



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 7 Sevalaya's News Letter - May 2012 Serve 2 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

Nearly seventeen years ago, one evening, the station master at the Thiruvallur railway station found a small girl – about 4 or 5 years old, standing alone in one corner of the railway platform. She looked totally lost and was crying aloud. The last local train had already left the station and the express trains in the night are not going to stop there. So who is she waiting for? Where are her parents? The station master went closer to the girl and started talking to her. "Where are you from?", "where is your mother?", "where do you want to go?" – The only answer was loud crying – the girl started crying louder and louder for each question. The station master started waving the red flag as if the girl will stop crying after seeing the flag! As he could not proceed any further, he finally called the local police and handed over the girl.

The police also tried their best to get some information from the girl, but the girl continuously cried and was not giving any information. Police tried for few hours and as no information was forthcoming and they didn't want to keep the girl inside the police station for a long time, they called Sevalaya. Staff from Sevalaya reached late in the night and after signing relevant papers, took custody of the girl and brought her to the girls' hostel. When the girl saw many other girls of her age group, she slowly stopped crying and started playing with other children. After couple of days, Sevalaya published an advertisement in local news papers with the photo of the girl. Couple of people came the following day claiming that the girl was theirs, but after careful enquiry, it was found out that their claim was fake. The child also didn't recognize any of them. Then slowly the police and Sevalaya gave up searching for the parents of the little girl – like in many cases, Sevalaya became the parent of the girl and she started attending the school in Sevalaya campus.

This girl named Selvi, completed her 12th grade in the school and after that, was put on a nursing assistant course. She completed that also and took up a job as assistant nurse. Later she wanted to come back to Sevalaya campus and we took her back and wanted to search for a nurse job for her in some city hospital.

Meanwhile there were people coming and asking if their family will get a suitable girl to be married to their son. One such family – family of Vijay Senthil who works as a software engineer – came forward to accept Selvi in their family and Selvi and the boy met and they liked each other. After this we visited their house, met their relatives and then finalized the marriage. The marriage will take place in Sevalaya campus on 23rd May, 10:30 AM to 12 noon. Tamil Nadu's Social welfare Minister, Environment Minister, the MP, MLA, Chairperson of Thiruvallur district and many other local leaders will be attending the wedding.

The invitation is attached below. Please come and bless the young couple. Sevalaya's donors have to play the role of the relatives of the bride.

Thanks & Regards

Murali



Sevalaya Muralidharan gets Puthiya Thalaimurai Thamizhan Promising Star Award from film star Mr. Surya

SEVALAYA FAMILY

cordially solicits your gracious presence with family and friends on the occasion of the Marriage of

Selvi. **D.SELVI**, D.H.A

D/o Sevalaya

with

Selvan. **A.VIJAYASENTHIL**, B.E.,

S/o Late Mr. K.Aruchunalingam M.A., M.Ed., & Mrs. A.Chandra M.A., M.Ed.,

on Wednesday the 23rd May 2012.,
between 10-30 a.m. to 12-00 a.m.
at Sevalaya

Kasuva, Thiruvallur Dt.

Annual Strategy Meet

The Annual Strategy Meeting of Sevalaya commenced on 27/04/2012. The activities of all the Units of Sevalaya for the year 2011-2012 were reviewed. Goals and targets for the units and for the organisation based on the inputs from the beneficiaries and staff, for the year 2012-2013 were fixed. Trustees, Unit Heads and Second line leaders participated in the meeting.

Public Relations

Mr. V.Muralidharan was one of the speakers at Credibility Alliance Assessors Meeting on 04/04/2012.

On 22/04/2012, Northern Tamil Association (NTA) of UK organized a cultural event at New Year Celebrations at Sheffield City Hall, Sheffield (UK) in aid of charities. Famous Tamil singer Ms. Chinmayi along with her group of musicians presented a musical nite. Sevalaya was one of the beneficiaries for this year. Sevalaya's UK based Trustee Manu Kapila attended the event on behalf of Sevalaya and received donations handed over by Dr. Arutchelvam (President, NTA).

