



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 4 Sevalaya's News Letter - March 2010 Serve 12 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

One evening, a middle aged man came to Sevalaya campus. An old lady, dressed in a torn sari had come with him. She looked pale and was almost in tears. The man told us that the lady was working as a cook in his house. She stayed with them and he was taking care of her so far. Now the lady has become old and her eye sight is not all that good. So he can't employ her anymore and hence she can't stay with his family. So he was looking for an old age home where she can be admitted. We took down the details and spoke to the lady. She also confirmed whatever the man said. Then we filled up the required forms and admitted the lady in our old age home.

After couple of months, the truth came out. The old lady is actually the mother of that man and not his cook. We found this out when the lady was casually complaining to other ladies that her son never visited her after dumping her with us. When the lady understood that I have come to know of the truth, and fearing that she will be sent out for telling lies to us at the time of admission, she came to me and literally fell at my feet and begged that we should not send her out. I was shocked at this and asked the lady to get up and stop crying and talk to me normally. She said "for all practical purposes, I was only a cook in my son's house. It is a 'lie' that I am his mother. That I was the cook is the "truth". So don't feel I have cheated you. If you send me out, where will I go? My son has not even come to see me in the last two months. He is not going to take me back in the house. He has a good earning; his wife is also working in a nice place. But they don't want me in their house, as I have become old and useless". I assured the lady that we will not send her out. We tried to locate the son, but they had moved out from their place and no one knew where they had gone.

Lions club of Padi-Shenoyanagar had organized a

beautiful program recently in the city. They had invited senior citizens from twelve old age homes in and around Chennai and actor Revathy Shankaran sang old tamil film songs and some devotional songs. The grandmas and grandpas came up with many requests for old songs to be sung and Mrs. Revathy Shankaran continuously sang all the songs that were requested for nearly two hours. All the 500 odd senior citizens enjoyed the music and some even danced. Hats off to Lions club of Padi-Shenoyanagar and Mrs. Revathy Shankaran for entertaining so many "old and useless" mothers and fathers!

"Is the tree heavy for the earth? Is a branch heavy for the tree? Is a fruit heavy for the branch? Is the kid 'heavy' for a mother?" was one of the songs requested by a grandma. Some of the grandmas were in tears when this song was sung. Where are those kids, who have thrown out these mothers, thinking that they are "unbearably heavy".

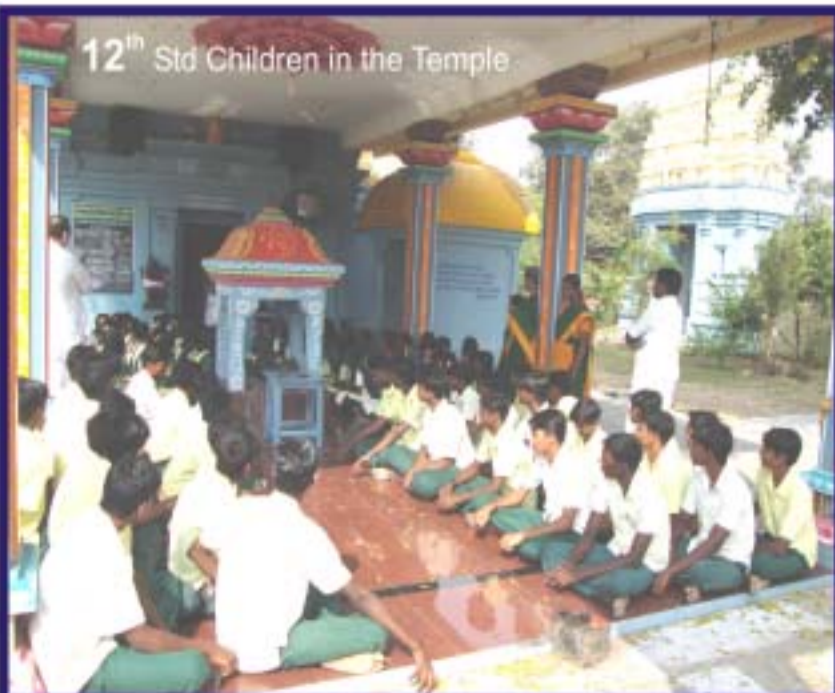
We proudly say "mother earth", "mother nation", "mother tongue" etc. Do they have any meaning, if real mothers are treated like this?

