



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 6

Sevalaya's News Letter - November 2011 Serve 8 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

Long ago when Andal who was born in Srivilliputhur, wanted to marry Lord Krishna, she got full cooperation from her father, as he was also a Vishnu devotee. Perialwar, father of Andal is also one of the twelve alwars who sang in praise of Lord Vishnu. He took his daughter to Srirangam and as the story goes, she became one with Lord.

If there is an Andal in this age, what will happen to her? Yes, there is one person like this, but sadly she didn't have Perialwar for support. This new Andal is Mangammal, who is also totally devoted to Vishnu and thinks, speaks and wants to live only with Vishnu. Her idea was not appreciated by her family members and she was forced into a marriage with someone in Sriperumbudhur, incidentally the birth place of saint Ramanuja. But Mangammal was never interested in such a family life and she kept going to temples and singing Pasurams (devotional songs) composed by Andal and other alwars day and night. The family members both in her house and in her in-law's house thought she was a lunatic. For her also, living in such a family and house was like hell. So one day she decided to quit the house and just walked out. She reached North Madras and one bhajan sabha gave her place to stay. She was living there, leading her life the way she wanted, visiting many of the 108 divya desams, (some of them you can't visit or you can't come back after visiting as they are not in this world!), spending all her time singing, talking only about Lord Vishnu.

After 25 years she had to leave that place as the person who ran the Sabha passed away. By then she had also become old (87 years) and suddenly she had nowhere to go! One of Sevalaya's donors came to know of her and brought her to Sevalaya two years ago.



Now she is not able to move out much, but keeps singing in Sevalaya's old age home the Pasurams of Andal and other alwars and talking to other grandmas only about Lord Vishnu!

I met her on Diwali day and she started singing "Pallandu, Pallandu" long live, long live with all the wealth and glory and enough strength to continue the good work. She said that her blessings are coming directly from her heart and then started singing Andal pasurams.

Very difficult to believe that someone like Andal lived many hundred years ago, but now we have a living Andal in our midst! I requested Mangammal to sing one Andal Pasuram every day and explain the meaning to our kids and other senior citizens during the month of Markazhi (December 15th to January 14th). Such "Thiruppavai" programs used to happen in every village some years ago, but now slowly such programs have come down. We can revive this in Sevalaya, as we have a living Andal there!

Hope you will be able to join on someday at least! Come and meet "Andal" Mangammal.

Thanks & Regards

Murali



Mr. J. Prabhakar of Ennangalin Sangamam at Gandhi Jayanthi celebrations



Mr. Ajay Makan, Central Minister of State for Youth Welfare presents Award to Sevalaya

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mr. V.Muralidharan was the Chief Guest for Gandhi Jayanthi celebrations on 10/10/2011 at Angel Matriculation Higher secondary school, Thiruninravur.

Mr. V.Muralidharan and Ms. Diana Lenin, Public Relations Manager, made a presentation on Sevalaya at Balmer Lawrie & Co Ltd, Chennai on 11/10/2011.

Mr. V.Muralidharan, Mr. A.A.Kingston and Mr. Natanasabapathy of Sevalaya visited the Goshala at Sri Vittal Rukmini Samsthan, Govindapuram on 15/10/2011.

Mr. T.S.Venkataramani attended the meeting of Lions Club of Madras Host on 15/10/2011.

Mr. V.Muralidharan inaugurated the Puthiathalaimurai tuition centre at Thodivasali village, near Tirupati on 25/10/2011.

Sevalaya was selected for Inspired by Swami Vivekananda Award. The Award for selfless social work inspired by Swami Vivekananda was instituted by Ramakrishna Mission, New Delhi as a part of the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Swami Vivekananda. Mr. V. Muralidharan, Founder & Managing Trustee, Sevalaya and Mr. A.A. Kingston, Head of Vivekananda Unit of Sevalaya received the Award at the hands of Mr. Ajay Makan, Central Minister of State for Youth Welfare (independent charge) at Ramakrishna Mission, New Delhi on 23/10/2011.

