



# Sahaj Marg Echoes of Oceania



## Masters visit to Dubai

Master in Dubai

With the company of abhyasis on a direct flight from Chennai, Master arrived in Dubai on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October where he stayed for 11 days.

It had been suggested that the purpose of the visit was so Master could rest, an ideal the organisers took into consideration as they coordinated his schedule.

Visiting times with Master were divided into two parts: mornings for overseas abhyasis; and afternoons set aside for local abhyasis according to the zone in which they lived. Time was set aside for Master to rest as needed, free from the usual busyness so associated with these visits, whilst in turn giving everyone equal opportunity to meet with Master in person.

Master conducted satsangh most parts and on the occasion when it took place at the Iranian Club, attendance was so high that abhyasis were forced to sit in the aisles of the auditorium. Then, as

if by magic a country known for its sweltering heat opened its skies and rained as satsangh began only stopping as the sitting ended.

Overall Master's mood was jovial, his charismatic wit and charm that we so much love, charged abhyasis with laughter as he led spontaneous Q & A sessions. And regardless if these sessions took place in the garden or on the beach, Master was always attentive and equally loving as he responded to each question.

The visit was a credit to the organisers. Their open display of their love and gratitude at hosting Master provoked such feelings of respect that the atmosphere was filled with universal love.



Abhyasis with Master at CREST

### Master's news In CREST Bangalore

Reported by participants:

After his visit to Dubai, Master spent some days in Manapakkam and then took some rest in Janaki's farm in Trichy. Then, He joined the participants of a new session of CREST starting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November in Bangalore.

Whilst focussing on our own spiritual practice, the daily routine consisted of: early morning wake-up, physical exercise, and then morning lectures on various life themes. In the afternoon there were workshops and book presentations by all delegates.

The presentations were on a wide range of topics such as ego, the environment, spirituality, Gopis' bhakti, European mysticism, middle-aged influences, spirituality and business management, etc. During the program Master seemed very well and happy! The session was concluded on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> of November.

Master came back to Manapakkam on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November .



## Attendance

114 adults and 24 children

Abhyasis from Fiji, New Caledonia, Perth, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra and Sydney attended the seminar.

## Volunteers

There was a wonderful team of volunteers who assisted with the proceedings of the seminar. Whether it was the drivers, some who worked into the wee hours of the morning, or the cooks who worked relentlessly to provide us with the most wonderful meals or those volunteers who worked in the children's corner, this all could not have been done without the meticulous coordination of Bro Rajesh Kumar who was stretched in more ways than one could imagine.

## Preceptors Meeting



Preceptors meeting at regional gathering

We started the preceptors workshop with Sis Libby Crichton leading the first session on "Preceptors Code of Conduct" focussing on where were our

strengths and how to work upon improving our weaker points. We then dispersed for lunch and the food prepared just seemed a delicacy.

After lunch the preceptors workshop continued with Br David Todd, with his experiences as a preceptor. David explained that when we allow Master to be present and our hearts open it develops the possibility for miracles to occur. Br David enthralled us with situations where reliance on the Master and being open to the needs of people gave the possibility of change taking place within their lives. After this Sis Elizabeth Denley shared with us some readings from the Masters on 'Love and its role in the preceptors work'. Then followed by a

talk from Br Paul John on "Faith and its role in the preceptors work" both of which further enlightened us on how surrender to Master is the most valuable key in His work.

## Youth Forum

A youth forum was held on the Friday afternoon and attended by youth from all of the centres giving some of them a chance to personally meet for the first time. The meeting was led by Br Chandhu from the Melbourne centre. Brothers John Smith, Paul John and Satish Menon gave short introductions on how important it is for the youth to be involved with the Mission as they are



Youth at regional gathering

the future, and they will be the ones required to take Sahaj Marg forward in years to come. They also expressed their wishes on the further growth of youth within the Mission. Br Chandu then played a video for the youth group and afterward discussed ideas on future activities and communication between the centres.

## Annual General Meeting

1. The minutes of the 2006 AGM were read accepted.
2. The report by the vice president was read by Brother John Smith
3. The Vice President specially thanked the coordinators of the United Nation's "International Day Of Peace" events, for all their work and effort that was put into making these successful at all the SRCM centres around Australia
4. The report by the Secretary, Br Paul John was read out
5. The treasurer Br Dipak Joshi read out the annual financial statements for the 2006-2007 financial years and accepted

- The secretary explained that we are required to vote on the changes made to the Articles of Association of the Shri Ram Chandra Mission which were approved by the President. The amended Articles of Association were then put to the floor and accepted.



