



ICDF Tsharka School Newsletter

June 14, 2015 – No. 2

Dear Friends and Supporters of Tsharka School,

We are writing to tell you that we have contacted Tsharka School and the news is positive! I spoke to Samdup, our School Coordinator, twice recently via cellphone. (I call him from my home in Greece on my cell phone using Skype, and he answers on his cell phone in Tsharka— what a boon to communication!) He informed me that the earthquake in Kathmandu has not adversely affected our school.

Samdup reports that on April 25, at the time of the earthquake, he and the other teachers were on the trail to Tsharka and did not feel anything. In Tsharka itself, there was not much damage. Happily, our school building did not suffer.

We had some other very exciting news from Samdup: Attendance at the school is up! Samdup reports 35 to 40 students attending on a daily basis. His hard work last year rebuilding the confidence of the villagers in the school is paying off.

The school has new textbooks and supplies, including textbooks supplied by Kathmandu Metro Rotary Club. We have high hopes for additional books donated by the Asia Foundation. Getting them to Tsharka will be a challenge, but we will figure out a way to do it.

After my reassuring calls with Samdup, I am continuing with my scheduled trip to Tsharka and will leave on June 17 for Kathmandu.

The young woman I will be traveling with, Amanda Christie, has worked for the Nepal Department of Education and lives in Kathmandu. She reports that things are basically functioning again there. Damaged buildings are being torn down. Restaurants have to post a certificate from an engineer saying they are safe to enter in order to do business. Government officials are either at work in their buildings, or working sitting outside their

buildings. Amanda will help me negotiate through the city. She is familiar with the trek to Tsharka, and assures me it will be all right for us to go.

Our trek will be through Dunai, where the Department of Education offices for Dolpo are located. I hope to meet with several officials there. Then we visit two schools for research purposes. We will hike to Phoksundo, where we will visit Tapriza School. It is run by a Swiss non-profit organization and has been operating for seventeen years. From Phoksundo, we will continue to Dho Tarap, where we will visit Crystal Mountain School, founded by the French Action Dolpo, which has been operating for twenty years.

Our school in Tsharka could eventually be developed to accommodate 150 students, a large majority of the school age children whose families live in the village. At the present time, only about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the children of Tsharka are attending our local elementary school. We hope to be able to improve the facilities at Tsharka School and offer more children the opportunity to receive a school education in their own community.

I am looking forward to documenting this summer's trek with photos and short videos of Tsharka School and the students and staff. I will send you all a report upon my return.

Tashi Delek,
Barbara

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