Voice of CHINMAYA

Quarterly Journal of Chinmaya Mission Sri Lanka.
Vol.30 Dec./March 2009

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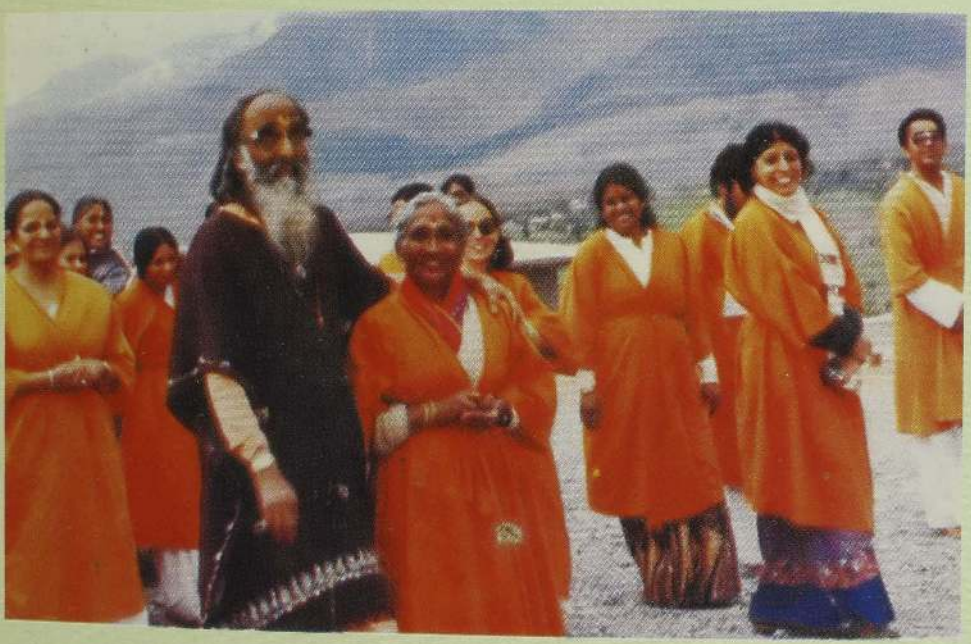

Pujiya Gurudev with Sri Lankan Devotees at Siddhabari

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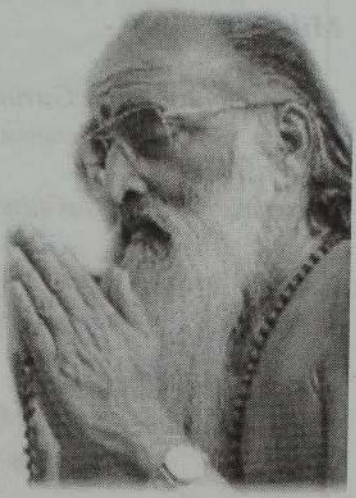
Voice of **CHINMAYA**

Quarterly Journal of
Chinmaya Mission Sri Lanka.

Jananam May 8th 1916



Mahasamadhi Aug. 3rd 1993.

When Swamiji began his mission the oldest scriptures were taught exclusively to a few shrouded in orthodoxy. When he attained Mahasamadhi he had opened up the perennial philosophy to millions of people.

"In whatever way men approach me, even so do I reward them. My path do men tread in all ways, O son of partha"

- Geeta IV : II

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Voice of **CHINMAYA**

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Editorial

This last quarterly of the Voice of Chinmaya 2008, is a special Issue on the story – the "Beginnings and Growth of the Chinmaya Mission in Sri Lanka," referred to as Milestones.

It is a tribute to Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayanandaji who keeps guiding us to this day through unknown, yet beautiful vistas of peace, love and joy. As one reads on, memories rise up slowly and each incident is a story, weaving into its folds Vedantic Truths as Gurudev said it would.

As the curtain rises ushering 2009, we devotees walk in enthusiastically with our bundle of commitments, hoping to realize our aspiration in the wake of time through the grace of God, our Pujya Gurudev from his abode and from afar Pujya Guruji.

It is our Gurudev's story in Sri Lanka that we are recapitulating. He propagated the magic spell of the perennial philosophy of the Geeta to the masses. The beauty of this celebrated work is that there is something in it which is applicable to all types of people who find solutions to their own individual problems by being guided by him, He keeps repeating that while working, one should never become attached to the result and adds that the reach of Geeta is stupendous – "It challenges the profound thinker, inspires the hero of action, nourishes the devotee and fills the mind of the mystic with peace ineffable."

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Past

Dissolve the past into the fiery future

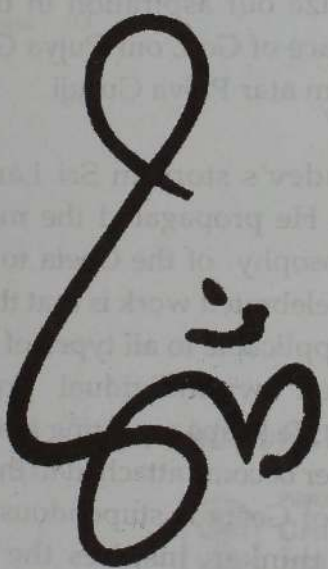
Present

Strive without anxieties and fears in the Present

Future

The Future is carved out in the Present

"Tomorrow's harvest depends upon Today's ploughing and sowing."



For today's ploughing and sowing we need to work hard and tomorrow's harvest would be assured.

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The Chinmaya Mission of Sri Lanka

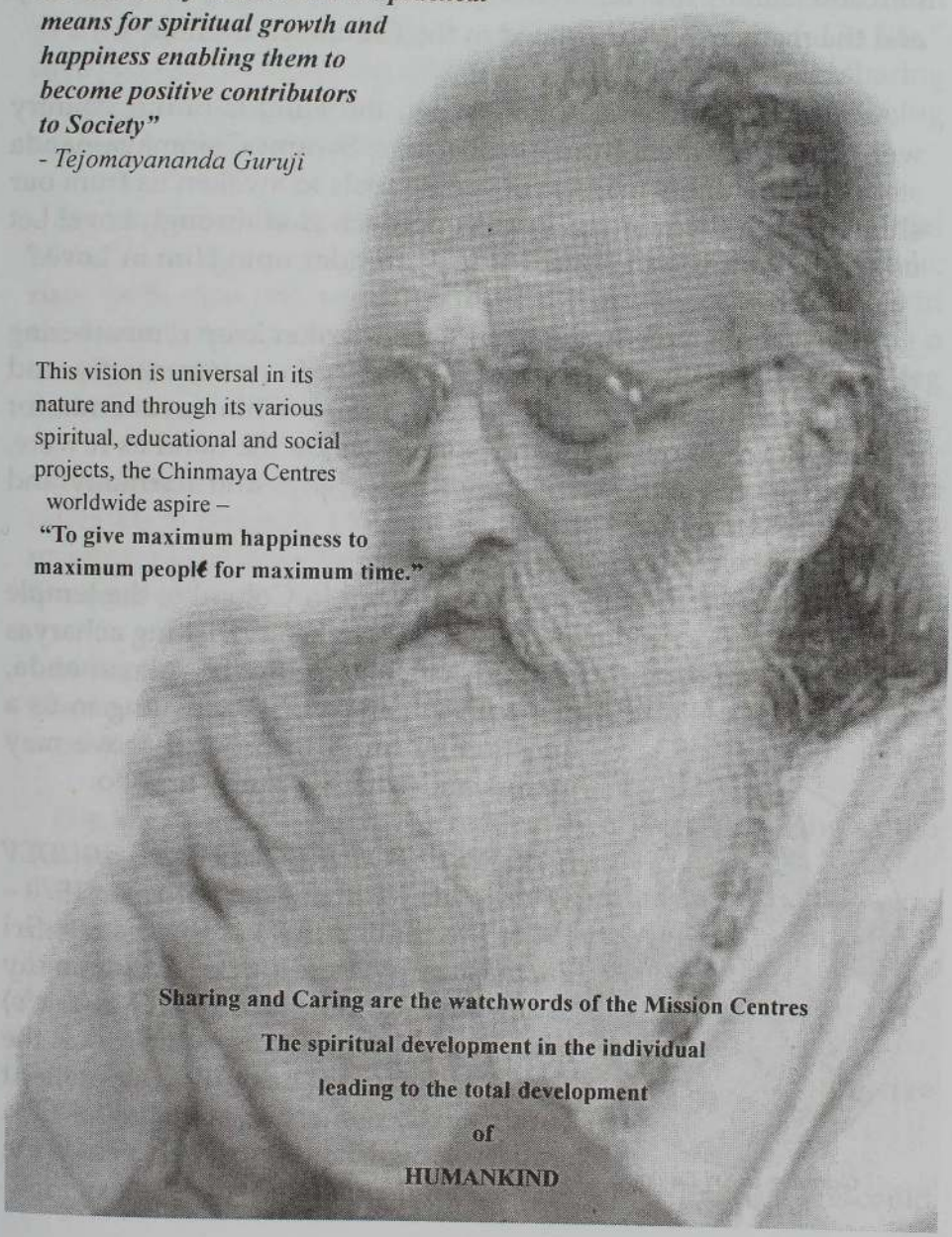
Is part of the world wide spiritual movement started by his holiness Pujya Gurudev SWAMI CHINMAYANANDA

In 1980

THE VISION OF THE CHINMAYA MISSION

"To provide individuals from any background, the wisdom of Vedanta and the practical means for spiritual growth and happiness enabling them to become positive contributors to Society"

- Tejomayananda Guruji



This vision is universal in its nature and through its various spiritual, educational and social projects, the Chinmaya Centres worldwide aspire –

"To give maximum happiness to maximum people for maximum time."

Sharing and Caring are the watchwords of the Mission Centres

The spiritual development in the individual

leading to the total development

of

HUMANKIND

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Milestones

In tracing the milestones of the Chinmaya Mission, we feel proud to narrate the story of Pujya Gurudev in Sri Lanka and the beginnings and growth of the Mission It is the story of the spiritual growth of the devotees who had the wonderful opportunity to be guided by him and later by his chosen disciple Pujya Swami Tejomayanandaji and the many acharyas trained in the Chinmaya traditions.

At a critical moment in time when the Hindus of our country were shorn off their cultural moorings, Swami Chinmaya-nanda stepped in with his magic, yet simple tools to awaken us from our slumber with the words, "Let us approach God through Love! Let us seek Him through Love! Let us surrender unto Him in Love."

And since then we in the Chinmaya Mission keep remembering this spark of Divinity with deep gratitude, reverentially and lovingly calling him Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda for coming down to our level and holding us by the hand as it were, leading us to unknown vistas of peace, joy and harmony and starting us off on our spiritual journey.

To this day, through Chinmaya Pragati in Colombo, the temple in Ramboda, the resident acharyas and the many visiting acharyas and more importantly through Guruji Swami Tejomayananda, Gurudev keeps infusing us with life and vigour, creating in us a questioning mind in order that we may understand what we study and do.

