



## **Mount Everest 2016 - Blog No 8:** Khumbu Icefalls

Hi everyone,

Quick update on Jaco. I spoke to him last Tuesday evening via Whatsapp call. We tried again Wednesday evening so he could talk to the girls, but unfortunately the connection was very patchy and we had to stick to text messages. Even the satellite phone wasn't able to pick up a signal.

On Tuesday Jaco had arranged 22 candles that they lit to remember the 22 climbers that died last year because of the earthquake. It was an impactful and emotional remembrance, especially for the ones who were actually there last year and witnessed it from close by. They also tried out their oxygen masks and practised at the bottom of the Khumbu Icefalls up and until the point that the fixed ropes start. When they go into the Icefalls they will have to climb a steep ice tower and will do so by climbing 5 (!) ladders fixed on top of each other (see picture). They will also need to bridge a large crevasse walking on two ladders tied to each other. His crampons apparently fit really nicely on the rungs (?) / steps of the ladders, which he was happy with. He said I would have a serious problem on the ladders with my small feet. Now, luckily this is only a hypothetical problem. He was nervous and excited at the same time and he sounded extremely strong and confident.

At the moment, he is somewhere on the mountain and we won't be in touch for the coming period. The actual plan is subject to change every day, given the weather changes so quickly, so we just have to go with the flow!

That was it for now. I will let you know as soon as I have more to share!

Daan