

Sponsor a Monk

Sponsorship Form

I wish to sponsor a monk at Drepung Gomang Monastery

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Age Preference: Check One

Little Monk (up to 12 years old) _____

Adult _____

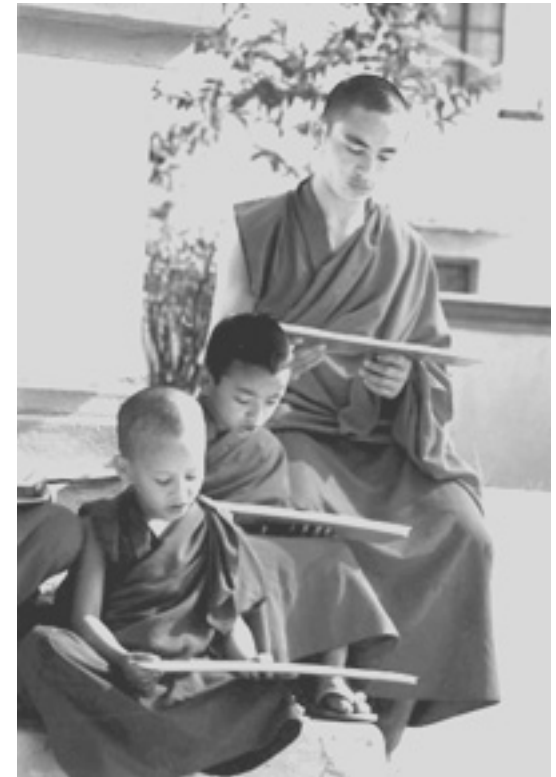
No Preference _____

Please submit this form to the local coordinator or mail to

*Friends of Drepung Gomang Scholarship Fund
9503 S. Pointe LaSalle's Drive
Bloomington, IN 47401*

Contact: mary@gomang.org; 812-322-3594

Drepung Monastery was founded in 1416 near Lhasa, the capital of Tibet. Gomang Dratsang or College is the oldest of the 4 colleges of Drepung. In 1959, before the invasion of Communist China, Drepung monastery had more than 10,000 monks. Gomang alone had about 5,500. Since its beginning, Gomang College has produced many eminent Buddhist masters and has been a very important Tibetan and Buddhist learning center. Each of the colleges of Drepung has its speciality and the focus of Gomang is philosophy: logic and debate.



History: In 1949 while the Chinese Communists were attempting to establish control of the Far East, we fought the Korean War to stop this domination. At the very same time, on the other side of China, the army of the People's Republic of China invaded the county of Tibet. No one came to the aid of this sovereign territory and by 1959, the political and spiritual leader of Tibet, Tenzin Gyatso, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama was forced to flee his country. He was immediately followed by 80,000 refugees. Refugees continue to stream from Tibet, often at great peril to their lives. All told, since 1949 more than 1.2 million Tibetans have died at the hands of the Communist Chinese. These oppressors are destroying the environment and culture of Tibet and are displacing

the population of Tibet. In many areas, Chinese settlers now outnumber the Tibetan population. The Peoples Republic of China is doing to Tibetans in the space of 50 years what we did to the Native Americans in the space of 500 years. During the past forty years of their occupation, the Chinese Communists—whose motto is .Religion is Poison.—have destroyed more than 6,000 of Tibet.s monasteries, including Drepung, and have imprisoned, tortured, and executed thousands of Buddhist monks and nuns.

Escape from Tibet: Only about 300 monks managed to escape with His Holiness the Dalai Lama when he fled Tibet in 1959. They lived first in Boxa, North India, and then, in 1969, 62 of the surviving Gomang monks were given 42 acres of land in Mundgod, South India. There they started to rebuild Drepung Gomang Monastic Dratsang in its present location. Today more than 1850 monks live on these few acres.

Location and Services: Gomang is located in Mundgod part of a larger Tibetan settlement of 16,000 persons. Besides the monastery, this settlement includes 9 camps for lay people, 1 school for lay Tibetans, a hospital, a medical center, a nunnery, an old persons' home, a bank, a cafe, an administrative office, and a guest hostel. Gomang Monastery interacts with the larger Tibetan community, teaching the three R.s in the school, assisting in the hospital, and providing training in Tibetan Arts and Crafts for the young people of the settlement while offering employment for the local Tibetan and Indian people. In addition, of course, the monks perform religious ceremonies for the Tibetans. All of these services are performed at no charge to the Tibetan Community.

Income: The income of the monastery comes from a variety of sources. The monks perform pujas or special prayer ceremonies for those who request spiritual assistance. Usually, they receive a donation for their efforts. The monks farm some of their acres growing rice and corn and they have a dairy barn. The monastery operates the café and the guest hostel in the Tibetan settlement and runs a small carpet factory in Nepal and Dehli.

Numbers Increasing: Over the past 10 years the number of monks that escape from Tibet to study at Drepung Gomang Monastery in South India

has more than quadrupled. From the original 59 monks the college has grown to 1,700. Every year an average of 150 new monks arrive having great difficulties adjusting to the very hot climate and suffering from diseases unknown in Tibet. Many monks have a bleeding stomach ulcer caused by the bad water quality. Malnutrition, tuberculosis and dysentery take their toll. The monastery cannot provide enough food, shelter and medical care for all the monks. Nearly 200 of them are under the age of 18. Many of the children are orphans.

Your Assistance: To assist Drepung Gomang Monastery in its mission to educate and train monks in the Buddhist philosophy of wisdom and compassion and to prevent the extinction of the culture of Tibet, we ask that you sponsor a monk at the monastery. By pledging \$20 (US) a month, you will help provide the monks with proper nutrition, clothing, medical care, and education. While the money will go into a general fund to support all the monks, at your wish you will be given a picture and details of a Gomang monk that you select and with whom you can correspond. If he is too young to write to you, the monastery will provide you with updates on his life and progress.

Send your check to the Tour Treasurer who will forward the funds to the monastery and send you a receipt. There is no overhead. The full amount of your donation will be sent to Gomang.

Your donation is tax exempt. Make your check out to

Friends of Drepung Gomang--a 501 (c) (3) American-based tax exempt organization - EIN 13-4005994

and mail it to

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