



# News From Ling Khangtsen

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## Greetings From The Monks of Ling Khangtsen

For a long time, we have wanted to create a closer relationship with our sponsors, donors and friends. So it is with great joy that we send our first newsletter to you.

**No words can express the gratitude we feel. Thank you so much.**

Every now and then, your kindnesses are announced to our monks during the puja sessions and requests for the dedication for your good health, success and happiness are made. We will carry on with our prayers and dedications.



**Monks of Ling Khangtsen working together outside in the sun.**

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## Building Project

With the burgeoning monk population in the monasteries and at Ling Khangtsen, Drepung Monastery, contributed to by the steady stream of new monks escaping from Tibet and journeying to India on foot from Tibet, it is becoming increasingly difficult to accommodate and provide facilities for them.

Therefore, to alleviate this situation for our monks, Ling Khangtsen, after much deliberation, embarked on a building project that would support the monk community.

Alongside the construction of accommodation rooms for our monks to live on a share basis, we were compelled to start the construction of the prayer hall to enable us to serve the expanding monk population.

We have also kept in mind the extremely kind benefactors and have thus included within the plans, simple but comfortable, guest rooms for our benefactors and visitors.

To facilitate this, and to reduce the cost, some of our monks are working full time in the construction.



**New Gompa in final phase of construction.**

We also received help from well wishers and raised funds through loans which need to be repaid.

After many months of construction work, **we are happy to inform you that twelve monk rooms and the Gompa (prayer hall) are completed.** But we need your kind help to do the inner works and continue with the larger building project.

## About Our Construction Plans

The situation of refugee monks living in cramped conditions at monasteries is not a new one. Valuing the freedom to study Dharma has made monks in Tibetan monasteries in India willing to put up with many hardships.

Therefore, we decided to alleviate the situation by embarking on a building project that would cater to the present and future monks community's accommodation, prayer and study facilities.

In May 2003, we purchased six acres for this building project

which will consist of blocks of monk's rooms, Gompa (prayer hall), library, kitchen, dining hall, toilet facilities and guest rooms.

Benefactors have included architects who came forward to help us draw up detailed plans with respect to the buildings and the surrounding area.

To mark off the boundary of this land, we have planted rapid bearing coconuts, the fruits of which the Khangtsen could use and perhaps also sell if the conditions permit.



**Venerable Drupa Tulku Rinpoche standing with newly planted coconut trees on land purchased for the building site.**

## The Gompa (Prayer Hall)

Through the generous support of our sponsors and donors, we were able to start and complete one phase of our building project, namely the construction of the new prayer hall which will solve the critical situation regarding facilities to gather in prayer, perform pujas, and host special functions.

This new prayer hall is pending paint work and setting up of the altar with holy statues. We can

soon start hosting special functions as well as ceremonies for His Eminence Ling Rinpoche.

We physically helped in the construction/supervision of the project and also obtained loans from the monastery. As such, we need to start repaying the loans as well as obtain contributions toward completing the altar set up by procuring holy objects, statues, thangka paintings, cushions, etc.



**View from inside the Gompa; the next phase will be to procure and install the altar, prayer objects (statues, thangka paintings), cushions, etc.**



**His Eminence Ling Rinpoche blessing the construction site.**



**Drawing of a naga during the ground puja ceremony.**



**Monks unloading trucks with materials for building the Gompa.**

## How You Can Help ~ Completing the Gompa

We need your kind help to repay the loan, purchase altar/prayer items, and complete the Gompa.

You can help to cover these costs by making a donation towards a specific item (listed to the far right), or by making a donation to the Building Fund.

Of course, partial donations for any of the altar and prayer items are most welcome.

Please know that through your donations you are helping to bring our dreams into reality.



Sponsors who donate \$1,000 and above will be acknowledged on a special plaque in the main Gompa (Prayer Hall) and daily prayers will be dedicated for the welfare and happiness of these donors and their families.

