



bijlagen

We willen jullie, onze donateurs en vrienden van Stichting Zanskar, graag laten kennismaken met Jimmy als enthousiast en levendig brieven-schrijver over het leven anno nu in Ladakh, zijn omgang met vrienden, ouders en werk.

Jimmy is altijd een buitenbeentje geweest: origineel, inventief, creatief, grappig. En ook lastig, dat hoort erbij, maar we hebben het overleefd met zijn allen.

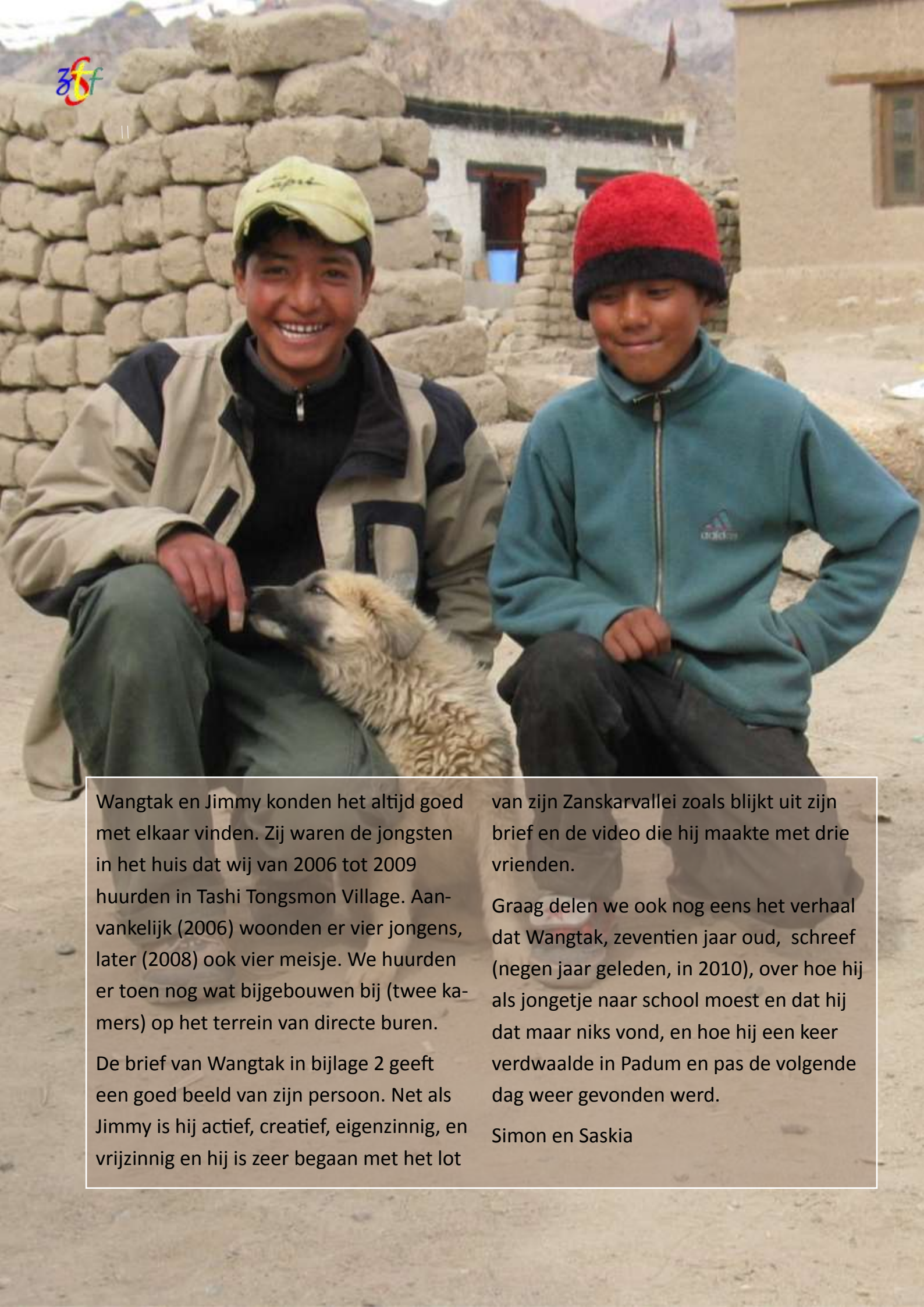
In bijlage 1, drie recente brieven van Jimmy, met door hem gemaakte foto's, bijvoorbeeld van zijn neefje Namgyal, over

wie hij met genegenheid schrijft.