Thanks & Regards

Murali



88 children in 12th grade and 77 children in 10th grade go for public exams this March and April. We need your blessings so that all of them come out with flying colours and get top ranks.



Bharathiyar Team

Events

Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar higher secondary school got an additional recognition from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Education department, this year. The school was declared as a practical examination centre for 12th grade public examinations. In the previous years, our students had to go to another school to do the practicals. This year the exams were conducted in our school premises itself.

On 13/02/2010, Interact Club of Sevalaya - 26 students and 2 staff members - participated in the RYLA (Rotary Youth



Leadership Award) camp at Singaram Mat. Hr. Sec. School, Villivakkam.

TERI, The Energy and Resource Institute New Delhi organized a field trip to Guindy National Park, Chennai for the students of the schools which were a part of the EduXchange programme. Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Hr. Sec. School organized a screening of the Global Warming CD sent by TERI for the 7 schools which are part of its cluster on 13/02/2010. The students also discussed the various practices they would adapt to reduce their carbon footprint. During the field trip students were showed several plant species that could help reduce Global Warming. They were also helped to spot and identify various tiny insects which form an important link in the bio cycle and told about the importance of bio diversity in maintaining an environmental balance. Quiz competition was also held for the students on the same day. Mr. Ananthasayanam a well wisher of Sevalaya volunteered as a resource person for the programme and gave an introductory talk about environment.

Five students and a staff attended the 3 day Environmental Radio workshop organized by TERI, at their campus in Bangalore from 23/02/2010 to 25/02/2010.

On 24/02/2010, all the 88 children of 12th grade were taken to temples in Pakkam village for special prayers. The final public exams start on 1/3/2010.

"British Council" organized an orientation workshop for the schools for the Department for International Development grant this year to brief them about hosting and planning visits and designing and developing quality projects to ensure a smooth transition to the Global School Partnership stage. Mr. A.A.Kingston and Ms. N.Annapurna attended the workshop at the British Council Library, Chennai on 26/02/2010.

Staff Book Review

On 06/02/2010, Ms. V.Magarika spoke on "Vivekananda's Thoughts". On 13/02/2010, Mr. K.Mohan spoke on Gandhi in Tamilnadu. Swami Vivekananda's Women of India was taken up for discussion by Mr. J.Selvanayagam on 20/02/2010. On 27/02/2010, Mr. J.Lakshmanan spoke on Vivekananda's Prayer and Meditation.

Bharathi, Gandhi Vivekananda Programme in Prison

Puzhal Prison

On 02/01/2010, Mr. J.Lakshmanan, spoke to the residents of Puzhal I on "Vivekananda's Fearlessness" and

Ms. S.Sumathi to the residents of Puzhal III(Women) on Gandhi's Health. On 13/02/2010, Mr. J.Selvanayagam addressed the residents of Puzhal I on Gandhi's Health and Ms. T.Bama spoke about Vivekananda's "Mind is a Treasure of Power" to the residents of Puzhal III(Women). On 20/02/2010, Mr. P.Sundararajan, spoke to the residents of Puzhal I and Ms. P.Meenakshi to the residents of Puzhal III(Women) on Bharathi's Panchalisabatham. On 27/02/2010, Mr. M.T.Anandan, spoke to the residents of Puzhal I and Ms. S.Amulu to the residents of Puzhal III (Women) on Bharathiyar Stories.

NSS Activities

On 18/02/2010, the NSS wing of Sevalaya undertook the cleaning of the Sevalaya campus.

Gandhi Team

A free Dental Camp was organized by Lions club of Madras North West at Sevalaya on 04/02/2010. Nearly 300 students were benefitted by this camp.

