



The NYEMA Sun

NYEMA Projects' semi-annual newsletter on humanitarian projects in eastern Tibet

Winter in Nangchen: Quiet, But Not Idle

Dear friends:

In the previous issue of the NYEMA Sun, the evidence of steady progress was clear. This progress has taken place over the 21 years since Lama Norlha Rinpoche's first return visit to his home country and especially since the founding of NYEMA Projects in 1997.

In this issue, we see Nangchen settling in for a typically harsh winter season, with travel and construction at a temporary halt. The focus at the monasteries during these winter months is on diligent study and practice, and in the medical clinics on continuing to provide healthcare in difficult conditions. Korche Primary School is on winter break.

This quiet season in Nangchen provides us, too, with an opportunity to reflect on our achievements and to plan for the coming year's work. In addition to the various construction projects that will resume in the spring, each of NYEMA's four initiatives requires ongoing financial support to sustain its functions, which have become essential to the well-being of the region, the preservation of its culture and its connection to the wider modern world.

NYEMA's dedicated Board of Directors met recently to evaluate the progress that has been made in Nangchen and to map out future directions. We invite you to continue to be part of this ongoing effort, and hope that you will take a few minutes to catch up on NYEMA Projects' news and make a donation to one or more of its initiatives.

Best wishes,

Linda Jordan
Editor



©NYEMA Projects

Fall/Winter 2005 Vol. 4, No. 2

In This Issue:

Letter from the Editor	1
Monastic Initiative.	2
Education Initiative	3
Medical Initiative	3
Donation Form	4

If you would like to be notified via email of future newsletters—as well as important new developments in Nangchen—we cordially invite you to join our mailing list. Sign up on our website at www.nyema.org!

Copyright ©2005 NYEMA Projects, Inc., New York, USA.

All rights reserved.



Nuns Seek Government Permit to Rebuild Shrine Hall

The nuns of Kala Rongo Palchen Gön Monastery are concentrating on intensive studies and practice as the winter season brings construction to a halt.

With the expanded three-year retreat facility finished and the fifth cycle of retreat well underway, the nuns hope to turn their efforts next spring to rebuilding the shrine hall that was destroyed by fire last year, leaving them with no central place to gather for group practice and activities. The first step, applying for a building permit from the government, has been taken. This permit must be received before construction can begin.

In the meantime, they are still using the upstairs of the monastic college facility as a makeshift shrine hall, with monastic college functions limited to the downstairs area. Everyone will be relieved when rebuilding is complete.

Other pressing construction projects to resume in the spring are the completion of living quarters for Retreat Master Lama Lodru and the long-awaited water project, which will bring running water to the monastery for the first time. Many of the pipes needed for this project were destroyed in the 2004 fire and have had to be replaced.

Donations are still urgently needed for the Kala Rongo Fire Fund to rebuild the shrine hall and for the other construction projects.



©2005 NYEMA Projects



©2005 NYEMA Projects

Monks Participate in Inter-Monastic Debate Competition

Lama Norlha Rinpoche reports that the 55 monks at Korche Monastery are doing very well under the guidance of Khenpo Tenrab and Korche's new teacher, Khenpo Sonam Dorje. The seventh cycle of three-year retreat continues on schedule.

In October 2005, a 10-day debate competition was held at a monastery near Sharnda. The Korche team distinguished itself admirably in the competition against a number of local monasteries.

The rebuilding of Korche Monastery – where Lama Norlha Rinpoche received his own training as a young monk in the 1940s and 1950s – began shortly after Rinpoche's first return visit to Nangchen in 1984. Donations to this very special project provide ongoing support for the many services the monastery provides to its resident monks and to the community at large.

Photos:

Left: Nuns at Kala Rongo help Sabka Rinpoche (center) make *tormas*, the ceremonial offerings made from roasted barley flour and water.
Right: Monks at Korche Monastery practicing debate, a traditional method used in Tibetan Buddhist monastic studies.



Education and Medical Initiatives

Satellite Schools Have Fulfilled Their Purpose

The Korche Primary School is currently closed for its annual two-month winter break, made necessary by harsh winter conditions. The children are looking forward eagerly to resuming classes in the spring, as soon as travel is again possible. They will be able to return to school thanks to NYEMA Projects' ongoing commitment to paying operating costs and teachers' salaries, as well as the stipends that provide children with the necessities that allow them to remain in school and continue their studies.

Since 1997, NYEMA Projects has established a total of 51 one-room satellite schools throughout Nangchen. These were needed because of limited space in the main school and because so many children resided in isolated rural areas with no transportation available to a central location.

Thanks to this network of satellite schools, a large population of children in the Nangchen countryside now has basic reading, writing and math skills, and some have even been able to continue on to higher education.

