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A Message from the President - Geshe Sonam Thargye

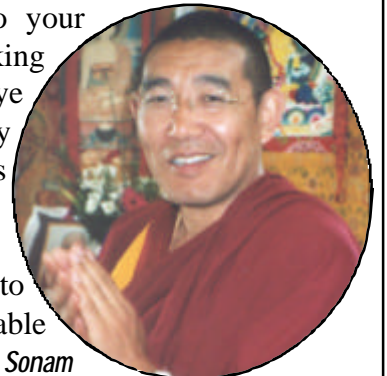
Tashi Delek everyone. This has been a very busy time for me and NJP committee with our involvement in the Sacred Footsteps Tour and then the Top of The World Tour to Tibet, the Sponsorship program and the purchasing of a new centre. I am delighted to announce that we raised a considerable sum for the Sangye Hospital in Tibet and the Top of the World Tour is a sell out. We also now have over 500 hundred Monks, Nuns & Students sponsored. NJP having achieved their fundraising goal in the first 3 months of the Scared Footsteps Tour, graciously allowed Drol Kar to fund raise for their new centre at Pararparap in the last half of the tour.

I would like to personally thank all the sponsors for their commitment which makes a huge difference to the lives of their beneficiaries. I am also aware of the concerns of some sponsors who do not receive letters from their beneficiaries and wonder if their letters or parcels get through to them. Let me assure you that most of your items do reach their destination. The main reason you don't receive a reply is due to their lack of English. In Eastern Tibet, a population of around 60,000, you would be lucky to find one person who can write English. In an effort to try and solve the problem, I will be speaking to the Nuns, Students & Monks and explaining to them the situation and ask them to at least send a postcard in acknowledgement of the letters, gifts & sponsorships they receive. Even just a few words will make a big difference and let you know they have received your gifts & letters.

In an effort to further improve the communications situation, I encourage you to email Janeece & Colin at **nyingjeyprojects@hotmail.com** any concerns, questions, suggestions you may have in regard to your sponsorships or NJP in general. I give you an undertaking that I will personally represent them to Kusho Sangye Rinpoche and the Nunnery Abbots during my forthcoming visit to Tibet and the Monastery Abbots as needed.

I value your support of NJP and am committed to addressing your concerns so that NJP and the valuable work we do can continue to flourish.

Geshe Sonam



Sacred Footsteps Tour 2005



Reflecting upon my period of time as driver for the Sacred Footsteps Tour 2005 gives me many happy memories. I feel both privileged and very thankful to have been in such a special position. Not only have I got to know the monks so well but I have met many other wonderful people along the way who willingly gave of their time and kindness to support all of us on the tour.

A typical day would begin with the monks up early and doing their prayers, then it is into the kitchen for a frenzied session of bread making and Tibetan tea. The monks then clean up and put away everything they use. They are the best house guests a person could wish for.

When the time came to head off to our venue, everyone would pile into the bus. They'd put on the Tibetan music and sing at the top of their voices all the way there. Tibetan karaoke is something to behold!

The tour rolls along at a gruelling pace and about half way through we had a very welcome week off. We were very lucky and had that time in Austinmear, about an hour from Sydney, where the weather was good and the beach outside our door. We went swimming everyday and the monks just loved the beach and playing in surf. This was a first time experience for most of them.



Right: Thupten, Dhondup & Jampa up close and personal with a very friendly cockatiel in North Sydney
 Left: The monks allowed Ani Jampa to have her first turn at the mandala.
 Notice the "L Plate"?



Even a bit of rain doesn't stop Dhondup from cooking the daily bread.

Some other "Firsts" were: Aussie sausages cooked on the Barbie which they thought were terrific. Whenever the opportunity arose I was given the job of cooking dinner for them on the Barbie. They had a helicopter ride in Gosford, got to cruise Sydney harbour and saw the Bridge & Opera House, ate a good Aussie meal of rissoles, mash and peas with gravy which they loved, saw wild kangaroos up close in Ballarat and discovered Ginger Beer which they called 'Monks Beer'.

I must make mention of the world's littlest Nun "Ani Jampa". What she lacks in size she more than makes up for in her tireless work as our shop manager. She was the only one of us who didn't get time off. She was an absolute delight

to have with us and was invaluable as a translator.



