



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 2 Sevalaya's News Letter-September 2007 Serve 6 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

For many people in India, the job they have to do to earn a living is very tough. Imagine people working in the brick kilns. The area is totally dusty and hot. The hot sun will also add fuel to fire. How do people work in this environment for more than 12 hours a day? If you ask them, they compare themselves with so many others, who don't even have this job! They are happy that they somehow have something to earn and take care of their families. Can they have their own home made of the bricks, which they make? No, they live only in huts, as home made of bricks are out their reach! It is not a question of 12 hours, it is a matter of many generations – yes, they are so poor that they can't think of educating their children and they also land up as brick kiln labourers.

Take the case of a person who works as a 'coolie' and his job is to lift heavy material and load it onto trucks. How the man manages to carry 75 to 100 KG bags on his back and effortlessly load in onto the truck! As he does these jobs for years continuously, his back tends to develop a curvature, and he can never stand straight. Can his next generation, stand straight and tall?

L.Vijaya Kumar, who secured the 1st position in Sevalaya's 12th grade exams, is from a brick kiln labourer family. He came in the Anna University merit list for engineering college admissions and Sevalaya has raised the money and paid his fees and he is proudly attending college now. He got seat in St. Peters Engineering College, he also got the group which is in demand – the IT group! In four years time, his family can afford a house made of bricks!

S.Nithya who secured 2nd position in Sevalaya's 12th grade exams, is from a 'truck loader' family. She has come in the merit list and Sevalaya has admitted her, in Sriram Engineering College in EEE group. Very soon, she will be standing tall and that too, on her own legs.

Many others have got admission in various other arts and science colleges, some of them in B.Sc. Computer science group. Higher education is very expensive and thanks to all of you, we have put 37 kids in colleges, who are from very poor background. Very soon, Sevalaya should be running its own free university, open for the orphan, poor and destitute bright children.

Thanks & Regards
Murali

Sevalaya gets income tax exemption under Section 35 AC – 100% TAX BENEFIT !

We are very happy to inform you that Finance Ministry, Govt of India has notified Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher secondary school as a project under section 35 AC of Income Tax act. From now, Indian Tax Payers donating to Sevalaya school expenses or for school corpus will qualify for 100% tax benefit on the donations they have made.



The valedictory function of the annual science exhibition

Events

A programme on Freedom from Corruption was held 06/08/2007 at the service Centre. The chief guests on the occasion were Mr T.Rathina Pandiyan and Mr M.Vijay Anand of 5th Pillar, an organization devoted to the eradication of the social evil plaguing India -Corruption.

The Annual Science Exhibition with the theme Development of Science and Technology in 60 Years in India was organized from 09/08/2007 to 11/08/2007. The exhibition was inaugurated by Prof. N.Rajendra Naidu (Principal, D.R.B.C.C.C. Hindu College, Pattabiram) on 09/08/2007. The Chief Guest stressed on the importance of education in life and lauded the efforts of the management which helped promising students to complete their college studies by providing necessary assistance in all aspects.

The valedictory function of the annual science exhibition was on 11/8/2007. Mr P.Mohan Kumar (District Educational Officer, Thiruvallur) was the chief guest and Ms.Sujatha (Member National Knowledge Commission) was also present on the occasion.

A free General medical check up Camp was conducted by Sevalaya and M.M.Diagnosticks Centre, Villivakkam on 12th August 2007. Dr. N.G. Mothi Narayanan and his team of doctors conducted check ups for the children, senior citizens of



'IPSOWA' – IPS officers wives association's Function

Sevalaya and people from nearby Villages. Nearly 450 people participated in this camp. ECG, Ultra sound scan machinery were brought by the team and tests were conducted. Blood tests to ascertain haemoglobin level and Random sugar level were also conducted.

The 60th Independence Day was celebrated on 15/08/2007. Y'sm.Anto, District Governor, Y's Men International-South India Region, Y'sm.Varghese Abraham- President, Y's Men Club of Anna Nagar West, Y'smt. Valsala Raja - President, Y's Menettes Club of Anna Nagar West, Y'slg.AnaghaJayakumar - Y's Menettes Club of Anna Nagar West were the chief guests on the occasion. A colourful cultural programme was presented by the students of Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School. Students and villagers participated in the celebration and paid their respect to the freedom fighters. A Blood donation camp was organized by the old students of Sevalaya and Indian Red Cross, Thiruvallur.