Gurudev in Sri Lanka in the 1980's

LANKA'S EXPOSURE OF PUJYA GURUDEV

Prior to his visit between the years 1970 - 1975, he had sent his emissary Sri Parthasarathy Pradhan of Sandeepany Sadanalaya to introduce his (Gurudev's) Jnanayagna programmes which took the shape of lectures, bringing the ancient Hindu texts, namely the Bhagavad Gita and the Upanishads into the lives of the Sri Lankan devotees.

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1979

PUJYA GURUDEV'S FIRST VISIT

It was in the year 1979 that Sri Lanka for the first time had the good fortune to receive and welcome Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayanandaji amidst us not quite knowing that this Shepherd had come with good tidings to guide us on our onward journey.

"Act in a spirit of sacrifice, surrender and work with dedication to a higher and nobler ideal if you wish to be successful in life," says Swamiji. He made the devotees realize that the spirit of sharing is called the yagna spirit in the Baghavad Gita and everything around in the universe is the expression of this giving.

Swamiji took this spirit of the yagna which was a popular ritual of the Vedic age where under the guidance of a prohita – the Vedic rishi, both men and women tended the blazing sacrificial fires in the homa kundams in a spirit of sharing and surrender offering a mixture of grains, ghee, milk, grass, fruits and twigs while chanting mantrams.

This spirit of the yagna was adopted by Swamiji as his modus operandi in the early 1950s where the study and contemplation of scriptures kindle the fire of knowledge in the devotee and into this fire each offers the negative thoughts and ignorance as oblations.

In his first visit to the country Swamiji was accompanied by his Chennai devotees. Sri and Smt. Sabnani hosted him on this occasion.

His inaugural yagna was attended by a large gathering at the Ramakrishna Hall.

Before Gurudev left Sri Lanka he indicated that the following matters should be looked into by the devotees who were present at the meeting –
namely,

i) to establish a Chinmaya Mission Sri Lanka with an active membership.
ii) to establish a Centre in Colombo.
iii) to establish "Sandeepany-Sri Lanka" where Bramacharis could

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be trained in Tamil. He mentioned that students from Tamil Nadu could also follow this course and for this purpose a land should be identified in the Plantation area.

** THE FIRST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE*

The Chinmaya Mission of Sri Lanka was informally inaugurated in 1979 and the first
Executive Committee was formed on that occasion -

President	:	Justice Sivasubramaniam
Vice President	:	Sri Muni Kundanmal
General Secretary	:	Sri V.M. Vaikunthanathan
Asst. Secretary	:	Sri K.V. Somasundaram
Asst. Secretary	:	Smt Yaso Sundaralingam
Treasurer	:	Sri R.P. Sharma
Asst. Treasurer	:	Sri T. Someswaran
Committee	:	Shri S. Kalubowila (Architect)
		Sri S. Dharmarajah
		Sri Thangarajah
		Smt D. Mahinda
		Smt Lakshmi Sabnani
		Smt S. Kanagasabai
		Smt Mathuri Mody
		and Sri L. Ganvani

All those present were requested to pay Rs.5,000/- each becoming a Founder Member of the Mission.

1980 May

GURUDEV'S VISIT

Gurudev came back to Sri Lanka on 10th May 1980. Justice Minister Hon. (Dr.) Nisanka Wijeratne inaugurated Swamiji's yagna which consisted of Chapter III of the Bhagavad Gita in the evenings and the commentaries on the Baja Govindam were discussed in the mornings at the Ramakrishna Hall.

Swamiji also conducted a Tiruvilakku Puja with the chanting of the Vishnu

Gurudev at the International Airport Katunayaka in 1980.

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Saharasranamam at the Seminar Hall of the Ramakrishna Mission. He gave a talk on "Subjective Management" at the Sri Lanka Foundation Auditorium.

Tiruvillakku Puja

He met the Executive Committee and was briefed on the work that had so far been done –

i) Steps taken to get the Mission registered as an "Act of Parliament"

ii) The Committee had identified 10 acres of land in the Plantation sector originally belonging to Hon. S. Thondaman which was part of the Wavendon Estate that had been taken over by the Land Reform Commission.

iii) The Committee requested Gurudev to post a resident Tamil speaking Bramachari to the Mission.

iv) First Resident Acharya

The first resident acharya was sent to the Mission was Br. Vyaktha Chaitaniya who worked in Sri Lanka for three years. He worked zealously establishing the Balavihar, Devi Group and Yuvakendra. He also conducted yagnas both at the Ramakrishna Seminar Hall and at the Mody Hall at Kotahena. He started two Study classes.

The first resident acharya -
Br. Vyaktha Chaithanya with devotees

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Nov. *GURUDEV'S VISIT*

In November 1980 Gurudev came once again to ensure that all the programmes were going well. On his visit he was given a Public Reception at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute chaired by Justice Sivasubramaniam and Hon. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Trade and Shipping as the Guest Speaker.

Swamiji was welcomed at the entrance of the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute

1981 May

CONCEPTION OF THE FIRST ASHRAM

When Gurudev visited the proposed site that was being planned for the Mission in Ramboda, the scenic beauty of the area impressed him. He was taken on a tour of the Kotmale River which was originally a small stream and was told that this stream was to be dammed as a multi purpose scheme – for the generation of electricity, water for irrigation and a perennial lake.

During this visit, he donated Rs. 1 Million for the construction of the Mission Centre in Colombo. This amount was deposited at the Savings Bank and earned valuable interest and the interest was used for Mission activities.

Swamiji's idea was to develop Ramboda, on Siddhabari lines since the topography in both places was identical.

INCORPORATION OF THE CHINMAYA MISSION OF SRI LANKA

Hon.W.J.M. Lokubandara presented the bill entitled "Act to incorporate the Chinmaya Mission of Sri Lanka" in Parliament and

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it was in May 1981 that the following information was gazetted – *The Mission was incorporated by an Act of Parliament No.28-1981 Chinmaya Mission of Sri Lanka.*

Just before Gurudev left, he invited all the members to attend the International Camp at Siddhabari in April 1981 so that the members could see the possibilities of developing Ramboda.

The members visited Sidhabari and attended the camp for seven days under the guidance of Gurudev himself. (Front inner cover)

The members came back with new ideas to be implemented in Sri Lanka hoping to make the Centre a very active one. Twenty perches of land at Polhengoda in Colombo-05 was available for the construction of the Mission Centre in Colombo and the Urban Development Authority was willing to release the land.

GURUDEV'S VISIT

Gurudev visited Sri Lanka in 1981 and conducted the yagna at the Ramakrishna Hall – Chapter III of the Geeta in the evenings and the Atmabhodam was taken up for discussion in the mornings.

Balavihar classes started for children by Br. Vyaktha Chaitanya (Swami Tatuvananda)

i) APPROVED CHARITY

The Mission was declared as an approved charity by the Ministry of Finance through a gazette notification..

1982 June

ii) *GURUDEV'S VISIT*

In 1982 Gurudev visited Sri Lanka again after his successful by- pass surgery. The yagna consisting of Chapter VI of the Bhagavad Gita (Meditation) was arranged in the evenings and the Kaivalaya Upanishad in the mornings at the Kathiresan Hall.

iii) On this occasion he also attended the Sadhana Camp organized by Vasumathy Somasunderam. The Governor of the Central Bank invited Gurudev to speak on "Management based on Bhagavad Gita" at the Central Bank and was highly impressed by Gurudevs' presentation.

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Swamiji in conversation with Mr. Eassuwaran

Gurudev also brought with him the Brochures for the Rambod development project and wanted the architectural plans to be posted to the devotees of the Chinmaya Mission in California who would fund this project. He said that the American devotees would contribute lavishly, visit Sri Lanka to participate in the camps and at the same time enjoy the sun and sand!

The Ramboda view that captured Gurudev

* ***Conception of Sandeepany in Lanka***

Gurudev envisaged Ramboda on the same lines of Sidhabari with an Ashram which would house Sandeepany Sri Lanka together with Office, Temple, Dining Area, Kitchen, Pantry, Stores, Hostel, Swamiji's quarters, Rooms, Lecture Hall, Guard room, etc.

1988

REVIVAL OF THE MISSION

Mission activities which were dormant since 1983 were gradually revived with the renewal of the Devi Group Balavikars, yagnas, monthly bhajans and aarti. Unfortunately the riots of 1983 and in the aftermath of the riots with an exodus of devotees, the activities of the Mission quietened down to a great extent between the years 1983 - 1988.

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1992

REORGANIZATION OF THE MISSION

i) In 1992 the Mission was reorganised and a new Executive committee was formed. (Refer annexure for the new Committee)

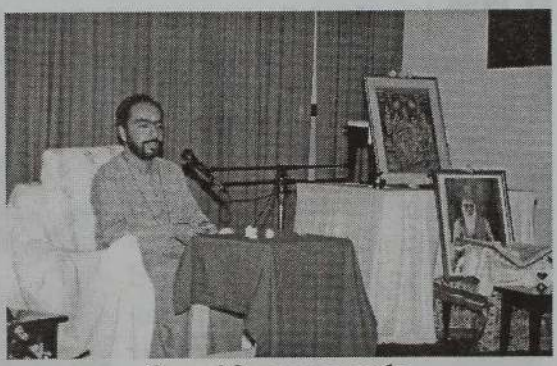
ii) With the permission of Gurudev, Swami Tatwananda, Sri Parthasarathi and Br. Dharmesh Chaitaniya were invited to help revive the Mission and its activities.

Dharmesh Chaithanya at a Satsangh

iii) Swami Tatwananda's visits during 1989 - 1993 re activated the Mission.

iv) Sri Parthsarathy conducted yagnas during 1992 - 1993 under the auspices of the Mission on Geeta Chap II and Geeta Chap III.

v) Br. Dharmesh Chaitanya's programmes in 1993 were highly appreciated.



Swami Swaroopananda

vi) Swami Swaroopananda came in December and conducted a yagna on Geeta Chap XII.

All these acharyas helped to reactivate the Mission which was dormant since 1983.

1993 Aug.

GURUDEV'S MAHASAMADHI

On August 3rd 1993, Gurudev attained Maha Samadhi in California. His last rites were performed at Sidhabari where a large number of devotees from all over the world had assembled to participate in his last journey.

The mantle of leadership next fell on Swami Tejomayananda whom Gurudev had chosen to be the next Head of the Chinmaya Mission World Wide.

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In December, 1993 the Mission organized a Memorial Meeting for Gurudev. This was attended by Swami Swaropananda from Hong Kong. The special message from Swami Tejomayananda was read. Hon S. Thondaman, Minister of Tourism and Hon Devaraj, Minister of Hindu Affairs participated. To commemorate the event a souvenir "Sri Lanka Salutes Gurudev Chinmayananda," edited by Sri Somakanthan was published.

The Mission organized another meeting. In this event the film "Gurudev's Last Journey" was shown at the Sivananda Nilayam of the Saiva Mangaiyar Kalagam with the High Commissioner for India Sri Nareshwar Dayal as the Chief Guest and Sri Yogendra Duraiswamy as the Guest Speaker.

