



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 1 **Sevalaya's News Letter - September 2006** Serve 6 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

I read in some magazine the following joke. A child is asking another child "If you have only five cakes and you need to distribute it to six children, how will you do it?". The second child very quickly answers "very simple, kill one child!". Killing, violence, war, bombs have become common words to be used in a child's vocabulary now-a-days.

There were some reports in the press that a school was bombed in Sri Lanka and 61 children were killed. The Sri Lankan government has denied this report stating that the rebel groups are using such places as their training camp and children are getting military training. In the escalation of violence in Middle East, we kept seeing photographs after photographs depicting buildings razed to ground and bodies of children being pulled out from under the rubbish. Some photos also showed children throwing stones, carrying weapons, crying near the dead bodies of their relatives and friends. The scene from Iraq, where suicide bombing has become a daily affair, is no different.

War is nothing new in this world. In fact the history is just war after war after war. The famous epics of India, Ramayana and Mahabharatha, also describe long drawn wars, between the good and the evil. In those days, they had battle fields outside the main city and residential areas. Only the designated people will go there to fight. They had strict rules like, no war after sun set etc. No photos taken, no TV and newspaper coverage. Only to the king

Dhridhrashtra, in Mahabharatha, a running commentary of the war was given, only because he was blind, he could not see what was going on, and, as he was the king, he had to know the progress of the war.

Today the science has advanced so much, that we don't need such battle fields, outside the city. We have made the entire world as battle field. Train or bus or airplanes or car, are all battle fields. We are so advanced that we don't have to kill our enemies one by one, we can wipe out the entire city with dropping of few bombs. Whichever part of the world, the battle takes place; we can get instant pictures of people dying, on TV, internet and in newspapers. And all this can be viewed by children too, what more; they can also carry arms, take part in the war!

We have laws all over the world to prevent child labour. The world is not able to tolerate the sight of children carrying loads of bricks or sand on their head. (It is another matter that we tolerate the children carrying loads of books and notebooks!) How can we tolerate children carrying arms, or children getting bombed? Is it possible to have a law to ban children coming in to any form of contact with violence, including viewing the horrifying photos of death and blood shed?

The elders of the world have gone crazy over issues like land, language, religion, caste etc. If we some how spare the children from this, only then the world can have a future.

Thanks & Regards
Murali

Science Exhibition - Inauguration



Events at Campus

Singhvi Charitable Trust conducted a Free Eye and Dental camp on 06/08/06. Nearly 500 people attended the camp. 50 people were referred for free eye surgery to Porur Ramachandra Hospital. The doctors made a follow up visit for post operative review on 24/08/2006. 300 pairs of free spectacles were distributed.

The Annual 3 day Science Exhibition was held from 10/08/06 to 12/08/06. The theme of this year's exhibition was Environment. Stalls depicting various types of pollution such as air, water etc, the evil effects of pollution on earth and ways to save the earth were on display. The exhibition was inaugurated on 10/08/2006 by Ms. P.Selvakumari, District Educational Officer, Thiruvallur District. Mr. E.A.P.Sivaji, Member of the Tamilnadu Legislative Assembly and Mr. A.Krishnaswami, Member of Parliament were the Chief Guests for the Valedictory function on 12/08/2006.

60th Independence Day was celebrated on 15/08/2006 with much enthusiasm. Our National



Eye camp by Singhvi Trust

Science Exhibition - Valedictory



Flag was hoisted by Ym. N.Rajkumar, District Governor, Y's Men International, Madras District. Members of the Y's Men Club of Anna Nagar, Y's Menettes and Y's Lings Club participated in the celebrations. A Blood Donation Camp was organised by the Old Students Association of Sevalaya.

'Soar high on your wings' – You can do it was the message conveyed at the personality training program conducted by Delphi TVS on 26/08/2006. Delphi TVS - Diesel systems Ltd.'s Training Manager Mr. R.Rajan, Officer in training department Mr. E.Kripashankar and officer HR Mr. K.Manikandan- conducted the training for students of Standard 10th, 11th and 12th. It was followed by a cultural program. Delphi TVS group presented gifts to the toppers of the X std Board Exams and the students who presented the Cultural Programme. They also interacted with the residents of the Old Age Home.

Vinayaga Chaturthi was celebrated on 27/08/2006. Students from MGR Janaki College, Chennai and Gurunanak College, Chennai participated in the celebrations.



Independence Day



Visitors from Delphi - TVS

NSS camps

Students of Mahalakshmi College camped for 10 days at Sevalaya from 08/08/2006. They were engaged in campus cleaning and village temple cleaning activities. They interacted with the residents of Sevalaya's Children's Home and Old Age Home.

20 students studying in various disciplines at John Hopkins University, USA landed at the campus for a 10 day camp from 24/08/2006. Spreading awareness about AIDS will be one of the projects of this group.

On 25/08/2006, the Gandhi Group of NSS students visited Ramanathapuram and were engaged in temple cleaning activities.

