

Gaden Relief Board Meeting  
Dec. 12th , 2018

Attendance: Ven. Zasep Rinpoche, Evan Zaleschuk, Maureen Byrne,  
Matthew Richards, Irina Safonova, Irene Cortes, Marco Frascchetti, Patricia  
Regrets: Stephen Tang, Jane Lautens

Agenda Adopted

Previous Board Minutes adopted. Irina moved, Matthew seconded. Unanimously approved.

Treasury Report: CDN account: \$43,374.01 USD: \$7.64

Financial statements & tax return to be given to our accountant Sonam.

Treasurer financial report to be given at next GRP Board meeting.

1. Report on survey of Zanskar Nuns Association and delivery of donation. Irina presented the Board her slideshow of pictures from her recent trip to Zanskar, Ladakh. Irina used John Huizinga survey and our old GRP agent Lauren's survey for looking after the nunneries. The nunneries are substantially poorer than they were during the last GRP visit. There is a big wealth disparity between the local monasteries and nunneries. Monasteries get the bulk of donations and financial and infrastructure support from the local population. Our GRP donation of \$8000. USD was given out to the nunneries based on need.

Kasha Kachod Grubling is the biggest of the 9 nunneries Irina visited with 35 nuns. Since Rinpoche's last visit, their water system was fixed and upgraded. The new water system is reliable and their electrical system is operable mostly at night. Older nuns bunk and with younger ones and help take care of them. They would like GRP to raise money for a proper residence for them.

Rizhing Dorje Dzong has 23 nuns but an incomplete water system and asked GRP for funds to finish it. Foods stores here are very small. They get no funding.

Skyagam Phagmo Ling has 37 nuns. They have cows and good facilities. Here they are not hungry and are relatively well off.

Pishu Namgyal Choling has 6 nuns. They are very poor but very hospitable. They could use a water system here. They get no help or funding from villagers.

Manda Padma Choling has 11 nuns. They are very poor and little to no facilities. The nuns didn't even have shoes. GRP bought them shoes and a stove.

Tungri Phuntsog Ling has 23 nuns.

Bya Dolma Choling has 5 nuns and located on a cliff so can't grown anything. Water is scarce. The nuns here were losing hope and were going to leave. Each of their cells were built by themselves and there is a new communal building built last year by themselves. This is a Tara temple.

Sani Kachod Long is a nunnery of 9 nuns. It is a Vajrayogini temple and they do retreat every winter. They have a greenhouse.

Zangla Byangchub Choling is a nunnery with 24 adults and 12 children. It is near the local village and is supported. They have a big greenhouse. The nuns are educated in a government building. There is a nun who teaches here who had returned to Zangskar. It is in this nunnery that there was a nun who needed brain surgery and was subsequently supported by our GRP efforts and funds.

Nuns from nunneries came to Padum and all had lunch. A big lunch was served was at hotel's restaurant and they did a Puja for Rinpoche. The money exchange was done by the nuns privately through Karsha Monastery. USD was given for what could not be exchanged. Next time GRP will look at better ways of bringing funds rather than cash as there are many obstacles to exchanging money in Zangskar. Western union is a good option to send money.

A GRP survey was done stipulating:

1. Report on fundraising for the sick young nun
2. Medical bills and medicine were requested and the little nun is recovering from her surgery
3. They submitted a report for the total costs and what was spent in Delhi
4. The local nuns have no educational means
5. They ask to hire teachers during the warm part of the year to teach young nuns; Dharma teachings have a cost (\$150CDN/month)
6. Need for food and clothing
7. Need Solar panels, stoves, buildings, water works for their nunneries

Next GRP meeting, the Board should brainstorm how to fundraise for a teacher in the summer and raise money for food and medicine. Rinpoche suggested that we give to the nunneries themselves that they distribute for the needs of the nun. They must then submit a report of how they will spend the GRP funds.

2. Report on the scholarship of Mongolian students.

Last year given \$8000. USD and this year, \$6000. by GRP. Rinpoche went to local school near airport and ask Principal to choose orphans who are scholastic and have good marks. GRP gave the amounts based on their marks and how much they need for their respective programs such as for Dentistry school or Computer Science,

being for their first year of study. Rinpoche showed the Board pictures of the school and recipients from this Sept.

3. Report on fundraising for the nun's surgery.

4. Rinpoche proposed a new GRP project to give money to a Peruvian charity run by a Canadian that delivers horse therapy for local disabled children (Equine Facilitated Therapy (EFP)).

5. Future changes to GRP Board: Stephen has stepped down from Board and Bonnie Mok volunteers to become secretary once Matthew steps down this Spring.

Next meeting TBD.

Meeting adjourned.