Daarnaast delen we nog een keer een document uit 2008 (bijlage 1.2 Jimmy) dat we voor de Eerste Openluchtschool in Amsterdam Zuid maakten - met Jimmy in de hoofdrol - over de leefomstandigheden in Ladakh. Het fotoverhaal met onderschriften wordt door Jimmy verteld maar werd door Simon geschreven.

De bijlagen zijn te vinden op de website van Stichting Zanskar.

Ook wijden we een special aan Wangtak (bijlage 2).



Wangtak en Jimmy konden het altijd goed met elkaar vinden. Zij waren de jongsten in het huis dat wij van 2006 tot 2009 huurden in Tashi Tongsmon Village. Aanvankelijk (2006) woonden er vier jongens, later (2008) ook vier meisje. We huurden er toen nog wat bijgebouwen bij (twee kamers) op het terrein van directe burens.

De brief van Wangtak in bijlage 2 geeft een goed beeld van zijn persoon. Net als Jimmy is hij actief, creatief, eigzinnig, en vrijzinnig en hij is zeer begaan met het lot

van zijn Zanskarvallei zoals blijkt uit zijn brief en de video die hij maakte met drie vrienden.

Graag delen we ook nog eens het verhaal dat Wangtak, zeventien jaar oud, schreef (negen jaar geleden, in 2010), over hoe hij als jongetje naar school moest en dat hij dat maar niks vond, en hoe hij een keer verdwaalde in Padum en pas de volgende dag weer gevonden werd.

Simon en Saskia



bijlage 1

Brieven
van
Jimmy

Jimmy, Chandigarh, 10-9-2018

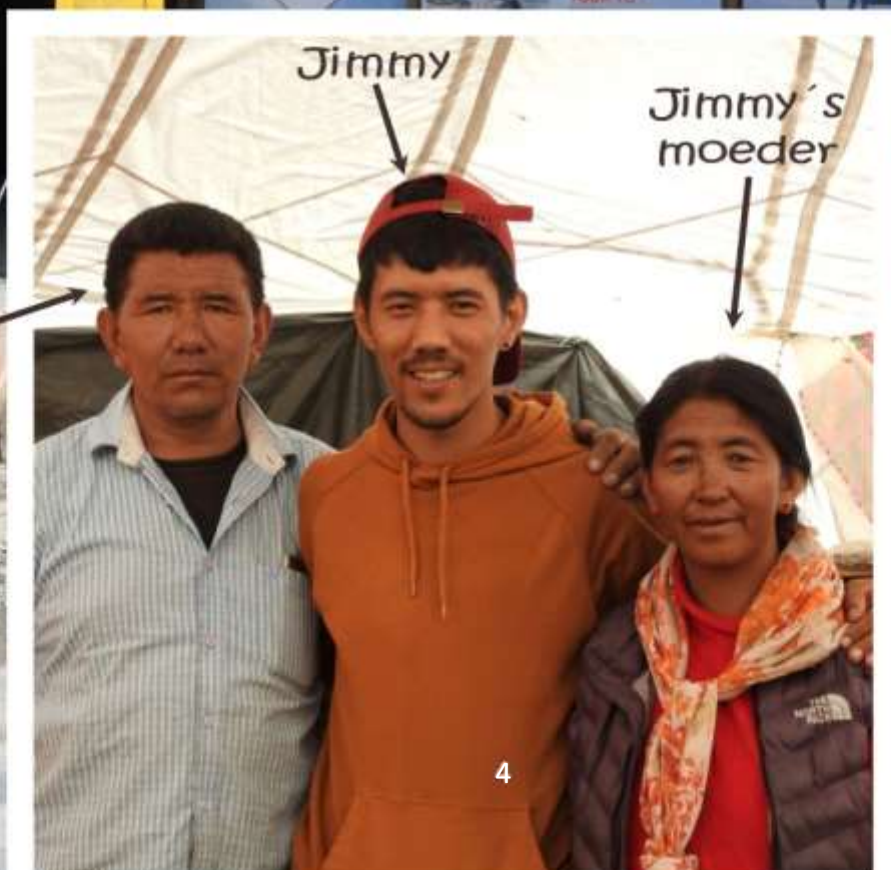
Hi, Saskia and Simon.

