



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 3 **Sevalaya's News Letter - September 2008** Serve 6 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

Some of the recent news reports make us think about what is happening to our level of tolerance to other human beings. Let me describe a couple of incidents which were highly disturbing.

A man, at the age of 93, has serious problems with his wife who is 83 years old. They live in the same house, but not together. One occupies the first floor and the other the ground floor. The man, just to give problems to his long term life partner, cuts off power supply to her portion in the house. As the single power supply is shared, this is possible to do it internally. Hence the lady approaches the electricity board authorities and asks for a separate supply line. But the authorities refuse her claim, because as per their data, it is a single house and they can't give two connections. So the lady goes to court. The judge who went through this case was so disgusted that in the judgment, which was in favor of the lady, mentioned that he is very sad to see the old couple, fighting legal battle like this. They should have been married at least for 60 years now, and to have a long married life is a blessing and calls for celebration. But in this case, it has ended up in so much of bitterness, legal battles, etc.

In another incident, reported in the press, a young medical shop owner had a problem with his neighbor. In our opinion, it is a very simple problem. The car was parked in front of the neighbor's house and not in front of his shop. The neighbor got angry and there was a scene created there with both 'gentlemen' shouting at each other. The

neighbor got wild, walked away, made few phone calls, and very soon a armed gang arrived at the scene, and the shop owner was killed in broad day light, inside his own shop. Now the killers are behind bars, and we don't know where the car is parked.

Violence and killing have become such common occurrences. Hatred and fighting for small nothings have become our life style. As life becomes fast paced, just because we have to make fast money, values change and might becomes right. To add fuel to fire, the television serials, only teach us how to develop hatred towards all others.

It becomes very important now, for organizations like Sevalaya, to continue spreading the message of love, peace, service and humility, at least to the next generation. This is done either through class room teaching or through the various functions and competitions Sevalaya conducts for many students all over Tamil Nadu.

Thanks & Regards

Murali

**The Atma Charity Wing of IIT Madras
donated a sum of Rs. 50,000/ to Sevalaya**





Events

Sevalaya and Exnora International organized a rally on 05/08/2008 to create awareness on "Global Warming" and "88888" Lights Out Campaign – exhorting people to switch off the lights and other electrical appliances for 8 minutes on 8th August 2008 from 8 pm as a symbolic gesture of common man's efforts to reduce Global Warming. Nearly 1000 students participated in the rally, carrying placards on the theme of Hazards of Global Warming, singing songs and raising Slogans highlighting the seriousness of the issue. The rally was flagged off at 10am by Mr. Rajasekar -District Environmental Engineer and Exnora Dist. President, Thiruvallur, Mr.Neethinadan.

Dr. Malavika visited the campus on 09/08/2008 and spoke to the students and staff about Hygiene and Nutritious Diet.

The Sathya Sai Samithi, Besant Nagar conducted 'Sai Bajan' at Sevalaya 10/08/2008.

The 3 Day Annual Science Exhibition was held at Sevalaya from 12/08/2008 to 14/08/2008. The theme of the exhibition this year was "Save our Precious Planet" The exhibition was inaugurated on 12/08/2008 by Mr.Henry Maris- Secretary, Nazereth Science and Arts College. An interesting and informative puppet show on the urgent measures to be taken by man to reduce Global Warming by adapting eco friendly lifestyle was the highlight of the exhibition. Commending the efforts of the students the Chief Guest announced a Cash Prize of Rs 1000 to the Best Exhibit. He advised the students to adopt the three "R"s namely (1) Reduce waste (2) Reuse and (3) Recycle. Mr.P.Rajasekar – District Environmental Engineer was the Chief Guest for the Valedictory Function on 14/08/2008.

The 61st Independence Day Celebrations were held on 15/08/2008. The National flag was hoisted by Mr.Subramani, Sub Inspector of Police, Vengal. Students presented a colorful cultural programme highlighting the glories of our nation, its unique unity in diversity etc. A blood donation camp was organized by the old students association of Sevalaya in association with the Indian Red Cross Society of Thiruvallur District on that day. Many old students and villagers donated blood at this camp. The old students association organizes blood donation camps twice every year on Republic day and Independence Day.



On 23/08/2008, Brahmakumaris from Sunguvarchatram celebrated 'Raksha Bandan' with inmates of Sevalaya by tying rakhis and distributing sweets.

