

9th May, 2015 - Newsletter No. 9 "Earthquake in Nepal"

DHANYABAD – THANK YOU

A tremendous earthquake shook Nepal exactly two weeks ago.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been supporting us and wishing us well with their good thoughts, words, ideas and donations. So many people have been telling others about us and collecting donations within their circle of friends and acquaintances. We are overwhelmed.

Our Upper Mustang group arrived back in Germany today, as planned. Our Everest group also returned home on Thursday. Now all our guests have left Nepal and arrived back home safely with their relatives.

We would like to take this opportunity to praise our team and assistants highly for their splendid commitment and for the loving care they gave their guests under these extreme circumstances.

Our voluntary worker, Janine from Switzerland, who was with our group on the Everest trek, has also been busily collecting donations from her area.

As a result, we have already been able to organise the initial emergency measures for the Langtang region, particularly for the villages of Shafru Bensi, Komin, Thulo Shafru, Thulo Bharku, Brabal and Gre. 1,250 kg rice, 400 kg potatoes, 100 kg lentils, 100 kg sugar, 25 kg salt, 25 kg rice flakes, 30 kg tea, medicine from the Dispensary in Bir Hospital (a GNHA project) and 130 large plastic tarpaulins are on their way to the Langtang area.

Tomorrow, Temba, our assistants, the nurse Manita and the voluntary helper Laila will be accompanying our fully-loaded truck which will be setting off on its way towards Langtang.

Unfortunately, Janine will not be able to accompany the transport. After her long stay and her fantastic support, she will be flying home to Zurich this evening. We shall miss her.

As the monsoon season will soon be here, plastic tarpaulins and large tents are vital in Nepal throughout the entire country. These plastic tarpaulins serve to protect the simple bamboo huts set up as an emergency shelter, against the rain. It is difficult, i.e. practically impossible to get hold of any tarpaulins in Nepal or India. Our son, Surya, has now been able to acquire 130 large tarpaulins, thank goodness. We are still in the process of organising a transport of plastic tarpaulins from Germany. For this purpose, we have been in contact with the THW, Red Cross and a forwarding agent in Hamburg.

In the meantime I have booked my flight. I shall be flying to my beloved homeland in Nepal on 22.5.2015 for 3 weeks. In such a situation, it is my heart's desire to be there in the country, for Temba, the family and our team.

During my stay I shall be travelling to the Langtang region with Temba and our friend, Thomas, and will be assessing the inventory of the destroyed and damaged homes.

During this period we would also like to make an on-the-spot evaluation of the actual situation, for instance, the extent to which the infrastructure still exists, and whether it is possible to conduct our tours in the autumn, or whether we should rearrange the travel program accordingly.

The tourist area of Thamel has remained completely unaffected by the effects of the earthquake. Similarly, Chitwan Nationalpark, the Annapurna and Upper Mustang regions, and the towns of Lumbini and Pokhara are accessible without any problem. A greater part of the lodges in the Everest region are intact. The domestic flights have already been running without any problem for more than 10 days.

If the tourist branch - one of the most important sources of income for the country and the working area for many Nepalese - were also to come to a standstill after this devastating catastrophe, the next catastrophe will be inevitable. Nepal can be supported best at the moment if a large number of tourists continue coming to the country. After my return in mid June I shall be preparing a report on my impressions and assessments as regards tourism and trips in Nepal.

We shall be holding a NEPAL BAZAAR in aid of the Sunaulo Earthquake Relief campaign on 14th/15th May, 2015 from 3 - 7 pm. Temba and I still have a large number of Nepalese items in Düsseldorf. These are now going to be sold and 100% of the proceeds will go to the earthquake victims in Nepal (particularly to the hard-hit Langtang region) via our relief organisation, Sunaulo Sansar. A great many of our favourite items, such as singing bowls, necklaces, pashmina scarves, prayer flags, felt purses, shirts and numerous other items can be purchased at our privately organised sale. Please kindly let us know if you are interested, so that we can inform you personally about the place/address where it will be held.

The new Facebook Side, "Aid for the earthquake victims in the Langtang Valley, Nepal", was launched with the support of our friends on Facebook. All those who like to inform themselves about the latest news and look at the photos should definitely click on "Likes" ("Gefällt mir"). We shall continue to send Newsletters on a regular basis by email to a large mailing list (for practical reasons the email sender is Tembas Nepal Trek). The Newsletters will additionally be posted in the Nepal-Spirit Blog, as well as in the blog on our website. The website of our relief organisation, Sunaulo Sansar, is in the process of being restructured and updated, and shortly it will be going online, in a completely revised form. Should anyone not wish to receive any more Newsletters, please kindly let us know.

We would also like to inform you about the following UN Report of 08.05.2015, which can be downloaded under the following link:

<http://www.unocha.org/nepal> (Humanitarian Reports).

Namaste

Temba & Sabine