How is everything going? And how is Dinah doing?

As you know, I have spent quite some time in Ladakh. I stayed there for more than three months.

I did a lot of things in Ladakh this year. I played football, I travelled, I worked etc. It's really hard to believe that these three months are gone. I felt my stay in Ladakh was a short one. I think I am feeling like this because I enjoyed a lot there and I was indulged in activities most of the time. One cannot stay idle in his hometown, there is always work to do.

I visited my mother and father in Pang twice or thrice a month. I brought the stock to them like mineral water, vegetables, ration etc. My father





quit his driving job and now he stays with my mother and now they run the restaurant in Pang together. My father also does minor bike repairing for the tourists, mainly punctures.

My brother has opened a tourist agency in Leh in partnership with a guy from Arunachal. He has hired a driver for the taxi during the peak season of tourism in Ladakh. He taught me some basic work of an agent, like doing permits, booking hotels, booking tours etc. In the month of August, he drove the taxi himself and I looked after the agency because the tourist season came to an end.





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From the 20th of June to the 10th of July, I played a football tournament in Ladakh. The tournament is organized by the villagers of Spituk in memory of his Holiness Kushok Bakula Rinpoche. Our football team Siachen FC participated in the tournament. We lost in the quarter-finals.

I was the captain of the team. It's our dream to win the Kushok Bakula tournament. We need to train and play harder next time.

My friend's brother has recently bought a food truck. I also helped him. We went to different places with the food truck. We went to the Rafting Festival and sold burgers and ice cream to the people. We also went to Dahanu during the Aryan Festival. We went to Saspol during the River Festival.

I really enjoyed it all and learned a lot. And I observed that there are thousands of hotels and guest houses in Leh town.

