



Toit du Monde

ASSOCIATION ASSISTANCE MÉDICALE TOIT DU MONDE JOURNAL

EDITORIAL

Priorities...

You may have noticed that this year, for the first time since the birth of AMTM in 1992, we have not called upon your generosity to directly finance our missions (2 in Nepal and 2 in India), though they are at the heart of our action, and our specific commitment towards them is to ensure our direct and steady presence, at least once a year. It is for us a lasting action token. The cost of these missions is high (logistics, medicines...), around €55,000 per year. While donations were not quite sufficient when we required financing for missions, your generosity when we called for help funding special operations (the AMTM office & Spiti Hospital) was excellent. Consequently, we have established new priorities: to call upon your generosity mainly for specific projects and to finance our yearly indispensable presence in the sites with the funds we obtain by organizing concerts, entertainment, exhibitions and your spontaneous donations, contributions and bequests. This choice had been made possible thanks to the growth of AMTM, both in size and in terms of its profile. This year, the whole team has devoted all its energy and this ambitious objective has been achieved. Listening to our donors has always been a priority for me and I hope that these new directions will comply with your expectations. We aim to ensure that your assistance throughout the year is channeled in the best possible way, for the benefit of our friends of the Roof of the World whom we protect.

Laurent Charbonnier, Président

ON THE SPOT

Words by... *Bénédicte de Valicourt*



NEPAL A step towards peace

Little boarders paying great attention to the distribution of sweaters, caps and toys

AMTM mission in Nepal (from October 25 to November 7) had a happy ending, as *Bénédicte de Valicourt*, voluntary journalist and humanitarian responsible for Dolpo school, together with *Françoise Pachulski*, tells us.

“On November 7, 2006, as the 14 members of the AMTM mission in Nepal were ready to leave after 13 days of an intensive work examining and medically treating more than 700 people, giving money for sponsorships and following up works in several sites, an important first step towards peace was taken in Kathmandu with the signature of an agreement between the government and the Maoists rebels. It stipulates that the Maoists will participate in a temporary government, which will be constituted between now and December 1st, 2006. By then, the 35,000 members of the Maoist army will put their weapons and their soldiers under the control of the United Nations. This is very good news for the country as well as for AMTM which will thus be able to peacefully continue the long term action it has already undertaken. Things were already improving slightly at the time of our latest mission, when we were able to carry out basic work quietly and in a general good mood. And also something very happy happened to me during this mission. At the time the whole AMTM team was working at Ugyen Do Ngak Choling, the little girl I used to sponsor at Dolpo, who had left this school a few months previously, came to greet me. A casual meeting which allowed us the opportunity to convince her mother to let her go back to school. For AMTM, sponsoring a child is of course taking care of him and helping him to grow up, but it is also making sure that he will have a future.”

B.V.

The importance of the being on the spot

Two medical students spent six weeks at Snowland Ranag School, also known as Dolpo, in Kathmandu. Just the time to check that a regular medical supervision would help to avoid lots of diseases..

They had practically finished their medical studies when they got to Nepal. Charlotte Colin and Anne Pérel spent six weeks at Dolpo, an orphanage AMTM gives aid to. During these six weeks, they had time to observe the children, their way of life, their reactions and to learn from this experience. "After few days spent at the orphanage, we noticed that lots of their problems are more the result of a poor hygiene rather than medical inefficiency", they say. "So we established strict rules of hygiene and convinced the people in charge to make sure they continue



Anne Pérel and Charlotte Colin with the children of Dolpo

to be applied, which is not the simplest thing to do".

As a consequence of this experience, AMTM wishes to set up a permanent medical presence in Kathmandu, which is not possible at the present time. "This is one of the future AMTM House justification for being settled, explains Laurent Charbonnier, President of the Association. Until now, we have visited the children during our missions once or twice a year, but it is not enough. The objective is to organize a medical team

which will work in rotation, being on duty for regular visits to sites, and also responsible for the control of medicines stocks".

The teams will be of course replaced according to needs and to everyone's availability. In the same way, AMTM needs to establish a permanent presence there. Investigation into suitable premises has begun and we hope that the House will open in May, at the time of the next mission. Developments to keep a close eye on...

A C T I O N S

■ Further to a funds call in March, we have received €35,540.

This considerable sum will allow us to build a hospital in the isolated Spiti Valley in northwestern India, where there is presently no doctor. The foundation stone will be laid early in 2007.

A big thank you to the 194 generous donors.

■ Snowland Ranag School in Kathmandu lacks water four months a year.

In order to compensate for this problem, we looked into drilling another well, but this was too expensive and, during our latest mission, it was finally decided to supply the school with 2 new 1,000 liter water tanks and to fill them by trucks during drought season. As a result, we were able to invest €3,160 for the installation of new showers. We have also given €2,000 for the repairing of the roof of the classrooms in the courtyard

C U L T U R E - E D U C A T I O N

Tormas sculpting: a living art

Tormas are Tibetan cult objects. They decorate altars as offerings to peaceful or angry deities.

They are made from tsampa (roasted barley meal) mixed with vegetable oil. Then, with a spoon or a piece of bamboo, the paste is covered with melted wax and the drawings are colored with natural pigments. This art requires a lot of patience, skill and perceptiveness.

The result is splendid sculptures which perpetuate a very beautiful tradition.



Karma Lobsang, a monk at Samye Memorial Institute, particularly excels in this art and teaches young ones.

Water focus

If it is lacking or diverted, a school is in danger. In Pharping, an isolated village 30kms from Kathmandu, we had to send trucks with tanks of water for the children of Palyul Monastery.