Br John Smith welcoming all members

### Children's corner

The program was jam packed with activities. The one in particular which all enjoyed was the canoeing excursion. Tilly was the star of the day as she showed all the novices just how it should be done!

### Poster and Poem Competition

Children were invited to enter into the poster and poem competition. In total there were 5 prizes awarded, There were many entries some of those from primary and senior Muslim, Hindu and Christian schools in Fiji who contributed whole heartedly with their visions and experiences on peace, human rights, poverty, and a world without hunger. A very touching poem entitled "Acceptance" was read out during the event, written by Fazila Naz from the Muslim College in Lautoka and won first prize of the poem competition. We congratulated all the children for their creative expression and their efforts.

### Senior Poem competition entry winner / First Prize : Fazila Naz 17y, Muslim College, Lautoka, West coast of Fiji

#### Acceptance

Life was hard.

At the age of five, the only thing that brought smile was the idea of schooling

I heard only of good things, the huge buildings, the big books, the machine which they call computer, the great knowledge, and the friendly people.

Being there meant everything Dad promised I could have, even Mum helped

I still remembered my first day.

Though I dressed in my best clothes, people laughed, laughed at my dress, laughed at my shoes, laughed at me.

I could see my dream shuttering,

They told me I did not fit as I was black

Salt dispersed in my eyes.

The school world was filled with prejudice, something never taught at home

Imagine what I was supposed to look up to.

Now it is time we learn to accept.

Accept regardless our colour, regardless our religion, and regardless our bank balance.



#### Poster Competition Entries



Shri Ram Chandra Mission Australia invited the general public to participate in the event launched in support of United Nations Day 2007 on the theme "One World, One Humanity- Steps and Obstacles Towards Unification of Humanity".

This event attracted participation of *Mr Abdullah Mbamba*, **United Nations Information Centre Director for Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific** and experienced guests speakers in the field of interfaith dialogue and reconciliation.

About the theme, Mr Mbamba pointed out: "There is no doubt in my mind that the theme for this event reaffirms the values enshrined in the UN Charter and indeed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But more significantly, is that your organisation has taken concrete steps to advance these values here in Australia."

Mr. Mbamba congratulated the Shri Ram Chandra Mission for launching such event in "promotion of inter-religious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace" in the context of UN General Assembly resolution 61/221.

This resolution encourages UN Members States, UN system and civil society- including media- to undertake a range of practical initiatives to promote understanding, tolerance, and respect for diversity of religion, culture and language.

After the welcoming remarks delivered by Sis Danielle, SRCM Liaison, *UNIC Director*, *Mr Mbamba* delivered the **keynote address** on " United Nations: Its role in the Unification of



Mr Abdullah Mbamba



Fr Patrick Mc Inerney



Mr Mohamed Dukuly



Brother John Smith

Humanity". Mr. Mbamba acknowledged the role of NGOs such as SRCM, in promoting dialogue and cooperation amongst civilizations and in doing so, making it possible for love to replace hate, and therefore becoming instrument of peace.

Mr Mbamba added: " I think we should all become instruments of peace. .... together, it is our common challenge to eliminate all distorted notions that deepen barriers and widen divides, for they all originate in the discriminatory practices of the mind. We can achieve this, through a multi faceted dialogue that promotes unity in diversity and replace misunderstanding with mutual understanding and acceptance. The success of this dialogue also rests on the active involvement of media, private sector, the civil society movement, faith groups and non-governmental organisations. Your own insights and outreach will be instrumental in helping to achieving these goals."

Mr. Mbamba reminded the fundamental truth that "Deep spirituality is a source of compassion." And that "We need to acknowledge the pluralism that exists today and become examples of these values."

*Fr Patrick Mc Inerney* from the **Columban Mission Institute, Sydney** spoke from his experience on "Human and spiritual resources utilized in reconciliation processes, obstacles encountered and qualities required to restore tolerance" .

