

BODHI TIMES

Founding Patron: His Holiness XIV Dalai Lama

DECEMBER, 1996 NO. 11

Benevolent Organisation for Development, Health & Insight (BODHI)

BODHI: THE FIRST SEVEN YEARS

BODHI's **mission statement** stresses the links between health, education, the environment and human rights. Here are a few highlights.

◆1989◆

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BODHI begins working with Mr. John Gore, International Internship Director at Lake Erie College, U.S.A., to send **student volunteers** to India.

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TASHI DELEK TIBET **international music** concert in Melbourne, Australia, raises A\$1,800 for a **water purification system** for the

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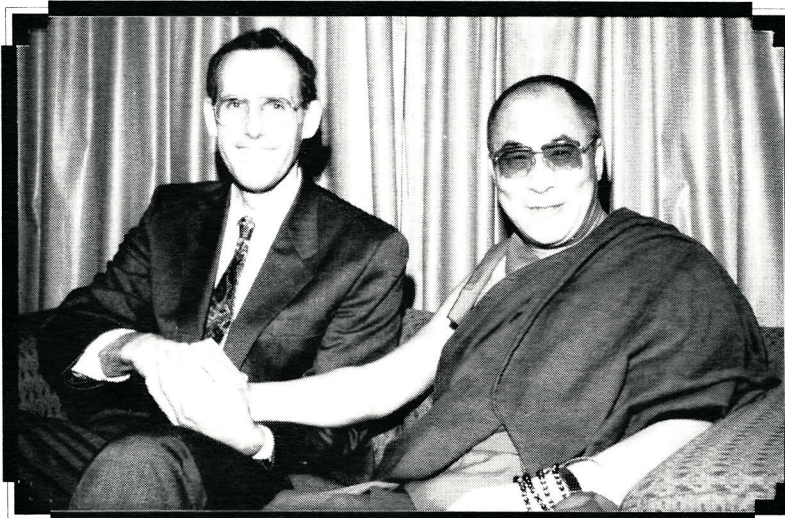
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BODHI arranges funding for **two concrete pathways** at a Tibetan nunnery in South India.

BODHI funds a **trash collection system** for Ganden Tibetan Monastery in South India.

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His Holiness the Dalai Lama with Senator Bob Brown, BODHI's Environmental Adviser, Australia, 1992. Photo: Noeline Robinson

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an Australian **medical school** to illustrate mental problems in developing countries.

BODHI provides two microscopes, one simple and one compound, and twenty-six books to the **science laboratory** at TEACH.

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7 YEARS: ANOTHER 630 MILLION PEOPLE

Dr. Colin Butler writes.

John Gore, Susan and I met recently with Professor Melvyn Goldstein and Dr. Cynthia Beall, authors of *Nomads of Western Tibet* and anthropologists at Case Western University, Ohio, U.S.A.

After this meeting, we again began to contemplate establishing a program in a specific area of rural Tibet, co-ordinated with other NGOs. We wondered whether political realities would thwart our efforts. Should we self-censor any criticism of Chinese policies in order to solicit permission to work in Tibet? Then I read Harry Wu's ghastly book, *Bitter Winds*, which documents his nineteen years of starvation, indoctrination and torture in Chinese labor camps from 1960. Whether or not the Chinese government lets us work in Chinese-occupied Tibet doesn't seem as important as expressing outrage at the treatment of Wu and nameless other labor camp victims, whether Chinese, Tibetan or any other nationality.

BODHI has turned seven. A review of previous *From the Medical Director's Desks* seems appropriate. This forum, which started in June, 1992, allows me to write about issues I find relevant to both the environment and developing countries.

BODHI TIMES 2 & 3

In Issues No. 2 and 3, I discussed concepts called The Demographic Trap and The Technology Trap. I now prefer to call the latter Ecological Entrapment. The Demographic Trap refers to the plight of millions of people in the world's poorest areas. Many consider the tragedy repeatedly befalling Rwanda and its close neighbors to be examples of demographic entrapment, defined as reduction of human overpopulation by war, famine and epidemic rather than by preventing conception. By

1990, Rwanda was the most densely populated country in Africa, with the average mother bearing eight children. Farming land, traditionally divided among the children, no longer provided adequate sustenance or hope for the future. Long-standing ethnic grievances flared; 1 million people—1/8 of the population—perished in 1994.