The tour wasn't without its dramas. There were several occasions where the mandalas were damaged. We've had children run across it, water leak on it after rain one evening and in another incident in a shopping centre, water was thrown onto the mandala. While we would be angry at something like this happening, the monks simply got on with the business of fixing them. Instead of the sand coming out the funnels, they used them in reverse. Placing a piece of their robe over the end they sucked up the damaged areas of sand and cleared the area so they could once again put down the intricate design. Despite these set backs they always managed to finish the mandala in time.

Concert nights gave the monks the opportunity to have some real fun. They love to perform their dances for the public. These events saw Jampa proving to be the "Rock Star" of the show. He loved the applause and stood there beaming for a little bit longer than everyone else. At the Newcastle concert they found a box of wigs backstage and had a ball trying them on and laughing madly at each other. After a concert there was always much joking and humourous critique of each others performances followed by a feast of ice-cream, bread and tea for a snack later back at the house.

The tour has not been without its share of health problems for the monks. They have had colds, sinus problems and bad reactions to air-conditioning in shopping centres. Our mandala master Tsering, has suffered from a bad back after straining his back lifting a bag of mandala sand before he left India. He has had all sorts of people treating him along the way with different methods and gadgets. Once he gets home



and is able to rest he should improve as he constantly is putting much pressure on it with this work.

All in all, the tour has been a huge success. We reached our fundraising goal for the hospital in Tibet much earlier than expected so then devoted the second half of the tour to raising funds for the new centre which Geshe Sonam is building at Paraparap. While being a lot of hard work for everyone the rewards have been immense.

The last two tours have seen enough money raised to build the monks a new house in Sera Je to live in. They now have a modern building where they sleep two in a room instead of the old small, sprawling building where up to six monks would have to share a room.

The SFT has made a huge difference in their lives and now NJP hopes to repeat this success with the hospital in Ganzi.

I would like to take this opportunity to say the biggest thank you to everyone who has cared for us, fed us and tended to all our needs and wants along the way. There are just too many to mention individually. We could not have done it without you. So thank you everyone from all of us on the Sacred Footsteps Tour. *Colin Kelsall*



LEFT:
GESHE
SONAM
OUTSIDE
THE OLD
HOUSE 26B



RIGHT:
THE NEW

A Sponsor's Story

by John Donaldson

Kelsang Wanchen was a boy with a bright red v-neck sweater. He stood frozen, pinned to a wall in a suburban shopping centre amongst similarly wind swept faces. I realised that there would be more to Kelsang and that there should be, and with someone's assistance - hopefully a great deal.

It occurred to me that Kelsang should be a boy with a bright future as well as that bright jumper, who shouldn't stand frozen for too long, at least not in his own home or classroom. Who shouldn't be pinned to anything, least not a life without choice and opportunity.

To somehow assist Kelsang and his family was an opportunity more for him than me. Okay, it felt good to help, perhaps even felt good to tell people how I help, but the reward would be largely unknown to me, and hopefully substantial to him.

I guessed he lived amongst the mountains, amongst poverty, amongst a community. I guessed that his photo captured only one tiny moment in his Tibetan life, but I had to be sure that there was more to his existence than a passport size photo as far as his life to me back here in Australia went.

With a keen interest to seek out more knowledge of that Tibetan life I began the process of learning. Asking questions. With Geshela's support, the support of his peers in the Nying-Jey community and the support of my immediate friends and family I began a journey.

A journey hits you in the face at times. It may be a foreign customs officer shouting at you, it may be a rickshaw driver leading you into oncoming traffic or stumbling your way around Kanding during the dead of night with nowhere to sleep and another frustrating Loney Planet map.

And sometimes it can kiss you sweetly on the cheek. Like when you spot a glowing Chorten on a distant hill with streams of radiant flags beating down from it like veins feeding an organ. A child waving to you on a footpath realising that an image of a white man only seen in picture is suddenly walking down their very own street (and they're a bit bigger in real life!). And the sweetest of all is holding the hand of a leader such as Rinpoche Kushe Sangye or receiving a kata from the parents of Kelsang Wanchen.



John and Kelsang

I spent two weeks walking the streets of Ganzi. Playing games with the children, teaching them songs like Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and watching their excitement grow as they learnt or experienced something new. Something new is not all that common for some children, and is very much taken for granted by us.

My presence was enough of a gift. And without being too self-indulgent, it may well be a gift for life. Their gift to me

certainly will be. To walk into one of the small boxed rooms of Kelsang's two room home and see my image on the wall, see his face hide away with each small gesture and gift. To see his parents cling to each other at the sight of a new winter coat or Tibetan summer dress, or simply a new pair of socks. It spawned immediate and 'embarrassing' gratitude.