A film show about The Guru of "The Art of Living" Sri Sri. Ravi Sankarji – was arranged by Ms. S.M.Saroja of Palavedu for the residents of Sevalaya on 18/08/2007.

To celebrate of 20 years of fruitful service of Sevalaya a function was organized on 19/08/2007. Mr. Upendra J.Chivukula, Deputy Speaker, New



Sevalaya Students - 4 days tour to Hyderabad



Volunteer Nikeeta from USA

Jersey General Assembly, USA was the Chief Guest of the function. He spoke about the importance of Education in the development of people and the nation as a whole. Also he felicitated the service of Sevalaya to the downtrodden in the last 2 decades. He replied to the questions from school children on various topics. Ms. Kalpana Murrari, advocate of the Madras High Court also felicitated Sevalaya on the occasion.

Mr. A.K.Chettiar's Film on Mahatma Gandhiji was screened for the residents of Sevalaya on 25/08/2007. The programme was organized by Gandhi Study Center, T. Nagar.

A meeting with the parents of X and XII standard Students was organized on 26/08/2007. The parents were informed about the performance of the children in I Mid-Term Test.

External Events

32 Agriculture Students and 2 staff visited J Farm, Pudhupakkam, Kancheepuram Dt. on 13/08/2007.

5 students and a staff participated in a function at Avadi Jain Sangam on the occasion of a visit by Jain Swamiji on 26/08/2007. The Sangam donated 60 plates to the hostel students.

25 students were invited to a function organized by 'IPSOWA' – IPS officers wives association, at the superintendent of Police office at Thiruvallur on 28/08/2007. All the children were presented with new clothes.

Sevalaya Trustee Dr. K.Kannan was a Guest speaker at the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Indian Independence at Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya Campus on 15/08/2007. The children of Sevalaya presented a cultural programme on the occasion. Mr. V.Muralidharan was a Guest Speaker on 17/08/2007 and he spoke about Development of Villages.

Camps and Tours

A 3 days Tour for 25 students and 2 staff members to Puttapparthi was organized by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Kilpak from 04/08/2007 to 07/08/2007.

25 students were taken on a 4 day tour to Hyderabad from 24/08/2007 to 27/08/2007. 2 staff members accompanied the students. The tour was arranged by TCSers of Hyderabad.

In the Media ...

An interview with Mr. V.Muralidharan was published in the popular Tamil Weekly Kalki in the issue dated 19/08/2007.

Volunteers...

Nikeeta from USA taught English Phonetics to students of standard 4th & 5th.

NSS Programme

The Siva temple at Puliyur was cleaned by the NSS

students of Sevalaya on 24/08/2007.

School Clubs

The Tamil Club met on 23/08/2007 and the students were explained about basics of Tamil Grammar. The English Club met on 01/08/2007 and 22/08/2007. The importance of learning English was discussed. The Maths Club met on 23/08/2007 and games were conducted in Maths like Series and Odd man out. There was a meeting of the Science Club on 03/08/2007 in which the students were explained about heart and its functions and methods to prepare specimens and in the meeting on 24/08/2007 Magnets and its properties were discussed. The Social Science Club meeting was on 22/08/2007 in which "Women's Rights" were discussed.

Sports

In the Poonamallee Zonal Level Sports meet held on 01/08/2007 at Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Nazarethpet, Sevalaya's Boys Junior team was the winner in Volley Ball. The Boys Senior and Super Senior team were the winners in Hand Ball. In the Thiruvallur Zone sports meet on 09/08/2007 Sevalaya's Senior Girls were the winners in Throw Ball. In the Poonamallee Zonal level sports meet for boys on 10/08/2007 our boys participated in Shotput, and 100 mts. Running race and won prizes. In the Thiruvallur Zonal level sports meet for girls held on 17/08/2007 the girls won prizes in Shotput and 400 mts. running.

Staff Book Review

On 04/08/2007 A.Sankara Pandiyan spoke on Bhagavad Gita II Chapter. R.Vijaya spoke on VII Chapter in Quran on 11/08/2007. On 18/08/2007 S.Bavani spoke on Bible - I & II Corinthians and on 25/08/2007 R.Latha spoke on Gita III Chapter.

