

05/08/2015

Dear Friends and Supporters of Tritten Norbutse,

First of all I want to convey a special greetings, prayers and thanks to you all from our beloved teacher Yongdzin Rinpoche!

I on behalf of entire community of Tritten Norbutse Monastery would like to thank you for your generous support. We received your contributions either directly from individuals or through Tritten Norbutse Association and Shenten Dargye Ling in France, Yungdrung Bön Stiftung in Germany, Ligmincha Institute and Himalayan Bön Foundation in U.S.A., Lupon's Friend in Mexico, EVA in Switzerland, Thousand Star Foundation from Thailand and other groups from Tibet, China and India. Your help has been a great support for us during the disastrous condition we faced due to the devastating earthquake in Nepal. With your help we could manage to provide emergency needs not only for the monks in the monastery, but also foods, medicine, tents and materials for temporary shelter to many people in the remote mountainous villages that were strongly hit by the quake.

A team of our members consisting of monks and lay people made several arduous trips to remote mountainous villages to help. An overview of some of the activities that we conducted in order to help is as follows:

- Distribution of food and tarpaulin to villagers in Lapsiphedi, Kathmandu.
- Distribution of food to 265 families in Sindupalchowk ward no. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 9 villages.
- Distribution of food to the villages of Teen Ghare, Ranibhan and Gairi Gaon areas that are neighbors to the monastery.
- Three days free health camp and distribution of medicines to local people. Free access to the traditional Tibetan medicine clinic and the small clinic of the monastery is being provided until end of this year for the quake victims.
- Distribution of rain coats, rain boots and other necessary stationary and gifts to 365 students of Bhumesowri High School that is badly affected by the quake in Helambhu, Sindhupalchowk -1.
- Distribution of zinc coated metal sheets for temporary shelter to 51 families who lost their houses totally in Shingantse village of Helambhu, Sindhupalchowk.
- Distribution of food and two big tents for community gathering for another village in Helambhu, Sindhupalchowk.
- Distribution of food and rain boots to Lubra villagers. Distribution of food, stationaries, rain coats and boots to school children in Lubra and distribution of cement and zinc coated metal sheets for rebuilding of the local school building that collapsed during the earth quake.

As you have seen through the news, the quake was such calamity that took the lives of at least 9000 people, injured tens of thousands of people and left much more without family and home. Precious ancient monuments and historical sites were destroyed and lost forever.

As for the monastery, there were no structural damages according to the report of Rapid Visual Damage Assessment (RVDA) made of a team of certified engineers. However, we do have major cracks and severe damages on the monastery buildings that require to be repaired or partially rebuild. The major damages have occurred on the daily prayer assembly hall down below the main monks residence, rooftop

pagoda of the main temple, rooftop small pagoda of the prayer wheel house and the butter lamp house that was built on the rooftop of the old monks residence and *Lili Bangbang* - the round butter lamp house near the yellow stupa. The old *Labrang* (Rinpoche's residence) building has some big cracks. The oldest building complex is safe and without much damages. However, as the foundation and building structure was not perfectly done when it was built, engineers suggest replacement or rebuilding of the structure in the future for better assurance of security.

The team of engineers suggested rectification and repairs of the damaged buildings. The engineers also indicated the need for building a strong retaining wall along the steep areas of the site for ensuring future security and protection. The size and the design of the retaining walls have to be determined on the basis of the soil test report that is being conducted now.

The monks were deeply shocked by the quake and they had been staying in the tents for over two and half months. They cooperatively gave hands in rescue works efforts carried by international search teams as well as local people. The prayers have been the source of hope and protection; therefore monks daylily conducted the special prayers that were advised by Yongdzin Rinpoche for both those who died and for the living.

We once again want to wholeheartedly thank you for being with us and for the unfailing support you have provided to us. We keep you all in our prayers.

Wishing you all good health and lasting happiness,

Khenpo Tenpa Yungdrung Rinpoche (On behalf of Triten Norbutse Monastery and its community)