



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 2 **Sevalaya's News Letter - March 2008** Serve12 Price-Re.1

## Dear Friends,

Elumalai works in a gas station in Chennai. His nature of job is not very high profile. His income is also not great. He has to support his mother, wife and a new born kid. For such families it is very difficult to make both ends meet. But they also have to celebrate functions at home, events in family, visit temples etc. Where will the extra money come from? How will they manage?

There is so much peer pressure from friends and relatives to celebrate special events – like the first birth day of the first child. Elumalai's kid was completing one year on 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 2008. Elders in the family advised him to go to temples and have special prayers done. It is customary for many families to visit Tirupathi – which is on top of seven hills – the name Elumalai comes from this pilgrim spot – have the head tonsured for the kid and the father on first birth days. But it involves travel expenses for the entire family which may work out very expensive. How about some local temples? How about getting all relatives and friends to a restaurant or home and have a party? Elumalai and his family thought of all options and worked out the cost involved, everything seemed to go beyond his limits.

But they have to celebrate the first birth day of their kid in some special form, as this is a special occasion for his entire family. How about helping others on this occasion? When this thought struck his mind, he picked up the phone and started calling some institutions in Chennai. When he called up Sevalaya, he was totally satisfied. He spoke to our Hon. Coordinator and asked him how much it will cost to pay for one lunch for the destitute and orphan children; whether he and his family can join the children for lunch and when he has to make the

payment. Elumalai says "I was moved when I got the answer that no advance payment is required and we can go over to the ashram on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb, have food with the children and then, if satisfied can make the payment. Even temples told us that we have to pay first. When we sat with the children and had food, our entire family was totally satisfied and we have decided that henceforth all our celebrations will be at Sevalaya only. I will also spread the message of Sevalaya to every car and two wheeler which comes to my gas station and suggest to them to contribute to the institution. Children are very happy here. The food is great. My mother was totally moved to see the old age home inmates".

Many families come to Sevalaya and celebrate such events. What is so special about Elumalai? His monthly income is Rs. 4500 and he paid Rs. 2500 for one lunch for the kids of Sevalaya on his kid's first birthday! This is more than 50% of his income.

You don't need money to donate, you only need a heart.

Thanks & Regards

**Murali**





### Events

On 10/02/2008 a Meditation programme for the hostel students was conducted by Nithyananda Youth Group from Avadi.

The Annual Sports Day Celebrations of Sevalaya were held on 12/02/2008. The chief guest on the occasion was Mr. S.P.Mathur IPS Director General of Police (Metropolitan Transport Corporation). Mr. Vijayakumar, Joint Secretary of TAFVA, Mr Murugesan DSP Thiruvallur, Mr.Srinivasan DSP Uthukottai, Mrs.Girija Raghavan - Chief Editor, Ladies Special Monthly, and Mr.Ratanji, Businessman, Avadi, were our special guests on the occasion. Physical training is an integral part of good education and the annual sports day is one that is looked forward to eagerly by all students. The month of January had been filled with the semi finals and finals of different athletic events and matches - the culmination of the year long sports events among the three houses Bharathi, Gandhi, and Vivekananda. Various sports events were also conducted for the children, staff, senior citizens and villagers. The proud winners received their prizes, medals and certificates at the hands of the Chief Guest. Mr. A.Sankarapandian (physical education department) highlighted the



achievements of the school teams in the zonal and district level sports.

On 10/02/2008 & 23/02/2008 Mr. Shankar, Volunteer from Ambattur & Mr. Murali Krishnan, Advisor, Sevalaya spoke to the students of 12th standard, impressing upon them the need to appreciate the value of the opportunities and facilities made available to them and make the best use of it and also the need to give back to the society to the best of their abilities.

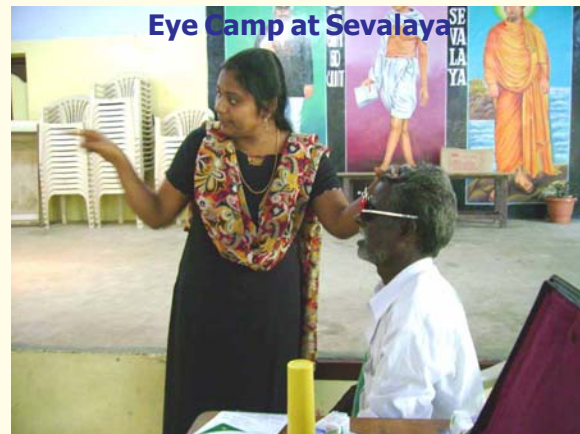
On 15/02/ 2008 a team from Queens University, Canada visited Sevalaya.

Nearly 100 students from Bala Vidya Mandir, Chennai visited Sevalaya on 16/02/2008 and interacted with the children and senior citizens.

Mr. Birendrakumar Prasad and Rakesh Ramuji Datir from All World Gayathri Pariwar, Shanthikunj, Haridwar conducted a 2 day yoga camp - from 25/02/2008 to 27/02/2008 – to the senior citizens, youth, women and children of Sevalaya and people from nearby villages.

### External Events

Mr. T.S Venkataramani, Hony. Coordinator of Sevalaya addressed the Humour Club Meeting





in Ambattur on 10/02/2008.

Sevalaya's Mobile Library visited Karalappakkam village on 22/02/2008.

