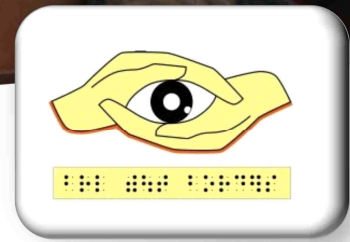


Braille Without Borders

Quarterly Newsletter 4 -2014



Dear Friends and supporters,

2014 was another eventful year with many developments. In this newsletter we will share what has happened over the past quarter of the year. Nyima and Gyendsen shared the following updates from Lhasa.

In October, together with the Tibetan blind association, the BWB team organized a big “adventure in the dark” activity which gave experience to many university students and teachers. The main goal of this activity was to show how it feels when sight is missing. The activity was held in the preparatory school and we invited 230 people from different universities in Lhasa. We hope that this activity created awareness so more and more people will recognize blind people with white canes and their abilities and capabilities.

On the fifteenth of October we celebrated international white cane day with all the students and staff. Additionally, older BWB students participated in a concert that was organized by the blind association in the Golden hotel. There were many artists and during this performance the new blind music band that was founded by former BWB student Dachung performed many songs and music.

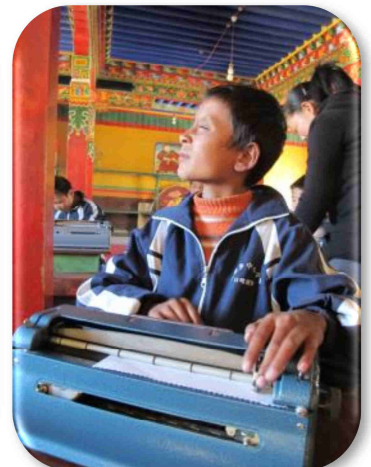
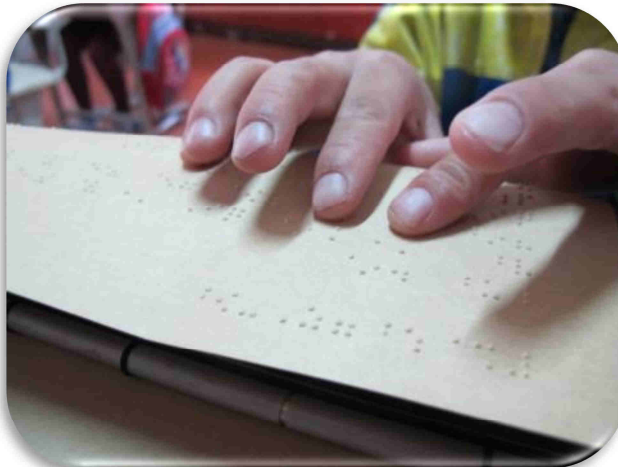
The second semester in 2014 ended with a final test on the 27th of December. The students will now return to their families for Losar (Tibetan new year), the Tibetan winter holiday.

In the Braille book production unit, a part time staff member has joined to type in Chinese books so the China Braille press can transcribe them into Braille and send us the Braille Books in Feb 2015.

All the students who attend regular schools are doing well. Also they are now on winter holiday.

Our colleagues in Shigatse wrote about the latest news from the BWB vocational training park.

This quarter saw the acquisition of a shop in the Shigatse city center. It offers the possibility for a bakery, an outlet and display for handicrafts etc along with residence for staff. Plans and paperwork remain to be worked out. Keep 'your fingers crossed' that this will work as a hands on practical learning experience that will help our trainees to become independent.





Sunrain, a Chinese company that makes solar hot water heaters, has donated a blind friendly playground. It hasn't been officially opened yet but the staff and students aren't waiting. They've been 'testing' the blind 'friendliness' of the facilities in the meantime. The place has brought a lot of joy already.

This being the fourth quarter of the year means harvest time and somewhat barren looking fields up here at 4000 meters, but also a barn full of grains to get us through the winter and the coming New Year.

The students produced and directed a very professional Winter Holiday Farewell in our performing arts' building, affectionately referred to by some as the Belshung Village Philharmonic!!

New Trainees

This quarter saw the enrollment of ten new trainees, five young ladies and 5 young men.

The ladies: Dromika, 23, from Qinghai in Knitting, Tashi Droma, 21, from Shigatse, Gesang Yudron 24, from Namling, Som Droma, 17, from Namling and Drogar, 19, from Namling, all in Weaving.

The young men: Lhamo Tashi, 26, from Qinghai is in Braille Studies, Lodar, 27, from Qinghai is in Traditional Tibetan Music, Sangga Tashi, 19, from Nagchu is in Greenhouses, Tashi Thondrup, 36, from Lhoka is in Animal Husbandry and Lhakpa, 11, from Sagya is learning Braille.

Graduates

The ladies: Tsedron and Digye Drogar, both from Lhoka, and graduates in Music, have formed a traditional Tibetan music trio with Tsering (see below) and perform in the Lhoka area.

Mikma Pentok, graduate in weaving, works at home.

Droma Yankyi, graduate in weaving works with the Civil Administration in Mt. Everest region.

Tsewang Lhamo, graduate in Kitchen Management, works with the Government Tourist Hotel in Sagya.

The young men: Dhonba, graduate in Baking, runs his own restaurant in Thongmu

Dawa, graduate in Kitchen Management, works for the Government Tourist Hotel in Sagya.

Tsering, graduate in Music, has formed his own music group with the two girl graduates (see above) and performs in the Lhoka area.

Passang, graduate in Music, is taking additional courses in Massage with the Tibet Disabled Persons Federation in Lhasa.

Migma, graduate in Knitting and Braille is taking additional courses in Massage with the Tibet Disabled Persons Federation in Lhasa.

Lhakpa graduated in Animal Husbandry and is managing the family farm in Sagya.

Dorje graduated in Animal Husbandry and Braille. He assists with the family farm but also holds a government job as security officer with the Tourist Bureau in Sagya.

Integration into government schools

This quarter saw us place seven new students in government primary school and six new students in government junior high. Wangla continues his studies in Gyantse High School and Pu Tashi in Shigatse



High School. Dechen Yudron has been accepted into the Special Govt High School for the Blind in Shanghai and also receives tutorials in Music there.

In Memoriam

Our special thoughts go out to the family of Shambey, a farm trainee who graduated in Knitting but who sadly passed away recently to a history of brain tumors.

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 you **ALL the very best for the New Year!**
With very best regards,*

The entire BWB team, Sabriye and Paul

www.braillewithoutborders.org