Interact club Of Sevalaya was inaugurated on 26/08/2008. Inaugurating the club Rtn. S.N.Balasubramanian talked about the activities of these clubs both in India as well as abroad. R.Lakesh, student of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Hr.Sec School was elected as the President of the Club. Rtn. K.Murali Venkatesh explained about the interact club. The Interact club leader R.Lakesh spoke about the projects the group would undertake. 150 students registered their names.

The Rotaract Club of The Hindu College, Pattabhiram visited Sevalaya and conducted Painting Competition for Children and distributed prizes to the winners.

The Bhoomi Puja (Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony) for the Primary School Building was done on 31/08/2008. This will enable Sevalaya to give free education for another 500 hundred poor children.

External Events

On 23/08/2008, 30 students participated in "Jaya Kalai Kulumam" competitions at Jaya group of institutions, Thiruninravur. Students got 3rd prize in 'Pattum, Barathamum', 2nd prize in 'Kavi Arangam' and 2nd prize in 'Muthamil Arangam'.

U.Radha & S.Ethiraj participated in an elocution competition conducted by Rotract club 25/08/2008 – at Kolaperumal School, Avadi. U.Radha is selected for the final round.

The Atma Charity Wing of IIT Madras donated a sum of Rs. 50,000/ to Sevalaya. The cheque was handed over to V.Muralidharan by Mr. M.S.Ananth, Director IIT Madras.

Mr. V.Muralidharan was a guest speaker at the valedictory function of Yatra to spread awareness of Gandhian ideals at Thakkar Baba Vidhyalaya, Thyagaraya Nagar, Chennai on 31/08/2008.

NSS Activities

The NSS wing of Sevalaya undertook the cleaning



of the Hostel campus on 04/08/2008 and the school campus on 21/08/2008.

Staff Book Review

On 02/08/2008 – Mr. S.Senthil Kumar spoke on Collection of Tamil Articles written by Bharathi compiled by Mr. Pe. Thuran Ms. T.Vijaya Rani discussed Bharathiyar's poems on 09/08/2008. Stories written by Bharathiyar was Mr. G.Pazhanisamy's selection for the Book review meet on 16/08/2008. On 30/08/2008 Mr. A.Sankara Pandiyan took up for review the book The Values Propogated by Bharathiyar by Tamilnadu Book Society.

Students Study Circle

'Vaiyath Thalaimai Kol' by Mr. V.Muralidharan was reviewed by U.Radha in the study circle meet on 02/08/2008. On 09/08/2008 A. Tamilselvan spoke about the book "Vazhviyal Chinthanaigal" by Mr. Murugamani. Mr.M.Veeraiyan's 'Vetriyai Sutri' was M.Kalpna's choice for discussion on 16/08/2008. On 30/08/2008 D.Silambarasan shared about what he read on "The Role of Tamils in the World's Sports Arena" (Tamil) by Mr. Kannan

Visit to Places of Worship

On 01/08/2008, the hostel boys went to Ramanathapuram Vinayagar Temple. The hostel girls were taken to Gurudwara at Avadi on 17/08/2008.

Camps & Trainings

Mr. G.Ram Mohan, Gandhian Scholar conducts an one hour session on the life of Gandhiji on alternate Saturdays for the teachers covering each phase of his life.

09 to 12/08/2008 – 25 students & 2 staff went to Puttaparthi, Andra Pradesh. This trip was arranged by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Chennai.

Sports

08/08/2008 – Super senior team winners & Senior Team Runners in Kho-Kho Match, in Poonamallee Zonal Level, at Jaigopal Garodia school, Avadi.

11/08/2008 – S.Rajan got 2nd place in Shot put, M.Sridhar got 2nd place in 100 meter running race and 1st place in 200 meter running race, at Thiruvallur Olympiad 2008, organized by Rotary club in association with Sports Development of



Tamilnadu, Thiruvallur.

19/08/2008 – Junior team winners in Volley Ball Match, at Poonamallee Zonal Level, in Govt. Boys Hr. Sec. School, Nazarethpet.

21/08/2008 – Super senior team & Senior Team winners in Hand Ball Match, in Poonamallee Zonal Level. Sevalaya students were also winners in Carrom and Table Tennis competitions at junior, senior and super senior levels in Poonamallee Zonal Level.

