

June 5, 2008

Dear Friends of Kilung Community and Tibet,

Amazingly, it's been snowing recently in Dzachuka, and more animals continue to die, even now, from weakness and hunger. **But thanks to your generosity, emergency animal feed arrived last week.** Distribution of the grain began June 1 to the families needing it most, to keep their animals alive.



You responded wonderfully to our appeal of April 29 with donations and kind wishes for the people and animals in Dzachuka. **Thank you all!**

Included in these funds are donations from friends in the PRC, which we very much want to acknowledge, and also from those who attended a beautiful Whidbey Island slide show benefit given by KF board member Cary Peterson. It included photos taken in Dzachuka, sound effects recorded last summer, and Tibetan music. The hundred people who attended came away feeling inspired and more connected than ever to the Tibetan nomads. The show raised \$1,200 of the above funds. Thank you to everyone who came, and especially to Cary for her work in creating this heartfelt experience.

→You sent all needed for emergency animal feed! \$3,900 was raised for high-quality grain, now delivered.

→A start of \$215 has been donated toward feeding hungry humans, the families most hard-hit by the disaster. **\$2,285 still needed.**

→Far-sighted donors contributed enough to buy 16 winter feed kits, for a total of \$800 so far. Each kit costs \$50.

→Additionally, some folks have donated for the replacement of animals to families or Kilung Monastery. \$670 raised so far...a great start.

In the last month, another 300 Kilung community animals died (after the 2,000 we wrote about previously). Out of 128 milking dri (yak) belonging to Kilung Monastery, 32 of them died, plus



3 new baby yaks. These animals provide milk products for the monks and butter for the butterlamps for major and minor annual pujas plus community festivals. The remaining monastery animals are some of the ones still at risk, Rinpoche writes, "so this time we are very much concerned about how can we continue in the coming year with all the pujas in an uninterrupted way."

The relief effort is still urgently needed. **We're immediately seeking \$2,285 to feed 40 hungry families who were most affected by the disaster and lost most or all of their animals.** By harvest season this summer, \$5,200 is needed for the Winter Feed Kits, a sustainable ancient-method pilot program to prevent future losses like this year's; and any donation amount for animal replacement for families or Kilung Monastery. Please consider donating to give the people of this snow-hit area a boost so that they don't lose everything. Any amount will be appreciated with 100% going directly to the snow disaster relief in Dzachuka.

Kilung Rinpoche is back in Dzachuka now. The timing turned out to be dramatic: just as he was going through customs in Chengdu, the first earthquake hit. That has, of course, been enormously sad news with so much death, destruction, and suffering in areas to the west and northwest of Chengdu. Even though Chengdu was pretty unharmed, the hospitals there have been overflowing with people brought from the mountainous quake areas. He spent over a week in Chengdu, on some important errands, but the disaster prevented accomplishment of many goals. So, after another large aftershock, they left for Tibet, a two-day journey without obstacles. The 8.0 earthquake was felt in Dzachuka, but no cause for concern in that region, as it's quite far from the earthquake activity.

Just after their jeep reached home, Rinpoche was called away for the 49th day service for the death of a community elder, the father of Palo and of the Kilung shedra's khenpo. Rinpoche said he was a pure nomad, living totally within tradition, not at all diluted by modern life. Some of you who have been to Kilung Valley would remember Palo as one of Kilung's head monks. Rinpoche said, "Their family is doing better now. Many monks and lamas helped with the services through the 49 days....they were very amazed and happy that I reached them on time."

Good news: Building materials and cabin roofs are now on their way. Rinpoche's brother, Jame, was able to hire a large truck in Chengdu, and it's nearly arrived in Dzachuka. This means the monks' cabins will be getting their modern, metal roofs before the rainy season starts this summer.

Rinpoche said the Ponru students have done very well in middle school so far. They're currently on school holiday, common all over Tibet at this time of year, to join their families in picking yartsa gunbu, the Tibetan caterpillar fungus, one of the only sources for cash for nomad families.

Rinpoche sends his best wishes to everyone.

Thanks for all,
Diane Berger



PS: The new logo for Kilung Foundation was designed and scribed by Kilung Rinpoche. It's the letter "Ki" from *Kilung* and also *Vajrakīlaya*. The two vertical circles are punctuation indicating sacredness.