### Altar and Prayer Items Needed For The Gompa

- 15 ft Shakyamuni Buddha with two disciples \$18,650
- 11 ft Green Tara \$13,954
- 10 ft Je Tsongkapa with two 5 ft disciples \$18,500
- 11 ft Manjushri \$13,954
- Thangka paintings (20 pieces) \$350 each
- Meditation Cushions (40 pieces) \$ 30 each

Note: All statues are made of gold plated copper; wood and bronze for both the thrones and the back side of the statues.

## Other Ways You Can Help

### Sponsor A Monk

Sponsorship helps the monks obtain food, clothing, study materials, medicines and necessities.

Full sponsorship for one monk for one year costs \$240, or \$20 a month.

With this sponsorship, you will receive the name, and a picture of the monk you sponsor.

Partial sponsorships are also most welcome and needed.

### Building Fund

The Gompa was critically important to us as our existing hall was too small -- it accommodated less than half of our monks during prayer sessions and teachings. Now we are ready to begin the next phase of construction for much needed monks quarters estimated to cost \$1,700 per room, with the kitchen, dining hall, toilet facilities, library, debate courtyard, guest house to follow.

### Medical Emergency Fund

While escaping from Tibet, many monks are ill upon arrival in India.

Many monks suffer from tuberculosis, malaria and other serious illnesses that are common in South India among Tibetan refugees.

Your contributions will help provide needed medical attention, hospitalization, medicines and ongoing medical care.

### General Fund

There are times when unexpected needs and emergencies arise. In the past, these included funeral expenses, fire pujas, and a new water pump.

### Volunteer

If you have experience in architectural, engineering and construction; teaching English or computers, please email us at [lingkhangtsen@yahoo.co.in](mailto:lingkhangtsen@yahoo.co.in).

## The Tibetan Lama Fund - How to Donate

If you would like to make a donation, make your check payable to:

**The Tibetan Lama Fund**  
**P.O. Box 574**  
**Germantown, NY 12526**  
**USA**

Or to make your donations online using PayPal, go to:

[www.TibetanLamaFund.org](http://www.TibetanLamaFund.org)

The Tibetan Lama Fund was established in 1991 (originally as The Tibetan Fund) to build awareness and provide financial sustenance for Ling Khangtsen, so the monks, though in exile, could study and practice their precious Dharma.

The Tibetan Lama Fund is a U.S. tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation - donations are tax deductible.

## His Eminence Ling Rinpoche

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His Eminence Ling Choktul Rinpoche (1985 - present) is the reincarnation of His Eminence Kyabje Ling Rinpoche (1903—1983).

His Eminence Kyabje Ling Rinpoche (1903—1983) was the Senior Tutor to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, and had fled from Tibet to India with him in 1959. The Dalai Lama often refers to Ling Rinpoche as “my root Guru” and frequently mentions the many teachings and initiations he received from H.E. Ling Rinpoche, who was largely responsible for His Holiness’ trainings and education from a young age. H.E. Ling Kyabje Rinpoche gave His Holiness the full Bikshu ordination in 1954, and 50 years later, his reincarnation, Ling Choktul Rinpoche, received his ordination from H.H. the Dalai Lama.

Prior to Kyabje Ling Rinpoche, three earlier incarnations of Ling Rinpoche were tutors for previous Dalai Lamas, including the 13th, 11th and 6th Dalai Lamas. He was a great scholar and teacher, as well as the 97th Gaden Tripa, or spiritual head of the Gelugpa sect of Tibetan Buddhism. He sat on the Gaden throne for nearly 20 years, the longest period anyone has ever presided. Three incarnations of Ling Rinpoche were also Gaden Tripas.

Kyabje Ling Rinpoche suffered a stroke, and on December 25th, 1983 he died and entered a state of peace for the benefit of all sentient beings. His consciousness left on January 7th, 1984.

