



Touched by the Master

All These Add Up to Life



Things happening around us are interpreted by our mind, and we label them and come to experience them as great tragedies or wonderful blessings... The stream of happenings comes and goes, irresistibly around and above you, and that which gives the balance to face them steadily is prayer. Prayer is not to change the pattern around you, but to give you protection from it. We do not travel in a boat to stop the waves, but the sides of the boat do protect us from the raw, direct hits of the waves.



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Jnana Yagna -- Discourses on Srimad Bhagavatam – by *Arti Kapoor & Sirisha*



“Sri Krishna Govinda Hare Muraare,
Hey Naath Narayana Vasudeva”

A beautifully adorned statue of Lord Sri Krishna and pictures of Swami Tapovanji Maharaj and Gurudev adorned the yagnashala, and the holy chanting by all the devotees following the lead of our revered Acharya, Br. Prabodhji set our speech, mind and intellect with the divine. With the blessings of Pujya Gurudev and Guruji, we had the great fortune of listening to our Acharya's Jnana Yagna talks on Cantos 6 & 7 of Srimad Bhagavatam. The talks were held every evening from 7:30 - 9:00 PM from April 11th -17th 2010 at our Clayton facility.



Sage Veda Vyasa ,who composed Srimad Bhagavatam, taught it to his son, Shukadeva, who in turn, taught it to King Pareekshit. Srimad Bhagavatam consists of 12 cantos. Acharya Prabodhji had covered canto 1, the *Adhikari Skanda*, canto 2, the *Sadhana skanda*, canto 3, *Sarga*, canto 4, *Visarga* and canto 5, *Sthaanam*, during previous jnana yagnas.

After listening to the description of the various kinds of hells in canto 5, one can understand that going to hell can be avoided when one refrains from sinful activities. But the nature of man is such that when he incurs a sin (by performing *nishidha karma*, prohibited action), he takes up some compensatory action (*prayashchita karma*) to negate that sin; and then commits sin again. This cycle goes on. It is just like an elephant taking a bath and then pouring mud all over itself again.

Sage Shukadeva explains to Pareekshit that *prayashchita karma* is the immediate remedy prescribed to the ignorant ones, but there is another path that is revealed to those who want a better solution. Individuals who have faith in the Lord and control over their body, mind, and intellect, burn their sins by living a life of strict discipline, practicing *shama* (sense control), *dama* (mind control) and *tapas* (performing austerities). Others accomplish it through total surrender and devotion towards the Lord, thereby invoking His grace!



Our Acharya Brahmachari Prabodh Chaitanya was welcomed to the hall at the Clayton facility for the Jnana Yajna on the evening of April 11th. We had the week of Bhagavata Saptah from April 11th to the 17th. The discourses were well attended by hundreds of devotees of the mission and other public who are interested in spiritual growth.

Jnana Yagna (cont'd)



The theme of Canto 6 is '*Poshanam- Tat anugraha*' (His grace). It is said that the Lord is always looking for excuses to shower His grace upon us. We can invoke His grace by chanting His name (*naama upasana*), meditating on His form (*roopa upasana*), and through His worship (*puja* or *archana*). This is beautifully brought to light through the captivating stories of Ajaamila, Vritrasura and Diti, the mother of the asuras.

Invoking the Lord's grace through nama upasana is depicted through the story of Ajaamila.

Invoking the Lord's grace through roopa upasana is depicted through the story of Vritrasura.

Invoking the Lord's grace through puja and tapas is depicted through the story of Diti.

Here Acharya Prabodhji explained that Diti, observing the Pumsavana vrata with great devotion to the Lord, got completely purified. This invoked the Lord's grace. And nothing is impossible when the Lord showers His grace. The birth of Pareekshit is not unfamiliar to us. Even after Ashvatthama had killed Pareekshit by his *brahmastra* in Uttara's womb, Lord himself entered her womb and saved him. In the same way, although the baby was cut into forty-nine pieces, they were all saved. Such is the Grace of the Supreme Lord!

The theme for Canto 7 is *Utayah (Karma Vasana)*. The canto begins with king Pareekshit asking Sage Shukadeva, "If the Lord nourishes everyone with His grace, why does it not express in the same manner in all beings? It seems that He is partial to the Devas or His devotees." Sage Sukhadev explains that this is due to different karma vasanas in different people. There are three kinds of karma vasanas – *daivi*, *manavi* and *asuri* vasanas, belonging to *sattvik*, *rajasik* and *tamasik gunas* respectively. When people with daivi karma vasanas invoke the Lord, its expression is sattvik. In people with asuri karma vasanas, the expression is tamasik and in people with manavi karma vasanas the expression is rajasik. The expression of daivi, asuri and manavi karma vasanas is beautifully described through the characters of Prahalad, Hiranyakashipu and various manav dharmas respectively.