John and Rinpoche Kushe Sangye

I am not a saint or martyr of any kind. I had an unbelievable opportunity. Given to me by Kelsang, Rinpoche and especially Geshe Sonam Thargye. I took that opportunity while it was there. It had an immediate impact on myself and others, and my only hope is that it has an ongoing effect on myself and others. It certainly seems to be. Having

read this article I hope others perhaps begin or continue a similar journey, hopefully beyond the photo picked off of a shopping centre photo board and hopefully one that continues for life. Mine has.



ABOVE LEFT: Front of new hospital showing rental shops on street level.



ABOVE RIGHT: Back of new hospital showing Tibetans waiting outside consultation rooms.

RIGHT: Buildings still in various stages of renovation and doctor consulting with patients in makeshift space.



FAR RIGHT: Patients with drips attached receiving medical treatment.



The New Hospital in Tibet

The building of the new Sangye Hospital in Ganzi-Tibet, is now well under way thanks to Nying-Jey Projects. The monies raised through their various fundraising projects has enabled the Rinpoche to purchase a derelict Chinese office block in the centre of Ganzi and begin the work of refurbishing it. Geshela estimates the monies will allow the Rinpoche to complete 90% of the building plans. Shops have been included in the plan whose rentals will provide a steady income. The hospital is providing free or affordable medical care for the local Tibetan community. A huge thanks to all who have contributed in some way.

Donations for the School Students

In August Geshe Sonam and NJP committee member Fiona will be taking a group of sponsors and interested people to Tibet for a 21 day tour. They will be visiting the Sangye School and meeting the students and Rinpoche.

Donations of warm clothing to be distributed among the students are being requested. Items such as beanies hats gloves, scarves and warm jackets for children ranging in age from 5 - 16 are being sought.

If you would like to contribute and live in Geelong or can send the items to us please call Cathy on 0418 583 214 to make arrangements.

Housekeeping from the Treasurer...

It's great to have so many new sponsors joining the program. Your participation and your financial support is vital to the success of NJP. We can't thank you enough. Keeping track of all the paperwork is becoming a big job now. I'm lucky that I am in the fortunate position where I have the time to do it. One of the biggest jobs I have is to reconcile the bank statement which is becoming bigger every month. This takes for ages and one of the reasons it is taking so long is that some people are not putting a reference on the deposit slip when you make your deposits or transfers.

**PLEASE, PLEASE OH WONDERFUL SPONSOR'S...
I NEED THIS REFERENCE.**

The bottom line is, if I can't identify who has made the payment, I can't credit your beneficiary with the money. Therefore the money is paid into NJP's Medical Emergency Fund and your beneficiary misses out.

So if you don't receive a receipt, you could be one of these sponsors! The tour has brought us many new sponsors but I am finding there are quite a few entries on the bank statements that don't have references. If you have paid and have not received a receipt please get in touch with us because we might not know you have been making payments.

If you don't receive a receipt or if we have a wrong ID number on the receipt please contact us as sometimes we do make mistakes and we don't want to credit the wrong beneficiary. You can contact me on 0417 511 202.

REFERENCES

The Sponsorship Reference should contain your: SURNAME & I/D.
for example: SMITH-M345.

If you have more than one beneficiary use:
SMITH-M345+S456+NIN567 (3 beneficiaries)

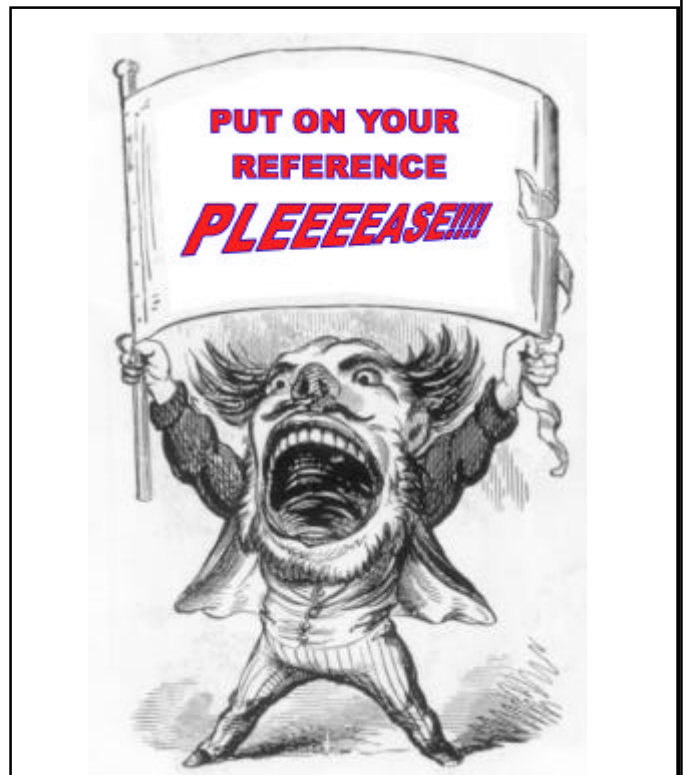
For Donation & Membership references also use your SURNAME & the following I/D's:

