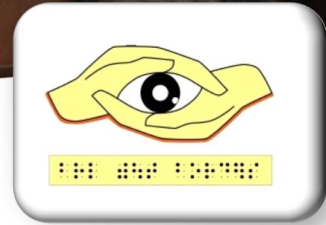


# Braille Without Borders

## Quarterly Newsletter 2 -2014



The skies above the Himalayan Plateau carry many clouds. In the spring the highland slowly warms up and after the first rainfall magic happens. The brown and grey mountains slowly but surely turn into a lush green. The landscape seems to “dress up” for the summer. It is a beautiful time on the roof of the world. During the spring a lot has happened and we herewith want to share the latest news. We start in the school in Lhasa followed by an update of the vocational training centre in Shigatse.

### LHASA:

#### New Pupil:

Kalsang Dikyi is one of the new pupils in the current semester. Unfortunately there are still cases like hers where at home she has been completely neglected. When she arrived, it looked like she was never ever washed and she didn't know how to eat and to get around by herself. With immense support from all the staff members, she is now able to even use chopsticks and cope herself properly.

#### BWB Wedding

Another BWB wedding took place in May. Nyima, the project coordinator married Yudun, one of the BWB teachers. Both are BWB graduates. The wedding ceremony was held on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2014 and around 500 guests attended the celebration. Afterwards the entire BWB team and all students had a party in the school. Congratulations Nyima and Yudun!

#### Children's Day

The celebration of the 2014 children's day was exciting and memorable. The event was held at a beautiful picnic place located on the border of Lhasa city. All students and staff members performed songs and dances. On the same day the graduation of 5 students who were trained in medical massage and 8 students who graduated from the Rabbit class were celebrated. A TV-station team joined the event and made many recordings.

#### Graduation:

13 students graduated on 2nd of June 2014, five from the medical massage training class and eight from rabbit class. All the graduates from massage class are now working in different massage clinics in Lhasa that are owned and managed by former BWB students. The eight students from the Rabbit class have successfully integrated themselves in to regular school in Belshung near Shigatse.



Kalsang Dikyi



Married: Yudun and Nyima

Picture courtesy of Mr Tilgang



SHIGATSE: Our colleagues in the farm shared the following news:

### Gift of Braille Government School Text Books.

The Qingdao Government Braille Publishing House donated text books for all our junior high school students. Mr Yang was the main mover. He and his colleagues are currently stationed in government positions here in Tibet. They are regular visitors to our vocational center. The presentation ceremony took place in the BWB Vocational hall here in the farm. Our blind student, Lakhpa Tsering, gave the thank-you speech, reading from his Braille 'cheat sheet'. The local TV station was there to document the event.

### Headmaster Given National Award.

Mr. Wong, headmaster of the local Junior High School, was given an award by the National Handicap Association for his assistance to our BWB Farm's blind students studying in his school. His example has encouraged local school administration, from primary school right up to the head of the education bureau 'to see' what blind students are capable of.

### Further Eco-Friendly Development on Farm:

June saw the installation of solar powered LED lighting around the Farm. These lights are in addition to the various solar powered devices the Farm uses for cooking, drinking water, showers etc. These lights too are 'off the grid'.

### Back to the Future with Adobe

Our store room extension, a work in progress, is 100% M.I.T technology, i.e. Made In Tibet and not to be confused with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The construction is simple, the materials are local and the method has survived millennia! The Adobe bricks are handmade with mud from the farm itself.

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*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

*On behalf of all students and colleagues we say **THANK YOU** for your ongoing support!  
We would be grateful if you can share this newsletter with your family members, colleagues and friends. We wish everyone a wonderful summer.  
With warm regards,*

*The entire BWB team, Sabriye and Paul*

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