



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

## Sevalaya's News Letter

**AUGUST - 2003**

Dear Friends,

The newspaper reports about the heart surgery of the little girl from Pakistan – Noor – were a welcome change. Following this, another heart patient from Pakistan has landed in Bangalore. May be we will have more such people traveling to India for medical help. Noor's parents plus the doctors, have set up a fund to help poor children from Pakistan to get medical help in India, says the newspaper report. Noor attracted lot of visitors in the hospital. Not her relatives, not her known friends – but just Indians, who were so happy to see a little girl from Pakistan coming here and getting treatment. There were many flowers, many wishing well cards from so many 'unknown' friends! Noor's parents were really moved by this gesture, and they mentioned that in the minds of common people, there is no hatred towards India. They will also carry the message from here that, we too, have no hatred towards our neighbors.

Both India and Pakistan are developing countries and we have a long way to go in providing education, medical attention, housing and even providing drinking water to many of our citizens. Instead, due to build-up of tension between the two countries, we have spent a lot on military expenses. Just imagine, if all that money was available for developmental work, these 55 years of independence, would have taken both countries to much more greater heights. We are behaving like a family that is spending lot of money on Diwali

crackers, when it doesn't have enough food to eat!

In couple of weeks from now, both the countries will be celebrating Independence Day. Look at the amount of money we have to spend for security – to make sure that we both have peaceful Independence Day! Can we claim that we have been able to provide clean drinking water to all, at the minimum? Will the poorest of the poor feel that this is his country? What does Independence day mean to him other than one day holiday and couple of sweets?

We have paid enough price 'cultivating' hatred towards each other. It may be politically correct to build up this hatred, so that the parties can remain in power. But what about the common man? Like Noor's parents, we should start 'cultivating' love towards each other. There must be more of such 'good will' sharing between the two countries; we should be able to get to know each other better, without political interference. I have had occasions to work with some Pakistanis – we have played cricket together – we have had family parties together. We never felt that we are from two different countries, who are constantly at war!

Yes. The message is very clear. We have to remove hatred. If it has to be done through 'heart surgeries', let us do it.

Thanks & Regards

**Murali**

## Study Circle Meetings

Date : 4.7.2003  
Speaker : Ms. K.J. Geetha  
Book : Ookkam Uyarvu Tharum  
Author : Mervin  
Venue : Admn. Office

Date : 5.7.2003  
Speaker : Mr. S. Saravanan  
Book : Gandhi Kaatchigal  
Author : Kaka Kalelkar  
Venue : Service Centre

Date : 11.7.2003  
Speaker : Mr. S. Saravana Babu  
Book : Saadhikka mudiyadhathai  
Saadhippadhu Eppadi?  
Author : Lena Tamilvanan  
Venue : Admn. Office

Date : 12.7.2003  
Speaker : Mr. M. Durairaj  
Book : Samadhana Kaavalar  
Jawaharlal Nehru  
Author : N. Mahalingam  
Venue : Service Centre.

Date : 18.7.2003  
Speaker : Ms. C. Rajeswari  
Book : Indiraavin Kadhai  
Author : Sivasankari  
Venue : Admn. Office

Date : 25.7.2003  
Speaker : Mr. G. Madhavan  
Book : Developing Reading Skills  
Author : C. Balasubramanian  
Venue : Admn. Office.

Date : 26.7.2003  
Speaker : Ms. P.S. Manimekalai  
Book : Manidhargal Eppadi  
Vaazhavendum ?  
Author : P.C. Ganesan

## On the Small Screen..

If the kids appear in the T.V, are our elders to be left behind? Win T V shot a programme with our senior citizens in our Campus for a Programme " Uravugalai Thedi " (In Search of relationships).

## Competitions- internal.

Our Mahakavi Bharathiyar School conducts

periodical competitions for the pupils to keep their spirits alive and to promote their talents. The following are the competitions conducted upto July and the results.

## 4.6.2003 Tirukkural recitation

I Prize	U. Radha	VIII Std.
II prize	Bhuvaneswari	VI Std

## 2.7.2003 Handwriting.

I Prize	R. Devi	VIII Std.
II Prize	U. Radha	VIII Std

## Reaching Out..

Our Team led by Mr. T.Nagaraj and Mr. A.A. Kingston staged a drama in Alathur village explaining the services rendered by Sevalaya to the rural community.

There were presentations on Gandhi's life and teaching to the people of villages in and around our Campus. On 3.7.2003 and 12.7.2003, Mr.G.Rammohan made the presentations at Sevvapet Government Boys' Higher Secondary School and Hoina Girls' Hostel respectively. On 17.7.2003, the presentation was by Mr.A.Annamalai at Palavedu Government School.

## Training and Development.

One day Training on Motivation was conducted for our Team Leaders, at Gandhi Study Centre at Chennai on 6.7.2003. Mr. Vishwanath VishPriya was the faculty. An experienced leader having successfully held different managerial positions, and confidently handling many personal adversities, he himself served as a Role Model for our aspiring leaders to follow. At the end of the Session, all of us went much richer in spirit.

## B.G.V on firmer footing.

B.G.V—meaning Bharathi, Gandhi and Vivekananda, has been a part of the curriculum in our School ever since the beginning for all the classes (despite protestations from some petty Bureaucrats of the Education Department). This year, experts in the respective subjects for all the classes have drawn up regular Syllabus. Mr.G.Rammohan prepared the course for Gandhi; for Bharathi, it was Mr. Mu.Srinivasan

and Mr. Ramji , formerly associated with Calcutta Bharathi Tamil Sangham,. Mr. Srinivasan, formerly of Vivekananda College, Chennai, drew up Vivekananda syllabus.