Students Book Review

R.Govindaraj spoke about the book Personality Development (Tamil) authored by R.Radha on 04/08/2007. On 11/08/2007 K.Devi spoke on a book written by Kamalanathan about Inspiring People (Tamil). P.Amul spoke on the book "Few ideas for endless winning" by E.Ganesan on 18/08/2007. On 25/08/2007 P.Silambarasan spoke on the book "If you try you can" (Tamil) by Tamilvanan.

Visit to Places of Worship

The Girls went to Vinayagar Temple, Ramanathapuram on 03/08/2007. The boys went to the mosque at Melapedu on 10/08/2007 on 17/08/2007 and 24/08/2007 the boys went to the Vinayagar Temple at Ramanathapuram. The girls went to Siva Temple at Thamaraiykkam on 24/08/2007 and to the mosque at Melapedu on 31/08/2007.

HIS EXPERIMENTS

"Experiments with Truth..? Truth is absolute. What is there to experiment in it?" quipped an intellectual. This was replied to in one of the Gandhian forums recently. "Gandhiji was experimenting his thoughts, words and deeds, with Truth as an instrument throwing proper light. Hence the title is appropriate..." Both the poser and the answer seem to be good.

To Gandhiji, his goal in life was to attain Moksha, which meant seeing God that is Truth, face to face. Absolute truth, however, is an ideal like the Euclid's point. But in day to day life we have to deal with relative truth. Simply put, decisions have to be made on a day to day basis as to what constitutes right action. In this, perceptions may vary from person according to his conscience, development and understanding. Gandhiji understood this and said that everyone should act according to what appears to him to be the 'truth of the moment'. Good results alone will ensue provided righteousness, not expediency was the guiding factor. His Autobiography is only a connected account of his experiments in this regard. He presented them to the readers in all humility, believing that this account would benefit the reader. He did not claim any perfection in these experiments. He claimed for them nothing more than did a scientist who, though he conducted his experiments with the utmost accuracy and forethought never claimed any finality for his conclusions, but kept an open mind for them. In spite of going through deep introspection examining and analyzing every psychological situation, he did not claim finality or infallibility for his conclusions. So long did his actions satisfy his reason and heart he firmly adhered to his original conclusions.

His Autobiography was not an academic exercise. His purpose was to give an account of various practical applications of these principles. "As long as I have not realized this Absolute Truth, so long must I hold by the relative Truth as I have conceived it. That relative truth must, meanwhile, be my beacon, my shield and buckler. Though this path is straight and narrow and sharp as the razor's edge, for me it has been the quickest and easiest. Even my Himalayan blunders have seemed trifling to me because I have

kept strictly to this path." He is convinced that what was possible for him was possible even for a child. The instruments for the quest of Truth are simple for an innocent child, but may be impossible for an arrogant person. The seeker after Truth has to be as humble as dust.

He cautions: "The experiments narrated should be treated as illustrations, in the light of which everyone may carry on his own experiments according to his own inclinations and capacity" He was not concealing or understating any ugly things that must be told. He acquainted the reader with all his faults and errors, for it was not his purpose to present himself as a good person, but to describe his experiments in the science of Satyagraha (Holding on to Truth). In judging himself he tried to be as harsh as Truth.

Now then, what are his conclusions?

There is no other God than Truth. A perfect vision of Truth can follow only a complete realization of Ahimsa. To see the universal and all pervading Spirit of Truth one must be able to love the meanest of creation as oneself. Identification with everything that lives is impossible without self purification. Without self purification, the observance of the Law of Ahimsa must remain an empty dream. Self purification means purification in all the walks of life. Purification being infectious, purification of oneself leads to the purification of one's surroundings.

The path of self purification is hard and steep. To attain perfect purity, one has to be absolutely passion-free in thought, speech and action.

So long as a man does not of his own free will put himself last among his fellow creatures, there is no salvation for him. Ahimsa is the farthest limit of humility.

What does he say about himself? "I have still before me a long path to traverse. I must reduce myself to Zero."

Where do we place ourselves in this scale?

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