Acharya Prabodhji concluded the Jnana Yagna reminding us to chant the name of the Lord, meditate on His form and get absorbed in prayer. Thus, one can evolve through all the stages in life by surrendering to the Lord. We should be like a honeybee that extracts the essence from a flower with single-pointed attention. In the same way, with our mind always focused on the Lord we should also extract His essence!

'Sri Krishna Sharanam Mama.'



Bhagavan Veda Vyasa's Shrimad Bhagavatam is one of the most inspiring and enthralling devotional texts. Shrimad Bhagavatam in 18,000 verses prescribes four indispensable values for a noble and peaceful life, namely: Dharma (righteousness), Bhakti (devotion), Jnana (knowledge) and Vairagya (dispassion). Canto VI covers the stories of Ajamila and Vrtra-Asura that depicts the importance of devotion to the Lord. Canto VII covers the story of Jaya and Vijaya, and the story of Prahlada, considered to be one of the greatest devotees of Lord Narayana. Lord Narasimha's avatar is portrayed in this Canto.

Jnana Yagna – Discourses on Ashtavakra Gita



We had the privilege of attending the Jnana Yajna discourses on Ashtavakra Gita conducted by our own Acharya Br. Prabodh Chaitanya during April 12th to 17th 2010, in the mornings 6:30 am to 7:30 am at the Clayton facility. This year the Acharya covered Chapters 3, 4 and 5 with a recap of the previous chapters covered in the previous years.



The Ashtavakra Gita is a scriptural treatise, remarkable for its clarity and directness in explaining vedantic truths about the nature and glory of the spiritual Self, the One Reality. To a prepared student, it is a text that provides for profound reflection (*Manana Grantham*). It is written as a dialogue between Ashtavakra, the Guru and his disciple, the king-Seer Janaka. This fascinating legend is described in the *Vana Parva* portion of the Mahabharata.



All participant devotees offering the Guru Dakshina and Pranams to the Lord and to the Acharya, and receiving the Prasad on the last day.



Read the complete Bhagavatam article and the stories in

<http://www.chinmaya-sanjose.org/new/Srimad%20Bhagavatam%20Canto%206%20and%207.htm>

Read the complete Ashtavakra Gita write-up in

<http://www.chinmaya-sanjose.org/new/Ashtavakra%20Gita%20Chapters%203,%204%20and%205.htm>

All pictures are in Picasa at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/pbettada/0411CMSJYajna?feat=email#>

Ashtavakra Gita is a short treatise on Advaita Vedanta expounded in the form of a lucid dialogue between the Sage Ashtavakra and his royal disciple, King Janaka. This short treatise systematically deals with the mystical experiences of an individual in his flight to the transcendental state of peace and bliss. Advanced texts such as the Ashtavakra Gita, when taught by a teacher systematically in Vedantic tradition, help the student cultivate proper understanding of these teachings and transforms their lives.

Geeta Chanting Competition 2010

The annual Geeta Chanting Competition was held on April 24, 2010 at Clayton facility in San Jose. The program began with a short address by Uma Auntie. She spoke about the impressionable mind of young children and the importance of endowing them with knowledge of our heritage.

This year the participants chanted verses from Chapter 10. The title of this chapter is "The Vibhuti Yoga". After the first nine chapters, Lord Krishna is very pleased with Arjuna's sincerity in learning. So the Lord proceeds describe His power and pervasiveness. Responding to Arjuna's question as to how an individual can constantly remember the eternal Self while immersed in day-to-day activities, the Lord elaborates His divine glories, their immanence and prominence. The Lord indicates that there is no end to His glories and He supports the entire Universe by a fraction of Himself.

This year a record number of 155 participants took part in the competition! There was an increase across the board

in the number participants in the various categories. The spirit of motivation & learning was very evident in many young participants. Some had driven from as far as Sacramento to take part in this event.

The number of verses that had to be chanted by the participants varied according to the category. Furthermore, there were separate categories for memory and reading recitation only, divided between students in grades 9 -12 and adults..

The winners and those with honorable mention (H) in various categories are listed below:

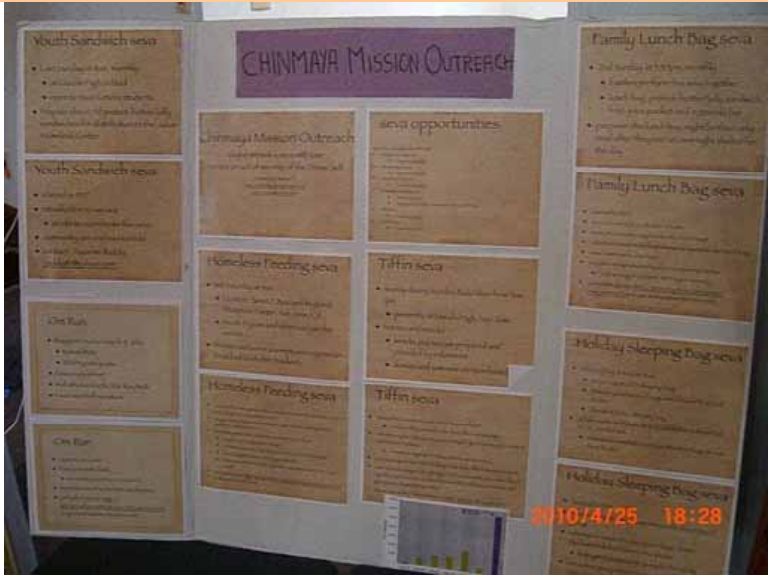
Hearty congratulations to all the participants. By taking part in this event, they showed their spirit of dedication to the Holy Song (Bhagavad Geeta). The winners were awarded their prizes on Bala Utsav day.