Sevalaya Muralidharan was awarded the Puthiya Thalaimurai Thamizhan Promising Star Award at a grand ceremony at Chennai Trade Centre on 06/04/2012. He received the award at the hands of film star Mr. Surya.

Sevalaya student M.S.Sarathkumar was shortlisted as one of the top twenty winners from among 500 applicants across nation for Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards. Noted film actress and theatre personality, Ms. Shabana Azmi presented a silver medallion and a certificate of merit in the Awards Ceremony at The Park Hotel at New Delhi on 04/04/2011, for his efforts in promoting Organic farming.

Gandhi Team

Medical Camps

Dr. Malavika of Sundar Chemicals has launched an awareness programme on anaemia in the villages surrounding Kasuva. As a part of this campaign 3 medical camps have been organised so far.

On 1/4/2012 & 8/4/2012, Dr. Malavika addressed the villagers of Vathattur and Appakulam villages about anaemia. 109 members from 100 families participated in the programme. Blood tests were conducted for women, girls and children above 5 years.



On 15/4/2012, the camp was held in Magaral village in which 85 members from 102 families participated in the blood test camp. Women, girls and children above 5 years were also tested. Nutrient enriched salt and Albendazole tablets were also distributed to all the families in the villages.

Kottu Murasu

The Kottu murasu cultural troupe of Sevalaya visited Perathur village on 22/04/2012 and as a part of the awareness campaign on Health and Hygiene, it focused on the importance of rain water harvesting and the prevalence of water borne diseases. About 65 members attended the programme.

Mobile Library

The mobile library visited Thamaraiyakkam on 28/04/2012 and 50 villagers utilized the service.

Bharathi Team

Events

Easter was celebrated on 07/04/2012. Ms. Rani Thomas (Editor, 'Roobavathiye' Magazine) kept the audience enthralled with stories from Bible and advised the children to aim high in life.

Mahaveer Jayanthi was celebrated on 08/04/2012. The Managing Director of Asia Engineering Pvt. Ltd. Mr. M.K.Jain spoke briefly about the Prince who left home at the age of 30 in search of truth and who is now worshipped as Bhagwan Mahaveer and about the life style of Jain community which follow the Bhagwan's teachings. Notebooks, Pens and Sweets were distributed to students.



On 18/04/2012, members of AXA UK team visited Sevalaya.

On 22/04/2012, free summer courses (Computer and Spoken English) for village youth was inaugurated by Mr. H.R.Mohan (Associate Vice President, The Hindu). He lauded the management for their services and hoped that the students would make full use of this opportunity to acquire valuable skills.

Staff Book Review

On 14/04/2012, Mr. Lakshmanan spoke about the book "Management Tips on Success" (Tamil), written by Mr. J.V.Rao. On 21/04/2012, Ms. Rajeswari shared her views on the book "How to achieve the Unachievable?" (Tamil) by Lena Tamilvanan and on 28/04/2012, Ms. T.Veeralakshmi spoke about the book "How to become a Public Speaker?".

32 students of standard XI, who were the toppers of the book reading competition conducted by Associates of Tata Consultancy Services, Mr. Prem Babu and friends, were taken on a tour to Mahabalipuram on 15/04/2012.



Vivekananda Team

Tour

38 hostel students accompanied by 2 staff members went to Tirupathi on a trip organized by Rajasthan Youth Metro's Chennai Food Bank as part of their silver jubilee celebrations on 10/04/2012.



Events

On 01/04/2012, NSS students from IIT, Chennai came to Sevalaya Campus and taught some scientific experiments in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics for our high school students. Ms. Santha, Retd. Teacher of DRBCC Higher Secondary School, Thiruvallur invited the residents of old age home for her retirement function on 03/04/2012. Mr. V.Muralidharan also participated in the function and felicitated Ms. Santha.

