

Tashi Delek and Namaste and Happy New 2011!

What happened during 2010?

When I recently started to prepare for the annual report and tried to summarize the last year, which is the third year for KMCH, it was especially two events that came to my mind. The first is Chembal Lama's visit to Sweden, the other is that the children in KMCH Children Home in Kathmandu at last moved back to Humla. Both events took place in March/April 2010 and have been described in previous newsletters.

Chembal Lama's visit to Sweden was very successful. He was able to give information about life and living conditions in Humla and about the work of KMCH in several schools, in the library of Ekerö municipality, and in some other offices and work-places of KMCH members. The main event was at the Museum of Ethnography. It was a joint event organised by the museum and KMCH at which both the curator of the Asian department, Håkan Wahlquist, and Chembal Lama gave lectures about Humla from different perspectives. We must admit we were little surprised that so many interested turned up and stayed the whole afternoon to listen. Outside the lecture hall photos by Thomas Kelly and three short videos by Chembal Lama were displayed. We also sold handicraft from Humla and Kathmandu.



Children from KMCH Children Home in Humla playing

During his visit in Europe, Chembal also travelled to Switzerland to visit friends and sponsors. I would like to stress that all his travel expenses for the journey from Nepal to Sweden were covered solely by one of his friends. So none of your contributions to KMCH Support Group were used for this.

At the same time as Chembal was in Europe, Chukhel Lama was in Nepal, responsible for moving the children in the KMCH children home in Kathmandu to the children home in Yangar, Humla. After this was completed, all of the KMCH works are now concentrated in Humla. This has been our goal since we started in 2007, but mainly due

to the low quality of the government village schools and to the political instability of the region Chembal decided to initially start our first children home in Kathmandu.

We are happy that all our work is now concentrated in Humla, or rather to the Buddhist northern part of the district that is known as Upper Humla. The children now have the possibility to grow up in their own culture and live close to their parents and/or relatives. The only negative aspect of the move is the higher costs in Humla. We need to buy all the food from Tibet as there are no stores or shops in this part of the region. Transportation to and from Tibet is carried out by horse, yak, mules and goats and this must be paid for. And food prices for rice and grain in Tibet is rising, just as it is generally in the world. Other products need to be flown in to Humla by plane and this also causes high transportation costs. A period of draught and flooding has had a negative impact on the access to basic necessities and the prices have thus increased. For KMCH we will now however only pay food for the children during school terms, as they will be able to stay with their families in Humla during school holidays.

Since Chukkel has completed his studies at the university in Kathmandu and now works full-time as a teacher both at the village school in Yalwang and at the KMCH children home in nearby Yangar, KMCH now pays him a regular teacher salary. So we do not longer have the financial advantage of his being a part-time student and part-time working with the children. For the time being we deem it necessary that Chembal stays in Kathmandu around six months per year. He will need to keep sponsors informed of the developments of the projects, he will working on his network with current contacts as well as meeting new sponsors and other organisations. Furthermore he will need to purchase medical equipment for the health clinic that KMCH runs, buy other equipment for the children home and the adult teachings as well as get thread and sewing equipment for the handicraft project KMCH runs. He also assists people from Humla who come to Kathmandu for health care with transport and translation. So we will still need a base in Kathmandu even though all the children are back in Humla. How this will be done in a financial sound way in the long run we will discuss this coming spring.



Horses are used for transportation in Humla



Children on their way to school in Yalwang.

Our application to Forum Syd for government funding was rejected

The last day before Chembal left Sweden he attended a meeting at Forum Syd, which is an organisation that decides on some of the government funds for developing projects in

developing countries. At the meeting Chembal informed about Humla, about KMCH and about our plans for the future. In May 2010 KMCH Support Group filed an application for funding for inter alia our adult teachings, resources for a teacher in Humla Tibetan for the local school as well as for a trial project to grow and re-plant local trees to fight the deforestation in the region. Just before the end of 2010 we were informed that our application had been rejected. As this was our first attempt we are not discouraged and we will most likely attempt again next year. We did not apply for government aid for our major goal of building a new, bigger children home since due to the applicable rules government aid can not be granted for those kinds of projects.

