

## 26th April 2015 -Newsletter "Earthquake in Nepal"

NAMASTE NEPAL – When nothing is what it used to be....

Yesterday Nepal was struck around midday by a disastrous earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8. The country was then shaken by numerous, smaller aftershocks. And today an enormous aftershock occurred with a magnitude of 6.5. Everyone is in a state of fear and panic. The many pictures shown in the news, speak for themselves. The overall extent of the disaster is not yet predictable. Any news that comes from the remote villages only reaches us in a few isolated cases. Regular updates of the situation in Nepal are shown on the NTV television channel, or also the website, [spiegel online](http://spiegelonline.com). We, ourselves, have posted a lot of information on our Facebook page, "Tembas Nepal Trek", and on the Facebook page, "Nepal friends of Andrees" there is a great deal more. The German Nepalese Help Association (DNH) has also posted the latest information on the situation in Nepal on its website [www.dnh-stuttgart.org](http://www.dnh-stuttgart.org).

I am in Germany at the moment, and it is so difficult to bear being in such a situation, so far away from my loved one, my beloved Nepal and its wonderful, warmhearted people.

Yesterday morning, directly after the earthquake, I received a phone call from Temba who is staying with his parents at the moment in Brabal in the District of Langtang. He said, "There has just been an earthquake - we are safe, but the house in Brabal has been demolished. I answered, "I'll ring you back", but that was no longer possible. I tried to contact him a countless number of times from my cell phone, the main line and via the Internet – but there was no connection.

And then I looked on the Internet ... there was only one report from the Seismographical Institute in Dresden on an earthquake in Nepal. It stated that an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 had struck Nepal at 11:58 hours, local time. And that was all. I started to "google" earthquake magnitudes and found out that it had been a very strong earthquake. I was in an absolute turmoil, scared stiff, tense, sad, helpless and shocked. I informed my family and close friends who also have a personal relationship with Nepal and its people, about the earthquake. When Temba had phoned me, I was not aware at the time of the effects that the earthquake would have.

And then slowly new terrifying pieces of news were reported, hour after hour, and they have not died down yet.

I cannot reach Temba on the phone at all. He rings me, but after exchanging a few words the connection breaks off. We have been informed that our guests and our team that has just set off, are all safe. The godchildren of our relief organisation, Sunaulo Sansar, are also managing under the circumstances. However, I have no further details.

From the Langtang region where Temba comes from, we are receiving horrifying reports. Most of the villages have been destroyed. Near the village of Langtang, an avalanche was reported to have occurred and all the villages had simply been "swept away".

The house that belongs to our City Guide, Anup, is no longer habitable, and perhaps it has even already collapsed completely. I do not have any other up-to-date information. And I have no idea at the moment about the families and homes of our trekking guides and porters.

We are receiving a large amount of emails, news and phone calls which I am unfortunately unable to reply to personally at the moment. I am overwhelmed by the solidarity and compassion shown to us, our team, our families, for Nepal and its people.

We are asked, time and time again, about the possibilities for offering help or support.

Since the extent of the disaster is not yet predictable at the moment, it is difficult to say. The large, international, relief organisations have already initiated their rescue measures and donation campaigns. On television, requests for donations for Nepal are also being made.

We are now in the process of setting up a German sub-account for our relief organisation, Sunaulo Sansar NGO ([www.sunaulosansar.org](http://www.sunaulosansar.org)), and a donation platform at 'betterplaces'.

As soon as this has been set up, I shall be writing another Newsletter so that those who would like to support us, our team and their families, or our relief organisation, have the possibility to do so. We shall, of course, report at regular intervals on how we are allocating these donations. We would also like to point out that the donation receipts issued by our relief organisation that is registered abroad, are not always accepted by the German authorities.

As an active member of the German Nepalese Help Association (DNH), we should also like to make reference to its appeal for donations [http://www.dnh-stuttgart.org/fileadmin/templates/dateien/GB\\_Spendenaufruf\\_Erdbebenhilfe.pdf](http://www.dnh-stuttgart.org/fileadmin/templates/dateien/GB_Spendenaufruf_Erdbebenhilfe.pdf)

Thank you for all your solidarity, compassion and support.

Namaste

Sabine Pretsch & Temba Gyalbo Tamang