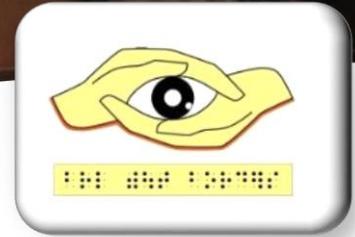


Braille Without Borders

Quarterly Newsletter 3 -2015



Dear Friends and supporters,

Nine months of 2015 have passed already so time for the third quarterly newsletter. Nyima, Gyendsen and Mike shared the following updates from Lhasa and Shigatse.

LHASA: SELF-INTEGRATION

Two former bwb-students, Kjumi and Jampa had finalized their university entrance exams. They both passed with a good score. On the 13th of August, the school team and blind music band organized a farewell party. More than 200 people from different offices, individuals and BWB former students were invited. Right now Kjumi and Jampa already started their university studies. Kjumi studies at Tibet University and his major is on news broadcasting. Jampa studies at the university to become a teacher. Kjumi is known through the film BLINDSIGHT, he was the little boy who sang “HAPPY TOGETHER” at the end of the film. Small children grow up quick!

START OF SECOND SEMESTER

The second semester in 2015 started on August 17th. We received two new girls, Dolla (8) and Tenzin Dolma (9). Both of them are from Shigatse.

FARM: HANDICRAFTS

The handicrafts course was appreciated by one and all. We are reaping the fruits with increased sales, not only locally here in Tibet but throughout mainland China. Sung Droma, Nordron and Chula are the main producers of the items that are popular with visitors and friends.

INTEGRATION

The Farm is currently the home-base for 42 of our blind and visually impaired students studying in local government schools. We have 22 boys and girls in government primary school, seventeen boys and girls in government middle school and three boys in local high schools. Lakhpa Tsering, now in high school, was promoted from middle school with the highest marks of his class. He is completely blind.





Power of the sun



Drum Ball in action

GETTING OFF THE GRID

With the support of the company Sunrain we are slowly increasing the use of the power of the sun. New Solar PV panels were installed on the concert hall.

PAYING BACK

The 7.6 magnitude earthquake in April brought thousands of homeless Tibetans to Shigatse. The government supports them with food and shelter in a large site reserved for them near town. Our students volunteered and prepared a variety of entertainment of songs and dance to 'take their minds off' their trauma for a moment. One refugee woman who was very touched said; "The courage of these blind children has given us strength. We know we will eventually have homes again but they, knowing they will never see, yet have thought of us."

PUSHING THE ENVELOPE....

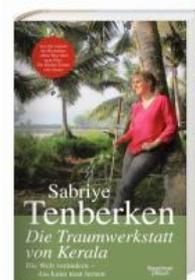
... Passang learned to cycle during the holidays. One advantage over a horse: a blind person doesn't have to worry about standing behind a bike :-)

LATEST SPORTS DEVELOPMENT: "DRUM-BALL"

"DRUM-BALL" is a blind-friendly version of basketball. More precisely it is a fusion of basketball, American football, rugby and ice hockey. Two 50-gallon drums replace the traditional basketball nets. It is a contact sport, unlike basketball, hence blocking, tackling and body checks are allowed. And fighting -- being the contribution of North American ice hockey. It is preferably played outdoors, on hard cement surfaces such as abandoned parade grounds, threshing floors, etc. The basketball 'dribble' provides the auditory orientation and body checks, tackles, slams and take-downs provide the tactile element and also the occasion for fights. Hence drum-ball's blind friendliness. The students of the BWB Vocational Blind School are currently the world champions.

NEW BOOK

The new book of Sabriye Tenberken is titled "Die Traumwerkstatt von Kerala, die Welt verändern - das kann man lernen", roughly translated: "The dream-workshop of Kerala, Learning to Change the World". It was published on the 10th of September 2015 in Germany. You can find more information about the book in English [here](#). (Kiepenheuer & Witsch ISBN 978-3-462-04717-2)



Dear Friends and Supporters,

*On behalf of all students and colleagues we say **THANK YOU** very much for your ongoing support! We would be grateful if you can share this newsletter with your family members, colleagues and friends. With very best regards,*

The entire BWB team, Sabriye and Paul