Group	Rank	First Name	Last Name	Center
PreK-K (30)	1	Achyut	Srinivasan	None
	2	Trisha	Godara	Fremont
	3	Shivani	Venkatarama	San Jose
	3	Vaishnavi		None
	H	Ahimsa	Yukta	None
	H	Vaidya	Adurthy	
Gr 1-2 (39)	1	Avanthika	Panchapakes	Sacramento
	2	Ankita	Jain	None
	2	Shreyas	Srinivasan	None
	2	chaitanya	bhat	San Jose
	2	Sujana	Sreenivasan	Sacramento
	2	Sahana	Prasanna	San Jose
	H	Aarjav	Joshi	San Jose
	H	Chinmay	Lalgudi	San Jose
	H	sachin	rao	San Jose
	H	Nandini	Ratnam	San Jose
Gr 3-4 (19)	1	Saranya	Rajagopalan	Danville
	1	Janaki	Sharma	Sacramento
	3	Shreya	Ramasubban	San Jose
	H	APARAJITA	JOSHI	Sacramento
	H	Anusha	Manjunath	San Jose
	H	Harshitha	Venkatesh	None
Gr 5-6 (21)	1	Pranavi	Chamarthi	San Jose
	1	Swethasree	Bhattaram	None
	3	Aditi	Desai	None
	H	Aum	Hansoty	Fremont
	H	Gautam	Ratnam	San Jose
Gr 7-8 (19)	1	sameer	rao	San Jose
	2	Shriya	Anand	San Jose
	3	Arvind	Sundararajan	Sacramento
	H	Meenu	Krishnasamy	San Jose
	H	Aravind	Rajagopalan	Danville
Gr 9-12 (7)	1	Meera	Parat	San Jose
	1	Prathna	Maharaj	San Jose
Adults (11)	1	Subbu	Subramanian	San Jose
	2	Anjali	Sharma	Sacramento
	2	Prabhakaran	vaidya	Fremont
	H	Dinesh	Kumar	Fremont
Adults(Re)	H	Ramadevi	Kesavan	San Jose
	1	vijay	ashar	San Jose
	2	Padma	Vutukuru	San Jose
	2	Sema	Vadalkar	None
	H	Vishwanath	Karra	None
Adults	H	Vinda	Bangan	San Jose
	H	Meeta	Saxena	None

All pictures are in Picasa at: http://picasaweb.google.com/sanjayrao/GitaChanting2010?authkey=Gv1sRgCL7Zn_bxyqnpLg&feat=email#
 And also Prize distribution at Bala Utsav at <http://picasaweb.google.com/pbettada/0523BalaUtsav?feat=email#>

Chinmaya Mission Sevathon Celebrations 2010



Seva (dedication to selfless service and karma yoga) is an important component of the spiritual sadhana. Year after year, dedicated volunteers organize monthly feeding of the homeless, provide sandwiches to homeless shelters, and organize the collection of sleeping bags to the homeless. Every week, this team organizes 'tiffin seva' during the Bala Vihar programs where students and parents can eat what they need and donate what they want for charitable causes and to the new building fund. This year, the team also organized the Om Run which was a resounding success. The seva team took time to reflect on the accomplishments and celebrate the success. Our Acharya, Br. Prabodh Chaitanya who guides us every step of our way, emphasized the importance of having the attitude when performing Seva or selfless service.



Following the recognition event, all the participants enjoyed a catered feast outdoors in our Clayton facility. Our Acharya joined us all in the celebrations.



Acharya Prabodhji's Birthday – May 4th 2010



It was our privilege to be with our dear Acharya again to celebrate his birthday on May 4th this year. Even though it was a week day, many of the mission members gathered at the Sandeepany ashram around noon to serve his bhiksha and also enjoy a potluck meal. After having lunch and cutting a birthday cake, Swamiji was presented with a beautiful card prepared by the children and signed by many mission members.



OMRun 2010 Fundraising Update

Thank you for making Om Run 2010 a huge success. Fundraising for the event closed at midnight (April 4th), total funds raised is over \$98,000 (and still counting).