1994

LAUNCH OF THE "VOICE OF CHINMAYA"

The Mission started the publication of the journal, the "Voice of Chinmaya" with Mr. N. Somakanthan as the Editor.

FIRST PADUKKA PUJA

1995

In 1995 Swamini Vimalananda visited Sri Lanka to conduct a yagna which was held at the Ramakrishna Hall. At the end of the yagna a Padduka Pooja for Gurudev was held for the first time in Sri Lanka, under Swamini amma's auspices with Vasumathy Somasunderam performing the ritual.

Vasumathy's parents performing Aarati at the end of the padukka puja

1996 April

The Swamini invited the members to attend the Camp at Siddhabari in April 1996.

Sri Lankan devotees at Sidhbari with Swamini Vimalananda & Swami Nikhilananda

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INSPIRATION TO BRING HANUMANJI TO RAMBODA

Forty five Sri Lankan members attended the camp. The group enroute to Sidhabari lost its way and the subsequent chanting of the Hanuman Chalisa brought it to the ashram where the gigantic statue of Lord Hanuman received them at the gates of the ashram. The experience of the devotees inspired them to build a temple for Hanumanji in the hills of Ramboda.

Oct. *GURUJI'S FIRST VISIT*

In October 1996, Swami Tejomayananda reverentially called Guruji, the new Head of the Chinmaya Mission World wide, visited Sri Lanka for the first time. A yagna was organized at the New Kathiresan Hall. His Excellency the Indian High Commissioner Shri Dayal inaugurated the yagna.

The Executive Committee met Guruji and briefed him about the progress of the Mission and at the same time sought his approval and blessings for the proposed construction of the Hanuman Temple at Ramboda.

Guruji gives his blessings to the Mission to start work on the Hanuman Temple.

Guruji accompanied by Hon. Thondaman visited the proposed construction site in Ramboda and was shown the place.

A Temple Construction Committee was formed with Sri Balasundram as the Chairman and Sri Suriyadeva as its Secretary. The Stapathy Pathmashri S. Muthiah was given the sculptural assignment and he started work on Hanumanaji at Mahabalipuram.

The book,"Lanka and Ramayana" - edited by Sri Somakanthan was published.

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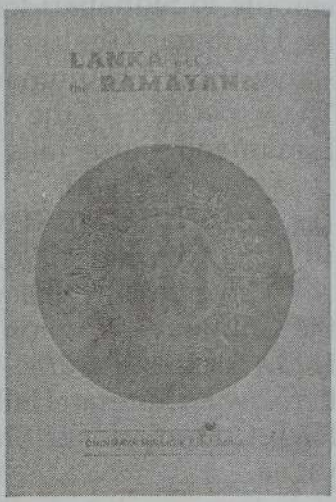
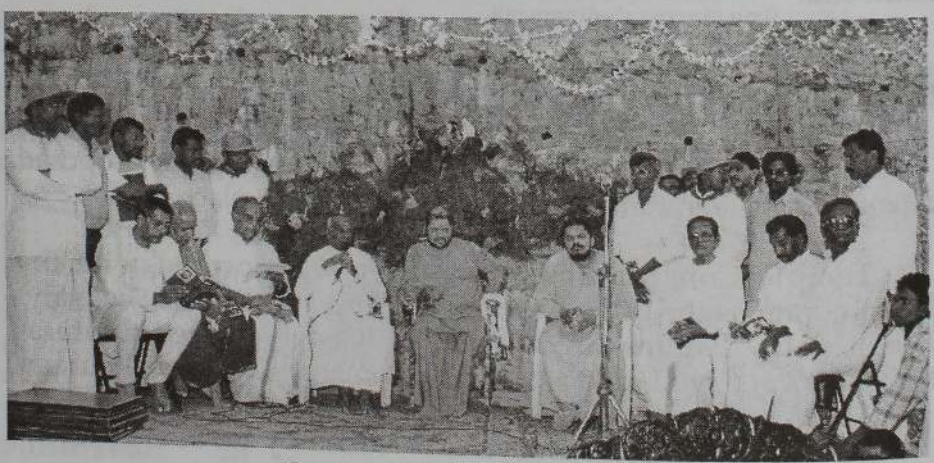


Hon. Thondaman presenting a book to Guruji

Bhiksh at Somaji's home



Guruji with devotees in Ramboda

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1997 March

BHOOMI PUJA FOR HANUMAN TEMPLE

In pre-paration for the con-secration ceremonies of the Hanuman Temple in Ramboda, the Bhoomi Puja was held on 24th March 1997 with the chanting of Hanuman Chalisa 108 times led by Br. Swabotha Chaitanya (Swami Mitranandaji) from Chennai. This continuous chanting created a wonderful vibration at the sacred site.

Hon. Thondaman and devotees Chanting Hanuman Chalisa

Devotees at Site

Hanuman Puja

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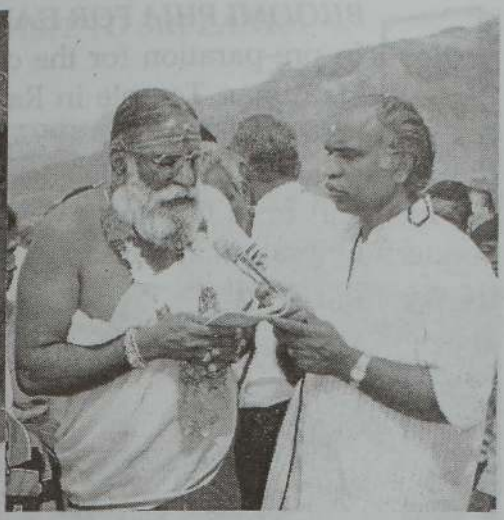
Foundation stone laying by Hon. Thondaman and Swami Atmaghanananda



Nanganallur Acharya

Swami Atmaghanananda, Head of Ramakrishna Mission in Colombo laid the foundation stone. The stapathy and the Chief priest of the Anjaneyar Temple in Chennai and architect V.S. Thurairajah were present. A small Hanuman Temple adjoining the construction site was initially built.

Stones being brought by devotees

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April Balavihar classes reactivated by Br. Swaboth Chaitanya at a member's house

May Spiritual Camp at Uttarkasi by H.H. Swami Tejomayanandaji

A Group of 30 members headed by Mr. D. Easuwaren, President CMSL attended the camp.

The Chinmaya Chyksters from Chennai brought their Sound and Light Show of "Kamban Tharum Katchi," which was a Fund Raising Programme held from 28.09.1997-04.10.1997 led by Br. Swabodh Chaitaniya.

DISCOURSES

Discourses by Br. Samahita Chaitanya of Coimbatore Chinmaya International College were held in Colombo, Kandy and Trincomalee

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1998 March

Medical Camp at Pussellawa Tamil Vidyalayam.

May *A NEW ACHARYA POSTED TO SRI LANKA*

Brahmachari Ramana Chaitanya arrived in Colombo as the Resident Acharya on 22.05.1998. He was an active acharya building up the Mission in all the areas – the Balvihars, Yuvakendras, Devi groups, Study and Meditation groups and also worked in several peripheral areas organizing programmes, retreats and camps for the youth.

June *RETREAT CAMP INTERNATIONAL*

In 1998 June 30th – July 5th the Mission had organized a Retreat Camp International at Deer Park in Giritele. At this camp in an idyllic setting for 'Tuning the Mind' the mind and intellect were harmonised with the world of objects, thoughts and emotions. The acharyas of the camp were Swami Swaroopanandaji, Swamini Vimalanandaji, Br.Swaboth Chaitanya and the resident acharya Br. Ramana Chaitanya.

Aug. Medical Camp – Udappu

12 doctors specialized in different fields of medicine rendered their service.

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Sep. *THE STATUE OF SRI HANUMANJI WAS BROUGHT TO SRI LANKA FROM MAHABALIPURAM*

A greater part of the needed funds to build the temple was sent by Guruji.

Construction of roadway

The road way leading to the proposed Temple was constructed by Hon S. Rajaratnam Member of Parliament with Rs. 3 million from his Decentralised Budget.

Ceremony at Mahabalipuram

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Sep. *MATHRU PUJA*

For the first time CMSL organized a Mathru Puja (a programme to pay obeisance to mothers by their children) during Navarathri, held at New Kathiresan, Bhajan Hall guided by Br. Ramana Chaitanya.

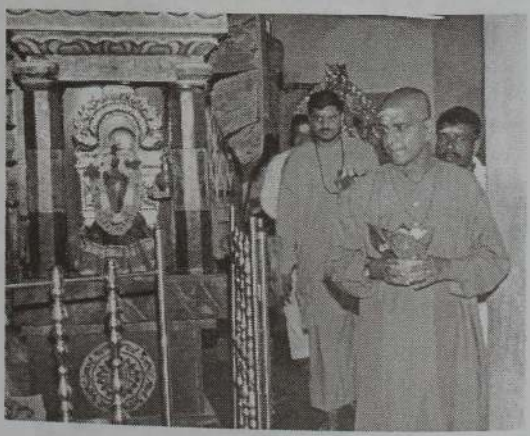
Dec. * CMSL Yuwakendra inaugurated by Br. Swaboth Chaitanya.

* Food Fiesta (Fund Raising Event for the temple building Project) at Saraswathy Hall headed by Smt. Mala Sabaratnam (Ladies group of CMSL)

1999 Feb.

SRI LANKA WELCOMES SWAMI MITRANANDA

Br.Swaboth Chaitanya the former resident acharya of the Mission was ordained as Swami Mitrananda of Chinmaya Mission on Maha Sivaratri. A public reception was accorded to him in Colombo on 18.02.1999.



Feb. Yuvakendra camp held at National Builders Institute, Kundasala. Theme" Arise! Awake!".

Sadhana Camp held in the lushgreen and captivating camp site of Thulhiriya.

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Mar. *DRGDRSHTA – THE SEER AND THE SEEN*

The Kabool Camp conducted by the acharya Swami Nikhilanandaji in March 1999.

Kalaimamani Sri P. Unnikrishnan, the celebrated singer from South India, performed on the 19th & 20th of June, 1999 in Colombo.

"Ancient Temples of Siva Temples of Sri Lanka" was published edited by Prof. S. Pathmanathan and funded by the Vasumathy Trust.

June *INAUGURATION OF MISSION CENTRE IN COLOMBO*

i) Chinmaya Mission Sri Lanka Secretariat and Brahmachari's quarters set up in Colombo 3.

ii) The website for the Mission was launched.

Homa ceremonies performed by devotees

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The Chinmaya Website was launched

Sep. *INSTALLATION OF HANUMANJI*

The 16 ft. tall murti of Sri Hanuman was placed in the sanctum sanctorum of the Ramboda Temple at the auspicious time of 11.30 a.m. Swami Mitrananda from the Chennai Chinmaya Mission, Stapathi Shri Mutiah of Mahabalipuram and Swami Atmagananda, Head of Ramakrishna Mission, Colombo and the resident acharya, Br. Ramana Chaitanya, participated. Uttapanam of the Hanuman murti was held on 12.09.1999.

