

Hello to all of you!

Here again a little sign of life from Sikkim. Everything goes really well here! The November days are bright and sunny, the nights are getting cold. We have all the monsoon rains behind us and in nature we have a sort of second spring...there are again so many different plants and flowers blooming!



These are Phurkit and Samyor. They have been with us in Sikkim Himalayan Academy since 2003. Last year they were in class 4 in our school and since the beginning of this year they are going to class 6 in the local government school but they still live with us. They both are doing very well in their school even though they had a double promoting...going from class 4 to class 6! Samyor was even first in his class after the second term examinations this year!!!



These two monks are Sonam and Pema. It is exactly one year ago that they moved from our school and entered into our local monastery: Jangchhub Choling. Here a small monastic school was established in January 2005. There are 10 monks living and studying there right now. The monks study a lot of Tibetan everyday because all the original Buddhist texts and prayers are written in Tibetan. Sonam and Pema are very happy living and studying in the monastery and they are doing their studies and practices very well!



These are Dup Tsering and his mother. Dup Tsering is 6 years old and is living with us since two years. His father and mother live far away high up in the mountains in a very simple little hut. They have 7 children. Dup Tserings father had been sick for some time already but they could not buy any medicine because there was no money. So at some point they even had to sell their only cow to get some money.....Some generous person from England then donated money with the request that we should buy a new cow for the family. The family was greatly helped by this because a cow means a little source of income. Later on the father got partially paralyzed because of a wrong combination of alcohol and medicine.....so sad. Recently his mum came to school to visit Dup Tsering with on her arm a new born baby. I thought: "This must be the baby of the friend that is accompanying her.....". But it wasn't....this was number 8 in the family.....i could hardly believe it....

Then there is Sonam, 8-9 years old. I asked him while coming back to school after the holiday: "Sonam, what did you do in your holiday while you were at home"? "Miss, I did my homework and looked after the baby....". "The baby?", I asked, "Is there a new baby in your family?" "Yes miss", was his reply. "How many children are there now in your family?". "Nine miss!", was his joyful answer.....



A very kind and generous person from Australia and working in a bookstore send us two big boxes of books so we could give each child their own book as a present. They were over the moon with this precious gift!

Warm and heartily greetings from us all!

Hedwig, kids, teachers and other staff members.