Top 3 Fund Raising Class Award goes to:

San Jose Grade 7 (Room 7) – Raised \$5,155

San Jose Grade 8 (Room 1) – Raised \$2,579

San Jose Grade 7 (Room 18) – Raised \$2,016

100% class participation award goes to:

San Jose Grade 8 (Room 1)

Danville Grade 9 (Room 19)

All results are on the Om Run page. Congratulations to all the winners and participants. Thank you for your efforts, donations, enthusiasm and above all the love and support you bestowed in making this a historic event.

Om Run 2011 – coming soon to a town near you – stay tuned!!

Tentative plans on upcoming Retreats

Thanksgiving Family Retreat:

Dates: Nov. 25-28, concluding with lunch on 28th.

Place: Clayton Road Ashram

Topic: Sundarakandam from Tulsi Ramayana

We will have 7 discourses, like new year's retreat, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Christmas Family Retreat:

Dates: Dec. 24-29,

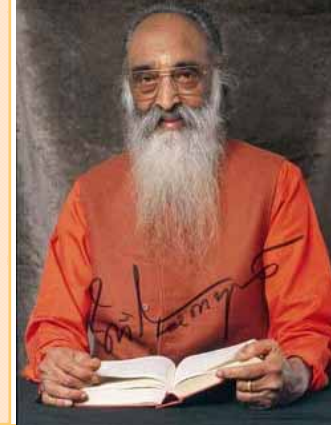
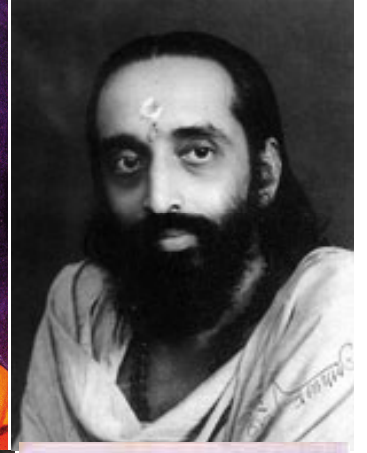
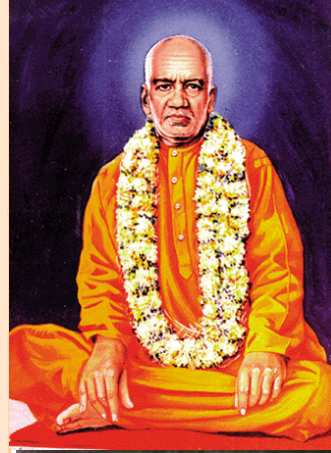
Venue: Under discussion (plan to make it residential camp)

Text: Vedanta

Yoga and meditation for all. Kids' program and other activities to be finalized. Lunch will be catered, snacks tea/coffee provided