Guruji inspecting the site

The Temple Model

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SPECIAL PUJAS AT KOTAHENA, COLOMBO.

Hanumanji in a lying position

Devotees offer flowers

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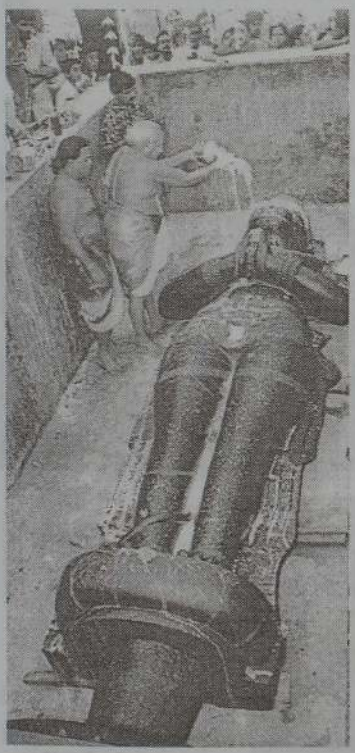
SPECIAL PUJAS AT RAMBODA

Sankalpam



Abhishekam with Milk

offering betel Leaves and Flowers

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Hanumanji is placed erect

Guruji - anointing Hanumanji

Hanumanji is placed in position and the temple built round Him.

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Sep. Lectures by Swami Mitrananda at Saraswathy Hall on Power of Positive Thinking & Don't worry Be happy.

* Mission Centre opened at Rambodha

Nov. Geeta Gnana Yagna conducted by Br. Ramana Chaitanya.

Dec. Yuwakendra Camp at Watlawala Hatton

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS AT RAMBODA-EVE OF 2000

Special abhishekams with 108 Pots of Milk and cultural programmes were conducted through the night to usher in the new millennium

2000 Jan

AN ACHARYA FOR RAMBODA

Swami Shridharanandaji arrived in Sri Lanka as the Senior Resident Acharya, on 05th January 2000 and took residency at the Temple Project Site in Ramboda. He was solely in charge of supervising the work done by the Sthapathy's workers from India.

July *COLOMBO MISSION CENTRE MOVES*

Colombo Mission Centre moved to De Kretser Place, Colombo 4 on 1st July 2000.

2001 April

MAHA KUMBHABHISHEKAM

Since work at the Ramboda site was nearing completion, atentative date for the Maha Kumbabisekam was fixed by Guruji for the 08th of April, 2001

The Kumbhabishekam was held on 08th April, 2001. Guruji was the Chief Guest. Swami Mitrananda together with several visitors from Chennai participated on that occasion.

Mr.Somasunderam initiated a project with the Rotary Foundation through the Rotary Club of Colombo Mid Town. As part of the

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The Temple

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construction of the temple, the club subsequently gave a donation of US Dollars 250,000 for the construction of toilets and water supply with a capacity of 5,000 gallon water tank in the Ramboda complex. This donation was initiated by Rotarian P.P. Ketheeswaran.

THE PEACE PADA YATRA-

i) A special Pada Yatra for peace from Colombo to Ramboda was organized by the resident acharya for the Chyks and elders
ii) A Film Festival of Devotional Movies was organized at Hindu College Grounds, Colombo 4.
iii) A new acharya Br. Gagan Chaitanya was sent to Rambod a to succeed Swami Shridharanandaji.
iv) He organised the Araneri School for children or Sawing classes for women.
v) Vishva Sammelan

To Commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Chinmaya Missions - the Chinmaya Vishva Sammelan in Mumbai - December 24-31, 2001) Br. Ramana Chitanya led the Sri Lanka delegation of fifteen members. Apart from this delegation President Sri D. Eassuwaran, Vice President Sri S. Mahenthiran, Ms. Mala Sabharatnam and other Executive Members of CMSL attended the function.

2002

APPOINTMENT OF NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On the resignation of The Executive Committee of the CMSL in 2002, a new Committee with Mr. S. Selvarajah as President, was appointed By Guruji. (see annexure).

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

i) Bhajan sessions and the first Meditation Class started.
ii) Chyks from Chennai in Chinmaya Ananda Geetham performed in Colombo and other 5 districts.
iii) Spiritual Camp at Ahangama by Swami Chidannanda.

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iv) National Youth Camp E=M³c at Sri Pada, Pathana.

v) "The Gentle Breezes of Early Dawn" a compilation of Hindu Thoughts - by Sivanandini Duraiswamy

vi) Chyks present Chinmaya Ananda Raagangal - bhajan sandhya - a fusion of east and west.

The Indian Deputy High Commissioner seen with the Chyk President

Swami Ishawaranandaji in Sri Lanka.

COLOMBO MISSION CENTRE MOVES

Colombo Mission Centre moved to Haig Road, Colombo 4 on 1st July 2003.

2003 July

GURUJI'S VISIT

i)Guruji's visit to Sri Lanka - his jnana yagna on "Vision of the Geeta" was held at the Ramakrishna Mission.

ii) He released the Commemorative Volume "Samarpanam" with the first Issue given to the Indian High Commissioner of India, H. E. Nirupam Sen.

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITES

i) Spiritual Youth Camps conducted in Jaffna, Trincomalee and Batticoloa

ii) An all island Spiritual Camp was conducted by the visiting acharya Swami Advayananada from Coimbatore on Self unfoldment at Kundasale.

iii) Chinmayanjali - Balavikar children performing at the annual celebration.

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iv) National Youth Camp – "U Turn"

v) "Indu Villippu" programme was started with an island wide campaign through schools to reawaken the Hindus . "the Book "Indu Villippu" was launched by Justice Vigneswaran.

2004 Aug.

CORNER STONE LAID FOR PRAGATI

Through the grace of God and Pujya Gurudev and being blessed by Pujya Guruji, the dream of building a Centre was actualized and the corner stone was laid in September 5th 2004 to the strains of the Hanuman Chalisa. led by Br. Ramana Chaitanya.

2005 Aug.

THE SILVER JUBILEE OF THE CHINMAYA MISSION SRI LANKA

In August 2005, the Chinmaya Mission of Sri Lanka, which was gradually becoming a vibrant Centre of the Chinmaya Movement worldwide, celebrated its **Silver Jubilee** with special programmes through the year under the guidance of the Resident acharya Br. Ramana Chaitanya..

★ Tsunami Relief work in Batticoloa, Trincomalee and Mullaitivu.

★ Medical clinic at Vakarai for tsunami victims by a team of Malaysian doctors

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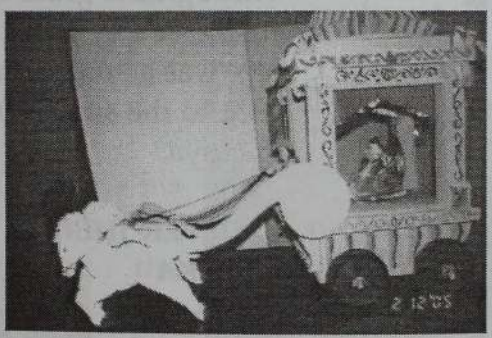
- ★ Awarding of 150 scholarships of Rs 1000/- per month to Tsunami affected students
- ★ Women's upliftment and Rural development programmes in Batticoloa
- ★ Hindu Awakening Programme in 7 major cities of the Island
- ★ A Dance Drama - The Echoes from the Himalayas - Pujya Gurudev's Story
- ★ A Spiritual Sadhana Camp at Coiambatore for Sri Lankan devotees
- ★ The Himalayan Yatra for Sri Lankan devotees
- ★ National Youth Camp at Pathane - "Just be Yourself."
- ★ Exhibitions for youth by the Yuvakendra-TAO Exhibition - Colombo South.

July *ART OF GRACEFUL AGEING*

Senior Vanaprastha acharyas Sri Shiva Swaroop Agrawal and Dr. Sajjan Singh from the CVS conducted a camp on the Art of Graceful Ageing for the elders of the Mission.at Kabool Lanka.



AN EXHIBITION - TAO by the Yuvakendra at Saiva Mangaiyar Vidayalam.

i) *AN EXHIBITION CALLED THE "BIG BANG"* was conducted by the youth of Colombo North at Vivekananda College.

Mission Activites in Batticoloa

Since tsunami several programmes were started in Batticoloa.

i) Mahila Mandir ans Self-Help Groups
ii) A Student Development Programme
iii) Spoken English for Primary and Secondary School Children
iv) Computer Study for Children
v) Scholoship Scheme for O/L and A/L Children
vi) Music, Dance and Bhajan Classes

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Mission Activites in Batticoloa

Women in self employment

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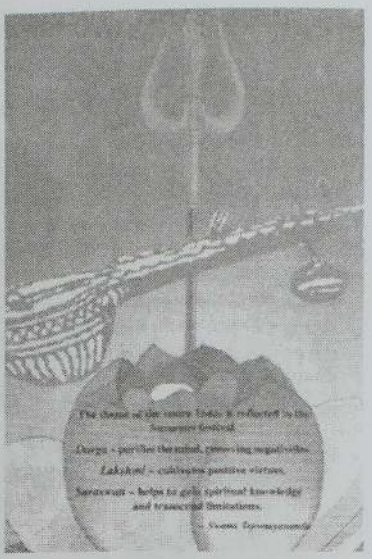
2006

A NEW EXCEUTIVE COMMITTEE

In the year 2006 a new Executive Committee was formed with Sri S. Mahenthiran as President. (vide annexure)



i) Bramachari Ramana Chaitaniya took up the position as acharya in Chennai and Swami Shritharanandaji came back and took the position of Acharya for Sri Lanka.

ii) Institute of Fine Arts inaugrated on Vijasyadasami.

Nov. Dec. *RETREAT AT TIRUVANNAMALAI*

Br. Ramana Chaitanya organized a retreat at Tiruvannamalai for the Sri Lankan devotees both elders and the Chyksters in December 2006. This was followed by a yatra to several Hindu temples of South India.

SWAMINI NIRANJANANANDAJI IN SRI LANKA

Swamini conducted the Yagna based on the text The Rama Gita at the Chinmaya Centre in Haig Road Colombo 4. The morning classes were discussions on Meditation. She also conducted a Camp at Ramboda.

Swamini Niranjanananda's first visit to Sri Lanka.

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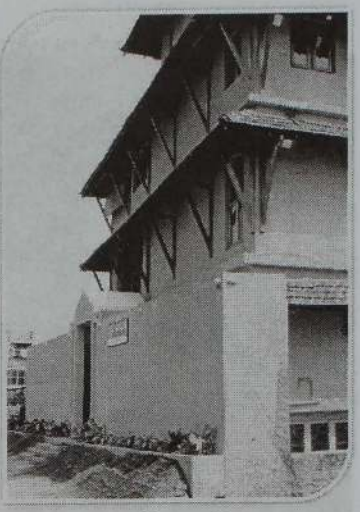
2007 April

INAUGURATION OF CHINMAYA PRAGATI

i) Through the collective effort of all the devotees led by Sri Mahenthiran, Chinmaya Pragati was ceremonially opened on the 29th of April 2007 by Guruji.



