



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 2 **Sevalaya's News Letter - March 2008** Serve12 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

Elumalai works in a gas station in Chennai. His nature of job is not very high profile. His income is also not great. He has to support his mother, wife and a new born kid. For such families it is very difficult to make both ends meet. But they also have to celebrate functions at home, events in family, visit temples etc. Where will the extra money come from? How will they manage?

There is so much peer pressure from friends and relatives to celebrate special events – like the first birth day of the first child. Elumalai's kid was completing one year on 17th of February, 2008. Elders in the family advised him to go to temples and have special prayers done. It is customary for many families to visit Tirupathi – which is on top of seven hills – the name Elumalai comes from this pilgrim spot – have the head tonsured for the kid and the father on first birth days. But it involves travel expenses for the entire family which may work out very expensive. How about some local temples? How about getting all relatives and friends to a restaurant or home and have a party? Elumalai and his family thought of all options and worked out the cost involved, everything seemed to go beyond his limits.

But they have to celebrate the first birth day of their kid in some special form, as this is a special occasion for his entire family. How about helping others on this occasion? When this thought struck his mind, he picked up the phone and started calling some institutions in Chennai. When he called up Sevalaya, he was totally satisfied. He spoke to our Hon. Coordinator and asked him how much it will cost to pay for one lunch for the destitute and orphan children; whether he and his family can join the children for lunch and when he has to make the

payment. Elumalai says "I was moved when I got the answer that no advance payment is required and we can go over to the ashram on 17th Feb, have food with the children and then, if satisfied can make the payment. Even temples told us that we have to pay first. When we sat with the children and had food, our entire family was totally satisfied and we have decided that henceforth all our celebrations will be at Sevalaya only. I will also spread the message of Sevalaya to every car and two wheeler which comes to my gas station and suggest to them to contribute to the institution. Children are very happy here. The food is great. My mother was totally moved to see the old age home inmates".

Many families come to Sevalaya and celebrate such events. What is so special about Elumalai? His monthly income is Rs. 4500 and he paid Rs. 2500 for one lunch for the kids of Sevalaya on his kid's first birthday! This is more than 50% of his income.

You don't need money to donate, you only need a heart.

Thanks & Regards

Murali





Events

On 10/02/2008 a Meditation programme for the hostel students was conducted by Nithyananda Youth Group from Avadi.

The Annual Sports Day Celebrations of Sevalaya were held on 12/02/2008. The chief guest on the occasion was Mr. S.P. Mathur IPS Director General of Police (Metropolitan Transport Corporation). Mr. Vijayakumar, Joint Secretary of TAFVA, Mr. Murugesan DSP Thiruvallur, Mr. Srinivasan DSP Uthukottai, Mrs. Girija Raghavan - Chief Editor, Ladies Special Monthly, and Mr. Ratanji, Businessman, Avadi, were our special guests on the occasion. Physical training is an integral part of good education and the annual sports day is one that is looked forward to eagerly by all students. The month of January had been filled with the semi finals and finals of different athletic events and matches - the culmination of the year long sports events among the three houses Bharathi, Gandhi, and Vivekananda. Various sports events were also conducted for the children, staff, senior citizens and villagers. The proud winners received their prizes, medals and certificates at the hands of the Chief Guest. Mr. A. Sankarapandian (physical education department) highlighted the



achievements of the school teams in the zonal and district level sports.

On 10/02/2008 & 23/02/2008 Mr. Shankar, Volunteer from Ambattur & Mr. Murali Krishnan, Advisor, Sevalaya spoke to the students of 12th standard, impressing upon them the need to appreciate the value of the opportunities and facilities made available to them and make the best use of it and also the need to give back to the society to the best of their abilities.

On 15/02/ 2008 a team from Queens University, Canada visited Sevalaya.

Nearly 100 students from Bala Vidya Mandir, Chennai visited Sevalaya on 16/02/2008 and interacted with the children and senior citizens.

Mr. Birendrakumar Prasad and Rakesh Ramuji Datir from All World Gayathri Pariwar, Shanthikunj, Haridwar conducted a 2 day yoga camp - from 25/02/2008 to 27/02/2008 - to the senior citizens, youth, women and children of Sevalaya and people from nearby villages.

External Events

Mr. T.S Venkataramani, Hony. Coordinator of Sevalaya addressed the Humour Club Meeting