BHARATHIYAR TEAM

Events

The valedictory function of the international art camp for underprivileged rural children was held on 01/10/2011. An exhibition of the art items created in the camp was also held. The weeklong camp was conducted by The Children's Art Village, California, USA. Ms. Lakshmi Venkatraman (Gallery Sri Parvati, Chennai), the chief guest, went through the various exhibits at the camp.

Saraswathi Pooja was celebrated on 04/10/2011. Mr. Raman, Manager, Indian Bank, Thiruninravur was the chief guest on the occasion.

On 12/10/2011 Drawing, Oratorical, Quiz competitions were conducted for selected students of 6th to 9th & 11th standard by the publicity officer, forestry extension centre Poondi.

On 14/10/2011 Gandhi Jayanthi was celebrated at Sevalaya. The chief guest Mr. J. Prabhakar of Ennangalin Sangamam gave away the prize to the top rankers of the state-wide Gandhi examination conducted by Sevalaya in which 12500 students from all over Tamilnadu participated.

On 18/10/2011 Diwali celebrations commenced at Sevalaya. Mr. Prasanna of CIOSA was the chief guest at the function. 1560 Orphan & destitute children and senior citizens of Sevalaya were given new clothes for Diwali.

State Level Exams on the Life and Teachings of Bharathiyar was conducted on 20/10/2011.



Joy of Giving Week at Sevalaya

Ebay offered stall space for Sevalaya to reach out to their employees on 04/10/2011. Nearly 30 to 40 members visited the stall and made contributions.

The Courtyard Marriot hotel on Anna Salai invited Sevalaya's old age home residents for a film show on 05/10/2011. The 30 senior citizens were received by Mr.Karan, GM of the hotel and Mr.Satish, HR Manager. They were taken to the conference hall, where an old tamil movie "Karnan" was shown. This was the choice of the grandpas and grandmas. They were all served with hot idlies and pongal. The film went on for three and half hours and the entire staff came out to see the visitors off.

On 07/10/2011, 8 Volunteers from "Kelsa Solutions" co ordinated by Ms. Devika Dharmaraj spent a day at Sevalaya's Service Centre volunteering their services in various forms like taking classes for students of X & XII, cleaning the Old Age Home premises and interacting and bringing cheer to residents of Sevalaya's Old Age Home.

On 08/10/2011, Samudhaaya foundation of Padmasri Sudha Raghunathan, popular Classical singer, organized a lecture demo on Carnatic music at Sevalaya service centre. Vocalist Ms. Amritha Murali presented many popular krithis and explained the basics of Carnatic music and the structure of a classical music concert. She was accompanied by Ms. Ranjani Ramakrishnan on violin and Mr. Thanjavur Pravinkumar on mridangam. A quiz programme was conducted at the end of the session and the students enthusiastically answered the questions.

On the same day Sevalaya students participated in several games conducted by Associates from Tata Consultancy Services(TCS). Prizes were distributed to the winners at the end of the events. TCS Associates also sponsored lunch on that day and presented a cheque for Rs one lakh for Sevalaya's Diwali celebrations. The event was coordinated by Mr. Prembabu of TCS.

Pattabiram Anna Nagar Auto stand association did "annadhanam" for the children of Sevalaya Home. They also donated 10 bags of rice.

On 08/10/2011 Dr. Rajeev Roy, ENT specialist checked our Old Age Home residents and arranged free medicines for them. On 21/10/2011 Audiometry test was conducted for the senior citizens.

Training Program and field Visit

25 students from XI Std visited Shaastra 2011, the annual technical festival of IIT Madras on 01/10/2011 and 02/10/2011. The children watched with interest the 3D animation show, junk yard war, robotic car race and Air show.

On 12/10/2011, Science teachers S. Mariyammal, G. Jothi and S. Jayaseeli attended a training programme on how to conduct Science Practicals for 10th standard students at Immaculate Heart of Mary's Girls Higher Secondary School at Avadi organized by District Educational Officer, Thiruvallur.

On 15/10/2011 six English teachers from Sevalaya - C.Adimuthu, D.Priya, S.Binoy, E. Aadambasha, S. Anantharajan and V. Jeevanandan - observed English classes at SBOA Matriculation Higher Secondary School at Annanagar.