Bye, Jimmy



Jimmy, Chandigarh, 31-5-2019

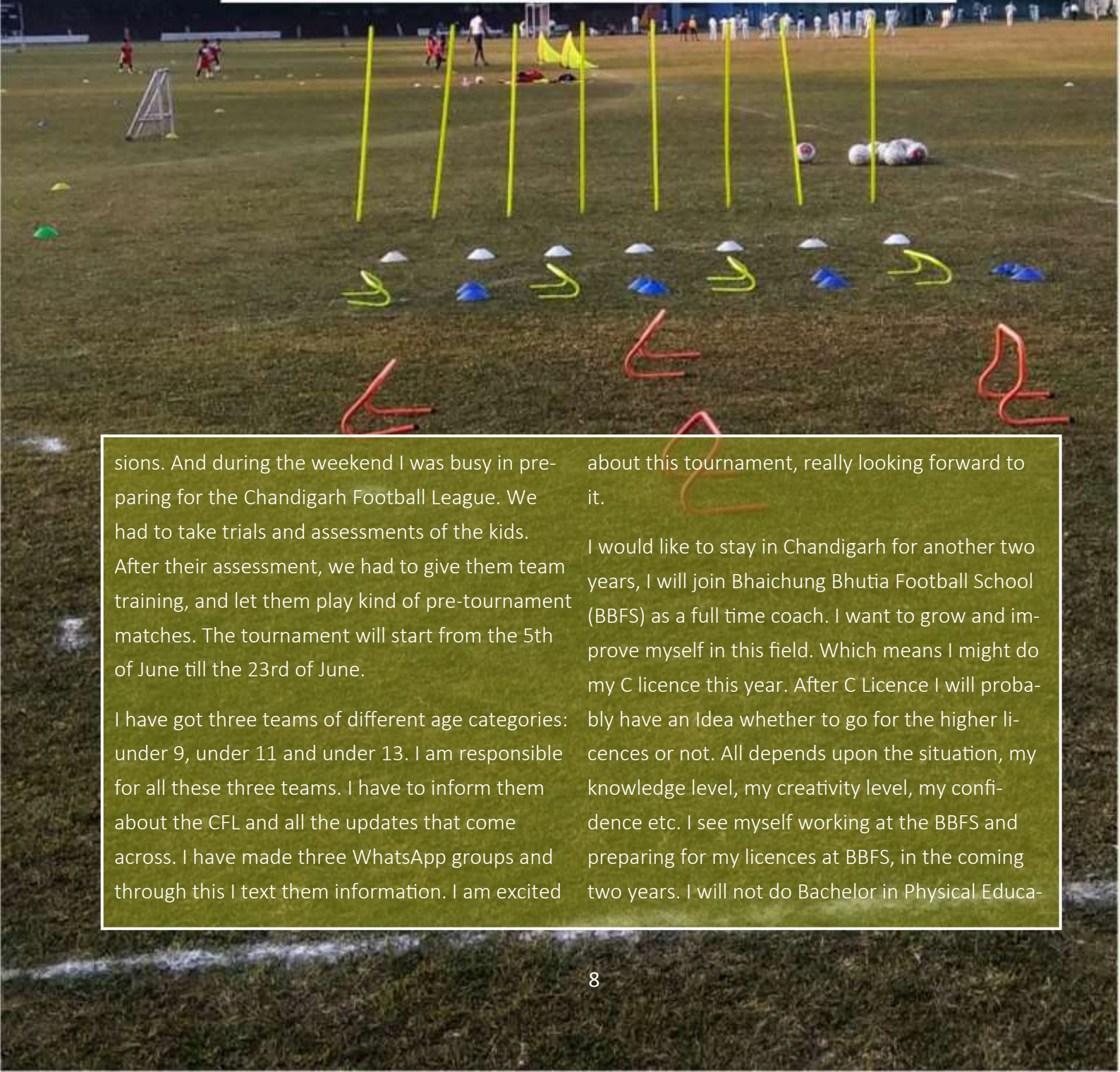
Hello Saskia. (Jimmy schrijft aan Saskia, want Simon is in Chandigarh)

How are you doing? Hope you are doing well. We all are fine here, apart from the extreme hot weather. A few days ago the weather really started heating up. Hot wind is blowing during noon. The weather is really unpleasant, and I have to

suffer another month in this heat. Life is tough and we must be ready for these kinds of obstacles, ha ha.

The month of May was quite a month for me. I gave my 6th semester examination. It started on the 4th of May and ended on the 25th of May. All the subjects went pretty well. I will be graduated if I pass all the subjects. I also took my football ses-





sions. And during the weekend I was busy in preparing for the Chandigarh Football League. We had to take trials and assessments of the kids. After their assessment, we had to give them team training, and let them play kind of pre-tournament matches. The tournament will start from the 5th of June till the 23rd of June.

I have got three teams of different age categories: under 9, under 11 and under 13. I am responsible for all these three teams. I have to inform them about the CFL and all the updates that come across. I have made three WhatsApp groups and through this I text them information. I am excited

about this tournament, really looking forward to it.

I would like to stay in Chandigarh for another two years, I will join Bhaichung Bhutia Football School (BBFS) as a full time coach. I want to grow and improve myself in this field. Which means I might do my C licence this year. After C Licence I will probably have an Idea whether to go for the higher licences or not. All depends upon the situation, my knowledge level, my creativity level, my confidence etc. I see myself working at the BBFS and preparing for my licences at BBFS, in the coming two years. I will not do Bachelor in Physical Educa-