Pragati

Chinmaya Pragati is the Chinmaya Centre of Sri Lanka. It stands majestically on the Marine Drive - tall and bold carrying with it Pujya Gurudev's vision of selfless service and non-attachment as embodied in the Vedic texts. To us, Sri Lankan devotees, the Chinmaya Pragati is an oasis in the dreary sands of samsara with Lord Rama presiding over all of us from His Shrine on the first floor.

The Baktavatsala Sri Rama Temple gives Pragati a very special ambience attracting devotees from here and abroad who come in search of peace and calm.

OPENNING CEREMONIES OF PRAGATI BY GURUJI

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Cutting the ribbon

The audience

Lighting of lamp

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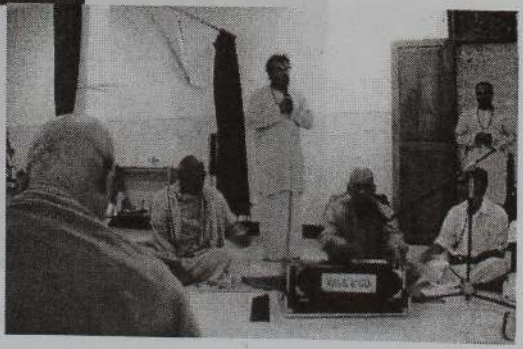
RAMANAVAMI AT RAMA TEMPLE

Swami Atmaghanananda visit devotees at Pragati



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The roof-top is a conducive place for contemplation at sunrise and sundown. At these sandhyopasana times, the quiet serene atmosphere with the waters of the Indian Ocean gently lapping at the shores lifts the hearts of the devotees to a realm of great peace and harmony.

CEREMONIES TOWARDS THE INSTALLATION OF BHAKTAVATSALA SRI RAMA

i) On the 26th of April 2007 was the Ganapati and Navagraha homams amidst the chanting of Vedic mantras by the several priests who had graced the occasion. The chanting of these mantras not only sanctified the Rama Temple, but also the whole building and all the devotees gathered for the celebrations.

ii) On the 27th evening was the Ashtabandanam where the vigrahams were installed with great piety and devotion. On the 28th was the "Ennai Kappu," where the devotees thronged to smear oil on the vigrahams – this is the only time when lay people could touch the vigrahams, smear oil and worship.

The Murtis

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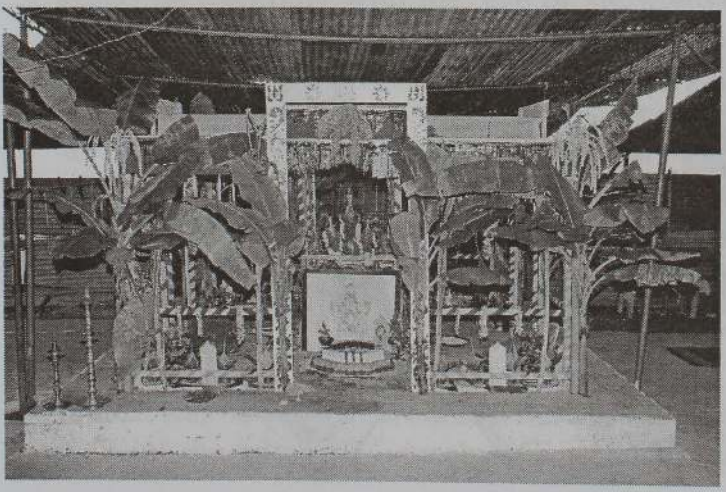
Kumbhabhishekam Ceremonies at Rama Temple in Pragati



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iii) That same evening, Pujya Guruji, Swami Swaroopananda and Br. Ramana Chaitanya were lovingly welcomed at the entrance to Pragati in the traditional spirit with the PoornaKumbham. Guruji then performed the Poorna Huti and participated together with all the others in the Maha Kumbhabhisekam.

The month of April 2007 was a memorable month for the Chinmaya Mission in Sri Lanka as it heralded the visit of Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda who ceremonially opened Pragati, the Chinmaya Centre in Sri Lanka, consecrated the Rama Temple in its precincts and released the special issue of the Voice of Chinmaya.

The consecration of the Rama Temple in Pragati is a bright interlude in these difficult and troubled times. "Come again Ramachandraji," was the clarion call in all our minds during the kumbabhishekam when kumbams of panchamirtams were poured over the Murti and the Rama Nama chanted.

May *JNANA YAGNAS*

i) Brahmachari Ramana Chaitanyaji brought Gurudev's Jnana yagna back into our lives through the Vishvaroopa Dharisanam of the Geeta. - 11th chapter and Yoga Vasistha Sara Sangraha. The spirit of such a Yagna in our mundane lives, homes and work places helped to make our daily actions a sacred yagna. Swamiji explained, "That in whom all exist - the many in the One," as Sri Krishna reveals His Cosmic Form, could be seen only with the 'eye of knowledge' and not the physical eye. The Lord bestowed this on Arjuna and he was able to see His real form. He made it clear to us that the whole purpose of this chapter was to make Arjuna (and humanity as a whole) to understand that everything has already been 'done' or 'arranged' by the Lord and that he (Arjuna) should only become a willing instrument.

ii) Br. Ramana Chaitanya conducted a discourse on "Ganapathi Atharva Sheersha Upanishad," at Chinmaya Pragati, from 1st - 5th May 2007.

This text was new to the Sri Lankan devotees and the Brahmachari introduced the Glory of Ganesha (Ganesha Vidya). **"Om Gam**

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Ganapathaya Nama" - the Ganapathi Gayatri mantram was given to the devotees to meditate upon. The talks gave an insight into the only Upanishad on the glory of Ganapathi and this was greatly appreciated by the large number of devotees.

iii) *SWAMI MITRANANDA'S YAGNA*

Swamiji was trained by Swami Chinmyananda himself. The young energetic Swami Mitranandaji had come down from Chennai to conduct a yagna for the Sri Lankan devotees - on Hanuman Chalisa in the mornings at 'Chinmaya Pragati' and Vivekachoodamani at New Kathiresan Hall, Colombo 04, from 14th to 17th July 2007 in the evenings..

Aug. *MASTABHISHEKAM AT SIDHABARI 25TH ANNIVERSARY*

i) The President Mr. S. Mahenthiran and Mrs.S. Duraiswamy participated in the mastabhishekam of Sri Hanumanji in Sidhabari in August 2007.

ii) Singing of Hanuman Chalisa at the Rama Temple seven times every Saturday after the morning was inspired by this participation.

All Island Camp conducted by Br. Ramana Chaitanya - "Strength is Life".

Nov. *THE CHINMAYA PRAGATI RECEIVES ITS TWO NEW ACHARYAS*

Chinmaya Pragati took a festive look on the auspicious occasion of Kartigai Deepam and Kartigai Poornima to receive the two new acharyas - Br. Darshan Chaitanya and Br. Jagrat Chaitanya who were appointed to serve in Sri Lanka by Pujya Guruji.

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Dec. *HARMONY IN RELATIONSHIPS*

"Harmony in Relationships" was the novel theme that Revered Swamini Vimalanandaji was introducing in her lecture series that was held from the 11th - 16th of December 2007 at the Tourist Board Centre, Colombo. The components of this were "Mind Management," "Giving and Forgiving," "Balancing Relationships," "Love makes the world go round." Handling Emotions" and "Happy Parenting."

Swamini Vimalanandaji is a senior monk who brings to bear her designing talent as an architect into spirituality blending relationships into a harmonious whole thereby giving a holistic approach to managing ones life.

2008 Jan. *BR. JAGRAT CHAITANYA RESIDENT ACHARYA RAMBODA ASHRAM. EXIBITION BY CHINMAYA NURSERY SCHOOL*

Mar. *MAHA SHIVARATRI AT RAMBODA*

A workshop for school children, quiz, cultural and fancy dress competitions and Tevara Pannisai competitions were conducted. About 3000 devotees came to the temple where the four Yama Pujas together with Sangabhishekam, Dravyaabhishekam were done to the Shiva Lingam. Akanda Nama japa "Om Nama Shivaya" was sung continuously through the night

May *HANUMAN CHALISA - MINI YOUTH CAMP*

A "Mini" youth camp on Hanuman Chalisa was held in Rambodha by Br. Darshan Chaintanya and Br. Jagrat Chaitanya

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A medical camp was conducted and 100 pairs of spectacles and medicines were given to the needy.

June *GOING FOR THE CENTURY*

Hanuman Chalisa was chanted 108 times as Bhaktavatsala Shri Rama Temple on the 18th of June 2008. A small booklet containing the verses of Hanuman Chalisa and its meaning in Tamil was released by the CHYKs during this event.

June *COMMENTARY ON HANUMAN CHALISA*

Tamil translation of the commentary by Pujya Guruji on Hanuma Chalisa was released on the 30th June 2008 to commemorate Pujya Guruji's birthday. This translation was done by the CHYKs.

" GURU MAHIMAA" AT RAMBODA ASHRAM

A residential youth camp was conducted by Br. Jagrat Chaitanya.Held at the ashram on Guru mahima and 50 chyks participated.

Aug. *i) ART OF RIGHT LIVING - YAGNA*

Br. Darshan conducted a yagna on "Art of Right Living," in Colombo.

ii) YOGA WORKSHOP AT RAMBODA

A three days workshop was conducted at Rambodha Ashram by Mr. Amar from Delhi and Mr. Rajeev from Bangalore.

A residential senior balvihar camp "Kannan N Thozan" was conducted by Br. Jagrat Chaitanya for Sri Krishna Jayanthy at Rambodha Ashram.

Sep. *MANATHAI VELLUNGAL ULAGAI VELLUNGAL - WORKSHOP FOR YOUTH*

A workshop was conducted for the youth of Trincomalee on the title "Manathai Vellungal Ulagai Vellungal" (Conquer the mind, conquer the world). Ths was by Br. Darshan Chaitanya.

LAGU KUMBABISHEKAM OF SRI BAKTA HANUMAN TEMPLE

After completing innternal work at moolasthaanam, Lagu Kumbabishekam was performed.

Narayana Seva at Kothmale General Hospital Bal Vihar Camp from Hanuman to spiderman

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Oct. *PUJYA GURUJI SWAMI TEJOMAYANANDAJI IN SRI LANKA*

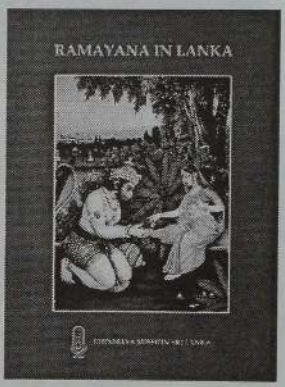
i) Pujya Guruji's visit to Sri Lanka was a red letter event in the Mission.

ii) His Yagna on Tulsidas's Ramayana.

iii) His visit to Pragati to meet the devotees.

iv) He was accompanied by Swami Krishnathmanandaji and Brahmachari Sagar Chaitanya from India and our Resident Acharyas, Br. Darshan Chaitanya and Br. Jagrat Chaitanya.