On 24/02/2008, 20 students & 2 staff participated in a motivational programme, at Kamaraj Memorial Hall, Teynampet, Chennai, organised by Head Quarters Club of Exnora International and conducted by JC HGF M.Chidambaram, EXCEL GRADUATE, JCI UNIVERSITY, USA, General Secretary, Exnora International.

#### **NSS Camps**

200 students from Presidency college camped at Sevalaya campus as a part of their NSS Programme from 02/02/2008 to 11/02/2008. They undertook temple cleaning, and cleaning of the roads leading to the cremation ground in Kasuva and about 6 villages nearby. They also undertook fencing of Sevalaya compound and cleaning of the campus. They conducted competitions for Sevalaya children and presented cultural programmes.

#### **Medical Camps**

Leo club of Thiruninravur in association with Aravind Sai Eye Hospital organized a free eye camp on 24/02/2008. Nearly 450 people were benefited by this camp. Free eye surgery and spectacles were arranged.

#### **Club Activities**

On 08/02/2008 the English Club discussed about conversing in English. As a part of Science Club activity Ms. Ethal Priya explained the vascular activities in plants.

On 13/02/2008 the Tamil Club conducted Thirukkural Recitation competition to the club members. Prizes were given to the winners. On



the same day the Mathematics Club taught the members easy ways to multiply 2 digit numbers. They were given Mathematical Puzzles to be solved.

On 22/02/2008 in the Science Club, the students listened to the life history of famous scientists, Albert Einstein, Thomas Alva Edison and Sir. C.V.Raman.

Ms. D.Banu (I year student) from Presidency College, Chennai spoke to the students on the importance of learning History as a subject in the Social Science Club meet on 06/02/2008.

Mr. R.Vijayaraghavan spoke to the students on How to prepare a history album on 15/02/2008 in the Social Science Club Meet.

The Social Science Club again met on 21/02/2008 when Mr. P.Narayana Moorthi spoke to the students on "How to achieve one's ambitions?".

#### **Staff Study Circle**

Mr. J.Rajaraman spoke on the Bhagavad Gita 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter on 02/02/2008. On 09/02/2008 Ms. S.Amul spoke on The Holy Bible (Philemon). The 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Chapters of the Holy Quran was discussed by Mr. C.Aadhimuthu on 16/02/2008. Mr. K.Pazhanisamy spoke on The Holy Bible (Hebrews) on 23/02/2008.

#### **Students Study Circle**

On 23/02/2008, S. Tamizharasi of IX Std discussed the book "Achievers who created World History" written by Ms.Kamala Kandasamy.

#### **Training Programme**

Mr. M. Radhakrishnan, Development Officer, Life Insurance Corporation of India, conducted a session on "Right Brain Development" for the Staff and Students of Sevalaya on 02/02/2008.

## The fire chick that Sri Ramakrishna placed...

Swami Vivekananda sent the message, "Service to mankind alone is the service to the Lord" in the loudest and the clearest terms to the whole world. Gurubhais of Swamiji did not buy his theory and thought that he was introducing western concepts into Indian theories of Spirituality masquerading them as Sri Ramakrishna's teachings. In their view, Moksha, or Self realization alone is the goal of spirituality. And, the Master did not teach anything contradicting it. Swami put his foot down and incorporated service motive as an essential part of the Mission of Sri Ramakrishna Sangha he founded. Love of the Master Sri Ramakrishna bound all the disciples together, and all of them had enormous confidence in the leadership of Swami Vivekananda. They had abundant love for him and his views were therefore accepted in the formation of the Mission. It is because of this insistence by Swamiji, we find Sri Ramakrishna Math engaging in various welfare activities even today.

Well, where is the authority that Sri Ramakrishna spoke about service to people as essential part of spirituality? We get it from an episode narrated in Lilaprasanga quoted by the biographer Sudhir Dhar.

One day, the conversation Sri Ramakrishna had with his disciples drifted to Vaishnav religion. The Master observed, "This religion enjoins upon its followers the practice of three things—delight in the name of God, compassion for all Jivas, (living beings) and service to the devotees of Vishnu." Just as he was finishing this sentence, he passed in to Samadhi. Still in an unconscious mood, he said, as if to himself, "Jiva daya, Jiva

daya! Thou fool! An insignificant worm crawling on earth, thou to show compassion to others! No, no, it is not compassion for others, but it must be service to all creatures, recognizing that all creatures are God!"

Even though all the devotees assembled there heard these words, Swami Vivekananda (then only Narendra) alone understood their implications. He said, "What a strange light have I discovered in the wonderful words of the Master! How beautifully he has reconciled the ideal of Bhakthi with the knowledge of the Vedanta! I have understood from these words of wisdom that the ideal of the Vedanta lived by the recluses in the forests can be practiced at home and applied to all our daily concerns. It is He who has become all the different creatures-object of our love; and yet He is beyond all these. Such realization of the Divine in all the created beings and the world leaves no room for egotism. Service of man, knowing him to be the manifestation of the God, purifies the heart, and in no time such an aspirant realizes himself as part and parcel of God-existence-Knowledge-Bliss... Well, if God wills, the day will come when I shall proclaim the great Truth before the world at large-I shall make it the common property of all-the wise and the ignorant, the rich and the poor, the Brahmin and the Chandala!". Yes, that day came, and the Swamiji proclaimed this great Truth from one end of the earth to the other. Thus, the fire chick (agnikkunju) that Sri Ramakrishna placed in the young heart of Narendra turned in to a great spiritual conflagration that encompassed the whole world.

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