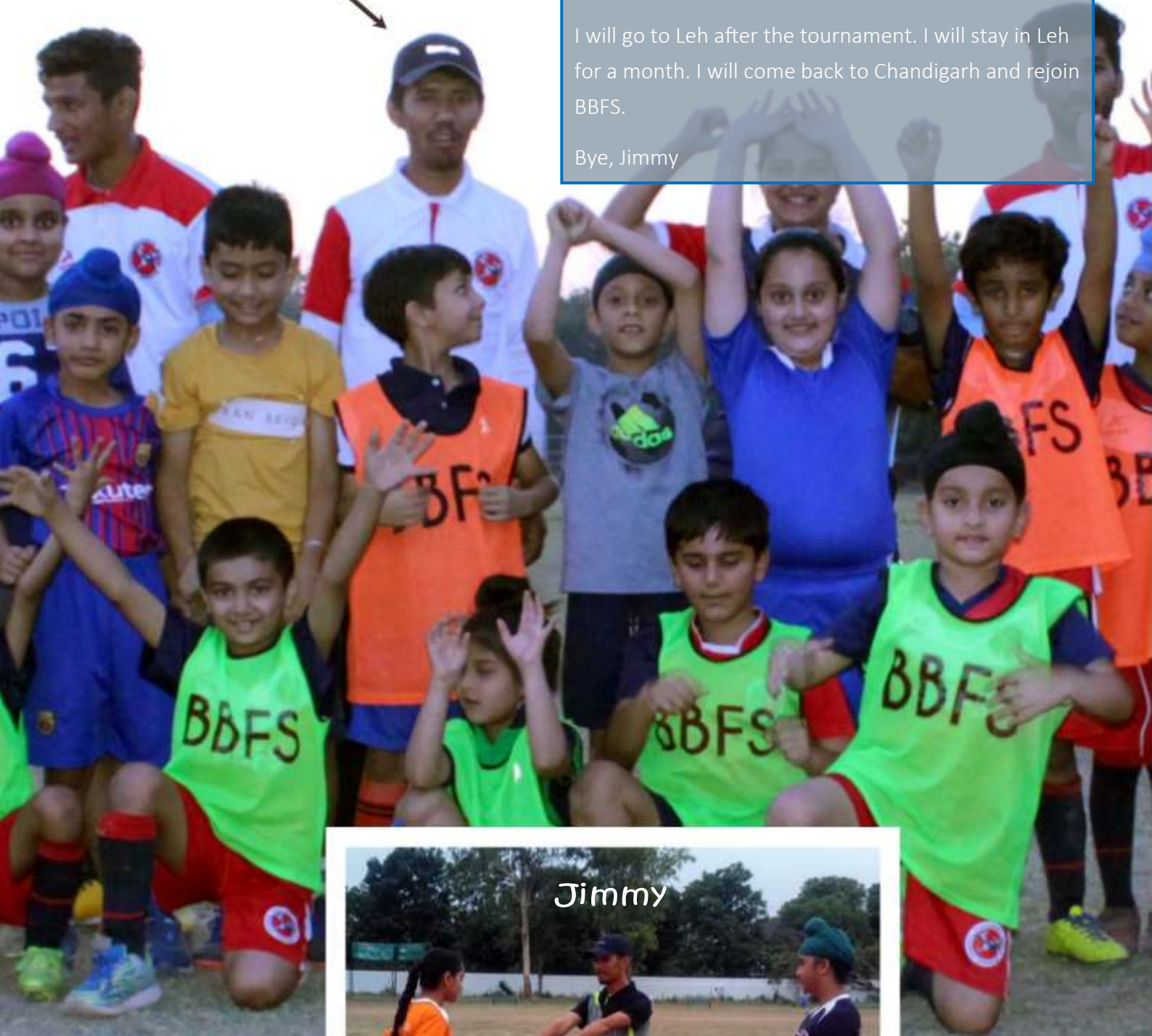
Jimmy



tion or Master in Physical Education.

I will go to Leh after the tournament. I will stay in Leh for a month. I will come back to Chandigarh and rejoin BBFS.

Bye, Jimmy



Jimmy



Jimmy, Chandigarh 28-8-2019

Hello Simon and Saskia.

How are you doing? I hope you both are recovering fast or have already recovered. It's a bit harsh that you are unwell at the same time. How is our boy (Dinah) doing?

The weather here in Chandigarh is obviously hot. The temperature is around 32 degrees Celsius, partly sunny. And there is a lot of humidity. Only one month left for autumn to come, which will make me smile again. The weather in Amsterdam might be very pleasant.

My stay in Ladakh was amazing like always. I nearly spent two months there. It's a happy feeling to see the giant mountains and meet my near and dear once a year.

ation. I found it troublesome.

