

Hello to all of you!

28th April 07.

I am making my way again to Sikkim.... I can hardly tell how often I have done this already.....driving in the shared jeep that brings me from Siliguri, the busy, hectic and hot town just south of Sikkim. The road that leaves the Indian planes behind, winding up into the mountains which are covered with thick jungle, the wild streaming river in the valley below, the exuberance of all the flowers....the silencethe peace.

I have experienced this so many times already but again and again I am truly touched by the wonder, the beauty of it all....the fullness and at the same time the simplicity of life here...the friendliness of the people.

I left Sikkim in November last year just before the children had their long winter holiday. I stayed in Bodhgaya, Northern India for 3,5 months. This is the very holy place where the Buddha achieved Enlightenment 2500 years ago. Like previous winters, I lead daily meditation sessions for groups of people in a Buddhist meditation centre. I also had time to do my own Buddhist practice and to follow teachings from Buddhist lamas and rinpoches.

After this I went to Nepal so that I could apply there for a new Indian visa. I stayed in Kopan monastery which is a very peaceful and inspiring place where I could do some more practice.

Towards the end of April it was time again to go back to Sikkim and I was looking forwards to it!

As the shared jeep is approaching our village Bhuriakhop in the darkness of the evening I meet the children who are making an evening walk alongside of the road. The jeep stops and it is heartwarming to experience the enthusiasm and exuberance of the children .
“Hello miss!”, “How are you miss!”.....radiant, elated faces!

It is so familiar to come back in this big family...and of course there are always a few changes.

I meet the new 5-year old children that have come to live with us in our hostel: four boys and one girl. They are truly cute children and in the beginning they were a bit shy and withdrawn but now they are at ease and show their real temperament. One is very sweet and lovely, another one a joker and again another one is quite loud....it is like all children all over the world....everyone has his or her own specific character.

Shortly after I arrive the children are having their first term exams already. They have to do a test for all the different subjects that they have and they are busy studying the last days before their exams. Studying is going on even on the swing and on the see-saw!!



Warm greetings from us all!
Hedwig