Mrs. Lokambal along with members of the Aranvoyal Children's Parliament visited Sevalaya on 13/02/2010 and interacted with the high school students of Sevalaya. They conducted a mock parliament and explained how they had



initiated several development projects in their village. This could be followed by the student leaders of the hostel they said.

On 25/02/2010, a Veterinary Camp was organized by Thiruvallur Veterinary Department at Sevalaya campus for the cows at Sevalaya and cattle from the surrounding villages. Dr. Karunanidhi, In-charge of Veppampattu Veterinary Hospital and Dr. S.T.Prema examined and treated the animals. More than 240 animals from Kasuva, Ramanathapuram, Kavanoor, Puliur were treated.

On 27/02/2010, Mr. Elango from Kuthampakkam Village spoke to the students of IX and XI standard of Sevalaya about the functioning of Village Panchayat, its role and responsibility in the development of the villages.

On 27/02/2010, Sevalaya's cultural troupe "Kottu Murasu" presented a programme on Faith in God through Dramas and Songs at Puliur Kandigai.

Vivekanandar Team

Visits to Places of Worship

On 12/02/2010, hostel girls went to Ramanathapuram Vinayagar temple. On 19/02/2010, hostel boys went to Thiruninravur R.C.Church. On 21/02/2010, Old Age Home Grandmas and Grandpas went to Besant Nagar Ashtalakshmi Temple. On 26/02/2010, hostel boys went to Ramanathapuram Vinayagar temple and hostel girls went to Thiruninravur R.C.Church.

Events

On 01/02/2010, V.Muralidharan was an invitee to a

workshop on old age homes and an awareness program on the new law about taking care of senior citizens. This workshop was organized by the Social Welfare Department of Government of Tamil Nadu.

On 09/02/2010, V.Muralidharan attended a meeting organized by CSIM (Centre for Social Initiative and Management), at MOP Vaishnava college on Social accountability through social audit.

Hanumanthapuram Smt. Shyamala Gopalan, A Grade Artiste of All India Radio, Trichy and Retd. HOD In-charge of Music Department of Annamalai University presented a Classical Concert of Purandaradasar Krithis on 18/02/2010 at Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan Auditorium,



Chennai. This programme was in aid of Sevalaya. She was accompanied by Hanumanthapuram Shri. R.J.Bhuvaraghan on the Mridangam, Smt. Hemamalini Ranganathan on the violin and Shri. Raghuram on Morsing. Dr. Malathy Rangaswami, Vice-President, The Music Academy, Chennai was the Chief Guest of the programme.

On 18/02/2010, Mr. A.A.Kingston attend the session of Child Care COP (Community of Practice) programme organized by CIOSA.

On 21/02/2010, 30 grandmas and grandpas participated in a programme organized by Lions Club of Padi Shenoy Nagar for the residents of various Old Age Homes at PS High School auditorium, Chennai. Popular artiste Smt. Revathy Shankaran sang songs and entertained the elders.



On 26/02/2010, Mr. V.Muralidharan, Mr. P.Selvam and Mr. S.Senthilnathan attended a meeting organized by CSIM (Centre for Social Initiative and Management) on Nature. Issues like Global warming and organic farming were discussed.

On 28/02/2010, V. Muralidharan received an award for his services to society at the hands of Saidai. Sa.Duraisamy, Ex-MLA, on the occasion of 80th birthday of Mr. K. Mahalingam of Gandhi memorial library.



Gandhiji's Fasts V

Some times inevitable...

The first ever fast by Gandhiji for a public cause was in relation to a labour dispute of Ahmedabad mill workers. Gandhiji had to intervene in the matter on the request of labour leader, Ms. Anasuyabehn. The Mill owners' representative was Ambalal Sarabhai, a good friend of Gandhiji. In fact he had saved Satyagraha ashram in a crisis situation when it faced closure due to the cutting of its "life line" by its regular donors who were irked by Gandhiji's action in admitting an untouchable family in the ashram. Another curious aspect of the matter is that the labour leader Anasuyabehn was Ambalal's own sister. O! Those were the times, and those were the ways!