Fr Patrick stressed the need to meet one another to favour understanding and respect, as there are no relations between religious systems. It is the responsibility of each and everyone to contribute to building human relations.

*Mr Mohamed Dukuly, Together for Humanity Foundation, Sydney* spoke on "How youth education on key universal values contributes to unification of humanity. ". Mr. Mohamed Dukuly offered a fresh approach to youth programs undertaken in schools. These workshops detect stereotypes in student minds, while encouraging interfaith tolerance in youth education.

*Br John Smith* spoke on: " Human development through spiritual training", evoking his own aspiration for universal love and his first experience in feeling one with people he did not know, as a result of starting meditation on the divine light in the heart. Br John illustrated the actual transformative effects of the spiritual training offered by the Shri Ram Chandra Mission in the field of raja-yoga . Br John stressed the importance of the heart: "in the foundation of spiritual training, we deal very much with the heart. It is the heart that brings forth the human qualities which the intellect cannot bring, which we cannot get through reading books, which we cannot get through building developed countries. We can become rich, we can become rich nations, we can become wise

nations, but unless we integrate the heart, we cannot become great nations. "...So in this system, taught by my Master within the Shri Ram Chandra Mission, the very first focus is towards the heart. We try to seek within our heart the divine connection."

Br John observed: "In the book written by Shri Ram Chandra, the founder of the Shri Ram Chandra Mission, he said that the practices and principles that were founded possibly thousands of years ago, are not necessarily correct for the training of humanity today. There were good at the time they were founded , they were based on personal experiences, but have not changed, transformed, along with society, as we have grown. A lot of them have lost the real spirit behind the teachings and have become outwards rituals. When this happens, prejudice also comes in place."

"We should imbibe as many godly attributes as possible. This is the basis of spiritual training.

In today's society, much importance is given to pursue our material welfare. Training in education aims to fulfill this goal, but we give very little attention to spiritual training , to understand what is the inner self.

Proper spiritual training should bring peace, calmness of mind, simplicity and lightness, as a natural result of its practice. One can then say that such training is effective.



Unic Director & Functionaries



Father Patrick Mc Inerney  
Enjoying a buffet with members

Unless the mind is cleared from all pollution, the training is ineffective.

Ram Chandra said » God is not to be found within the fold of one particular religion or sect, it is not confined within certain rituals, not is he to be traced in scriptures, Him we have to seek in the innermost core of our heart ».

Br John then demonstrated the power of prayer as per his experience, when he prayed God to help him find a Master that would help him find the meaning of life and support him in progressing on the path of spirituality. The next day, he met a person who became instrumental in showing him the way to Him.

He then explained how in our spiritual system, "we take the concept of God as being the Centre, with no name, no attribute, avoiding therefore any preconceived representation defined through our traditional upbringing, culture and we can come together as one. When we look again at this aspect of the Centre, our teachers say s God is the Centre and the Centre of everything, each human being comes from that centre so we realise we are all a small spark of this divine centre. If we can be aware of the divine spark within us, with the help of our spiritual practices, we will naturally see it in all brothers and sisters on this planet ; but it all start with ourselves."

All Participants were invited to join in a silent universal prayer for peace and spiritual development, uniting for 15minutes on the thought that: " All People of the World are growing peace-loving and pious".

A poster and poem competition delivered 5 prizes to primary and senior Muslim, Hindus and Christian schools in Fiji who contributed wholeheartedly with their visions and experiences on peace, human rights, poverty, world without hunger. A very touching poem entitled "Acceptance" was read out during the event, written by Fazila Naz from the Muslim College in Lautoka and wan first prize of the poem competition.

SRCM had several contributions to the poster competition for which Ishan from Brisbane Centre won the 2nd prize.

After the talks, a cultural program with a small group of SRCM youth accompanied by Kim Sanders, Australian multi- instrumentalist and composer, closed the event. Peace couplets sourced from the UN Website were chosen by children, while Sis Elizabeth read from mystic poets Kabir and Rumi. This was quite inspirational, with the combination of the Turkish flute blending wonderfully with the context and classic guitar played by Lucas.

After the event, Fr Patrick joined at the table prepared for guests speakers , honoring the effort undertaken by the food preparation team and chef Br Venkat who prepared a refined buffet.

This event was a wonderful expression of team work from preparation to completion.