Meanwhile, in recent years, many former farmers and nomads have moved to towns and cities to seek employment. As a result, most of the satellite schools have fulfilled the purpose for which they were founded and have now ceased operation.

NYEMA Projects is very pleased with the positive influence our schools have had over the last decade in Nangchen. Through the generosity of our donors, we have introduced education and literacy to a generation of young people, allowing them to make connections with the world outside their isolated, impoverished region. They, in turn, will be inspired to seek similar opportunities for their children as the region continues to develop, modernize and reach out beyond its previously limited borders.

Your generosity will enable NYEMA Projects to continue supplying the teacher salaries, school operating costs and student stipends that allow Korche Primary School to flourish for the benefit of all.

Next Medical Frontier: Women's Clinic at Kala Rongo

NYEMA Projects is pleased to report that all 17 primary care clinics established since 1997 in remote areas of Nangchen are now self-sustaining. This is a tremendous achievement in a region that had no healthcare infrastructure less than a decade ago.

Efforts in the NYEMA medical initiative will now turn to furthering development of the women's health clinic at Kala Rongo. Tibetan medical practitioner Dr. Guru Tsering, with

an assistant, tends to the medical needs of the entire local community. He also continues to train several nuns to provide basic evaluation and treatment of women's health problems, which began for the first time to receive attention with the establishment of the women's clinic.

For the past year the focus at Kala Rongo has been mainly directed toward completing the expanded three-year retreat facility and dealing

with the aftermath of the devastating October 2004 fire that destroyed the main shrine hall. With these situations now under control, the medical team can turn its attention once again to developing the medical clinical and training program.

Your generous support will go directly to help support the Kala Rongo women's medical clinic and training program.



NYEMA Projects, Inc. Donation Form

Through investing financial resources, educational or medical supplies, time or skills, you can help the people of Nangchen improve their standard of living and protect their unique cultural heritage. Less than 5% of funding provided by our donors goes to administrative overhead. On behalf of the people of Nangchen, we thank you for your interest in these initiatives

I would like to contribute to the following:

- NYEMA Projects (general) \$ _____
- Monastic Initiative (general) \$ _____
- Kala Rongo Monastery \$ _____
- Kala Rongo Three-year Retreat \$ _____
- Kala Rongo Shedra (college) \$ _____
- Korche Monastery \$ _____
- Korche Shedra (college) \$ _____
- Korche Three-year Retreats \$ _____
- Damkar Monastery \$ _____
- Samten Ling \$ _____

- Education Initiative (general) \$ _____
- Yongten Gatsal Ling \$ _____
- Satellite Schools \$ _____
- Korche School \$ _____
- Kala Rongo Children's School \$ _____
- Medical Initiative (general) \$ _____
- KR Shrine Hall Emergency Fund \$ _____
- Community Initiative (general) \$ _____
- Water Project \$ _____
- Senior Housing \$ _____
- Solar Power Project \$ _____

- Sponsor stupa at Korche Monastery \$200
- Sponsor Nyunge practice at Kala Rongo:
 - \$300 for 100
 - \$1,500 for 500
 - \$3,000 for 1,000
- Sponsor food at: Kala Rongo Korche
- Select the meal(s) by circling the amount(s).

	Regular day	Chanting day
Breakfast	\$30	\$50
Lunch	\$100	\$120
Dinner	\$30	\$50
All 3 meals	\$160	\$220
Tea	\$20	\$20

Special Instructions (if any) _____

Total donation: \$ _____

Payment Options (Please print clearly to ensure proper handling.)

- Check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.
- Charge US \$ _____ to my credit card:
 - Visa MC # _____ Expires _____ / _____

Name as it appears on card: _____
 Signature: _____ Date: _____

Important note: For your protection, please **do not** e-mail your credit card number. You may send this form by mail, or fax to (845) 297-5761. Charges must be sent to NYEMA Projects in Wappingers Falls, New York.

To ensure proper handling, please complete the following:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: Day () _____ Eve () _____
 Fax: () _____ E-mail: _____

Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent of U.S. law.
 NYEMA Projects, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charity.
 NYEMA (Hong Kong) Association Limited is a Hong Kong SAR government registered charity.

In Hong Kong only*:
 Payable to **NYEMA (Hong Kong) Association Limited** and send to:

A. Michael Bough, Bough & Co. Solicitors
 Chekiang First Bank Center, Room 1102
 1 Duddell Street
 Central, Hong Kong
 For your convenience, NYEMA (Hong Kong) Association Limited donations can be wired directly to: DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (SWIFT: DHBKHKHH), A/C 788083955. Bank address: 16th Fl, The Centre, 99 Queen's Road, Central, Hong Kong.

* If you wish to confirm receipt of your donation, you may contact Michael Bough at 2877-6161, fax: 2877-6292, or e-mail: ambough@bough-co.com.hk.