I spent most of the time in Leh with my brother and I helped my friend's brother with his food truck and café. I helped him last year too. We travelled to many places like Dahanu during the Arian Festival; Nimo during the Rafting Festival and to other nearby places where there is a festival. This year we travelled with the truck less because he has opened a café. I worked as a driver and shopping guy for the café and the food truck. The café is on the G.H. road near Shanti Stupa. There were six staff members from Uttarakhand, one worked in the food truck and the rest worked in the café. In the morning I was always busy with shopping. In the afternoon I helped my brother in doing tourist permits.

My brother is all alone at the agency and most of the time he was touring with tourists all over Leh. He could not afford to hire a taxi driver. The population of tourists in Leh has decreased. That's why I was doing the permit job whenever he was with the taxi. In the evening I played football in Agling. An artificial football field is constructed by a Ladakhi football lover in Agling. He has really spent money on a good thing. That's how I spent my first month in Leh.

After a month in Leh I went to Pang with my cousin brother. His name is Namgyal, he studies in 7th grade. Namgyal was having his summer holidays for 15 days. We both got a lift from a biker group to Pang. The helper who works at my mother's tent motel had to go back to Leh because his son was having a summer break and there was no one to look after him.

My brother and sister both are married ritually and traditionally. The marriage system of Changthang people is confusing. I don't know whether I have understood fully or not. I think marriage methods varie due to one's financial situ-



Namgyal

Just before leaving Pang we climbed the highest mountain which was nearest to Pang. We started early in the morning around 6 am. The start was a ten-minute walk from the motel. It took us more than an hour to reach the top. We climbed from the backside of the mountain. There were no climbers or a human road to be identified, which made our journey to the top more adventurous and hard. We both were determined and our thought was like "If there's no way, make one". We continued our climbing. It was not a rocky mountain. The mountain was full of sand and small pebbles. Which made us lose extra energy while climbing. Getting to the top was worth the effort. We had no expectations of what we would see at the top. It was a plateau! The top was a plain all over. We stayed there for like twenty minutes. We wanted to see the other end but the plain was never ending. We took some beautiful pictures and went back. All the people at Pang were not believing that we had been there until we showed them the pictures. My uncle used to climb a mountain on a holy day to put spiritual flags.

The view and the landscape at Pang always amazes me. Namgyal was disappointed because he thought Pang would be a place with lots of greenery. In Ladakhi, Pang means green plains. It was his first visit to Pang. But he was very happy and jolly to help us. He is a matured kid. He would say I am not here to visit Pang I am here to help my grandma (my mother). He was so enthusiastic to help that he tried to cook every dish and he would yell from the motel "Welcome, good food here". I see my childhood in him. I used to visit my mother during my summer holidays when I was studying in Shey. Now that's what he is doing. Namgyal was a life saviour for me in Pang. He entertained me and told me stories about Hanle and things about particular persons. He is very talkative. I spent every minute with him in Pang. I brought a football with me and we played football until something is broken.

We walked a lot, he rode random bicycles from the cyclists, he made me take pictures whenever there's a super bike etc. I also helped him with his homework like he had to write a daily diary.

After spending two weeks in Pang, on the way back from Pang we visited Tsokar as His Holiness Drukchen Rinpoche was visiting Tsokar from Tsomoriri. He gave a small preaching in Tsokar after that he went to Kharnak. His Holiness was on a yatra to Changthang valley.

I spent the rest of the time in Leh. My brother's wife visited Ladakh after a few days. My mother was very busy doing a few small renovations on the house. We cleaned the whole house, we hired a few Dogre labourers to build a new toilet room



and to put a new gate.

I also went to the Phyang and the Sakti festival with the truck. I had to drop some staff and in the evening pick them up. I also visited Skinding this year. It's a hidden valley 7 kilometres from Khaltse. Skinding is the village of my best friend Wangail, who is now in Canada. I have told you about him. Along with my friends we went to meet him. In fact his parents invited us, we spent two days there. We enjoyed a lot. Most of the houses were very old with small windows and doors. It was a proper traditional Ladakhi house. We tented on the spang. We drank chang a lot.