**A souvenir to mark this special event on the 80th Anniversary of our beloved Master is in preparation.**

**It will include the full version of Mr Abdullah Mbamba keynote address, Br John's presentation and notes taken from Fr Patrick Mc Inerney and Mr Mohamed Dukuly. Please contact Br Ramesh from Sydney main store: rchandra\_06@yahoo.com.au to order your copy.**



**Cultural Program**

**Poem & Poster Competition**



### *News - Melbourne*

In total there were 13 from Melbourne who attended the regional seminar in Sydney. The closeness of Master felt in such surroundings inspired us to work towards leading a perfect life.

An open house was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November at the Phoenix Park Library. Presentations were given followed by a Q & A forum. More open house are planned for the future..

### **Workshops**

The study workshops "Cleaning" and "Constant Remembrance" were well received and another workshop is planned on "Diary Writing"

### **Currently visiting**

Br. Ram Shanker Sachan is visiting from India and is actively supporting the centre.

Congratulations to Ika and Chandu for the birth of their baby girl Lekha.

### *Centre News - Sydney*

At the recent Yoga Expo on 14<sup>th</sup> of Oct 2007 a stall was set up manned by volunteers. It was well received with genuine enquiries of interest with one person introduced.

A talk was given at Wollongong University arranged by Sister Sunila with two new sisters joining.

Congratulations to Shalini & Rajesh for the birth of their baby boy Bharac.

### *Centre News - New Caledonia*

"We were warmly welcomed as we arrived in Australia to attend the regional gathering in Sydney, the hospitality of our host family and all those we met was greatly appreciated. For us we celebrated this special event with lots of love, humanity and positive energy; it was even more touching because all that happened with such simplicity. It can be honestly said that we spent

every moment of these couple of days in joy and harmony. "

"Back in Noumea our hearts were notably lighter and full of joy and it was with much pleasure that we welcomed two visiting preceptors from France, Hervé and Mireille Scala."

"It is with much love in our hearts that we feel blessed by our beloved Master whose presence we felt during this seminar and gratitude to all our brothers and sisters who contributed towards those unforgettable memories." - Beatrice Baldacchino



Sisters and brothers from New Caledonia

### *Centre News - Perth*

There will be a long weekend Retreat in Perth from the 29 Feb – 3 March 2008. The retreat is open to all and we heartily welcome those from interstate to come and join us. Since the accommodation is limited we need confirmation of registration so as to be able to make the necessary bookings which will be on a first come first served basis. The registration form is now available on the mission's web site.



## Up and coming events - Sunshine Coast

15th December - *Open House*  
21st December - *Study Group*  
4th January - *Study Group*  
6th January - *Visit by ZIC Shared meal & Open House*  
18th January - *Study Group*

## Up and coming events - Brisbane

19th January - *Preceptors exchange & meeting*  
2nd February *Lalaji's Birthday Celebrations*  
16th February - *Preceptors exchange & meeting*

## Up and coming events - New Caledonia

2nd February— *Lalaji's Birthday Celebrations*

## Up and coming events - Sydney

5th January - *Monthly gathering screening "He The Hookah and I" titled "The Tobacco Brotherhood"*  
2nd February *Lalaji's Birthday Celebrations (venue TBC)*

## Up and coming events - Melbourne

2nd February - *Lalaji's Birthday Celebrations*

## Q & A Session with Master: Extract of the Questions:

*Master explained that most questions are from the head. He said when a question comes from the heart, the eyes generally become moist.*

*"When you experience, you get it through the heart.*

*When you learn, you get it through the head."*

*He said we have to learn from our own experience.*

## Oceania Ashram Update

Dear Brothers and Sisters we have received wonderful news from Beloved Master in regards to the property at 31 Dwyer Rd, Bringelly. Master was happy to give His approval for the acquisition of this property.



## \*\*\* SRCM ID Cards Notice \*\*\*

SRCM ID membership cards will be mandatory for all centralized celebrations & utsavs of the mission in the future, starting from Rev. Master's birthday celebrations in July 2008 to be held in Lucknow, India.

All abhyasis who do not have membership cards are encouraged to contact their local co-ordinators within the next couple of months to submit their applications.

Coordination and contact: Waireti Amai: email: [wairetiamai@hotmail.com](mailto:wairetiamai@hotmail.com)

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