G.Rammohan conducted orientation Programme on Gandhi Syllabus for the teachers on 5th and 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2003.

### **Evolving Youth Leadership..**

Readers are aware that with a view to inculcating the spirit of self-reliance and promoting qualities of leadership among the children, they have been divided into different groups and assigned roles. For the children group leaders, orientation programme was conducted by Mr. A.A. Kingston on 10.7.2003 and by S.Saravanan on 13.7.2003. On 13.7.2003, Child Leader G. Revathy discussed the book Ulagai Vazhvittha Utthamargal (Great Leaders who served the World) by Ambika Devi.

### **Sportsfolio**

In the Zonal level tournament conducted at Poonamalle, our Senior level Volley Ball team came out Second. In the Junior level our team secured the I place.

### **Swami Vivekananda Library goes Mobile..!**

Our mobile library visited Pakkam Village on 12<sup>th</sup> July, Attur on 19<sup>th</sup> July and Melapedu on 26<sup>th</sup>. At every centre almost 50 people use the facility.

### **Events interesting...**

On 19.7.2003, an interesting programme Nila Mutram was organised by the children. It was



Mr. Vijayakanth, Cine Actor and President of the South India Cine Actors Association, along with his wife, while distributing cloths and Notebooks to our children.

a humour-laced Variety Entertainment highlighting Gandhian thoughts and the efficacy of Prayer.

On 20.7.2003 Yuva Shakti group visited the Campus and conducted an entertaining Cultural Programme for children.

Every night before retiring to bed, our senior citizens congregate in the lawns, and have tete-a-tete on the lines of Campfire. Some of them sing Bhajan songs. Mahabharatham Video is displayed for their benefit.

### **Bhakthi-Tour.**

25 of our children accompanied by Staff member Ms. Annapurna and Volunteer Mr. Narayanaswami went on a trip from 26/07/03 to 30/07/03 to Prasanthi Nilayam, abode of Bhagawan Satya Sai Baba at Puttaparthi. Kilpauk Unit of Sri Satya Sai Seva Samithi sponsored the trip. They were blessed with a good Dharshan of Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

### **Youth Empowerment**

Mr. A.A.Kingston, our Staff member attended a Programme on Youth Empowerment and Community Development organised by Commonwealth Youth Development Programme and Ananya, at Kanyaka Parameswari Devasthanam Arts and Science College, Chennai on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July,2003.

On both the days, an Exhibition Set, " Arise, Awake! " depicting the life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda was displayed by Sevalaya.



## BLESSED MOTHERS

In Mahatma Gandhi's favourite Gujarati hymn *Vaishnava janato* the qualities of a true devotee of God are described. "He feels another's pain as his own, is ever ready to serve others, never boasts, despises no one and keeps his thoughts, words and deeds pure". Such are his qualities, says the hymn, reflecting the idea that one who is good to his fellowmen is the true devotee of God. Most significantly, it adds: "Blessed is the mother of such a person!" The idea that the mother of a great soul should have herself been a blessed person is a belief firmly held in Indian society. In the case of the three guiding lights of Sevalaya — Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi and Mahakavi Subramaniya Bharati — it can be seen that such belief is fully justified.

Swami Vivekananda's mother Bhuvaneshwari Devi was born in 1841 in an aristocratic family of Calcutta. She was ten years old when she was married to Vishwanath, then sixteen. She was deeply religious by nature, an accomplished singer, of very charitable disposition, and could recite from memory long passages from the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*. She was blessed with motherhood at an early age; but her first two children died in infancy. After that she bore three daughters in a row. She wanted a son and prayed to Lord Shiva of Varanasi. It is believed that the Lord appeared in her dream and told her that He would be born as her son. When the son was born on Makara Sankranti day in 1863, she looked into the depths of the child's eyes and was convinced that her dream had come true. Sometimes if the infant cried or screamed uncontrollably, she would calm him down by chanting the name of Shiva in his ears a few times! As he grew to boyhood, she gave him his first lessons in religion. She told him the tales of *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* and taught him to sing *bhajans*. When the son grew up to be the word teacher Swami Vivekananda, the blessed mother was the least surprised. It was only her dream coming true.

Putli Bai, mother of Gandhiji, came from a poor family of village Datrana in Junagadh State. She was married to Karamchand Gandhi as his fourth wife when she was fifteen and he was forty. She bore Karamchand four children, three sons and a daughter, the last of whom was the Mahatma. Karamchand ran a vast joint-family household and she was the keystone that held the edifice together. She has been described as the "ideal housewife, who was the first one to rise and the last to go to bed, ... always smiling and cheerful, ... whom no one had ever heard raising her voice". Gandhiji's own recollections of his mother as recorded in his *Autobiography*, are well known — his memories of her "saintliness", the promises he made to her on the eve of his departure to England, and her death when he was in England. Years later, when once Gandhiji was on a visit to the archaeological museum at Taxila, he was shown a pair of ancient silver anklets. He remarked with a deep sigh: "Just like what my mother used to wear!" Apparently, even after many decades, thoughts of the blessed woman who bore him were never far from the Mahatma's mind.

Subramaniya Bharati lost his mother Lakshmi Amma when he was hardly five. Two years later his father Chinnaswami married a second time. It is said that the stepmother Valli Amma was very loving to young Subramaniyan. But Bharati the poet saw his Mother again in his God. *Sakthi, Kali, Lakshmi, Saraswathi* — these were the forms in which he usually worshipped his God. Even *Krishna* was at times Mother to him, and he sang:

### They call her Krishna!

*Ah, she has clasped me in fond embrace  
With her arms of ethereal space!  
And placing me on her lap  
She tells me endless stories!*

### For Free Circulation :

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