यस्य स्मरणमात्रेण भक्तादिशिष्याश्च सेवकाः । नारायणो निजानन्दो निरपेक्षश्च निःस्पृहः ।
 प्रेरणां प्राप्नुवन्तीह चिन्मयं तं वयं नुमः ॥ १ ॥ निरुपमो निर्विकल्पस्तथा नित्यो निरञ्जनः ॥१२ ॥
 नामपुष्पैः पूजयामस्सर्वभावेन सद्गुरुम् । परमः परब्रह्मैव पावनः स हि पावकः ।
 अभीष्टफलसिद्धयर्थं भक्तिं प्राप्तुं विशेषतः ॥ २ ॥ पुरुषोत्तमस्स एवायं प्रसन्नात्मा स्वरूपतः ॥१३ ॥
 अजोऽव्ययोऽविनाशी च तथाचिन्त्योऽप्रमेयस्स फलासक्तिरहितोऽयं बहुभक्तो जनेषु च ।
 अद्वितीयोऽनिकेतश्च सदानुशासनप्रियः ॥ ३ ॥ बन्धमोचकशिष्याणां ब्रह्मनिष्ठस्तथैव च ॥१४ ॥
 अन्तःसाक्षी तु वृत्तीनामन्तर्यामी तथैव च । नित्यं ब्रह्मपरश्चैव भयनाशन एव हि ।
 आनन्दान्मस्वरूपस्स आंग्लभाषाविदुत्तमः ॥ ४ ॥ भारतगौरवो भूमा महावाक्योपदेशकः ॥१५ ॥
 ईश्वररत्नार्चभूतानामुदारहृदयचररादा । महर्षिर्मथुरश्चास्य स्वभावस्स मनोहरः ।
 उत्साहवर्धकस्त्वैक एवमोङ्कारवित्त्था ॥ ५ ॥ महात्मा स च मेधावी यतात्मा यज्ञकृच्च सः ॥१६ ॥
 करुणासागरोऽसौ हि तथा कर्मपरायणः । लोकप्रसिद्धो वाम्मी वै विभुश्चायं तथैव च ।
 कालातीतश्च कैवल्यस्वरूपस्स कृतात्मवान् ॥ ६ ॥ विनोदप्रिय एवायं विनयशीलस्स एव हि ॥ १७ ॥
 कृतकृत्यस्तथा गीताज्ञानयज्ञप्रचारकः । वीतरागो गुरुर्नोऽयं वेदान्तवेद्य एव सः ।
 गुरुश्चापि गुणातीतो ग्रन्थकृच्चिन्मयो हि सः ॥ ७ ॥ शान्तः शान्तिप्रदस्सोऽयं शास्त्रोद्धारक एव हि ॥ १८ ॥
 छिन्नसंशय एवायं जगदात्मा तथैव च । शुद्धसत्त्वस्सर्वदा च तथा च श्रुतिपारगः ।
 जगत्साक्षी जनप्रियस्सर्वदा च जितेन्द्रियः ॥ ८ ॥ श्रोत्रियश्चैव संन्यासी समबुद्धिस्तथैव च ॥ १९ ॥
 जीवब्रह्मैक्यविचासौ जीवन्मुक्तस्स एव हि । सच्चिदानन्दस्वरूपस्स सर्वहितचिन्तकः ।
 जीर्णमन्दिरोद्धारकस्तपोवनशिष्यस्तथा ॥ ९ ॥ सत्यसङ्कल्पस्सन्तुष्टस्साधुश्च सुमनास्तथा ॥ २० ॥
 तपस्वी तापनाशनस्तीर्थस्वरूप एव हि । सुहृद्भोके स्वयंज्योतिः स्थितप्रज्ञस्सदैव हि ।
 तेजस्वी सर्वलोकेषु देहातीतस्सदैव सः ॥ १० ॥ क्षमाशीलो ज्ञानमूर्तिर्ज्ञानयोगी जनेषु च ॥ २१ ॥
 द्वन्द्वातीतस्तथैवायं नित्यं च दृढनिश्चयः । ज्ञानतृप्तो नित्यशुद्धबुद्धमुक्तस्वरूपस्सः ।
 धर्मसंस्थापको धीमान् धीरो धैर्यप्रदश्च सः ॥ ११ ॥ एवं नामार्चितो भूयात् प्रसन्नो वरदो गुरुः ॥ २२ ॥

We already have Pujya Gurudev's ashtottarashata namavali (108 names). Pujya Guruji, Swami Tejomayananda has now composed these names in shlokas. These can be chanted in the same way as Vishnu Sahasranama is chanted.



॥ ॐ श्रीसद्गुरुचिन्मयार्पणमस्तु ॥

One Year Residential Vedanta Course

Chinmaya Mission West (CMW) is pleased to announce its One-Year Residential Vedanta Course at CMW's Headquarters, the ashram of Krishnalaya in Northern California, amidst the serene Redwoods.

The Course will commence August 7, 2010 and end in August 2011. This residential, full-time Course, without any holidays, will be conducted in English.

Eligibility: This Course is open to sincere seekers between the ages of 20-70 years.

Course Registration:

\$12,000 (covers registration, lodging, boarding, and books; payable in installments)

Fill in the details at

<http://krishnalaya.chinmayamission.org/vedanta-course.html>

request received will be reviewed and eligible candidates will be asked to schedule a personal interview, details to be provided at a later date.

Please contact **Brahmachari Prabodh Chaitanya** (prabodh@chinmayamission.org) if you have any questions regarding this course.

Visiting Acharyas:

Pujya Guruji : 8/7/2010 - 8/22/2010

Br. Prabodh Chaitanya : 8/23/2010 - 10/31/2010

Swami Ishwarananda : Nov - Dec 2010

Swami Shantananda : Jan 2011

Swami Ishwarananda : Feb - Mar 2011

Br. Prabodh Chaitanya : Apr - May 2011

Pujya Guruji : Last month before class finishes in 2011 (more info will be announced as it becomes available)

Texts:

Pujya Guruji: Tattwa Bodha, Mandukya Up. (selected) and Essence of Srimad Bhagawatam & Ramayana.

Swami Shantananda: Dakshinamoorthy Stotram and Sat Darshanam.

Swami Ishwarananda: Bhagawad Gita.

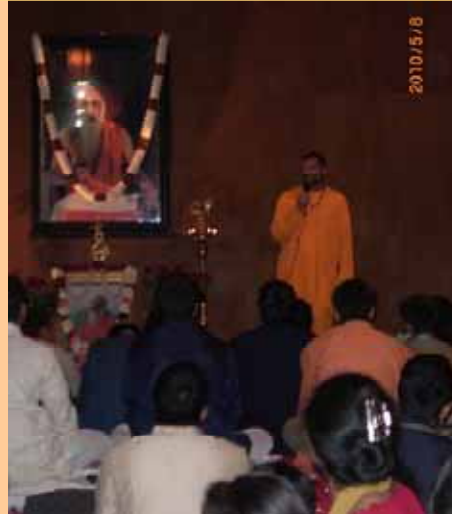
Br. Prabodh Chaitanya: Upadesha Saara, Atma Bodha, Drg Drshya Viveka, Panchadashi Ch. 1, and Isa, Kena, Katha, Mundaka, Taittiriya Upanishads

Acharya Smt. Sharada Kumar: Vedic Chanting, bhajans, Suktams, Samskrit, Vivekhoodamani and Sahasranaamavali.

