



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

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

Dear Friends,

There is a small temple near my house and I go there almost every morning. One day during such regular visits, a discussion started with other local community people in the temple, about the need to re-lay the floor of the temple. The flooring was in a very bad shape and it was difficult to walk on it, especially on festival days, when the God is carried around the temple. Couple of people volunteered to donate money for the cause. We didn't know how much will be the total cost, but each one of us said that we can contribute some amount. As at Sevalaya, there is always construction going on, I was asked to get a quotation for the job. I asked the Sevalaya building contractor to pay a visit and work out the cost.

The budget was approved by the local people and the work started. The flooring stones arrived from Cuddappa, a small town in Andhra, the neighboring state. This town is well known for natural stones and the stone is named after the town and commonly known as cuddappa stone. Also four workers came from the same town to take up the job.

The entire work went on and on and was completed nearly after a month. The four workers stayed inside the temple. They started the work at 6 in the morning and worked till 9 or even 10 pm on some days. They did not take any weekend breaks. They wanted to finish the work and head back home. They slept inside the temple and made it their home for this period. They were very sincere, very skilled and took extra care to beautify the final touches.

I tried to get their names so that we can call them again if there were similar work coming

up. The head of the group is Sirajudeen. Yes, all four were Muslims. I told the temple priest about this, expecting that there may be some problem from the local people, as Muslims were allowed to stay inside a Hindu temple. But there was no problem. All of us were wonder struck with the kind of devotion they had for their work. In fact, during this one month stay, they ate only vegetarian food. Even when some one offered them meat, they refused stating that as they were doing temple job, they needed to be 'clean'. They also stopped smoking during this period. On chatting with them, we found that they have worked in many temples; in fact in 22 out of the 108 most important Vishnu temples, they have done the stone work. And whenever, they have gone on temple work, whatever may be the length of the period, they have almost lived the life of a priest!

On the final day, fully pleased with their work, the temple priest gave them full temple honors and handed over 'prasad' to them. Also, he invited them to his house for dinner. After the dinner, the workers left for their home town.

Communal riots, breaking mosques, breaking temples are all "newsworthy items" sensationalized by media reports and on political platforms. Fighting, killing, bombings are every day newspaper reports. People like Sirajudeen and his team will never get any media coverage. But then the majority of population don't get any coverage in the media – a proof that majority is still living in peace.

Thanks & Regards

Murali



Events

Sevalaya arranged a free Seminar on "Commitment to Excellence" for college students on March 02/03/2007 at campus. The seminar was conducted by Mr. Muthiah Ramanathan (Director, Mind Dynamics Centre, Chennai). He conducted a lively session on improving one's self confidence to progress towards excellence in one's life. It also created awareness towards social responsibility. Nearly 112 college students participated in it. Certificates were issued to the participants. He conducted a training session for the teachers on the same day.

The birth Centenary of Thirumuruga Kirupananda Variyar, a well known personality in the field of delivering Spiritual Discourses was celebrated at Sevalaya on 07/03/2007. Mr. Pazha. Muthappan, Principal, The Chettiar College, Tiruchirappalli spoke about Variyar Swamigal who was well known for his sense of humour and conveying great spiritual and philosophical thoughts in simple style and making it appealing to the common man. The children came to know more about the life and work of Swamigal.

On 10/03/2007 a free eye camp was conducted by Sankara Nethralaya at Sevalaya. The camp was organized by Madras School of Social Work. Nearly 210 villagers were benefited.



Volunteers from Chinmaya Mission conducted a career counseling program for the students of 9th standard of our school on 20/03/2007.

Sri Rama Navami was celebrated on 24/03/2007. The Special Guests for the occasion were **Mr. Muniyasekar** (Revenue Inspector, Thiruvallur), **Mr. K.Rajendran** (Village Administrative Officer, Theruur), **Mr. Thiruverkulam** (Village Administrative Officer, Pakkam), **Mr. E.Srinivasan** (Panchayat president, Thottikalai), **Mr. E.R.Kesavan** (Panchayat President, Ayathur) and **Mr. Vengatesa Mudhaliyar** (Puliyur).

A Career Guidance Programme for the students who had appeared for 12th Standard Board examinations was conducted at Sevalaya on 25/03/2007. The programme was conducted by Mr. Kennet and Mr. Muthu from an organization DROP.

The students and the staff gave a Farewell Party for the XII Standard students on 25/03/2007. The students presented a Cultural Programme. The Managing Trustee, V.Muralidharan, Sevalaya Advisor Mr. J.Muralikrishnan and Mr. Kennet and Mr. Muthu from DROP spoke to the students. They conveyed their Best wishes to them to achieve greater heights in life and asked them to stay in touch with Sevalaya wherever they go. The teachers also addressed the students. They recalled their