Writing recently on the future of capitalism, American futurist Lester Thurow dismissed the fate of people whom demographic entrapment threatens. By stating that "nothing can be done" for such people, Thurow appears to imply that nothing *should* be done. In contrast, ecological entrapment is still a dimly realised yet real threat to the North. Ecological entrapment includes global climate change, partially triggered by unprecedented population increase combined with rapid industrialization in the South.

BODHI TIMES 4 & 5

BODHI TIMES No. 4 railed against flaws in current economic structures that enable the rich and corrupt to become even richer and more corrupt, providing an example of the "law of increasing returns." The gap between rich and poor is increasing globally with few exceptions, most notably Japan. Because quality of education is associated with parental income, this widening gap threatens to cause generational problems affecting health, stability and economic performance. Again, like global warming, we discount the costs because they occur in the nebulous future.

BODHI TIMES No. 5 argued that suffering in developing countries is mental as well as physical, and that the belief that people should be kept ignorant, poor and happy is self serving. In its recent report, the World Health Organization acknowledged the significance of depression as a major cause of global illness. These mental problems are likely

to increase as Third World urbanization worsens, with its consequent disconnection from nature and breakdown of extended family support systems.

BODHI TIMES 6, 7 & 8

BODHI TIMES No. 6 discussed the case against child sponsorship. Sponsorship creates the illusion that it can solve the problem of poverty. Statistics suggest otherwise: the number of poor children born each year is at least 90 million. I also questioned whether sponsorship can have adverse effects, either by causing jealousy in non-sponsored children (partly overcome by sponsoring villages) or, more important, by discouraging individual initiative. I have never seen research into this emotive issue.

BODHI TIMES Nos. 7 and 8 return to the urgency of tackling demographic and ecological entrapment, particularly by challenging the paradigm of conventional economics.

BODHI TIMES 9 & 10

BODHI TIMES No 9 discussed the behavior of the northern resource multinationals, Shell and BHP, and their contribution to environmental and human rights abuses in Nigeria and Papua New Guinea. It also discussed Lester Brown's book, *Who Will Feed China?*

BODHI TIMES No. 10 examined developments in energy technology and discussed ways that BODHI could raise more funds. I discussed the problem of BSE, the disease affecting cattle in the U.K., and reported light-heartedly (for a change!) on the suggestion that infected cows be used as mine detonators in Cambodia. Recently, a group in Nepal offered to care for Switzerland's herd of 26,000 potentially BSE-infected cows—provided that Nepal receives the \$300 million the Swiss have allocated to destroying the herd.

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PROJECTS UPDATE

Here's where your donations have gone in 1996. Financial details available upon request.

ONGOING

NE Thailand: **Bicycles for rural school-children**; **volunteers** to India; Tibetans, S. India: **health education** talks to schoolchildren; Tidy Villages **sanitation contests** with cash awards; **Community Health Workers**: see below. Indians, India: **MGA Literacy Mission**: Sister Jessie now has forty-two classes with 1800 students, with six female teachers. **Child labor**: informal schooling which reduces children's working hours and encourages them to join the educational mainstream. *This project will cease if we do not receive US\$2,000 by February, 1997. Minimum donation: US\$1,000.*

COMPLETED in 1996

South India: health management training for Tibetan hospital administrator and doctor, and **health debate for schoolchildren**. Other India: **volunteer** Robert Miller returned to Australia after teaching English; BODHI gave US\$1,000 to Maneka Gandhi's **People for Animals**, at the request of an anonymous donor (details in next newsletter); **water purification system** installed at the Soga school for new arrivals from Tibet.



CHW HEALTH TRAINING

BODHI has provided training as community health workers to the Venerables Tashi Dorje, Ngawang Namgyal, Lobsang Gelek, Lodoe and Jampa Namdol of Drepung, Ganden and Ratoe Monasteries in South India.