Gurudev Jayanti and Bala Vihar Graduation Celebration – May 8th 2010 ***-- Awaken the sleeping giant within --***

“The purpose of life is to serve the divine by awakening the sleeping giant within,” said our Acharya as he addressed the graduates seated on the stage in front of him on May 8th this year at our ashram.

On the auspicious occasion of Gurudev's Jayanti, the Bala Vihar graduates who had been nurtured and guided by our unique Bala Vihar program as envisaged by Gurudev himself, were ready to head off to colleges and universities all around the country. They now had the precious opportunity to take with them the blessings and guidance from our acharya who invoked the perfect example of such inspired service in Hanumanji. The great son of Vayu had to be reminded of the sleeping giant within himself, and as a result performed extraordinary feats to serve his Lord. Prabodhji told the young graduates that they were no different. They too had greatness within just waiting to be kindled and harnessed.



The graduates sitting on the stage to perform the puja as instructed



The program began with melodious bhajans sung by our Swaranjali choir from both Danville and San Jose. The children wowed the audience with their repertoire of songs. This was followed by the puja where abishekha was performed for Gurudev's padukas. Each of the graduating students was also guided by Subbu as they performed their own puja and made offerings to the picture of Gurudev placed in front of them. At the conclusion of the puja, some of the graduates chose to share their experiences of Bala Vihar before the audience. Their accounts ranged from the serious and reflective ones to very amusing and entertaining perspectives on their journey over the years.

A unique feature of this year's program was a song composed especially on the occasion of our Acharya's birthday by one of the Mission members and rendered in song by his daughter. The refrain of the song had the whole audience joining in!

As is the tradition, the parents of the graduates treated the attendees to a sumptuous catered dinner at the end of the evening!

Acharya Vandanam

On May 9th this year, a day after celebrating Gurudev's Jayanti, our ashram was the venue for another celebration. This time the attendees were there by invitation – they were the Bala Vihar and language teachers from Danville, Fremont and San Jose. Uma Auntie felicitated each of these teachers (over a hundred in number!).

Auntie reminisced about the humble origins of the program when a handful of teachers multi-tasked each weekend to serve the growing number of students, and had to learn everything on the run! From there, the program now has close to 2000 students with well over a 100 teachers, and growing! The teachers were enthused and elevated as auntie remarked to them about how this program was very dear to Gurudev because he knew how critical it was to give the children an early start on spiritual education.

Each of the teachers received a special gift from our acharya and were treated to a delicious catered dinner at the end.



Gurudev Dakshina and Conclusion of the Bala Vihar year – May 16th 2010

Our Acharya Prabodhji teaches various Vedanta texts at many Bay area locations throughout the year. At the conclusion of the school year, we humbly offer our respects and a small dakshina or donation. The following pictures were taken at the classes held in Lincoln High and in the Sandeepany ashram.



Gurudev Jayanti and Bala Vihar graduation pictures in

<http://picasaweb.google.com/pbettada/0508GurudevJayanti?authkey=Gv1sRgCIDHsJrv0oih3AE#>

http://picasaweb.google.com/114911860600681680336/2010_BV_Graduation?authkey=Gv1sRgCIXAsszbzJCPCg&feat=email#

Bala Vihar Guru Dakshina event pictures in

http://picasaweb.google.com/pbettada/0516Gurudakshina?authkey=Gv1sRgCNGN6e_T46TqDg#

San Jose Bala Utsav May 23, 2010

A grand finale to the 2009-2010 Bala Vihar academic year for the classes in San Jose was held on May 23, 2010. The year long learning culminates in students presenting what they learned to a wide audience of teachers, fellow school students, parents and even grandparents. In view of the large number of classes in various categories, it is physically impossible for each and every section to do the presentation. So a sampling of classes in spread across all age groups and categories are chosen each year.



The selection of classes for presentation this year included several from primary, middle and high-school students, language classes representing the rich variety of India. In normal schools, academic year ends with final term papers, examinations etc. There is a period of palpable tension for both students and parents. But at Bala Vihar, it is very different. Just as the curriculum and method of teaching is fun for students to learn, similarly the year-end presentations also close on a very happy note. Unlike normal examination halls, there was an aura of festivity and celebration all around. The entire Clayton campus was reverberating with children's laughter and happiness all around.