Three years ago, AMTM implemented a new water supply system to carry water to Palyul Monastery in Pharping. Water and hygiene are of crucial importance for health, and the result was that the skin diseases and bowel problems of the 250 children who live in this monastery-school immediately fell in a remarkable way. Villagers consider water as a source of life, and since they did not have access to it, they surreptitiously took water along the pipes AMTM had



Monks of Palyul wash into a fountain one hour' walk away from the monastery.



set up, with the result that it did not reach Palyul during hot season. "The children had to walk for one hour to find water in the mountain", say Jean-Marc and Nathalie Abita, who have been in charge of this site for 4 years. "So we had to transport tanks up to there, even though the delivered water was not very clean. But we are thinking about another solu-

tion. We are going to build showers using solar energy". We are also studying another project, but it is more complicated. Its main advantage is that it could satisfy everybody. By re-studying the water conveyance system, which is presently inadequate, water could be supplied to the whole village. We have asked the specialized association Aquassistance to help us and we are waiting for their conclusions.

PORTRAIT

A man with convictions

AMTM has been going to Palyul Monastery since four years. Sangye Ranjung Khenpo, who is in charge of this Monastery, has been expressly asking us to take care of the 250 monks to whom he teaches Tibetan Buddhist tradition.



In Nepal, destinies can be shaped very early on. As evidence, when Sangye Ranjung Khenpo was just two months old, a grand Tibetan Guru, H.H. Dudjom Rimpoche, met him in Kalimpong, and predicted that he would have many students. Today, Khenpo is

in charge of Nyingma Palyul Urgen Dorjee Choling Monastery, better known as Palyul, which he founded in 1995 in Pharping Valley, 30kms from Kathmandu. Initially a small retreat center, it soon became a large monastery-school. The 250 monks, poor Nepali children of

whom the youngest are about six years old, study there for free during a nine-year-cycle based on the traditional Tibetan Buddhist education, broken up by short retreats. Khenpo's dream is that between 50 and 100 of his young pupils become khenpos, (people in charge of a monastery-school), and spread Tibetan culture throughout the world. A long-drawn-out work: several very long retreats alone in a room for more than three years and three months have to be accomplished in order to become a khenpo.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **We hope many of you will join us at our annual fête in UNESCO on December 10.** On the program: Christmas tree for the children, Indian and Nepali craft, films. And, of course, the opportunity to meet us.
- Thanks to Strategik & Numerik Agency, which has provided for free a splendid calendar again for us this year. You can buy it at the association head office or at HYPERLINK "<http://www.amtm.org>" www.amtm.org (€7 each).

Greetings cards are also at your disposal.



LARA FABIAN AT THE CASINO DE PARIS

An unforgettable concert!



After the concert, Lara Fabian with Laurent Charbonnier and Laurent Roubach.

An audience of 1,500 people, a packed place, and a highly charged atmosphere: on September 25, one of the most beautiful voices of the French song resounded in the Casino de Paris, in aid of AMTM. As a result, net takings amounting to €49,000 which was entirely transferred along with a generous lady's promise of a lasting support. Thank you Lara!

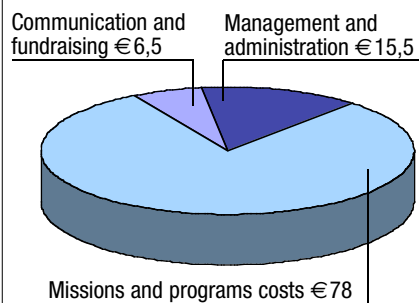
Everything began eight months ago. Laurent Roubach, Lara Fabian's guitarist and active member in AMTM, talked to her about the association. Affected by this extreme poverty in the bottom of the world, the artist decided to help us. She suggested her pianist, Pierre Grimard, and the singer Claudia Meyer, who are in the first part of the show, that they take part for free in an exceptional piano-voice concert at the Casino de Paris. They all agreed, her sound and light team included. On September 25, with her distinguishing charisma, Lara Fabian sang a rich and varied repertoire, which was specially created for this one-off performance. Dazzling, she went through every style: blues, jazz, popular

and lyric songs in French, Italian, Spanish, and English. Something never seen! The whole audience was charmed. We thank all those who contributed to the success of this concert, particularly Brigitte and Laurent Roubach, Virginie Condette, in charge of AMTM public relations, whose several-months-work made the very good quality of the show possible. And more good news: Lara Fabian has expressed her wish to continue supporting us at least once a year. The beginning of a very beautiful adventure for all of us!

A great thank you also to all the companies which offered us their services: JPA, Dispatch, Arpège, ETF, Pianosphère, as well as the team of the Casino de Paris.

KEY NUMBERS

USE FOR 100€ DONATIONS (2005)



- > AMTM budget for 2006 **€500 000**
- > number of donors **3,700**
- > number of sponsorships **850**
- > number of volunteers **113**
- > visits on the Internet site **300 à 400** a day
- > sponsorship monthly cost **€25** (€8,5 after tax deduction allowance in France)
- > annual subscription **€35**

THEY HELP US

- Many thanks to **Qatar Airways**, which allows us to get preferential rate NGO air tickets with favorable conditions (35kg per person, etc.).
- **La Celebrazione, an English group of Il Divo* fans** with more motivation than ever: they have collected two cases filled with toys for the children we protect and €2,300 for our next missions. Thank you for this nice initiative. *www.ildivo.com
- We would like to thank **Atoll-Palme Company** for its cooperation in our annual fête.



CONTRIBUTE TO OUR AID

Cut and send this donation form to :

Assistance Médicale Toit du Monde 81, avenue du Maréchal Joffre - 92000 Nanterre - France
Phone : 33 1 47 24 78 59 - Fax : 33 1 47 24 78 07 - E-mail : contact@amtm.org

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