



900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1210  
 Los Angeles, CA 90017 USA  
[www.khamaid.org](http://www.khamaid.org)

December 1, 2008

Dear Friends of Kham,

The year 2008 has been a difficult one for the people of Kham and international NGOs trying to help them. Because of sensitivity surround the Olympics and the protests it inspired, many organizations ceased work altogether. Kham Aid Foundation was asked to postpone some projects, but others continued without interruption and we racked up some solid victories. Details are below.

**Education advances.** In July we celebrated the graduation of seventeen girls from junior middle school (grades 7-9) and sixteen from senior middle school (grades 10-12). Many of the grade 9 graduates will continue their education thanks to the generosity of their sponsors.

We were pleased when the Kangding County Education Bureau sent another teacher to join the one we had provided to Wayao school, which we revived in 2007 by repairing the school building. With 29 students, our teacher Kalsang Dendrup needed all of the help he could get. Now that the government is supporting the school, it is no longer dependent on Kham Aid's help, although we remain closely involved.



**Saving a language.** This year we launched a ground-breaking language preservation project: three young scholars on a two-year quest to document the language used in the Minyak region of Kham and prepare a primer that will teach the language to children. The team has recorded songs and stories and developed a writing system based on Tibetan. The project is aimed at rescuing the language from oblivion by increasing the number of young speakers.



**Training a rural doctor.** Kham Aid sent one young man from Baituo Village in Litang to a ten-month course in rural medicine; he is graduating at year's end and will serve his village as a "barefoot doctor."

ར	བོད་རྒྱུ་རྒྱན	དབྱིན་རི	མི་ཉལ	ཐུ
1	གནས	sky	མི	天
2	ནམ་རྩོམ་པོ	blue sky	མི་རུ་རུ	蓝天
3	ཉི་མ	sun	ལྷ་མོ	太阳
4	ལྷ་པ	moon	ལེ་ནི	月亮
5	སྐར་མ	star	འགྲི་རུ	星星
6	སྐར་མ་དང	meteor	འགྲུ་རུ་རུ	流星
7	གནས་གཤིས	weather		天气
8	གྲོ་བ	cloud	འདུན་རེ	云

Previous page illustrations clockwise from upper right: senior middle school graduate Tsewang Tso; Minyak vocabulary words collected by the Minyak language rescue team; “barefoot doctor” Tashi Tseren; language team at work.

This page clockwise from right: sketch map of deities identified in Trupa Lhakhang with inset images of Gur Mahakala and Prajnaparamita; school cook with cabbage freshly harvested from a Kham Aid greenhouse; family in the leper village helped by the Kham Aid wheelchair team.

**Saving ancient art.** Having discovered Trupa Lhakhang temple last year, Kham Aid completed the first intervention necessary to protect the paintings from harm: replacing the temple’s dilapidated roof. In April a new tile roof was completed with the help of a private donor and a lot of ‘sweat equity’ from Pusarong Village. Art historians identified the major subjects of the paintings and confirmed our suspicions that the paintings are indeed five or more centuries old.



**Greenhouses and vegetables for schools.** Our greenhouses at five Litang schools are doing very well producing vegetables that are served to students. We had planned to build five new greenhouses this year, but our greenhouse contractor was injured during the May 12 earthquake when his van went off the road in Wencheng. After recuperating from his injury, he purchased the materials for our planned five new greenhouses and brought them to Litang in June. There he was informed by officials that the greenhouses should not be built until the security situation has normalized. The materials are safely stored in Litang awaiting a green light for him to proceed.

**Earthquake efforts.** Thanks to the generosity of donors who responded in the days and weeks following the May 12 earthquake, we will also be providing direct cash assistance to families in Little Bawang Village in Danba County. The families who get Kham Aid grants will be those who don’t qualify for government subsidies and who are too poor to repair their homes on their own. With a grant from the Prince Klaus Fund in the Netherlands this winter we will send a small team to survey the earthquake-affected part of Ganzi Prefecture and check the status of historic temples and other structures.

**Medical mission.** Kham Aid’s group of doctors and physical therapists arrived in Sichuan shortly after the March protests and were not allowed to enter Ganzi Prefecture where they had planned to distribute donated wheelchairs. Instead they provided medical care and therapeutic services to outpatients at the Chengdu Federation of Disabled People, children at the Holy Love School, residents of a Hansen (leper) village in rural Sichuan, patients of the Zigong County Special Education Center, and a Chengdu orphanage.

**Recognition in China.** This year Kham Aid received a special invitation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Charity Forum in Beijing. The forum was organized by over forty institutes, including China International Almsdeed Institute, United Nations Technical Training for Youth, and the Child Protection Agency. At the forum Kham Aid Foundation proposed suggestions on policy changes for administration of international NGOs in China.

On behalf of the people of Kham, I wish you much tashi delek in the year of the Earth Ox and I thank you for your support.

*Pamela Logan*

Pamela Logan, President