San Jose Bala Utsav May 23, 2010



It was a wonderful sight to see many dressed as Lord Rama, Sita, Lord Krishna, Hanuman and Ravana besides other characters. Many young girls were beautifully dressed in the bridal finery. The Marathi class presented a melodious musical. Students from the adult Sanskrit presented a short skit and everybody spoke only in Sanskrit (reminiscent of the glorious Vedic period). Over 1000 students (larger than many high schools) participated in the all day program.



Bala Utsav pictures are in
<http://picasaweb.google.com/pbettada/0523BalaUtsav?feat=email#>
<http://picasaweb.google.com/ramanavakka/20100523BalaUtsavKitchen?authkey=Gv1sRgCMWMMiICHgq26Nw&feat=directlink>

San Jose Bala Utsav May 23, 2010 (continued)

Bala Utsav 2010- Sunday May 23

Invocation Prayers—8.45-9.00am

Teachers	Grade	Time	Title of Presentation	Room #
Deepa Rai, Jignesh Joshi	8	9.00-9.15am	The Room # 1 story	2
Sandya Radha, Puja Varsh, Ananth	4	9.15-9.30	Essence of Ramayana	3
Swati Shah, Sonya Manjunath, Arjana	2	9.30-9.45	Kaliya Mardanam and Rasa Leeta	4
Rohini Deshpande	Marathi	9.45-10.00	Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav	5
Sumati Sridhar, Shree Murthy	KG	10.00-10.15		8
Sini Bava	Malayalam	10.15-10.30		9

Swaranjali—10.30-10.45am

Sukanya, Sasmita, Arjun	2	10.45-11.00	Who am I	10
Suvarna Bhamre, Hemant, Keerthi	2	11.00-11.15	Madhurashtakam	11
Rajani Shalendar, Shalaja, Anisha	1	11.15-11.30	Lingam Rock	2
Chitra Pyapali, Kameswari, Sampath	KG	11.30-11.45	Triपुरasuras	3
Aruna Natraj, Vdehi, Aniruddha	3	11.45-12.00	Saint Tulidas and King Akbar	4

Gita Chanting Prizes—12.00-12.15pm

Uma Venkatesh, Vrinda, Anand	4	12.15-12.30	Shri Rama Doota Hanuman	5
Daksha, Vaishali, Archana	3	12.30-12.45		8
Sudha Krishnan, Sridevi Haridasa	7	12.45-1.00	The Dice Game	9
Jayaram Reddy, Ravi Alladi	10	1.00-1.15		10
Renuka Alladi, Aruna SRS, Varsha	1	1.15-1.30	Lingashtakam	11
Kausalya, Sujatha, Adithya	2	1.30-1.45	Krishnashtakam, Madhurashtakam	2
Chitra Pyapali, Latha Ganapathy	6	1.45-2.00	Krishna and Sudama	3
Anitha, Geetha swarny, Puje	KG	2.00-2.15		4
Aruna Peri, Anu Tawari, Sharanya	4	2.15-2.30	What would Rama do?	5
Aruna Krishnasarmy, Geetha Rao, Nandini	KG	2.30-2.45	God's Love	8
Dinesh Bangari, Venkatesh	Sanskrit	2.45-3.00	Dashamah Kah	9
Rohini Joshi, Kamakshi, Aneasha	3	3.00-3.15	Play on Valmiki	10
Poomima Dilip, Smitha, Supraje	KG	3.15-3.30	Ganesha and the Divine Mango	11
Jayanti, Meena, Shriya	1	3.30-3.45		2
Jyoti Asundi, Padma Chari	5	3.45-4.00	Stories of Bhagavatam	3



Announcement about Jnana Ganga

From CMSJ board

Hari Om. Several months back we shared an idea about a multimedia program called “Jnana Ganga” produced with participation from our Bala Vihar children and supported by several professional musicians and dancers from the Bay area. We are extremely pleased to inform you that this program has picked up significant momentum and we will drive this program as our next major fund raiser for our new building.

Jnana Ganga traces the origin of humanity's most sacred river, Gangaji, and depicts various aspects of her service to humanity. This is of particular relevance to all of us who know that our Gurudev, Swami Chinmayanandaji, took inspiration from Gangaji to bring the supreme knowledge of our scriptures to our doorstep.

This program will be held on Nov 20, 2010, at the Foothill college auditorium. By this time, we expect substantial progress on our new building efforts and we can use Jnana Ganga as a platform to launch the next major steps. We request you all to keep this date free and support Jnana Ganga, our fund raiser for our new building. We will continue to share updates as we move forward, but wanted to give you all a heads-up before we sign-off for summer. Please share this with all your friends and encourage all to attend the event and participate in the success of the new building project. Thank you

San Jose Bala Utsav May 23, 2010 (Continued)

The enthusiasm of the children in learning was very evident even as they were leaving the main hall. All students made a stop at the book store to grab a book or two for summer reading. Childrens' books like Krishna Rocks, Krishna Butterbash, Tell Me A Story etc., sold like hot cakes (or samosas). Some sevaks had to rush to Sandeepany to replenish many books and eventually the bookstore ran out of all of them. Adults, not to be left behind, grabbed many of our dear Acharya's lectures on CD/DVD.



