of study he achieved his goal in 1985.

From 1985 to the present day Geshe Lobsang Delek has lived at Sera Je Monastery where he is recognized as a highly respected teacher of Buddhist Philosophy. He has more than 500 students and many have achieved the title of "Lharampa Geshe" under his guidance and care. Some of them have now left India to begin teaching in other countries around the world such as the U.S.A. and Australia.



## MEMBERSHIP.

Nying -Jey Projects for Tibetan Communities (Australia) Inc. is an Incorporated Association. If you would like to become a member please fill in the information below and cut out and post to us with your cheque.

I.....

Of.....

(address and phone no.)

Wish to become a member of Nying-jey Projects for Tibetan Communities Inc.

In the event of my admission as a member I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

(Single m'ship \$10. Family m'ship \$15.)

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### ***PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN OTHER WAYS?***

**As in every organization there are lots of things that need to be done. If you would like to assist in ways other than as a sponsor please tick the form below, cut out and post back to us and we will contact you.**

**I would like to help in the following way:**

**Fund raising**

**Administrative tasks**

**Talking to groups about Nying-Jey.**

**Name:** .....

**Address:**.....

**Phone:**.....