School clubs

The Social Science Club met on 17/08/2006. Students of Mahalakshmi College explained about the importance of history. The Science Club met on 25/08/2006. Students discussed about Blood Cells & preparation of NaOH.

Sports

The District Sports Officer conducted a Sports event for all the schools in Thiruvallur District on 19/08/06 at TI School, Ambattur. A.Tamil Selvi won the first Prize in Shotput, Baby won the second prize in 100 mts running and Azhagiri won 3rd place in 300 mts running.

The Zonal Level Throw Ball Tournament for Girls was held on 08/08/2006 and Sevalaya senior team were the Zonal winners. The Zonal Level Kho-Kho Tournament for Girls was held on 04/08/2006 and Sevalaya senior team were the Zonal winners.



Volunteers from John Hopkins University

On 26/08/2006 in Table Tennis, Singles - P.Srinivasan was the District winner in the super senior category. In the senior category R.Lugesh was the District winner. In Doubles - P.Srinivasan and E.Karthick were the District runners up in the super senior category. In the senior category R.Lugesh and U.Ganapathiram were the District runners up. At the same day, in the senior category Road Cycling race S.Prakash got the 3rd prize. In the Athletics Meet in Zonal level, M.Bharathi got 2nd prize in Shot-put and K.Chitra got 2nd prize in 400m running on 28/08/2006.

Study Circle

Mr. G.Palanisamy spoke about "Gandhi in Tamilnadu" on 19/08/2006. Vivekananda's Gnana Deepam – Volume IX was Mr. R.Vijaya Ragavan's choice for the study circle meeting on 26/08/2006.

Students Study circle

R.Janani of XII Standard reviewed the book "Great Personalities to be Remembered" (Tamil) by Mr.Kalaimamani, on 05/08/2006. M.Ranjani of IX Std spoke about the life of Bharathiyar (Tamil) based on the book written by Va.Ra. on 19/08/2006. B.Silambarasan of XII Std spoke about the book "My Experiments with Truth" (Tamil) by Gandhi on 26/08/2006.

Training Programmes

The Chennai chapter of The Music Forum organised a workshop on "Demystifying Carnatic Music" on 19/08/2006 at Rani Seethai Hall, Chennai, for school and college students with an aim to promote listenership and appreciation of Carnatic Music. Ms. N.Annapoorna, Ms V.Chitra and 25 students from Sevalaya participated in the workshop.

On Giving and Givers

Mahakavi Subramania Bharathiyar was a universal poet. He was a king-emperor in the realm of Poetry. Biography of Bharathiyar by Va.Ra throws interesting insights in to the mind of Bharathiyar. His view was that he was doing a service to humanity in general and the nation in particular. Any body rendering him help should do so as a subordinate king pays Tributes to the emperor in a spirit of humility. If anybody adopts the attitude of offering a dole, Bharathiyar used to shout, with his sharp edged moustache quivering, "Fool! Does he think I am a beggar?"

Mahatma Gandhi's ways of fund raising was unique and there cannot be any parallel. Let us hear him as quoted by Louis Fischer. It is about Gandhiji's tour in Bihar. He writes: "I have restrained myself from criticizing the heavily ornamental decoration of some of my fair audiences, oppressive though it has appeared to me. But the bangled arms from wrist practically to elbow, the huge thick nose-rings with about a three inch diameter which could with difficulty be suspended from two holes, proved beyond endurance, and I gently remarked that this heavy ornamentation added nothing to the beauty of the person, caused much discomfort, must often lead to disease and was, I could plainly see, a repository of dirt."

When he finished, the ladies in the audience crowded around him, gave him money, and several handed him their ornaments. He expressed the hope that Indian women will dispense with 'these articles of personal furniture.'

The encounter between Swami Vivekananda and John D. Rockefeller, the fabulously wealthy American financier is interesting. This is narrated by Mme. Paul Verdier.

"One day, although he (Rockefeller) did not want to meet Swamiji, he was pushed to it by an impulse and went directly to the house, brushing aside the butler who opened the door, saying that he wanted to see the Hindu Monk.

The butler ushered him into the living room, and, not waiting to be announced, Rockefeller entered into Swami's adjoining study and was much surprised, I presume, Swamiji behind his writing table not even lifting his eyes to see who had entered.

After a while, Swamiji made him understand that the money he had already accumulated was not his, that he was only a channel and his duty was to do good to the world-that God had given him all his wealth in order that he might have an opportunity to help and do good to people.

Rockefeller was annoyed that anyone dared to talk to him that way and tell him what to do. He left the room in irritation, not even saying good bye. But about a week after, again without being announced, he entered Swamiji's study and, finding him the same as before, threw on his desk a paper which told of his plans to donate an enormous sum of money towards financing a public institution.

"Well, there you are," he said. "You must be satisfied now, and you can thank me for it."

Swami did not even lift his eyes, did not move. Then taking the paper, he quietly read it, saying, "It is for you to thank me." That was all. This was Rockefeller's first large donation to the public welfare.

As one famous donor put it, "People give not because somebody has a need to receive, but because they have a need to give."

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