

## **NAMASKAR Nepal**

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### **Christmas and New Year Letter**

*The seasons with their metamorphoses are just as natural as the change that we are all subject to.*



*Prayer flags flutter in the wind and send our wishes to the gods*

We have just returned from our visit to the village of Brabal with an excursion to the holy lakes of Gosainkunda. It was a very intensive time. We experienced a great deal; we were able to talk to the villagers about further plans regarding the reconstruction project and we "recharged our batteries" out in the nature.

The conditions on our way from Kathmandu via the villages of Galchi, Trisuli, Grang on the way to Thulo Barkhu were harrowing. There were heaps of ruins everywhere, stones piled up accurately, one on top of the other, wooden slats carefully and neatly stacked, emergency shelters of faded, ripped and worn-out plastic tarpaulins, and glowing, red-hot and ice-cold corrugated sheet metal. How are these people going to be able to survive over the winter? A large number of relief organisations have distributed solar lamps, thermal mats and blankets to the those in need. The

earthquake victims will not be able to have a proper roof over their heads until early next year, at the earliest.



*Distressing conditions in the villages of the Rasuwa district*

Fortunately, the reconstruction work was already undergoing progress during our stay in the mountains. In mid December, the bill was passed for establishing the National Reconstruction Authority. At the moment, the manager still has to be elected.

We have agreed with the villagers on planning a re-start of the project at the end of February/beginning of March 2016. The building materials are to be bought, irrespective of the situation existing at this time. If the road to Brabal has not been completely finished, cement and sand will be transported by horses or mules over the last stretch.

The procedure for the construction permit is similarly progressing. Today we went to the Building Authority in Kathmandu. At first, as so often is the case in Nepal, we were sent from A to B, and then from B to C. After several hours, we landed up again at the place where we started. However, we obtained a great deal of important information and forms. Now we are waiting for an appointment with the Deputy General Director.

On the website of the Building Authority ([www.dudbc.gov.np](http://www.dudbc.gov.np)) the new Design Catalogue for the reconstruction work for earthquake-proof buildings can now also be downloaded.

On the basis of the current situation, we paid out an amount of NPR 20,000 at the beginning of December (approx. EUR 180) per assistant from the donation box, "Tembas Nepal Trek Family" set up specially for this purpose. The handover took place during our Guide Meeting on 4.12.2015. All the assistants who are personally entitled to donations in this connection, were also informed about the respective amounts and the respective donators. The handover of these amounts, and the purchase of materials is to take place at the beginning of the reconstruction work on the houses of our assistants.

The current supply situation in Nepal is still as catastrophic as before. It has become evident that a fast solution is not possible. A compromise for recognising the demands of the ethnic Madhesi communities and for opening the borders to India is not yet in sight. The voices demanding the Prime Minister Oli to resign are gradually becoming louder.



*People waiting in front of the gas depot*

Additional challenges are the electricity cuts that have just been increased to 10 hours daily. At the moment we have 2 hours' electricity during the daytime. It costs quite an effort to sit in these chilly rooms and do our office work. A warm blanket over our

legs, gloves, a warm cap and a down jacket enable us to get our daily work done. The electric heater and gas oven could hardly be used this year due to the lack of electricity and gas. Nevertheless we are looking towards the future with optimism and confidence.

Despite all this, Nepal is a country full of magic – its unique nature with its gigantic Himalayan range and its wonderful landscapes, the cultural and religious diversity and its lovable people make this small state so special.



*Fascinating Himalayan range*

Whoever would like to find out more about the many possibilities for travel in Nepal, can find the newly entered travel highlights for the year 2016 on our website [www.tembasnepaltrek.com](http://www.tembasnepaltrek.com). The group trips tour remote regions and take place on set dates. We shall also be pleased to organise individual and group trips on the dates of your choice.

At the moment, we are in the process of planning our travel module, the "Social Tour Sunaulo Sansar". This will include a visit to our reconstruction-work project in the village of Brabal in the Rasuwa district, as well as a small trekking tour to the holy lakes of Gosainkunda, which can be adapted individually.

At this point we should like to thank all our guests, travellers, Nepal friends, donators, voluntary workers, helpers, assistants and business partners for their support, the pleasant meetings and contacts, and also for the trust that has been put both in us and our trekking organisation, as well as our relief organisation.

We wish you a happy Christmas and all the best for the coming New Year 2016.

Namaste from Nepal

Temba & Sabine

