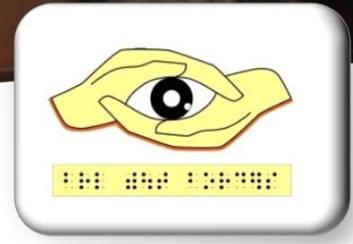


Braille Without Borders

Quarterly Newsletter 3 -2014



Dear Friends and supporters,

Three quarters of 2014 have flown by and thus it is time again to inform you about the latest developments. Our colleagues Gyendsen and Nyima, former Tibetan BWB students, who now manage the training facility in Lhasa, wrote to us about the developments of the preparatory school in Lhasa. Many years ago they came as children. They were raised in the BWB center for a few years before leaving their comfort zones to explore the world. Nyima learned English in the UK, Gyendsen learned computer skills in Malaysia and Japan, Both of them came to Kanthari to learn all about starting and running a project and now they are in charge of doing fundraising, management and curriculum development.

Here the latest news that was shared by Nyima and Gyendsen :

Self-Integration

Seven students integrated themselves into mainstream school in June 2014. Our management team went to visit them. We were glad to see them motivated and doing well with their sighted peers. Meanwhile, we visited some other former students of (BWB) in different high schools and were very much impressed with their hard works on studies. Tashi Punzog (his Nickname is Bollo) is in the number 3 high school. He is a bit shy but doing well in school. Wangla is in Gyantse high school, He is one of the best in class, has a lot of friends and speaks English perfectly. Wangla wants to learn more English and therefore we sent several English Braille books to him. Gyentsen is now working on a collection of audio books for the students who are in regular schools.

New School Uniforms

With generous support of Mr Lu from Shanghai, we managed to get tailor-made school uniforms which include the Braille Without Borders logo.

Visit of Sabriye

At the end of August, we were happy to welcome Sabriye to the BWB school again. She hasn't been in Tibet for a few years and therefore on the 13th of September, we organized a "nostalgic party" for all former students, staffs and friends. It was a great get-together where many good old memories were shared. It is 16 years ago that Paul and Sabriye came to Lhasa to start BWB.



Nyima & Gyendsen



New School Uniforms



Meeting with Foreign Affairs

Sabriye went for a meeting with Mr Gan of the Lhasa foreign affairs office. She thanked Mr Gan for the cooperation with FA and TDPF. Mr Gan thanked Sabriye for BWB's contribution to the blind in Tibet and mentioned that the cooperation with BWB but also with TDPF is exemplary.

Our colleagues in Shigatse wrote about the developments of the vocational training park.

THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING PARK, Belshung County, Tibet.

The Farm component in particular has been busy this quarter preparing fields, sowing and now, reaping the fruit of their labour: wheat, barley, rapeseed for oil, fodder crops and potatoes. ALL organic by the way.

The Kitchen Garden/Greenhouse/Organic Composting Course is shifting into 'winter mode' by planting more cold weather veggies for our kitchen and for sales locally. Surprisingly, or not, our most faithful customers in winter are our local village neighbours who don't mind that our organic veggies aren't always as 'pretty' as a lot of the commercial stuff in the 'city' -- but better tasting and free of any pesticides.

Our livestock can now range freely as this year's crops are harvested. This means greater milk yields too. This is especially appreciated by the people in the Dairy Course who are planning new items for the next quarter such as chocolate and milk based sweets.

The Handicrafts Course too is getting ready for the onset of the Tibetan Plateau winter. Sweaters, scarves, hot water bottle covers and blankets will join the ever popular Tibetan shoulder bags in the inventory. A business in mainland China bought up all remaining inventory this third quarter. Plans for the next quarter, a job for the soon-to-be-introduced Business Management Course, will be to explore this 'niche' and the possibility of becoming a sales outlet for our graduates.

The Baking Course plans to add full grain rye and wheat items to its curriculum, grown locally on our farm and organic. We currently have a stock of rye grown by ourselves, and said by a German PhD in agriculture to be as good as any rye he has ever seen.

The Braille Book Production unit has taken on Migmar. He recently graduated from junior high school, is visually impaired and has been with BWB from the beginning. He is currently apprenticing in the Braille department with a view to eventually becoming staff.

The Kitchen Management Course is currently taught in our somewhat professional kitchen. It serves up to one hundred persons three times a day. They have added a traditional Tibetan family kitchen, built in the traditional way with materials including the stove but with enhanced ventilation and with ongoing development of blind friendly features. The idea is to enable every trainee to learn to cook for themselves.

Mobility training for rural blind folk will see an enhanced use of the Vocational Park's natural

topography and all weather characteristics. The goal: 'Nature Paths' that are truly natural all year 'round.'

Graduates this Quarter

Traditional Tibetan Music; 4. Three are employed. The fourth, Dechen Yudron, is taking professional voice training and attending regular junior high school, in Shanghai.

Handicrafts: 1. Weaving, at home.

Animal Husbandry: 1. Managing family farm with livestock.

Bakery: 1. Running own restaurant in village.

Dairy; 1. Managing family farm with dairy cattle.

Integration this Quarter

This quarter has seen the following new admissions/promotions in regular schools locally

Primary: 14. Junior High School; 11 plus Dechen Yudron who is in regular school in Shanghai and taking voice training in her free time.

Senior High School 3. And so, such has been the 'harvest' for this third quarter 2014.

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.

With warm regards,

The entire BWB team, Sabriye and Paul

www.braillewithoutborders.org