COMMEMORATIVE VOLUME - "RAMAYANA IN LANKA."



To celebrate the visit of Pujya Guruji, a **Commemorative Volume, "Ramayana in Lanka,"** was published by the Chinmaya Mission of Sri Lanka edited by Sivanandini Duraiswamy.

RELEASE OF THE BOOK "SHRI HANUMAN"

"Shri Hanuman" a book containing the stories of the glory of Shri Hanuman in Tamil was released by Pujya Guruji. This book was a result of the effort by the CHYKS who compiled this from various sources, translated and retold the stories.

Devotee receiving copy of Shri Hanuman

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LAUNCHING OF "RAMAYANA IN LANKA."

Lighting of Lamp
Swami Krishnananada

Guruji being received

Launching of Ramayana in Lanka and devotees receiving copies

Br. Sager Chaitanya

President Mahenthiran

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The Yagna by Guruji

Introduction by the President Mr. Mahenthiran

Aarati

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PUJYA GURUJI IN THE RAMBODHA HANUMAN TEMPLE

i) On the 23rd of October 2008 the Rambodha ashram turned festive to receive Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayanandaji. He was received at the Sri Varatharaja Vinayakar Kovil with pada puja, purna kumbham and aarati and taken in procession in a ratham by school children.

ii) At the Meditation Centre, the students of the Chinmaya School of Music sang bhajans and this was followed by Guruji's satsang.

iii) The evening session was made up of cultural programs by Chinmaya Nursery School, Chinmaya Aranery School, Chinmaya School of Music and Dance, Chinmaya Sewing School, Balavihar and Chyks.

iv) Pujya Guruji met the Director of the Department of Education and the Principals of the neighboring schools.

Guruji brought in procession

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The acharyas with devotees

Guruji addressing

Guruji with children

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"GAME OF LIFE"- NATIONAL YOUTH CAMP 2008

National Youth Camp titled "Twenty-20" in the theme of "Game of Life" was held successfully. 380plus youth from Colombo, Upcountry, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Negombo participated in this camp. This camp which was held at Sri Pada College of Education, Pathana was jointly conducted by Br. Jagrat Chaitanya and Br. Darshan Chaitanya.

Gurudev has a habit of taking Gurudakshana collection box to the residence where he goes for Bhiksha and while the gurudakshana cash is counted, he keeps repeating Narayana. Once counted only he has dinner.

- This is a tip from Somaji.

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Reminiscing Pujya Gurudev

Sivanandini Duraiswamy

Pujya Gurudev's Samadhi day in August 2008 was observed as a Sadhana day by his devotees at Pragati, the Chinmaya Centre in Sri Lanka. Padukka puja followed by bhajans and prasad were the important events of the day.

I was not well and decided that instead my sadhana would be to "meet Pujya Gurudev in nama japam and meditation," remembering him all the while.

Being swathed in bandages and an eye pad over the eye that was operated, I was not able to attend the Pragati ceremony that day. I was in pain and was lying down on my bed with all the shutters down, with the night lamp lighting Gurudev's portrait. It was nama japam for me all the time and into my quiet mind Gurudev stepped in smiling seeming to say, "Hold on to Him; Hold on to Him" And I replied whispering to him, "Yes Gurudev, I am, holding on to Him as best as I could; yet I feel lonely; earlier both Yogendraji and I did the sadhana together and now I have to do it alone - why have you done this to me." "Yes you were both my disciples for several years. He has gone ahead of you and you have to remain a while more. I am with you," he was saying and, gradually faded away into the picture.

Were these my imaginations? Or perhaps these were my fervent thoughts of Pujya Gurudev with whom I have tendency to keep speaking all the time!

However, from this sadhana, was born a thought - a thought of sharing the experiences of those who have had the good fortune to sit at Gurudev's feet and listen to him and learn from his teachings and above all do his bidding - 'serve humanity with a smile expecting nothing in return.' At every breath of Gurudev, it was a teaching for all of us.

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Ever since the early 1970s Pujya Gurudev's majestic personality loomed big in our life weaving in and out of it through many yagnas, retreats and the wonderful experiences. These gave meaning to our life and his words, "Jai Jai Jagatheeswara," keep ringing in my ears. These were the first words that we heard as we bent down to touch his feet in obeisance at the Manila Airport where we had gone to receive him.

These very same words written in his sprawling hand writing in his many letters to us lend mistiness to my vision. Years later, all these letters were lost as we were fleeing our home in Jaffna. However, the memory is still fresh not merely remembering his words and his writing but remembering the Rajarishi himself loving him as we do and often murmuring "Pujya Gurudev! Pujya Gurudev Kaapaatrungo - keep protecting us."

It was Gurudev who came to my rescue when my car dipped into a deep gully as I was turning left at the gate into the main Jawatha Road. The car stood in a precarious position with the left front wheel deep into the gully in the heavy down pour. In this down pour I did not see the gully as the waters swirled past gushing through the side drains and my car went down. I sat petrified not knowing what I should do!

My initial reaction was, "O God what do I do." A steady stream of cars were going past on the main Jawatha road and I was truly stuck!

At that moment someone tapped on the shutter and I lowered the glass shutter and heard him saying, "I'll raise the front left wheel and you reverse quickly." I just did this and reversed and before I could turn to say thank you, the 'Good Samaritan' and his red car had disappeared!

To me it was Gurudev who appeared in the red car, tapped on the window shutter. Who else would have dared to brave the inclement down pour and lift a car from a ditch?

And so Gurudev still plays an important role in my life more so now that I am alone.

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Vasumathy's devotion to Gurudev

Similarly a few other devotees of Gurudev would also like to share their experiences reliving them with our readers through this edition of the Voice of Chinmaya.

In this exercise, the name of young **Vasumathy Somasunderam** comes to mind. She together with her parents were ardent devotees of Pujya Gurudev.

Vasumathy's young life was snuffed out nay burnt down by the blast at the Central Bank in Colombo in 1995.

Was it her appointment with Death that took her to the spot at the precise moment when the blast took place? Or was it a chance encounter at the Central Bank building just before she left for Australia? Who knows? Who cares? She was a victim of the blast.

Vasu was blessed by Gurudev. It was this blessing that enabled her to face the challenges of life with fortitude and to come out of these unscathed.

She had the rare privilege of being the first devotee in Sri Lanka in to perform the Padukka Puja to her Guru under the direction of Swamini Vimalanandaji who is a direct disciple of her Gurudev. After the Puja she herself served Swamini and all the devotees the food that she had specially prepared for the occasion. Was this her way of saying good bye to all of us ?

I often wonder what Pujya Gurudev would have said on hearing that his beloved child was gone! He was indeed very special to her. Meeting him as a young girl, she followed his teachings to the best of her ability. Knowing her love and knowing her wish to help out in Mission work, he would often write to her, "Study hard and don't get distracted by Mission activities." She loved him as a true young devotee.

He loved her in return, writing to her from different parts of the world clearing her

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many spiritual doubts and teaching more.

One could see that Vasumathy was guided by Gurudev. She was indeed a rare flower, pure and full of fragrance.

However, the Lord must have loved her that He didn't want her to whither away and so plucked her in full bloom to make her His own. Her long and steady relationship with Him through Gurudev will be guiding and taking her to her ultimate goal.

To her father Gurudev seemed to give him the strength to bear the irreparable, but her mother had gone beyond where her mind refused to accept that her Vasu was no more!

Vasumathy's association with Pujya Gurudev and his continuous blessings on her throughout her short life made her what she was. And she, in return through Gurudev's influence and inspiration, made a conscious effort to live her day to day life in spiritual faith and beliefs bringing to bear his many teachings to have a positive effect on all those around her.

"Pure she was!
Sincere she became
Earnestness she befriended
Dedicated living she
bequeathed to her Gurudev!
Joyous living she beheld as she lived
For her Beloved One alone."
(this is quotation from "We must – notes from Self Improvement by Pujya Gurudev – adapted to Vasu).

Vasumathy's eternal love for her Guru

"There is no truth greater than the Teacher and there is no austerity more valuable. It is the Teacher who is the source of Self-knowledge beyond which there is nothing, Unto that Teacher is my salutation!"

- Guru Stotram

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"ஆன்மீக இமயத்தின் அருள்பொழியும் சில வேளைகள்..."

-பத்மா சோமகாந்தன்-

'பாற்கடலில் பள்ளிகொள்ளும் பரந்தாமனோ' எனப் பார்ப்போர் பரவசமடையும் வகையில் பொன்னிற மேனிபொலிவோடு மிளிர ஆடும் ஊஞ்சலில் உட்கார்ந்தபடியே பாதங்களைச் சிறிதாக தரையில் ஊன்றி மிதித்து ஆடியபடியிருந்த அந்தக் கண்கொள்ளாக்கவினை மீட்டிப் பார்ப்பதா? வெண்ணுரைகள் வீழ்ந்து தவழும் நீர்வீட்சிபோல அருள் பிரவகிக்கும் வதனத்திலிருந்து தவழும் தூய வெண்தாடி, சூரிய சந்திரனாக அருளாட்சியோடு கருணை மழைபொழியும் கண்கள் அறிவொளி வீசும் அருட்பிரகாசத்தையும் அனுபவித்த அருமை நினைவுகளைப் புரட்டிப் பார்ப்பதா?

மகரிஷி குருதேவரை முதன் முதல் தரிசித்த கணத்தின் போதே நாம் பிறவியெடுத்த பலனை எய்தி மகிழ்ந்தோம். அப்பப்பா! வர்ணிக்க முடியாத அத்தனை கருணையும் அறிவும் காருண்ணியமும் தெய்வீகப் பொலிவும் மிக்க தோற்றம்!

சுமார் 30 வருடங்களுக்கு முன்பின்னாக இருக்கலாம். கொழும்பு – 7, இராணி வீதியில் அமைந்திருந்த பெரியார் ஸப்னானி வீட்டில் குருதேவர் தங்கியிருந்தபோது அவர்களது தரிசனத்தைப் பெற எனது அன்புத் தோழி யசோ சுந்தரலிங்கம் அம்மையார் எம்மைக் குடும்பத்தோடு அழைத்துச் சென்றிருந்தார். எம்மைக் குருதேவருக்கு அறிமுகம் செய்யவும் நாம் அவர்களை வீழ்ந்து வணங்கி ஆசிகளைப் பெற்றுக் கொண்டோம்.

எம்மைப் போலவே இன்னும் இரண்டொருவர் அங்கு வருகை தந்தனர். 'கிருஷ்ணா, கிருஷ்ணா' என்ற நாமாவளியையேதன் மூச்சாகக் கொண்ட குருதேவர் சுவாசிப்ப தெல்லாம் இறைவனையே தான். பேசுவதெல்லாம் இறை மாண்பே தான். அத்தனை பக்தியும் அறிவுப் பிரவாகமும். இலகுவான தெளிவான சுவையான எளிமையான ஆனால் கருத்தாழம்மிக்க அவரது உரையாடல்களையே நீண்ட நேரம் அலுக்காமல் கேட்கலாம்.