Mr. Raman, Manager, Indian Bank, Thiruninravur at Saraswathi Pooja celebrations



On 22/10/2011 Yoga classes were conducted for ninth and eleventh standard students by Yoga Masters from Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram.

Two teachers from Sevalaya V. Jeevanandan & J. Lakshmanan attended a training programme on child Psychology development conducted by 'Kuruville Jacob Memorial Educational Trust' for three days from 20/10/2011 to 21/10/2011.

Two teachers from Sevalaya E. Aadambasha & S. Anantharajan attended a training on adopting activity oriented methods for teaching English for classes, VII and VIII under the Uniform system of School education from 20/10/2011 to 21/10/2011 at Kamarajar Girls Hr. Sec.School Ambattur. The training was organized by the Department of School Education.

On 18/10/2011 students of classes VI to XII participated in the Exam on Swami Vivekananda conducted by Sri Ramakrishna Mutt in commemoration of Vivekananda Jayanthi.

Staff Book Review

ON 01/10/2011 A.Raj shared his views on the book on "How Man evolves" (Tamil) by J.Krishnamoorthy. On 15/10/2011 S. Sumathi spoke on the book on "Word, Mind and Thought" (Tamil) by Amara. On 22/10/2011 S.Sangeetha shared her views on the book on "Thoughts that Elevate us" (Tamil) by J.Krishnamoorthy

School Clubs

On 12/10/2011, 25 students participated in Oratorical, Essay, Quiz competitions conducted by Tamil Club. On 14/10/2011, 25 students participated in a word game conducted by English club. The students were asked to identify the various derivatives of a given word and frame their own sentence using the derivatives. On 14/10/2011, various salts were introduced to the students in the science club. Various experiments were also conducted using the salts. On 14/10/2011, 20 Students from Karuna Club cleaned the goshala. They also planted tree saplings. On 14/10/2011, 25 students participated in maths club. Mr. R.Neduncheziyan taught simple ways to solve problems in algebra. On 21/10/2011, in the Red Ribbon Club meeting, Ms. Vijaya & Ms. Nirmala spoke to the students on Personal Hygiene and problem solving approach.

NSS

On 12/10/2011, 20 NSS students cleaned the areas near the kitchen. On 14/10/2011, 20 NSS students cleaned the area around the Thamaripakkam Siva temple. On 19/10/2011 NSS students cleaned the area around Sevalaya Campus.

On 22/10/2011 NSS Students from IIT Madras conducted English class for XII Std students.

Tours

On 13/10/2011 students of XII Std were taken to Guindy National Park.

GANDHI TEAM

On 14/10/2011, Saraswathi Pooja was celebrated in Uthiramerur Unit of Sevalaya. Nearly 50 villagers participated in it.

Ms.Amritha Murali presenting a lecture demo on carnatic music



On 24/10/2011 Mr. S.P. Kalyanaraman, Expert in Organic farming visited Sevalaya's organic farm and provided guidance for better practice/implementation of Organic farming

Mobile library

The Mobile library visited Kakkakandigai village on 16/10/2011. 25 readers were benefited

VIVEKANANDA TEAM

Events

on 15/10/2011 30 students from Childrens' Home participated in the Diwali Celebrations Organized by Innerwheel Club District 323.at Dr. MGR Janaki college of Arts & science for women, Chennai. Sevalaya children were the guests of Inner wheel Club of Madras North.

On 22/10/2011, Lions club of Madras East donated buckets and mugs for the residents of Old Age Home. Lions club of Padi donated new clothes for Diwali for the senior citizens at Chennai on 22/10/2011.

The campus was alive with light and sound on the eve of Diwali on 25/10/2011 as the children fired crackers and lighted fireworks. Diwali was celebrated with joy and enthusiasm by the children and senior citizens alike on 26/10/2011. In the traditional way, all of them had oil bath early in the morning and wore new clothes. After Prayers and a special breakfast the children resumed firing crackers. Mr. Vaseegaran from The Art of Living entertained the residents with a lively Bhajan Programme in which some children also sang Bhajans. The residents then had a festive lunch.

