



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 4 **Sevalaya's News Letter - May 2009** Serve 2 Price-Re.1

## Dear Friends,

This is the time of the year in India, when most parents feel the pressure of educational expenses for their kids. This year most of the city schools in Chennai have announced a steep increase in the school fees as they have to pay extra to the teachers, as the Government pay scales have gone up. There are hikes ranging from 50% to 100% in almost all schools. Added to this, at least two sets of uniforms have to be purchased and books and note books to be provided for. Even if there are one or two kids in a house hold, the month of May is a tough month. This adds heat to the already hot climatic conditions in India and the parents literally sweat it out.

Every parent has a dream about their child and they somehow want to earn the money required to educate their children and see them through. They struggle a lot during the month of May to make both ends meet and run the family and at the same time take the extra load of academic expenses for their kids.

The same story happens in Sevalaya too; the only difference is that it is a much larger family with 1000 kids. Like parents we also nurture a dream for each kid. Though there is no school fee, we have to run the school, paying salary for the teachers, maintaining the building, paying the utility bills etc., for the school building. We also have to organize 2000 sets of uniforms, more that 10,000 note books. Of course the school books comes free, thanks to the Government of Tamil Nadu, we still need an average of Rs 1000 per kid to get the kid ready to go to school. This multiplies to Rs 10 lakhs (USD 20,000) every year to get all 1000 children attend the school with smiling faces.

Multiplication takes it to mind boggling levels,

but fortunately we have division also. It is not that one parent has to find all this money for 1000 children. We have all of you who have been contributing whatever you can for this cause and really make it easy to face the uphill task. Normally all of you send in your cheques and cash right in time so that by first week of June, we are ready to start the school year. I am sure this year will be no different. In addition, this year, Sevalaya's educational project has been recognized by Government of India as a project under Sec 35 AC of the Indian Income tax act, so donors in India can get 100% tax rebate on the donations made. (In fact the Sevalaya's children's home expenses and expenses for construction of new school building have also been recognized under Sec 35 AC, which will give 100% tax benefit.)

By first week of May we should be getting the class 12 results and by end of May we will get the class 10 results. Like in the past we are expecting near 100% results. We will keep you posted as and when the results are out.

Thanks & Regards  
**Murali**





**BGV course inaugurated at Coimbatore Prison**

#### **BGV Classes at Prisons - Puzhal Prison**

On 04/04/2009, Ms. Prema Annamalai spoke on – Gandhiji - A Legend. On 11/04/2009, Ms. Vijaya spoke on Vivekananda's foreign Trips. On 18/04/2009, Ms. B.Nirmala spoke on Bharathi's God and on 25/04/2009, Mr. T.S.Venkataramani spoke on Gandhiji thoughts on Discipline.

#### **Vellore Prison**

11/04/2009 - Mr. S.Jayakumar Spoke on "Bharathi's Fearlessness", Mr. Srinivasan spoke on Vivekananda's Guru Sri Ramakrishna, Ms. Girija Raghavan Vivekananda and Self confidence and Mr. T.Vipranarayanan spoke on Vivekananda & Service.

On 25/04/2009, Mr. A.Annamalai spoke on Gandhiji – Truth and Non-violence, Ms. Prema Annamalai spoke on Gandhiji's Social Outlook, Mr. K.Mohan spoke on Gandhiji's favourite Religious Stories and Prof. Devadatta spoke on Gandhiji's prayer.

#### **Coimbatore Prison**

The 30 session course on Mahatma Gandhi, Bharathi and Swami Vivekananda was inaugurated at Coimbatore Prisons on 04/04/2009. Inaugurating the course **Mr. P.Govindarajan (Superintendent, Central Jail, Coimbatore)** lauded the services of Sevalaya for the underprivileged sections of the society. He appreciated Sevalaya's initiative to take the life and message of the 3 great leaders of our Nation, Mahakavi Bharathiyar, Mahatma Gandhi and Swami Vivekananda to the prison inmates. He mentioned that various programmes are being organized in the prisons to expose the inmates to new and positive thoughts which will help them to adapt a reformed way of living and join the mainstream when they enter the free world. Mr. M.Ranganathan (Managing Trustee, Mahatma Gandhi Ashram, Aanimalai), Dr. Kathiresan (Joint Secretary, TAFVA & Director, COODU, Coimbatore) and Mr. Arumugam, Exnora, Coimbatore were the chief guests. Mr. P.Selvam (Teacher, Sevalaya) talked about the Life of Vivekananda which was well received by the audience. Mr. V.Muralidharan (Founder & Managing Trustee of Sevalaya) talked about the Life of Mahakavi Bharathiyar.



**Mahavir Jayanthi Celebrations at Sevalaya**

On 04/04/2009, Mr. Anaimalai Ranganathan spoke on Gandhi's Life, Mr. V.Muralidharan spoke on Bharathi's Social Outlook, Mr. P. Selvam spoke on Vivekananda's Fearlessness and Mr. S.Jayakumar on Bharathi's Fearlessness.

On 05/04/2009, Mr. Anaimalai Ranganathan spoke on Friends of Bharathi, Mr. V. Muralidharan spoke on Gandhiji's views on Health, Mr. P.Selvam spoke on Vivekananda's Guru Sri Ramakrishna and Mr. S.Jayakumar spoke on Vivekananda's Self confidence.

#### **Events**

**On 12/04/2009, Easter** was celebrated with much joy. **Ms. Anusaya Ernest, Asst. Commissioner of Police, was the Chief Guest.** She spoke how Jesus died on The Cross for the sins of humanity and his Resurrection on the Third Day – Easter Sunday, bringing about new Life and Hope. She praised the efforts of Sevalaya to provide better opportunities to the underprivileged children and called upon the students to make the best use of the opportunities and come up in life.

Mahaveer Jayanthi was celebrated on 12/04/2009. Notable personalities of Jain community Mr. P.S.Surana, Mr. Ashok Kumar Kavadi, Mr. Dharmichandji Khariwal, Mr. Mahaveer Bhandari and Mr. Amarchad Jain were the special guests. The distinguished guests who spoke on the occasion lauded Sevalaya for celebrating the functions of all religions with a view to inculcating in the children the values of various religions. They said that all life as been created by the same God and they deserve same treatment as mankind. The children must develop love for all creations. They also appreciated that Sevalaya is practicing vegetarianism.

Sevalaya conducts free one month Computer training and Spoken English course every year for the benefit of rural students. This year, the course was inaugurated on 13/04/2009. Nearly 60 Students from economically poor family background from the nearby villages applied for the course. **Mr. K.P.Srinivasan, District Elementary**