Hopes for the Future

KMCH has many plans for the future. It is however important for an organisation with an insecure yearly income to financially and personally create a stable ground for the on-going projects and then gradually increase these and/or start new projects in the future when we have a financial support for these, be it from private sponsors, organisations or companies.

Our main task for the near future is to try to find financial resources to build a children home on the property the village council of Yangar gave to KMCH for this purpose. At the moment we rent a house which is already too small. (Any suggestions for companies or organisations that might be willing to support this project would be greatly appreciated.) With this building the children would be given a better temporary home away from home and we would also be able to develop KMCH's projects such as handicraft. Furthermore in the facilities local Humlis can be engaged in different projects to strengthen the civil society. Another goal is to help even more children to be able to go to school. But we also wish to gradually increase the number of adult getting access to adult teaching in reading, writing and mathematics and also to develop our health clinic, Namkhyung Charity Clinic.

For 2011 we also hope to be able to support the local women in Humla by buying the products they weave and sew during the winter months. The products can be sold in Kathmandu as well as in Sweden. Chembal also plans to open a small shop in Humla to sell their products to tourists who trek along the old pilgrimage road to and from Mt Kailash and the Lake Manasarovar in Tibet. If this is to happen we hope that the shop-keeper has learnt the basic mathematic skills, maybe through the teaching for adults that KMCH provides in two villages in Humla.

A New KMCH Support Group in Switzerland

During the summer of 2010 a Swiss engineer, Mr Bastian Etter, visited Humla och helped Chembal to arrange waterpipes from a river to the property where KMCH wishes to build a children home in the future. Bastian Etter also instructed how to build a small green-

house. As far as we understand Bastian Etter himself paid for both projects.



The new greenhouse in Humla

In December 2010 Bastian Etter further informed us that he plans to start another KMCH Support Group in Switzerland. We hope to be able to present some more information from him in future newsletters. We are very happy to hear of this development and we hope for a close co-operation with him and the sponsor group in Switzerland. With joint effort we might do even more for the population of Humla.

In the Indian region of Ladakh, which has a climate very similar to that in Humla, there are NGOs which for several years have developed construction methods for building green-houses and other family houses that by natural methods keep warm even in winter and enable the population to grow vegetables even wintertime. They have also developed small-scale electricity-production that is adapted to the cold climate. Through cooperation with these organisations, with Bastian Etter and other engineers we hope to be able to introduce these techniques also in Humla. Maybe our future children home can be built with this method.

Next Annual Meeting of Members

Now back to Sweden. Due to renovations of Ekebyhovs Slott, we will have to move this year's annual meeting to a new place. For the time being we plan to hold the meeting at the club-house of Mälarö SOK. So please book the 27th of March 2011 for the Annual Meeting of members of KMCH Support Group. We will get back to you in future newsletters with details about the programme and about the time.

On behalf of the Board of KMCH Support Group

Hans Alm
Chairman of KMCH Support Group



The green-house in Humla



Nurse Jamyang is checking the blood-pressure, photo from Namkhyung Charity Clinic in Humla

KMCH in brief. KMCH runs four different projects:

- ▶ the **Children Home** in Yangar, Humla. Today 24 children live in the home during school terms and all their needs are taken care of free of charge. The home is not an orphanage but a home for children from several villages around Humla where they can stay during school terms to give them the opportunity to go to the nearby school. In the home they are given extra tuition.
- ▶ a health project, **Namkhung Charity Clinic**, which is a project started in cooperation with a monastery in Humla,
- ▶ KMCH has during the autumn of 2009 started **special education for adults** in Humla to train them in reading, writing and mathematics. One group is in Yangar village and the other in Tumkot.
- ▶ In the winter of 2009 we started in a small scale a **handicraft project** to enable men and women to earn an income from traditional handicraft. It is only possible in wintertime since that is the only time the villagers are not working full time with their farms and animals or trading in caravans to and from Tibet.

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