

Living Spring

- Christa -

2013 – 4 Letter

Hearty greetings!

Aside from the land, the construction of the house and the daily necessary activities, the Work and the Intent of Living Spring are forever present and my primary objectives. Though I do not talk about them constantly and rather leave it to those who experience them as aid on their path, they still remain the cause of my being and being here. I mention this as there may be the impression that building and money determine my life! Should you think this, you are mistaken.

Let me now go to the “other” challenges. Winter has come once more with storms and freezing rains followed by a foot of snow and high drifts. I have often been snowed in but this time it was especially unbearable, for everything, and I mean everything, around me is one big construction site. The addition behind my cabin with the necessary breakthrough in my clothes and house ware closet with ironing board, bed sheets, candles, shoes, etc. was already hard enough without the snowstorm. A neighbor said: “Gee, it never looked that bad at my place!”

And yet I recognize that all continues – if only with small steps – even though there are constantly decisions to be made that slow everything down. For example, a man who wanted to help us with the windmill and solar, procrastinated and procrastinated, except that his cost estimate from the year before doubled in numbers – even though or rather because – he had done nothing despite many calls from me. I “fired” him and am now in negotiation with a young engineer from Livingston. He turned out to not only be knowledgeable but was immediately ready to present me with various well balanced suggestions. A great help! I expect him the end of next week when we will make more definite plans. Some of the neighbors are interested in joining us, since energy cost in Montana have again increased.

Enclosed is an update about the development of construction and costs of the big house through the winter months. We were able to still do quite a bit as you can see. The entire lower floor is now wired for electricity, all plumbing lines are put in, and the walls and ceilings are dry-walled. Walls and ceiling of the meditation room will be painted next week. I hope I can take a photo before I mail the letter (*sorry, that didn't work as am in town, left the camera at home and won't come back here soon*) Everything else in the interior has to wait as there is not a penny left other than in the “electricity-basket”, which I already reduced aside from getting a loan of \$12,000. I do hope we will get electricity and water installed. Though yesterday I went to the house the first time after the snowstorm and saw that windows as well as doors were leaky and had let water in. I was able to caulk them but I recognized that siding has to be put on the house soon. Also the extended roof needs to be constructed over the sidewalk after we had to cut the trusses short due to a planning error of the original builder. That causes me some worry even though the heart knows all will go well. Heavens know how everything happens 🎵🎵🎵. Perhaps electricity and water will have to wait some more. Or?

Aside from the time and money we women put into the construction and aside from two large donations from a single giver (about \$11,000 for the well house and those loans quoted in the

last update)) we received €1,415 from eleven German donors and \$6,300 from three American donors (in that a standing bank order of \$500). The moneys will be used for what they were given. Should they come without distinct wishes I will assign them. These gifts made it possible for me to cover some costs I had estimated too low.

I am deeply grateful for your donations!

And once again many thanks to the three of you in Germany who have established standing orders for Living Spring These € 176 are especially helpful in covering operating costs for animal feed, car repair and gas.

Unfortunately I do not remember whether I sent the last Lesson (I/2013) to those for whom have no email address. That's why I'll sent it either new or again with this letter to the "snail mail"-recipients.

I was very happy to receive five feed back letters to the question of "harmony" How nice to know that you reflect and share! Sometimes I ask myself where these questions end up, whether they mean anything to anyone or whether they just go up in smoke.

Yogadhatta, the resident teacher at the Dharma-Center in Billings passed on a quotation

"Anger can be an expensive luxury"*

That I now pass on to you with the question: Do you also believe that?

After the almost rain- and snow free winter weeks and the resulting aridness, it now begins slowly to turn green. It looks like a fine fresh shimmer across the earth and I can see tulips and crocus showing their tips of leaves. Whether the trees that were already in buds some time ago made it through the frost we will see. The chickens are busy scratching in the yard and I will have to ask myself: do I want free ranging chickens or a garden? Both will not work without some fencing I think.

The horses are doing well. All three have a thick winter coat and no longer a desire for hay. Trailer, the 9-year old Pasofino gelding who was given us by the farrier is filled with spring fire and runs across the pasture so that one can hear him from far. He keeps the two seniors baffled. The dogs, Lakota and Willow still find reason to fight. Lakota is so jealous! Willow has figured out some strategy: She runs into one direction and as soon as Lakota passes her to arrive first, wherever that is, Willow turns around and runs in the opposite direction. Smart!

Now, loved ones, that's all for today. I am looking forward to the guest who have registered and told me of their happy anticipation to sleep in the unfinished new house. Whoever would like to hear more or has questions, or wishes to foster their relationship to me, please call or write.

In Love and Joy – and blowing snow outside my window

Christa

* Quoted from a plaque placed at 'reading height' in the men's restroom at a Visitor Center on the South Korean side of the North/South Demilitarized Zone. Reported by Derek Ferrar in Hana Hou! (The Magazine of Hawaiian Airlines) Feb/Mar 2013, 16(1)
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