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Dear Thame Gompa friends!

We celebrated the second charity event for our monastery end of May 2011. It was a successful event and a beautiful afternoon/evening. The Thame Gompa Band and we are very motivated to organize the third event. Our plan is to do at least one charity event a year.

And we have got some wonderful news:

In April 2011 six young monks (age 6 to 16) from the Khumbu area found a new home in Thame Gompa. The young monks have a daily schedule from 9 am to 4 pm. They receive education in writing, reading, Tibetan grammar and English and they learn to memorize Tibetan basic texts and prayers.

All monks are very happy to live now in the improved conditions of the monastery and the young monks are very grateful to have the chance for good education. This education is provided by the older monks until a qualified teacher will be found. Now there is also the opportunity for the older monks to do long retreats.

Meanwhile our Thame Gompa project is well known in the whole Khumbu area and is very appreciated among the people. It is our goal and great wish that the sherpas not only receive pujas but also receive Dharma teachings from a qualified teacher in their own monastery.

Tenzin is in regular and close contact with Nawang Chokyap who is the manager of the monastery. Just recently Tenzin asked whether there are some needs for the monks. Nawang Chokyap asked for uniform **warm jackets** for the rough climate up there. We would be very grateful for some extra money for those needs.

We would like to inform you about the special events in Thame Gompa from May until October every year:

In May/June (4th Tibetan month) is Mani Rimdu. This retreat of the Great Compassionate One includes rituals and especially the blessing of pills with the Mani-mantra. The pills will be distributed to the public later on.

At the end there is a spectacular mask dance (cham dance), a fire puja and giving the mandala sand to the water spirits.

The Dumche festival follows the Mani Rimdu. It is a ritual to dispel evil forces and increase the well-being of the whole community.

End of July/August there are two sets of Nyungne practice. It is a fasting retreat in complete silence with prostrations and meditation on Buddha of compassion (Avalotikeshvara).

On the full moon day of the same month the monks start with Yarne. Yarne is a six week rain retreat with daily practise from 5 to 9 a.m. Afterwards are long life ceremonies, protector pujas and the reading of a 108 volume commentary of Buddha Shakyamuni, called Kangyur.

End of October there is one week purification retreat (Vajrasattva). If you want to know more about it, you are welcome to ask Tenzin. There is also a little book about it.

During the rough wintertime many of the monks go for pilgrimage to receive teachings from His Holiness the Dalai Lama and other highly qualified teachers. Some of the older monks stay in the Thame Gompa and dedicate there time for intensive meditation.

We are so happy about the progress in the monastery which would have been not possible without your kind and generous support. Maybe sometime our wish will be fulfilled to give more monks the opportunity to live in the monastery.

With a heartfelt TASHI DELEK we send our greetings from the Thame Gompa e.V. Team.

*Tenzin Dorje Sherpa
& Kerstin Blumenschein*

Munich, September 2011

ORIGINAL MAIL MESSAGE FROM NEPAL:

Subject: **BIG TASHI DELEK FROM THAME GOMPA**

Date: Fri, 19 Aug 2011 — To: dharmadis@web.de

Tashi Delek Tenzing and all supporters for Thame Gompa!

Thank you so much for your big help for us from Germany. We are doing Big Puja here in the Gompa. We will go on sending to you all good luck. All our Lamas want to send their Big Tashi Delek to you. Thank you so much again for your big support. We are hoping your help will also continue in future. Take care all of you!

With best regards from Thame Gompa Family and Nawang Chokyap.

and our cook Khancha (right).



Nawang Chokyap, teacher and manager of the monastery (left), with the six young monks