The onset of Tamil New Year was celebrated on 13/04/2012 with traditional festivity and gaiety. Mr. G.D.Rajasekaran (President, Koyambedu Periyar Vegetable Merchants Association, Koyambedu, Chennai) greeted the children advised them to work hard to achieve their goals.

On 13/04/2012, 35 students from Chinmaya Vidyalaya Senior Secondary School, Anna Nagar, Chennai visited Sevalaya for Tamil New Year celebrations and planted fruit tree saplings in Old Age Home Campus.

Visit to places of worship

The hostel boys were taken to Perumal Temple on 13/04/2012 and to Thiruninravur Church on 27/04/2012. The girls were taken to Vinayakar Temple on 20/04/2012.



THE NEXT DOOR HARISCHANDRA

We know that Gandhiji was influenced by the story of Harischandra in his early childhood. What was it in the story that made a lasting impression in his mind? The king's steadfastness to Truth. The story in brief is this: Harischandra had offered certain treasure to the Sage Vishwamitra. He asked the king to keep it with him and said that he would collect it later. In the meantime things turned out that the Sage got gifted the entire kingdom. Having got possession of the kingdom, he now claimed the old treasure that was left with the king. The point that the kingdom gifted included the treasure earlier gifted and kept in trust was of no avail with the Sage..He was offered the temptation to say that he had never made any promise to the Sage. Harischandra refused to go back on his word, and the result was he had to undergo untold sufferings and torture, including selling off his wife and child and serving as an undertaker. Is Harischandra relevant in these days, when V.I.Ps easily escape the consequences of the word uttered by them by simply saying " I have been misquoted." Or "I have been quoted out of context."?

Gandhiji was firmly of the view that "a man who deliberately takes a pledge and breaks it forfeits his manhood. He is guilty before man and God. Just as a copper coin treated with mercury becomes valueless when detected but makes its owner liable to punishment, in the same way a man who lightly pledges his word and then breaks it becomes a man of straw and fits himself for punishment here as well as hereafter." Holding firmly on to the pledged word has been the guiding principle throughout his life in his experiment with Truth. There are several instances to illustrate this.

Gandhiji entered into an agreement with General Smuts in South Africa, that if the latter would agree to withdraw the Black Law on Compulsory registration by Indians, he would agree for voluntary registration. This was resented by a few Indians there, and he was even accused of selling out after receiving a bribe. Gandhiji and the majority of his followers agreed with his stand. Gandhiji vowed that he would be the

first person to register come what may. On the appointed day, he was fiercely attacked. He was badly mauled, and his lips and cheeks were lacerated. "What is the hurry about it, when you are so badly hurt?" asked the registrar. Gandhiji's reply was classic. He said, "I have pledged to take out the first certificate if I am alive and if it is acceptable to God. It is therefore that I insist that the papers being brought here and now." The registrar's eyes were moist with tears.

If this is in the earlier part of his life, there is an episode almost near the end of his life. India had promised Rs.55 Lakhs to Pakistan as part of a financial settlement at the time of partition. Those in power in the Indian Government, for reasons considered very valid by them, decided to refuse the payment. Gandhiji's advice for a contrary decision was not heeded. Gandhiji undertook an indefinite fast on this and related issues. This caused much consternation in the minds of those in the seat of Power. Ultimately they had to yield. Gandhiji became unpopular with a section of the Hindus. He paid for this with his life.

Is such an adherence to Truth possible in to-day's context?

Here is a Newspaper story. He is a Lottery vendor. A customer comes to him and chooses a particular ticket. As he does not have the money, he leaves it with the vendor saying that he would collect it the next day, after paying the money. The next day, it turns out that the ticket has won a prize of Rs.One Crore. The purchase money had not been paid. The vendor could have easily denied the entire transaction. Or, he could have taken a legalistic stand that the “consideration” amount has not been paid. But what he did was, to yield the entire prize money of Rs.One Crore to the “purchaser” only collecting the ticket-price!

No doubt Gandhiji and Harischandra are still living amidst us.

SPONSORSHIP DETAILS

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

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