"They were taught community health services, community sanitation and hygiene, first aid, and enough general and clinical work to allow them to be able to attend to emergencies before referring patients to the hospital or doctor," writes Tenpa T.K., BODHI's India Field Representative. "They will do basic clinical work in their communities, and aim to improve monastic health and hygiene. They will be encouraged to attend refresher courses, but I cannot be definite about this because it depends upon available funding."

BODHI hopes to fund CHW training for a nun.

Thank you very much, Dr. Simon Holliday, for making this possible.

TIDY VILLAGES

Since 1994, BODHI has co-sponsored, with Friends of Tibetan Women's Association, project to improve the basic health, sanitation and environmental education in

THANK YOU

Once again, thank you, loyal supporters. You make it possible.

Iku & Steve Bacon, U.S.A.
Dr. Don & Julie Clark, Australia
George Farley, Australia
Drs. Fiona Joske & Tim Flanagan, Australia
Karuna Knights, Australia
Dr. John Morris, Australia
Helen Mueller, U.S.A.
Dr. Warwick Pitt, Australia
Luiz Ribeiro, Australia
Prof. Frank Schofield, Australia
Rev. Alan Senauke, U.S.A.
Greg Shuttlewood, Australia
Gayl Welch, Ph.D., U.S.A.

Special thanks to Ruth Grant, U.S.A., who was present at BODHI's birth and has been an inspiration and support ever since, and to Malcolm Dick, Australia, for sending so many wonderful people our way.

Mundgod, the largest Tibetan settlement in India, near Goa. The D.T.R. Hospital health committee makes quarterly inspections of garbage disposal, drinking water arrangements, lavatory construction and maintenance and cleanliness of individual dwellings, village roads, main lanes and by-lanes. Prizes are awarded.

1st Place	Rs 500/-
2nd Place	Rs 300/-
3rd Place	Rs 200/-

CHICKENS, EGGS & TREES

From MGA Newsletter, Aug-Sept, 1996

MGA is trying to redress traditional power imbalances by turning over to parents the entire responsibility for paying teachers' salaries and monitoring school activities,

through funds generated from such things as egg sales and formation of a village committee. Sister Jessie reports that the older students, who have been with them for two years, are very eager to plant more trees as the monsoon approaches. "The seed that is sown for environmental protection in their hearts also is growing."

Teachers met to discuss the chicken project. Among the comments were:

Mukesh: "During the summer months there is not enough water for us human beings to drink. How can we expect all chicks to survive [the summer heat]?"

Kapil Dev: "It was a great idea. Though some chicks died, many people are still drawing a regular income (however small it may be). As for paying the school fees, it is not a habit, so it is very hard to get the money from the parents."

Shree Chand: "People who are not yet motivated for education are not going to pay fees for learning even if they receive money from egg sales."



IN BRIEF

Bishop Bello and Mr. Manila Ramos-Horta joined the Dalai Lama and Aung Sun Suu Kyi as recent Asian recipients of the Nobel Prize for Peace, honored for their work for peace, democracy and the struggle against repression in the Indonesian-occupied island of East Timor. The embarrassed Djakarta government launched a campaign to discredit their first Nobel laureates.

Taiwanese activists recently appealed for support in their campaign against construction of a fourth nuclear power plant with the help of General Electric. Waste from the three existing nuclear power plants (comprising six reactors) pollutes Orchid Island, where indigenous people live.

The conflict in Rwanda and Burundi spread to rebel-held Eastern Zaire. Meanwhile, one of the world's richest men, President Mobuto of Zaire, recovered from surgery in France and Switzerland, where his wealth guarantees a welcome. When asked why he didn't lend money to help people in his impoverished country, Mobuto is reported to have said "Don't be silly—they could never afford to repay me."

WHAT IS BODHI?

Benevolent Organisation for Development, Health & Insight (BODHI) focuses on sustainable ways to improve health, education, the environment and human rights, particularly in developing countries. BODHI was founded in 1989 on the principles of skillful and compassionate action.

BODHI is neither a religious nor a political organization. We have supporters and advisers from many faiths. We ask only for a kind heart.

