



Tashi Ling
Education for Himalayan Children
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Facebook: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YE0EneDT5c4>
Life in the Himalayas: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YE0EneDT5c4>

July 11, 2015

Dear Montessori friends,

Tashi delek from Nepal. We all survived the earthquakes without injury but the school buildings didn't do quite as well.

After a little more than a month of living under tarpaulins on the soccer pitch, we were given some army tents by the Buddhist Tzu Chi foundation and until the rains started, everyone went to class and slept in the tents.



After monsoon started in earnest, we found life and study in the tents challenging. When the downpours came, the soccer pitch floods and when the water recedes, it leaves ankle-deep

sticky, clayey mud. Some nights, the children were flooded out several times. Finally, we decided to move back into the three buildings that were 'yellow tagged' - but we're using only the first two floors



There are still five classes in tents (the picture above shows the kids trying to clean the mud in one of the classroom tents). We have two other classes in the garage. We are planning temporary buildings to replace the tents (with raised platforms as floors, to keep above the flooding) it would be easier. Still, SMDers were lucky - nearly a million children are out of school.

There is a happy outpouring of support from around the world - messages, relief goods and funding. Thrangu Rinpoche, our founder has eleven institutions in Nepal - all of us - "Thrangu Group" - SMDers, nuns and monks did our best to get relief into the villages. People brought tents, sleeping bags and rescue equipment. Here's Tsewang Gyurme B508, with new sleeping bags that were sent to Prok Village in Nubri, Gorkha District. In the highlands, 90% of the villagers' homes were flattened.



Crowding is more an issue that ever before. I am seeking scholarships for Grades 11 and 12 - (and 10, if possible). If we can place more students overseas, they will be able to finish high school and at the same time, it will relieve crowding here. Even before the earthquakes, we were too crowded to offer Grades 11 and 12.

+ 40 SMDers have won high school scholarships at top independent schools in the world, including Bishop Strachan School, Toronto, Appleby College Oakville, West Island College Calgary, the Hotchkiss School Connecticut, Phillips Exeter Academy, NH, the Inter Community School Zurich and Institut le Rosey in Rolle, Switzerland. Twelve SMDers have won scholarships at United World Colleges.

Thirteen SMDers have finished undergraduate degrees; most are going on to graduate work. Among them is Tenzin Sangpo Lama who completed a scholarship (BSc in Computer Science) at Webster University in Geneva after finishing Grades 11 & 12 International Baccalaureate at Institut le Rosey in Rolle, Switzerland.

He's in Nepal, supervising the demolition of his father's home which was damaged in the earthquakes. Tenzin's father is chronically ill, so Tenzin has been doing all the housekeeping, shopping and cooking while doing the rounds of hospitals and medical tests with his dad. He's handled all the bureaucracy about the demolition of their house Tenzin. (See photo of Tenzin



above - there are few machines in Nepal to help with demolition). Through all this, Tenzin has loyally been volunteering at SMD, teaching senior Math and helping us with earthquake relief. He will start a Masters in IT at Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri.

All our overseas students will return to Nepal (at least for a couple of years) because they make a written promise to our founder that they will return to help their own people. That help is more badly needed now than it ever was.



From the heart of SMD to yours, we are grateful that you keep us in *your* hearts.

Shirley Blair
Director and Fundraiser