Sri Krishna Jayanthi – the Birthday of The Eternal Player Lord Krishna was celebrated in a novel way this year. Rotaract club of Akash and Sevalaya conducted 'Thiramaipor-2008' an inter school Sports Meet meet on 23.08.08. 600 students from various schools in and near Thiruvallur participated in the event. Throw ball, Hand ball, Volley ball, Chess and Carrom matches were conducted among teams of 12 schools. Sevalaya won the first prize in throw ball and hand ball. Angel Matriculation school won the first prize in volley ball and carrom. Bharathi Matriculation school won the first prize in chess. The prize distribution functions were held at 6 p.m. of the same day. Mr.Omprakash, Mr.Lakshman, Mr.Rajesh (Rotaract club members) and Mr.Sankarappan (Probationary Officer, Ministry of Social Defence) were the chief guests. Medals, cups and certificates were distributed to the winners. All the participants thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

On 27/08/2008, Thiruvallur district boys athletic association, Poonamallee Zonal conducted a sports meet at Ajay Stadium, Avadi. T.Vivek got 2nd place in 100 meter at super senior level. K.Ranjith Kumar got 3rd place in 100 meter at super senior level. T.Vivek got 1st place in 200 meter at super senior level. S.Ranjith Kumar got 2nd place in shot-put at super senior level and also he got 1st place in discuss throw in the same level. M.Vijayakumar got 3rd place in discuss throw at junior level. S.Ramesh got 2nd place in high jump at junior level.

Dust, diamond and a flower

We know Swami Vivekananda, the great spiritual leader, master and an intellectual through his collected works. But more insight is got in to the mind and spirit of the Swamiji through various little anecdotes recounted by his Eastern and Western disciples. Here are a few instances quoted by Swami Vimalananda.

Swami Vimalananda speaks about the humility of Swamiji. He says, "real humility because it had nothing to do with that sense of self abasement with its external manifestation of facial contortions which so often pass for humility. It was self effacement and was not therefore without the charming dignity of self respect." One of the visitors asked Swamiji (writes Swami Vimalananda) why his lecture on his Master delivered in America did not see the light of the day. Swamiji made a bold confession: "I did not allow it to be published as I had done injustice to my Master. My master never condemned anything or anybody. But while I was speaking I criticized the people of America for their dollar worshipping spirit. That day I learnt the lesson that I am not yet fit to talk of him. Recalling this conversation Swami Vimalananda writes," These words were really startling to us for more than one reason. Here was a man who was being idolized, nay, actually worshipped by so many and this man in their very presence confessing his inability to represent his Guru..... What an unpretentious man is before us... what a wonderful man must have been his Guru to occupy such a high place in the heart of this great man!"

There is a mistaken notion that Gandhians or saints are only goody goody and coming to managing organizations they are not good because of their softness. Sri Ramakrishna Math is a standing example to the contrary. Also the recent book "Vaiyath thalaimai kol" provides excellent examples of the leadership qualities of Gandhiji, Bharathiyar and Swami Vivekananda, even though they did not proclaim themselves to be "leadership

specialists". Here is an example of what Swamiji thought of Leadership. Again this is a narration by Swami Vimalananda. Swamiji would always say "shirdar sirdar" (The giver of the head alone is leader.) That is, he alone is the leader who is ready to die for others. One evening in a talk to one of his disciples he opened his eyes to the fact that the disciple's inability to manage the servants of the Math and make them do their respective duties was a weakness and did not proceed out of love. He said, "Don't think that your heart is full of love, because you cannot give them a little scolding now and then. Can you give your life for them? I know you can't, because you do not love them. This minute I can die for them. Also, I can hang them on the tree, if need be. Can you do that? No, my boy, namby-pamby is not love. Remember the words of the Poet," Harder than the thunderbolt and softer than the flower" this is the ideal, No. Love is not weak sentimentality"

Swamiji has put more poetically and more emotionally, what management buffs would say about a proper mix of people orientation and task orientation.

Swamiji, to borrow an expression from Gandhiji, was as humble as a dust; also, as hard as a diamond and as soft as a flower.



The Bhoomi Puja (Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony) for the Primary School Building

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Editor: [T.S.Venkataramani](#)

Send your comments to: [Sevalaya, Kasuva, Pakkam \(P.O.\), Near Thiruninravur - 602 024, Tamil Nadu, India.](#)

Phone Nos. : [9444346699](#), [9444620286](#), [9444620289](#), (044) [26344243](#).
E.mail : sevalaya@vsnl.com visit at: www.sevalaya.org