Realizing the interdependence of all beings is in our enlightened self-interest. If we don't work together to extirpate the world's much-discussed problems, then who will?

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Thanks to your generosity, BODHI has been able to begin some exciting and innovative programs. We need your donations to continue. Please send your check, payable in U.S. or Australian dollars, to an address below.

U.S. donations are tax-deductible

BODHI Times is the biennial newsletter of Benevolent Organisation for Development, Health & Insight (BODHI).

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India Representative: Tenpa T.K.

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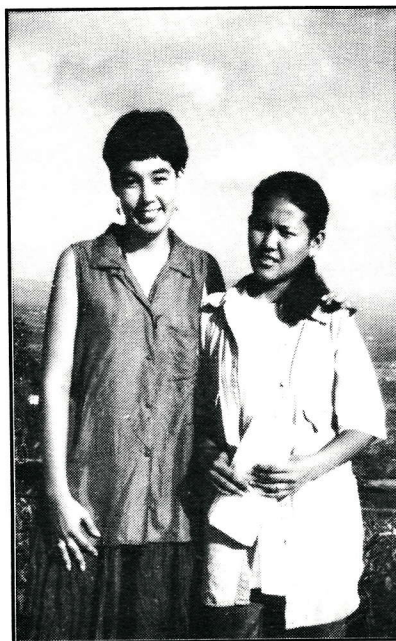
We greatly value your support and keep our mailing list confidential.

THROUGH the YEARS

All of our original board members are still with us. We have no turnover. Many of you, our supporters, have been with us since the beginning as well. That means a lot to us.

Here's a little about BODHI's people.

1985. Colin does volunteer medical work in Nigeria and Nepal. He identifies place for multifaith, environmentally aware non-governmental organization (NGO).



Volunteer Meeka Rudd and Tibetan student, India, 1995.

Dr. Martin Rubin and Susan Woldenberg visit India in 1985, and are deeply moved by the suffering they witness.

1986. Upon return to the West, Susan volunteers with Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, a direct-action marine mammal conservation group whose president is Scott Trimmingham. Scott is currently involved in researching indoor air quality and its effects on human health, and the practical mitigation of unhealthful environmental conditions.

1989. Colin and Susan found BODHI in Los Angeles in July.

1990. Dr. Maurice King, one of the fathers of primary health care in developing countries, becomes BODHI's public health adviser.

1991. Dr Martin N. Rubin, M.D., continues as BODHI U.S. board member and Medical Director of Sonoma County Department of Mental Health in Santa Rosa, California.

1992. Dr. Bob Brown, winner of UNEP Global 500 Award, becomes our environmental adviser.



Scott Trimmingham, BODHI U.S. director, whose activism was inspired in the 1970s by the dyeing of seal pups to prevent their slaughter.

BODHI Australia board member Damien Morgan begins reviewing factors affecting the health status of new arrivals from Tibet in India and Nepal as a social science Ph.D. research project.

1993. Tenpa T.K. becomes our India Field Representative.

1994. For her work with BODHI, Susan is nominated for the Jamnalal Bajaj International Award for Promoting Gandhian Values Outside India, 1995.

1995. Advisory board expands to include:

- ◆ Robert Aitken Roshi, elder statesman of the American Zen movement, author.
- ◆ Shelley Anderson, peace activist, International Fellowship for Reconciliation IFOR women's desk, The Netherlands.
- ◆ Sr. Mila de Gimeno, activist, co-founder of the Missionaries of the Assumption, The Philippines.
- ◆ Prof. John Guillebaud, Professor, University College, London, England.
- ◆ Dr. Christopher Queen, author, lecturer in religion and Dean of Continuing Education, Harvard University, U.S.A.
- ◆ Sulak Sivaraksa, prominent Thai human rights campaigner, Nobel Peace Prize nominee and recipient Right Livelihood Award, 1995.

1996. Dr. Bob Brown, now leader of Australian Green Party, is elected to the Australian Senate, and is named "The World's Most Inspiring Politician" at Britain's Green Ribbon Awards ceremony, sponsored by the Environmental Industries Commission and BBC Wildlife Magazine.