Student's book review

ON 01/10/2011 Dhanalakshmi of XII std spoke on "Vivekanandar's Story"

Training

On 29/10/2011, Mr. Raj, Physical Education teacher gave training on "First Aid", to the residents of the Childrens' Home.

Visit to places of worship

The children were taken to Vinayagar Temple at Kasuva Village on 03/10/2011 and at Ramanathapuram village on 24/10/2011. On the eve of Diwali on 25/10/2011, the children were taken to Shiva Temple and Hanuman temple at Pakkam.

Mr. Prasanna of CIOSA at Diwali celebrations



HCL Associates celebrating Diwali at Sevalaya



Give all that you have!

You must have seen this quote from Swami Vivekananda in Sevalaya envelopes:

"The first of everything goes to the poor; we have right only to what remains."

Swamiji does not believe in the dictum, "Charity begins at home." For him, "sacrifice means sacrifice of something you possess. A man who has everything in his possession, and is yet indifferent to them is only a detached soul." His advice is to 'hold your money merely as custodian for what is God's' and to have no attachment.

The itch to give was congenital in him. When Swamiji was child Naren, a monk came to his house and asked for alms. All that Naren had was a hand-embroidered dhoti wrapped round his waist. It was his first garment marking his passage from infancy. But he straightaway gave it to the sadhu. When asked what happened to it he replied as a matter of fact, "The sadhu asked for alms and I gave it to him!" After this incident, strict vigil was kept on him whenever any sadhu passed by, and he was locked up in a room. But this did not deter him from throwing out of the window anything that was available, to the passing sadhu!

This irresistible urge to give was manifest in him in later years too. There are a few delectable anecdotes.

Swamiji was having a solid gold chain around his neck which was attached to a gold watch. A young man who was conversing with him, impulsively touched it and remarked, "It is beautiful!" Immediately Swamiji removed the chain and watch from his neck, and put it in the youth's hands. The youth could not understand whether Swamiji was really giving it to him or it was a joke.

Swamiji reassured him, "You like it. It is therefore yours. But my boy! Do not sell it! Keep it with you as a souvenir!"

When the servant of a friend looked wistfully at the Hookah Swamiji was holding, he asked him, "Would you like to have it?" The servant was fumbling being unable to answer this unexpected question. But without waiting for his answer, Swamiji simply handed it over to him! That was a hookah Swamiji was holding as a prized possession as it was gifted to him by the Maharaja of Mysore!

In America when a young Mr. Prince Woods coveted the staff that Swamiji was using when he was a wandering monk and had brought with him to America, and prized it for its sacred associations, Swamiji without hesitation gave it to him saying, "What you admire is always yours!"

This one happened when Swamiji was wandering in the Himalayas. He saw an old monk suffering from extreme cold. Swamiji was passing by and saw his plight. At once he took off the only blanket that he had to cover himself with and put it over the monk. The latter looked up and with a smile indicating gratitude said, "May Narayana Bless You!"

Finally a funny one... This happened when he was taking Vedanta classes for a few selected disciples at the Thousand Island Park in America. During a week-end he attended a Sunday service at a Church nearby. The preacher finished his sermon with these concluding words, "Give all that you have for the sake of Jesus Christ!" Then a plate was passed around for contributions. When it came to Swamiji, he put his hand inside the pocket, removed everything in it to the last Dollar, and put it in the plate! To the amazed disciples who questioned him about this, "He asked us to give all that we have!" was the reply of the innocent faced Swamiji!



SPONSORSHIP DETAILS

SPONSORSHIP	CHILDREN HOME		OLD AGE HOME		Other Sponsorship	Contribution(Rs)	Endowments(Rs)
FOOD	Contribution(Rs)	Endowment(Rs)	Contribution(Rs)	Endowment(Rs)	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
Fullday food Expenses	3500	50000	2000	28000	Cultural Expenses for one child/one Grandpa/one Grandma	1000	14000
Fullday food Expenses with sweet or fruit	5000	70000	3000	42000	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



English class by NSS student from IIT Madras

At the forestry extension center, Poondi



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