

Ekerö in June 2013

Newsletter no. 3 from KMCH Support Group



Hej, Tashi Delek and Namaste

Here comes a summer greeting from all of us in KMCH, but without news from Chembal. We have to wait for them until late summer. The unusually early and heavy monsoon rains have prevented him from walking to Simikot to communicate through the internet in mid-June as planned. Yet there is no possibility to reach the outside world from Yangar, but things are moving fast so it may not take more than one or two years.

I assume that the children attend school and thrive in the new hostel. The children in Humla have no holiday in the summer as we in Sweden. They have their long holiday in the winter. Probably everybody is engaged in building the second floor of the hostel. We hope to show some pictures of it in the next newsletter.

Monsoon rain in Humla

As we know from the newspapers, the monsoon rains have caused severe flooding in northern India with many injuries. Even in Humla the monsoon has caused some damage. In a village near the Tibetan border twelve houses have been destroyed by a landslide with both great damaged and missing people as a result. The long ongoing deforestation makes the problem worse. Everybody knows it but very little has been done so far.

A helicopter on a rescue mission has been forced to make an emergency landing near the village of Tumkot, which is only one-day hike from our hostel. There are several small rivers flowing from the mountains down to Karnali River, which flows through Humla. When it rains a lot, they can cause damage to some houses and in worst cases on entire villages. Our hostel is very good situated with regard to this.

We can only hope that all our friends in KMCH are well and that the damages in Humla will be limited.

New Facebook page

We now have a new Facebook page, administered by Kathrin. She has been assisted by Anna and Caroline. Feel free to visit and look at www.facebook.com and search on *KMCH-barnen I Humla, Nepal*. But you must be able to read Swedish otherwise it is not worth trying. We hope that we through this page more quickly will be able to spread information and hopefully reach new audiences and potential sponsors. I myself have not yet become "friend" with Facebook. It requires training and re-training in order to feel comfortable with all innovations.

Lama and Guru

There are probably some more than me that reacted with some surprise when we first heard the name Chembal Lama. Lama was for me a teacher, master and more like a title than a name. Now we know that all Bothias, the people of Tibetan descent who live in Upper Humla, have Lama as their last name. However, if we put the Lama before the name, it is regarded as a title, which itself have different degrees.

The syllable **la** refers to a high place where Buddha's teaching abides. Most high passes in the Himalayan region have names that end with la. Dolma-la is the highest pass you have to cross when you walk around Mount Kailash and the pass Nara-la - 4 800 m - must be crossed if you shall walk from Yangar to Tibet. Lapkha makes it with his horses and yaks each time he goes to Tibet to buy food for our children.

If you add a **la** after a name in the salutation or greeting, it is an expression of appreciation and reverence. For example - Chembal la.

Syllable **ma** in Lama can be interpreted as an expression for the mother, meaning the mother of all sentient beings in all our incarnations, thus the ultimate mother.

Guru is Sanskrit and means heavy of good qualities. The Guru has voluntarily upon himself / herself put the burden of freeing all sentient beings from suffering.

Lama and Guru are almost the same.

(Sources are Chembal Lama and the book Fundamental Mind by Mi-pam-gya-tso.)



Greetings from all of us in KMCH Support Group

by

Hans

KMCH Support Group www.kmchumla.se E-mail: info@kmchumla.se

Org.nr. 802437-1810 Bankgiro: 5604-4019

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