The mill owners declared a lock out on February 22, 1918. Opening the mills on March 12th they put a condition that those who accepted 20% increase alone will be admitted. This was unacceptable to the workers led by Gandhiji. Gandhiji thoroughly studied the issue and was of the view that 35% wage rise was reasonable and advised the workers to accept it. But the mill owners were adamant. In the circumstances, workers went on a strike. Gandhiji had explained to the workers the conditions of a successful strike, which included inter alia, that they should not resort to harassing the black legs or resort to violence; and they should not resume work until their terms were accepted by the mill owners, or they agreed for arbitration. The workers took a pledge to this effect...

The strike went on for 21 days. The management did not seem to relent. Workers' morale was flagging... There was a fear that there would be an outbreak of violence. It seemed that the workers may even resume work unconditionally. For Gandhiji it was inconceivable. To him a pledged word is solemn. He was undergoing mental agony. In his own words, "Was it pride or was it my love for labourers and my passionate regard for truth that was at the back of this feeling-who can say?"

He heard a voice from among the workers, "It is all right for Gandhiji to

lecture us to fight unto death. But we have to starve." At the very moment, as if his Inner Voice was dictating, Gandhiji announced, "Let us both starve in trying to keep our vows....unless the strikers rally and continue the strike till a settlement is reached or leave the mills altogether, I will not take any food." Anasuyabehn was in tears and the laborers were thunderstruck. They begged forgiveness for their lapse and assured they will remain steadfast to their pledge and offered that they would fast instead. Gandhiji advised them that they need not fast and it was enough that they stuck to their pledge. He also arranged for employment of the laborers in construction work in the ashram. It was a refreshing sight to see Anasuyabehn leading the laborers, carrying a basket full of sand over her head. The workers were infused with a new strength.

The net result was that an atmosphere of good will was created all round. The mill owners agreed to refer the matter to arbitration. Gandhiji broke his fast which lasted for three days from March 15, 1918.

How does Gandhiji view this fast? He says, "My fast was not free from a grave defect. I enjoyed very close and cordial relations with the mill-owners, and my fast could not but affect their decision. As a Satyagrahi I knew that I might not fast against them, but leave them free to be influenced by mill-hands' strike alone. My fast was undertaken not on account of lapse of the mill-owners, but on account of that of the laborers in which, as their representative I felt, I had a share. To fast against them would amount to coercion. Yet I could not help it. The duty to undertake it seemed to me to be clear."

Axiom: One can fast for his own lapses and those of his followers. To fast against an opponent to influence his decision would be coercion. Some times, it is inevitable, when the duty beckons that one should fast for his/followers' lapses.

SPONSORSHIP DETAILS

SPONSORSHIP	CHILDREN HOME		OLD AGE HOME		Other Sponsorship	Contribution(Rs)	Endowments(Rs)
	Contribution(Rs)	Endowments(Rs)	Contribution(Rs)	Endowments(Rs)			
FOOD					Residential Expenses for one Child/one child/one Grandpa/year	6000	80000
Milk(One Time)	500	7000	200	3200	Maintenance of One Cow/year	6000	80000
Breakfast(one day)	1000	14000	500	7000	Education Expenses for one Child/year	6000	80000
Lunch/Dinner	2000	28000	1000	14000	Salary for one staff per month	5000	850000
Lunch/Dinner with sweet or fruit	2500	35000	1250	20000	Funeral Expenses for one Grandpa/one Grandma	5000	70000
Full day food Expenses	3500	60000	2000	28000	Cultural Expenses for one child/one Grandpa/one Grandma	1000	14000
Full day food Expenses with sweet or fruit	5000	70000	3000	42000	Medical Expenses for one child/one Grandpa/one Grandma	500	7000
					Camps and Taus/Temple Visit for one child/one Grandpa/one Grandma	500	7000
					Sports Expenses for one child per year	500	7000
					Educational Aids	1000	14000
					Educational Kits	1000	14000
					Higher Education	20000	300000
					Professional Higher Education	50000	700000
					Workshop/training for one Staff	2000	28000



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