"தெளிவு குருவின் திருமேனி காண்டல்
தெளிவு குருவின் திருநாமம் செப்பல்
தெளிவு குருவின் திருவார்த்தை கேட்டல்
தெளிவு குருவுருச் சிந்தித்தல் தானே!"

என்ற திருமூலரின் பாடல்கூட எமக்கு நாம் அனுபவிக்கும் உண்மையையே விளக்கி நிற்கிறது.

அப்போதே நான் எனது கணவர், பிள்ளைகளுட்பட எல்லோருமே சின்மயா மிஷனில் இணைந்து கொண்டோம். இதற்கு முழுதும் தூண்டுதலாக விளங்கியவர் எனது அன்பு நண்பி யசோ அம்மையார் அவர்களே.

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குருதேவர் இரு தடவைகள் இலங்கைக்கு விஜயம் செய்துள்ளதாக நினைவு. பின்னர் 1982ல் அவர்கள் வருகை தந்தபோது இலங்கை சின்மயாமிஷன் வதிவிட ஆச்சாரியராக விருந்த பிரம்மச்சாரி விஜக்த சைதன்யா அவர்கள், நானும் எனது துணைவரும் அன்று செயலாளராக இருந்த திரு. K.V. சோமசுந்தரம், திருமதி ரஞ்சினி சோமசுந்தரம் திரு. திருமதி சுந்தரலிங்கம் ஆகியோர் குருதேவரின் வருகையை நாடி கொழும்பு சர்வதேச விமான நிலையத்தில் காத்திருந்தோம்.

அக்காலத்தில் விமானம் தரித்து நிற்கும் இடத்திற்கருகிலேயே விஐபி லோஞ்ச் அமைக்கப்பட்டிருந்ததனால், விமானம் மெல்ல மெல்ல நகர்ந்து தரையில் தரிக்கவும் முதலாவதாக குருதேவரே இறங்கி 'கிருஷ்ணா கிருஷ்ணா' என ஜெபித்தவாறு விமான நிலைய உயர் அதிகாரிகள் ஊழியர் யாவரையும் ஆசீர்வதித்த அழகை என்னென்பது? இமயமலையிலிருந்து இறைவனே இறங்கி வருவது போன்ற அருட்காட்சியை நாமனைவரும் பரவசத்துடன் பருகினோம். அத்தனை தெய்வீகம்! அத்தனை அருட்பொலிவு!!

கொழும்பிலே கீதை, மற்றும் ஆன்மீக நூல்களோடான குருதேவரின் அருளுரைகள் காலையும் மாலையும் ஆங்கில மொழியில் கதிரேசன் மண்டபத்தில் நிகழும். பெருந்திரளான மக்கள் புத்தகுருமார் உட்பட, சிங்கள, இஸ்லாமிய, கிறீஸ்தவ சமய மக்கள் கூட அவரது அருளுரையைப் பருகக்கிரமமாக வருவர்.

ஒழுங்கு, கட்டுப்பாடு, நேரந்தவறாமை என்பவற்றையும் இறுக்கமாகக் கடைப்பிடிக்கும் குருதேவர், உரையாற்ற இருக்கையில் உட்கார்ந்ததும் 5.59க்கு 'ஓம்' என்ற ஓங்கார ஒலியுடன் தொடங்கி, 'டான்' என 8 மணிக்கே உரையை நிறைவு செய்யும் சிறப்பு வியப்பானது. உரை

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நிகழ்த்துவதே ஒரு தவமாகக் கருதி புறப்பட்டு வரும்போதே, கவனச் சிதறலை ஏற்படுத்தக் கூடாதென்பதற்காக எதுவும் பேசாமல் மௌனமாகவே இருந்து உரைநிகழ்த்தி முடிந்தபின்னரே மற்றவர்களுடன் பேசுவார்.

அவரது உரை நிகழும்போது சபையில் குண்டூசி விழுந்தாற் கூட சத்தம் கேட்கும் நிலையில் அமைதி நிலவும். கடல் மடை திறந்தது போன்ற சொல்லாட்சி தெய்வீக அறிவுப் பரப்பல், சபையோரை அப்படியே கட்டிப் போட்டுவிடும் ஆளுமை; மனதை ஒரு நிலைப்படுத்தி அவதானம் கொள்ளவைக்கும் பேச்சின் வீச்சு.

ஒரு தடவை, பிலியந்தலையில் குருதேவருடனான சாதனா 'காம்ப்' இடம் பெற்றது. சுமார் 50 பேர் வரை சென்றிருந்தோம்.

அதிகாலை தியானத்திற்கு பிரம்மச்சாரி அவர்கள் குருவாக இருந்து எமக்கு அறிவுறுத்தல் தந்தார். காலை உணவின் பின் குருதேவருடைய அருளுரை அதனைத் தொடர்ந்து கேள்விபதில்கள், கலந்துரையாடல் எனச் சில நிகழ்ச்சிகள். மதிய உணவைத் தொடர்ந்து சில மணிநேரம் ஓய்வு. அதன் பின் ஒன்றுகூடல்.

மாபெரும் விருட்சமொன்றின் நிழலில் புற்றரையில் எல்லோரும் உட்கார்ந்து கொண்டோம். நமக்கு நடுவே குருதேவர் உட்கார்ந்திருந்தார்.

அன்று காலை நாம் கேட்டுக் கொண்டிருந்த விஷயங்கள் சார்பாக ஒவ்வொருவரும் 5.10 நிமி. வரை உரையாற்ற வேண்டும்.

இதுவரை மிக ஆழமான எமது அறிவு அனுபவத்திற்கு எட்டாத கடுமையான விஷயங்களையெல்லாம் இலகுபடுத்தி. விளங்கும் வகையில் தெளிவாகவும் விளக்கமாகவும் கூறிவந்த இப்பெருமகான் எம்மருகே உட்கார்ந்தபடி தோழமை பூண்டு கேலியாகவும் அதே வேளை கருத்துச் செறிவான விஷயங்களை எம்மோடுதாமும் இணைந்திருந்து பழகும் நிலைமையை நாம் மறக்க முடியாது. அத்தனை எளிமையையும் அத்தனை பண்பும் அந்த மகானுக்கேயுரிய தனித்துவமான சிறப்பேயாகும்.

உங்களைப் பார்த்தால் இன்னொரு ஆன்மீகத் தலைவராயிருந்த 'கொமெய்னி' போல தாடியுடன் காட்சியளிக்கிறீர்களே? எமக்குப் பயமாயிருக்கிறதே! என்று கூட அம்மகானிடம் கேள்வியெழுப்பியது உண்மை. அப்போதுதான் குருதேவரும் தனது இளமைக் காலம் பற்றியும் மஞ்சள் அங்கிதரித்த சுவாமிகள் யாரையுமே தான் நம்புவதில்லையென்றும் இத்தகைய போக்கு எப்படித் தன்னை இத்துறையிலேயே மிக உயர்ந்த மதிப்பை ஏற்படுத்தியது என்ற உண்மைகளை யெல்லாம் குழந்தைபோல புன்சிரிப்புப் பொலிய எம்மோடு தோழமை பூண்டு விளக்கினார். மஞ்சள் ஆடை தரித்தோரை நாட்டைவிட்டு ஒழிக்கவேண்டு மென யோசித்தவரே, அதனையே தான்மேற்கொண்ட வரலாறை சிரித்துச் சிரித்துச் சுவையுடன் விளக்கினார்.

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நாரன்பிட்டி அன்டேசன் தொடர்மாடிக் குடியிருப்பில் இலங்கைச் சின்மயா கிளையின் அதிகமான செயற்பாடுகள் இடம்பெற்றன. இங்கே மிஷனின் படிப்பு வட்டம், தேவியர் வட்டம், இளைஞர் வட்டம், பாலவிகார் என்பன முக்கிய இடம் பெற்று இயங்கின. இதில் எனதும் துணைவரதும் பங்கு கணிசமானதே!

இதில் மிக மிக முக்கியமான நிகழ்வு குருதேவருக்கு எமது ஷாலிகா மண்டபத்தில் 1982ம் ஆண்டில் நடைபெற்ற வரவேற்பு உபசாரம். குடியிருப்பு மக்கள் அனைவரும் தன் நினைத்து அருமையான நிகழ்ச்சி களையும் ஒழுங்கு செய்திருந்தோம். அவ்வேளை நானும் எனது துணைவர் சோமகாந்தனுமே குருதேவருக்கு பாதபூஜை செய்யும் பாக்கியத்தைப் பெற்றிருந்தோம். நெஞ்சை விட்டகலாத நினைவுகள் இவை.

சுமார் 1000 பேருக்குமேல் நண்பகல் விருந்தளித்தோம். பாலவிகார் மாணவர், இளைஞர் நிகழ்ச்சிகள் உரைகள், நடனங்கள் எனப் பல நிகழ்வுகள். அவ்வேளை நடனமாடிய எமது மகள் கலாஞ்சரியின் நடனத்தைப் பாராட்டிய குருதேவர் சின்மயாமிஷன் தலைமையகத்திலிருந்து வெளிவரும் 'பவன்ஸ் ஜோர்னல்' என்ற சஞ்சிகையில் மகளின் புகைப்படமொன்றையும் வெளியிடுத்தி ஒரு அருமையான வாழ்த்துச் செய்தியையும அனுப்பியிருந்தார்கள்.

1983 கலவரம் ஆரம்பமான அன்றைய தினமே எமது வீட்டில் கொ/ சின்மயமிஷனின் குருபூர்ணிமா நிகழ்ச்சி பெரும் பரபரப்பாக நடைபெற்றது. அன்றைய நாட்டின் குழப்பநிலையால் நாம் பல சிரமங்களுக்குட்பட்டு 'தேஸ்ரன் கல்லூரியில் அகதி முகாமிலிருந்து, கப்பல் மூலம் யாழ்சென்று, அங்கே சில மாதங்கள் வாழ்ந்தபின் கொழும்பு திரும்பியபோதே குருதேவருடைய வாழ்த்துக் கடிதமும் 'பவன்ஸ்ஜோர்னல்' சஞ்சிகையையும் பார்த்து மகிழ்ந்தோம்.

ஒரு நாள்; 'அம்மா! உங்களுக்கு மகிழ்ச்சியான செய்தியொன்று' தொலைபேசியில் கனடாவிலிருந்து எமது மூத்தமகன் பத்மகாந்தன் பேசினார்.

நானும் எனது துணைவரும் மிகுந்த வேதனையில் மூழ்கியிருக்கிறோம். அப்போதுதான் மகனின் அழைப்புக் கிடைத்தது.

