

Dear Sangha,

Greetings from beautiful Nelson, B.C.

I hope you had good summer. We had good trip to Zangskar - Ladakh India and Mongolia. Time flies fast, the year 2008 is almost gone, like the clouds in the sky. It's not very far from 2009. I will turn 60 next year.

According Tibetan saying when you turn 60 you are old man. Not always so according Dharma tradition. I think what makes you feel old or young depends on your mind and body. I feel great and I am healthy. As long as I am healthy, I don't care if I turn 60 or 70.

This summer I had fantastic chance to hike in the mountains in Zangskar India and Mt. Oth Tenger in Western Mongolia. My friends and Dharma students are asking me when will I celebrate my 60th birthday. Well I would like to celebrate my birthday on July 1st 2009 at the Gaden Tashi Choling Retreat centre in Nelson.

I think it will be a wonderful birthday celebration and in some ways I am looking forward to the day I turn 60. I would like to do Lama Chopa Guru Puja and play lots of temple music and have a big gathering of friends and sangha on the foundation of the new Long Term Retreat Temple Gompa.

I would like you to know, soon after my birthday celebration I would like to start building the Long Term Retreat Temple Gompa. Our friend Eric Clough is organizing the blue print and getting the building permits by March 2009. I would like to ask you, my friends, please don't bring any birthday presents like house-wears, books, DVD's, clothing, decoration items etc. for me please. Instead I would like to ask you to help build the temple for all of us. You could donate your service and time for one week, two weeks, or three weeks, combine this with your family summer holiday in beautiful Nelson, B.C. We have lots of rooms and space for everyone. You could camp out near the Long Term retreat Temple Gompa site. Please come with tools and good energy. If you don't have time to come you could make a donation for the temple that will be a better birthday present for me.

We also need to do some renovations to finish Gaden Tashi Choling

Retreat centre to meet the building code. We need lots of help with cooking driving, landscaping etc,

For the children we will organize children's Dharma programs including story telling, DVD's, walks in the forest and other fun activities.

I would like to have two "working bee" retreats. In July we will do White Heruka long life practice and in August Manjushri or Yamantaka retreat. I will give White Heruka and Manjushri initiations. We will practice in the morning and in the evening there will be teaching and practice. And during the day we will work.

Some of our friends may ask why is Rinpoche building more temples? I have joke for you:

{Regular blokes build more sheds, lamas build more temples}

I think it is very important to build a Long Term Retreat Temple Gompa for the future of Buddha, Dharma, Sangha in Canada, also don't forget we are getting old and we have commitments to do retreats we need to do long term retreats soon. The present Gaden Tashi Choling Retreat Centre is for regular and weekly teachings programs as well as one, two and three week long group teaching retreats. We need a separate temple for those who wish to do long term retreats. I would like to lead 3 month Vajrasattva retreats, 3 months Heruka body Mandala, Yamantaka and Lam Rim retreats and so on.

I would like to see us put the roof up by the end of September 2009. Some of my Australian Dharma students said they would like to come during the summer of 2010 to complete the construction of the Long Term Retreat Temple Gompa so I hope we could complete the construction of the temple by the end of 2010.

I would like to build the temple with the help of Dharma community, I do not wish to take mortgages or loans or hire big contractors. Donations are coming fast; I think more donations will come, as we get closer to the construction. I have confidence that we can build temple, because I have done it before.

**We need your help, input and suggestions and if you have questions
Please contact Sharon Gretzinger, tenzing1@telus.net and Peter
Lewis, peterl@netidea.com**

**Please let Sharon and Peter know that you plan to attend the
celebration.**

I appreciate your kindness very much.

Many blessings.

**Yours in the Dharma,
Zasep Rinpoche Bhagsh-aa**