

GONPA GAZETTE



Altogether now...!

Humility: how low can I go? When I moved to the monastery six years ago I had taught for over ten years, and from my self-assessment and that of others, was a pretty good teacher. What could be so different about teaching at a Tibetan Buddhist monastery in India? Everything!

I was humbly brought to my knees when none of my *concepts* about the best teaching/learning methods meant anything here. The monks could only do what they knew: rote memorization and in-unison call and response...the exact opposite of what I believed in: self-paced, hands-on, experiential learning.

I tried, they tried, we all failed over and over, until I decided to drop my concepts and pride, and do it their way: everyone on the same page of the textbook at the same time, me giving the answers, them filling in the blanks...and memorizing the answers for the one annual exam that decided their mark for the year.

Slowly, slowly things have changed. More and more I can ask 'why' questions, and make quizzes that are similar to the textbook content, but not exact. Generalization and transference of information is actually happening.



Understanding the meaning, one flash card at a time!

MAY 2017 IN PHOTOS