No festivity is complete without food. The Seva team rose to the occasion and organized a wide variety of dishes. Presentation of food and drinks and serving them was executed with precision. Indeed a wonderful way to conclude the academic year and kick start summer holidays!

Interim Schedule of Classes (during September and October 2010)

Our Acharya, Br. Prabodh Chaitanya will be away at Piercy participating in teaching the One Year Vedanta Course during the months of September and October 2010. He has established an interim schedule for classes in his absence, so we can study Vedantic texts not yet covered in our regular sessions with the Acharya. Following is the interim schedule of the classes and the corresponding texts.

Day of week	Start/End Time	Video/Audio Class & Text	Location
Mon, Wed	10:00 am to 11:15 am	<i>Vision of Bhagawad Geeta by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda</i>	Sandeepany
Saturday	6:30 am to 7:00 am	<i>Meditation</i>	Sandeepany
Saturday	7:00 am to 8:00 am	<i>Svetasvatara Upanishad by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda</i>	Sandeepany
Saturday	1:30 pm to 3:00 pm	<i>Panchadashi Ch. 1 by Br. Prabodh Chaitanya</i>	Fremont BV
Saturday	3:15 pm to 4:15 pm	<i>Bhagawad Geeta Ch. 4 by Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda</i>	San Ramon BV
Saturday	4:30 pm to 6:00 pm	<i>Panchadashi Ch. 1 by Br. Prabodh Chaitanya</i>	San Ramon BV
Sunday	9:00 am to 10:00 am	<i>Bhagawad Geeta Ch. 11 by Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda</i>	San Jose BV
Sunday	10:40 am to 11:40 am	<i>Srimad Bhagawatam by Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda</i>	San Jose BV

Verse 6

In the next two verses the Lord continues to describe a hypocrite and a true worker. The Lord says he who refuses to work with his limbs, sits with his mind roaming over objects of pleasure, entertains wicked thoughts, dishonest motives and false pretences, he is deluded and a hypocrite.

Verse 7

On the other hand the one who controls his senses by the mind, unattached, employs his organs of actions in Karma Yoga “service to all” without a selfish motive, O! Arjuna he is a true worker.

Verse 8

What kind of actions must one engage in?

In this verse the Lord advocates on performance of all obligatory actions; for action is any day better than inaction.

Actions have been analyzed and classified into four categories by the Vedas.

Nishiddha Karma – actions that are below the dignity of man’s spiritual evolution.

Kamya Karma – selfish actions prompted by personal desires.

Nitya Karma – daily duties that are to be fulfilled by all individuals and

Naimittika Karma – special duties that come to us in special and extraordinary situations.

Of these four, actions 1 and 2 are condemned by the scriptures as they are beneath spiritual evolution of an individual. Actions 3 and 4 must be performed fully in the spirit of Yagna- without attachment, joy and dedication.

Verse 9

In this verse the Lord tells Arjuna on how the actions should be performed. Bhagwan asks Arjuna to act in the spirit of sacrifice (*Yagna*). To act in the spirit of selflessness for the benefit

of all, causes the desires (*vasanas*) to be exhausted and also prevents new desires from being created. Selfish ego driven actions result in bondage. Thus, the Lord asks Arjuna to perform all actions in the spirit of worship. (Actions by themselves are neutral. They are neither good nor bad. It is the motive behind the actions that make it good or bad).

Verse 10

The Lord in this verse enumerates that the working of this entire universe is in the spirit of Yagna. The Creator – *Prajapati* having created mankind along with whole world of cosmic power—the sun, the moon, the rivers all serve in the spirit of sacrifice without a trace of attachment. With this understanding to co-operatively work together in a spirit of service and capacity to sacrifice one shall fulfill all desires. This shall be the milch cow – *kamadhenu*, fulfiller of all your desires. (Kamadhenu, a mythological cow was obtained during the churning of the milky ocean, belonged to Sage Vasishtha. From this cow all the desires can be milked out).

Verse 11-12

The Lord explains that the nature – the presiding deities of the nature – the conscious principles that govern each of the faculties – will nourish us and we should nourish them. We propitiate them and they will give back. Mutually when we nourish each other, we will reach supreme good. Essence of this teaching is that the spirit of sacrifice is two way – give and take. This spirit must be extended to all dimensions – that we live according to proper norms, discipline and believe in sharing not just with other individuals, but with nature and society also.

Common good is explained here. If we don’t give back, share with others, with nature and deities, and don’t reciprocate what we get, then such a person is a thief. Lord uses strong language to emphasize the importance of giving back to nature.