His reincarnation, Ling Choktul Rinpoche (pictured above) was only 18 months old when he was found, and in 1987 at the age of two, he was officially recognized by His Holiness the Dalai Lama as the true reincarnation of the late Kyabje Ling Rinpoche and enthroned. He began his preliminary monastic studies at the age of four. In 1990, he joined Drepung Loseling Monastic University in South India and continues his studies there as well as traveling to give teachings and initiations. He also resides in Dharamsala, India.

## Letter from His Eminence Ling Rinpoche

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LING RINPOCHE

May 15, 2005

Message for Ling Khangtsen Newsletter.

I am glad to have this opportunity to say some words for generous sponsors, supporters and friends of Ling Khangtsen.

I would like to thank you, all the sponsors, supporters and friends of Ling Khangtsen for your kind helps in many ways, and I hope that your help will continue in the future.

I am happy to know that Ling Khangtsen is going to publish a newsletter which will provide for sponsors, supporters and friends that they will be able to have a better understanding and updates about Ling Khangtsen which will help create a better relationship between each other. I wish that this newsletter would be informative and creative, and that it will be able to be supplied to all the sponsors and friends of Ling Khangtsen, and hope that it will be updated over time and will continue in the future.

I would also like to thank Chris and Dianne of the Tibetan Lama Fund for their sincere hard work to make this newsletter successful and not only the newsletter, since for many years they have both worked hard for the Tibetan Lama Fund which is very beneficial to the monks of Ling Khangtsen.

So you all have my appreciation and thanks.

With warm greetings and prayers for all readers.

Ling Rinpoche

## Monk News

**His Eminence Ling Rinpoche** fulfilled the long awaited wishes of the many devotees by giving his first initiation in a Tibetan settlement in Bylakuppe, South India. The day was the 6th day of the 6th month of the Tibetan calendar in which Shakyamuni Buddha turned the First Wheel of Dharma and was thus considered very auspicious.

He then continued giving teachings in TCV (Tibetan Children's Village School), and a White Tara Long Life Initiation in Dharamsala, India.

His Eminence was offered Long Life Prayers by the "Toh-Pak Association" a group of people from Toh, an area in central Tibet. It was attended by over 1,500 people.

### Losar - Tibetan New Year

Tibetan New Year (Losar), February 9, began with the Great Prayer Festival (Monlam) where a mass gathering of monks offered intensive prayers for ten days for world peace, harmony and happiness in our world.

Ling Khangtsen especially hosted a group of highly qualified monks to do three different fire pujas (prayer ceremonies) to remove obstacles and disruption for their studies and to bring success and good health to our kind sponsors and donors.

With the Losar celebration and Monlam ended, we are back to our normal study schedule and are now in the middle of our annual debating examinations.

On invitation from His Holiness The Dalai Lama, His Eminence also attended the three day Mind and Life Conference in Dharamsala. The topic of discussion and exchange was "Neuroplasticity: Transforming the Mind by Changing the Brain".



His Holiness The XIV Dalai Lama (left) and His Eminence Ling Rinpoche (center) at the Mind and Life Conference XII in October 2004

### Three Geshes!

Now Ling Khangtsen has three geshes: Venerables Gungbar Tulku Chungtsang Rinpoche, and also Lobsang Tenzin Rinpoche, and Drupa Tulku Rinpoche who have both received their Geshe degree. Venerable Drupa Tulku went on to do a seven month term in Gyuto Tantric College.

### Sad News

Sonam Jamphel was diagnosed with lung cancer and brought to Dharamsala, and hospitalized in Delhi where he died in November, 2004. He was cremated and prayers were done for 49 days with hopes for his good rebirth. His death was a great loss to our Khangtsen.



### Arrivals and Departures

We had streams of new comers in the past twelve months. First a group of three monks arrived in the beginning of the year and another three in the later months. However, two of our monks, Lobsang Phuntsok and Tenzin Sangpo left Ling Khangtsen.

A new Rinpoche and five of his students joined our Khangtsen in the beginning of this year.



Happy Monks in the Kitchen  
Preparing Food for All

Visit our website for updates and news: [www.LingKhangtsen.org](http://www.LingKhangtsen.org)