



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 2 **Sevalaya's News Letter - July 2007** Serve 4 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

Promoting religious harmony has been one of the main activities of Sevalaya for the past 19 years. Sevalaya School celebrates all functions from all religions, year after year. Christmas, Ramzan, Deepavali, Bhudha poornima, Gurunanak Jeyanthi, Mahaveer Jeyanthi etc., are celebrated with equal enthusiasm in the school campus. Religious heads and scholars take part in such functions and explain about each religion to the children. Also Sevalaya library has books from all religions and children and staff are encouraged to read all books.

Sevalaya has book review meetings every Saturday afternoon for its staff members. Last year, complete works of Mahatma Gandhi, Vivekananda and Bharathi were chosen as books for review and each staff member reviewed one volume every week. This is part of our on going training to the staff, that they read good books every week and come and discuss the highlights with all, week after week. That way all the staff read at least one book, but come to know of 52 books in a year.

This academic year three books have been selected for this purpose. As we are not qualified to do a review of these books, we call these meetings as book discussion. These books are Bible, Quran and Bhagavad Gita. Each staff will pick up couple of chapters each week from a book and discuss the contents. If Quran is taken up this week, next week it will be Bible and the following week Gita will be taken up. Thus 52 weeks of this academic year is split as 18 weeks for each book. Also each staff member will have to pick up a book from a religion to which he or she does not belong to.

Children from classes 6th to 12th will also participate in this discussion. The discussions will happen on all Saturdays, from 2 to 3 pm, at Sevalaya's Kasuva village campus. This is done with an aim to make people understand each others religion very well so that any misunderstanding can be avoided.

Already three weeks have passed and I discussed the first two chapters of Quran, followed by our headmaster Chittibabu picking up a chapter from Bible and then our hostel In-charge, Kingston talking about Bhagavad Gita. Chittibabu admitted that he is reading Bible for the first time and Kingston mentioned that all along he has been thinking that Gita is a separate book and only now understood that it is a part of Mahabharatha! Such information about one's religion will look very basic, but many do not know even basic information about others religions. This effort by Sevalaya will iron out such lack of information, in the minds of Sevalaya children, staff, trustees and others who attend these meetings. Many issues and misunderstanding start only because of lack of understanding of basic information. Also it was nice to observe that when each speaker is talking about one holy book, he is able to compare what is said in the holy book of his own religion and the conclusion was that there is no real difference in any philosophy.

Sevalaya welcomes all members of the public to join in this unique event, held to promote religious harmony.

Thanks & Regards
Murali



Inauguration for the Academic year 2007-2008

Events

Inaugural function for the Academic year 2007-2008 was held on 04/06/2007. Mr. T.Mohanakumar, District Educational Officer of Thiruvallur District was the chief Guest.

Mr. Sriram, GM, Smile Foundation, Chennai was our special guest. Uniforms, text books, notebooks and other educational items worth Rs 10,00,000/ were distributed for the 1000 students of the School.

The Humour Club of Ambattur Right Choice conducted a Programme "Shades of Humour" at Sevalaya on 10/06/2007. Mr. S.Kugan, President of the Humour Club was the Chief Guest. Noted film artiste Kathadi Ramamoorthy was the special guest. 100 members from the Humour Club of Ambattur Right Choice participated.

A one day Training Programme for Teachers on "Being an Effective Teacher" was conducted by Mr. Muthiah Ramanathan, Director, Mind Dynamics Centre on 16/06/2007. The workshop focussed on how to bring out the best in each student and ways to discipline students without resorting to corporal punishment or any other form of humiliation.



Film Artiste Kathadi Ramamoorthy in "Shades of Humour" Programme



Club Mahindra Holidays' Medical Camp

70 teachers from 9 schools in Thiruvallur District participated in the programme.

Nava Bharath Students Welfare Association conducted a preliminary round of quiz programme on 24/06/2007. 2 children were selected to participate in the inter orphanage Quiz Programme to be conducted by the association in October 2007.

Medical Camps

Club Mahindra Holidays, as a part of their CSR activity organized a free medical camp at Sevalaya on 23/06/2007. Doctors from Apollo Hospitals, Chennai conducted health check ups for the residents of Childrens' Home and Old Age Home.

Staff Book Discussion

V.Muralidharan discussed Introduction chapters of Quran and Chapters I & II at the meeting on 09/06/2007. G.Chittibabu took up St. Luke's Gospel from The Bible for discussion on 16/06/2007. A.A.Kingston shared about what he read in the Introductory chapter and Chapter XIV of Bhagavad Gita on 23/06/2007 while Annapurna discussed III & IV Chapters of Quran on 30/06/2007.



"Being an Effective Teacher" - Training Programme for Teachers