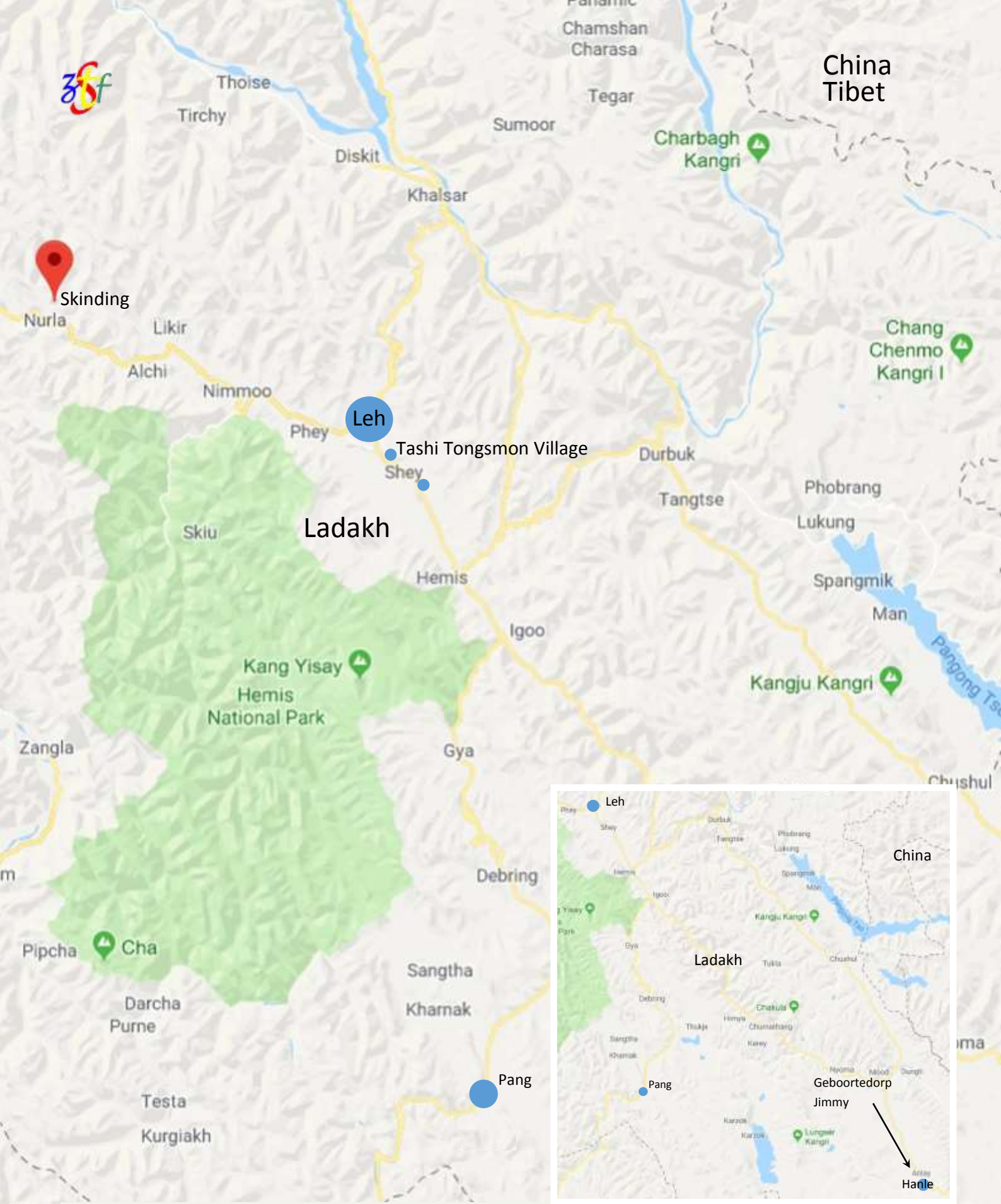
Leh is booming. There are hotels and hotels everywhere. Saboo village and Choglamsar are a few

metres away to connect. There are new constructions of houses and markets everywhere. Our childhood playgrounds are turned into big new houses. It's sad. Wangail's brother (the owner of café and food truck) booked me a flight to Chandigarh.

That's more or less the summary of my stay in Ladakh. I will send you some pictures that I have taken.

And yes, there is one more thing: I have graduated. I passed my 6th semester as well as my previous sociology subject of 4th semester.

Bye, Jimmy.



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