SMITH-SCH (Donations to Sangye School)
SMITH-HOS (Donations to Sangye Hospital)
SMITH-EMD (Donations to Exiled Monks in India)
SMITH-MEF (Donations to Medical Emergency Fund)
SMITH-NJP (Donations to Nying-Jey Projects)
SMITH-MEM (Membership payment to NJP)

Write the references on the backs of your cheques and money orders and in the banks reference field on their deposit transfer slips.

If you can't fit all the information into the reference field, make sure you get your surname in. Also make sure your bank knows you require this reference to appear on NJP's statement apart from your own. (Bendigo bank has to insert two ## in front of your reference in order for it to appear on NJP's statement)

If this has confused you please get in touch with me and I'll endeavour to explain it specifically. You can call me on 0417 511 202. *Colin Kelsall*



OUR BANKING DETAILS ARE:

Bank Name: Bendigo Bank

Bank BSB: 633 000

Acc't Nr: 116 467 879

Acc't Name: Nying-Jey Projects

Reference: Your Surname & I/D ie: Smith-M245



A NYING-JEY PROJECTS FUNDRAISER FROM ONE OF OUR SPONSORS

We are Jamie & Jodie Camilleri and are running an 11-day Charity Trek in Nepal in October to raise at least \$40,000 for for both Nying-Jey Projects and Youngcare. One hundred percent of all that we raises goes towards these two charities. While you know about NJP, Youngcare is a new charity that was recently formed to raise money to build a facility specifically for young people with disabilities who require full time care. Wesley Mission is donating the land. This will be the first of it's kind in Australia!!

If you would like more information visit our website at: www.cuttingedge.com.au/charitytrek for the latest news and events. If you would like to be on our email list to be informed of events or would like to help in anyway you can contact myself at jamie@cuttingedge.com.au. A warm invitation is extended to all of you to join our events. We're planning movie nights, raffles, a comedy night, etc. Thanks so much for your support.

Learn more about Nying-Jey Projects.
We still have Monks, Students and Nuns available for sponsorship.
Visit our website: **www.njp.org.au**
WEBMASTER: ZAC ROGERS MULTIMEDIA www.zrmultimedia.com

Nying-Jey Projects AGM

September 3rd at 2pm

Diversitat Community Centre, 9-15 Clarence St, Geelong West (west off Pakington St)

ALL MEMBERS AND SPONSORS ARE WELCOME

Would you like to join the Nying-Jey committee? We currently have 2 vacancies on our committee. We meet the first Monday of the month in the evening. If you wish to nominate for one of these positions you need to be a financial member of NJP and you **MUST be able to attend the meetings**. For further information please contact the secretary at nyingjeyprojects@hotmail.com or call **0419 355 091**.

NJP MEMBERSHIP

send to: NJP, PO Box 7458, GEELONG WEST VIC 3218

I would like to become an Nying-Jey Projects for Tibetan Communities (Australia) Inc. member.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

..... PC PHONE:

EMAIL:DATE:

Family Membership: \$15

Single Membership: \$10

In the event of my admission as a member I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association as described by the Associations Incorporated Act (1981), "Model Rules for an Incorporated Association". These rules are freely available from the Office of Fair Trading & Business Affairs, Department of Justice.

RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER IN GLORIOUS COLOUR.
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.njp.org.au

If you would rather receive the newsletter via email please email us at
nyingjeyprojects@hotmail.com.au
and let us know.

It helps us keep our costs down and is less drain on the environment.

Don't Forget: Please send all sponsorship payments to:
NJP PO Box 7458, Geelong West vic 3218