வழமையான மகிழ்ச்சி பரபரப்பு பொங்க, மகன் கூறினார். பெரியசுவாமி (பெரியசுவாமி என குழந்தைகள் குறிப்பிடுவது குருதேவரையே) இங்கே நிற்கிறார். கீதை தொடர் சொற் பொழிவாற்றுகிறாராம். நேற்று ஆலய தரிசனத்திற்குப் போயிருந்தவேளை அங்கே விளம்பரம் வைத்திருக் கிறார்கள் என்றார் பெருத்த மகிழ்ச்சியுடன்.

சில நிமிடங்கள் நான் மௌனம், வாய்திறந்து பேச முடியவில்லை.

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ஒருமாதிரி சமாளித்துக் கொண்டு, 'கண்ணா! உங்களுக்கொரு துயரமான செய்தி! பெரிய சுவாமிகள் சமாதியாகிவிட்டாராம்! இப்போதுதான் இத்துயரச் செய்தி எமக்குக் கிட்டியது' என்று கூறிப் பேச்சைத் துண்டித்து விட்டேன்.

1984ல் குருதேவா இலங்கை வருவதாகவும், பிரமாதமான ஏற்பாடுகளுடன் பல நிகழ்ச்சிகளை நடாத்தவிருந்த திட்டமெல்லாம் நாட்டின் கலவரத்தால் தவிடுபொடியாயின.

சில ஆண்டு இடைவெளியின் பின்னர் யசோ அம்மாவினதும் குருதேவரின் சிஷ்யன் சுவாமிதத்வானந்த ஆகியோர் ஏனைய பல பெரியார்களின் கூட்டுமுயற்சியால் மிஷன் சிறப்புற இயங்க ஆரம்பித்தது; குருதேவருடைய மனதில் உதித்த இவ்வியக்கம் பற்பல சாதனைகளைப் புரிந்து மக்களை மேன்நிலைக்கு ஈடேற்றுமாக!

இலங்கை சின்மயா மிஷனின் மறுமலர்ச்சிக்காகப் பாடுபட்டு உழைத்த பல பெரியார்களுடைய நினைவுகள் மனதில் பதிந்திருந்தாலும், பெரியார் முனிகுண்டன்மால், யசோ சுந்தரலிங்கம், தனலெட்சுமி இராமச்சந்திரா, திருமதி ரஞ்சினி சோமசுந்தரம், டாக்டர் திருமதி பொன்னம்பலம், திரு. K. V. சோமசுந்தரம், திரு. ஜீவரத்தினம், திரு. தெ. ஈஸ்வரன், திரு. பொ. பாலசுந்தரம், மாத்தளை மாரிமுத்துச் செட்டியார், செல்வி மாலா சபாரத்தினம், திருமதி தயா மகிந்தா, திரு. திருமதி மோடி, திரு. சோமகாந்தன் இவர்களோடு இன்னும் பலர் இவ்வியக்கத்தின் வளர்ச்சிக்காகப் பல்வேறு வழிகளில் உத்வேகத்துடன் உழைத்த சிறப்பை நாம் இவ்வேளையில் நிச்சயம் நினைவில் மீட்டிப் பார்க்கக் கடமைப்பட்டுள்ளோம்.

வற்றாத அருளை வாரி வழங்கி அப்பெருமானின் அருளாலேதான் 'Voice of Chinmaya' என்ற சஞ்சிகையை திரு. சோமகாந்தன் தொடர்ந்து வெற்றிகரமாக நடத்தவும், 'குருதேவர் சுவாமி சின்மயானந்தா' என்ற தலைமையில் நான் 'கடுகு சிறிது காரம் பெரிது' என்பது போல அளவில் சிறிதாயினும் காத்திரமான கருத்துக்களைத் தாங்கிய நூலாக அதனை வெளிக் கொணரத் தூண்டியது அம்மகானுடன் நாம் சிலவேளைகள் அனுபவித்த அருட் பொலிவேயன்றி வேறென்ன?...

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Reminisces of Gurudev Chinmayananda and Sri Lanka Chinmaya Mission

Daya Mahinda

"To the Action I have a right, but not to the fruits thereof " This was what I had from reading the Geeta from my adolescent days.

After marriage I prayed to Krishna for a Guru and was guided to Gurudev Chinmayananda.

I met Gurudev at a Bhagawad Geeta Yagna at Saraswathy Hall Colombo in 1979. In my heart a question arose, "who is a Guru?" At the Satsang after the lecture session Gurudev as though in answer to my question "There may be many" many Gurus on your path, but the Guru who shows you the Divine is your Sadguru.

The Chinmaya Mission Sri Lanka was inaugurated with Justice Sivasubramaniam as President and I became one of the committee members. The Sabnanis of Queens Road who were Gurudev's hosts will be remembered for their warm hospitality to all the devotees. Brahmachari Viyaktha 'Chaitanya' started the Divine Group classes in 1980 with 2 classes a week. Our text was Atma Bodam and later Art of living the classes were in Tamil and there was also a pooja Bajan session once a week after the class.

Regular poya sessions took place at the Tamil Sangam Hall. We also had a "Vishnu Sahasnama" pooja conducted by Gurudev at Ramakrishna Mission during one of his visits to Sri Lanka.

My devotion to Gurudev for his guidance gets stronger day by day. To Guruji Swami Tejomayananda Swami Vimalandaji, Swaporanji & Matthadji I pay my pranams'.

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Our Experience with Pujya Gurudev

Mr. & Mrs. Sivaratnam

It was in late 1979 that we saw an advertisement in the Virakesary News Paper about the Geeth Gnana Yagna, to be conducted by Pujya Gurudev at the Ramakrishna Hall for about a week., As time was a problem, we dicided initially to go only on the first day. However, we found the lectures so interesting, that we decided to attend the lectures every day. When we sit back and think, even at this moment, we feel that it was a divine force that took us to the hall on that eventful day.

We call it eventful because it changed our lives considerably. We were drawn to Gurudev as iron, filn... to a giant magret. This is no exaggeration. In fact he clarified all our doubts about Hinduism and Hindu beliefs like the worship of many gods, idol worship, fate and free will etc. This modern Rishi truly dispelled our ignorance and enlightended us on all the rituals that are perfomed in our religion without knowing the philosophy behind these. Our revered Gnana Guru made life better and more meaningful to us. We are ever grateful to God for, giving us the opportunity to perform pada pooja to our great Master at our residence in 1982.

We had the privilege of Swamiji visiting our humble residence on at least two occasions, one for Bhiksha and the other for a Question and Answer session. We were extremely, happy with these visits and were most grateful to Gurudev that he was able to find the time for these visits in the midst of his very busy schedule. During these visits, we had the opportunity of coming into close contact with him and to come to know of both his child like and humorous nature. The Question and Answer session was most interesting, Our residence was packed to capacity. Gurudev kept the audience in peals of laughter,

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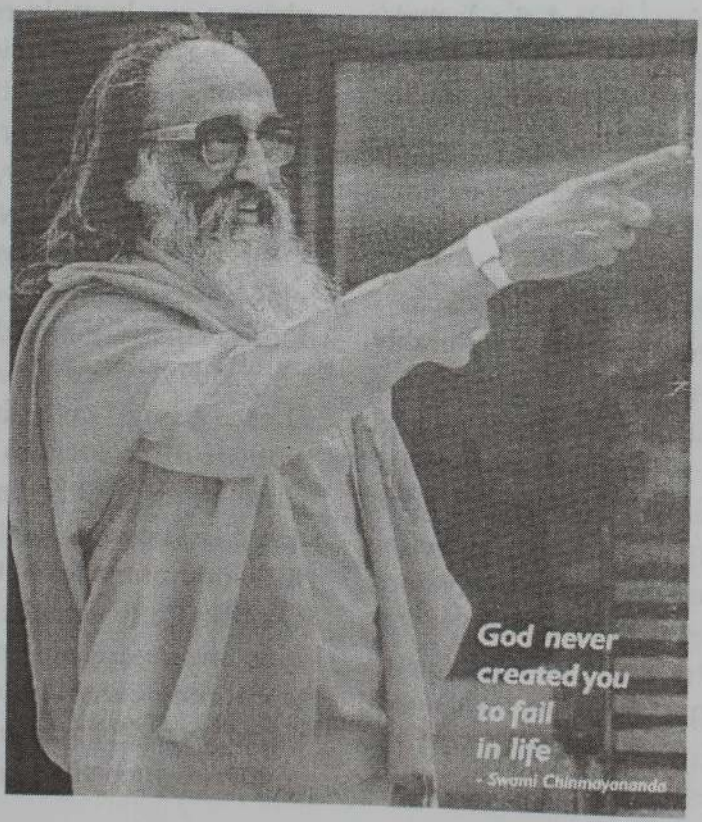
apart from dispelling many doubts about Hindusim and throwing greater light on the subject. Though the session was supposed to last for one and a half hours, it went on much longer resulting in the lunch being delayed. Gurudev himself referring to this in one of his letters said "The Question and Answer session was great". When Swamiji was around, we were kept pleasantly busy and could sleep only a few hours in the night. However, after his departure we felt a great void that could not be easily filled.

From 1979 he used to come regularly to Sri Lanka to conduct lectures. Chinmaya Mission was becoming very popular, and every body was looking forward to Gurudev's regular visits. Unfortunately, the riots of 1983 put a stop to all this. Swamiji never visited Sri Lanka after the riots. He had great plans for the Colombo Centre and was hopeful that the Mission Head quarters would he completed by 1983.



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Annexures

The Second Executive Committee consisted of the following :-

President :
Sri D. Eassuwaran

Vice President :
Smt. Daya Mahinda
Smt. (Dr.) Mrs. R. Ponnampalam
Sri T. Gananathalingam

General Secretary :
Sri K.V. Somasundaram

Treasurer :
Sri Keerthy Mody

Secretary Programmes :
Sri R. Sivagnanasoothy

Secretary Publicity and Press Relation :
Sri N. Somakanthan

Committee Members :
Sri K. Adiyappan
Sri M. Kathirkesan
Sri Hari Selvanathan
Smt. P. Somakanthan
Smt Mathuri Mody
Smt Dana Gananathalingam
Sri M. Thilakaratnam
Sri R. Ramasamy
Sri N. Sarawanapavan

The Third Executive Committee consisted of -

President :
Sri S. Selvarajah

Vice President :
Suthesh Balasubramaniam
Mr. C. Rajadurai

General Secretary :
Sri Ishwaradasan

Treasurer :
Sri Ravi Banudevan

Committee Members :
Smt. Bhavani Sellathurai
Sri Sri Kantha
Shanti

The Incumbent Executive Committee consists of

PATRON
Mr D Eassuwaran
VICE PATRONS
Mr K V Somasunderam
Mr P Balasundaram
Ms Sunita Jivatram

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: .....

Tel No. (off) : .....

3. Residential Address

: .....

: .....

Tel No (Res) : .....

4. Profession : .....

5. Name of Spouse : .....

6. Children's Details : .....

	NAME	PROFESSION	SCHOOL / ATTENDED	AGE	SEX
(1)					
(2)					
(3)					
(4)					
(5)					

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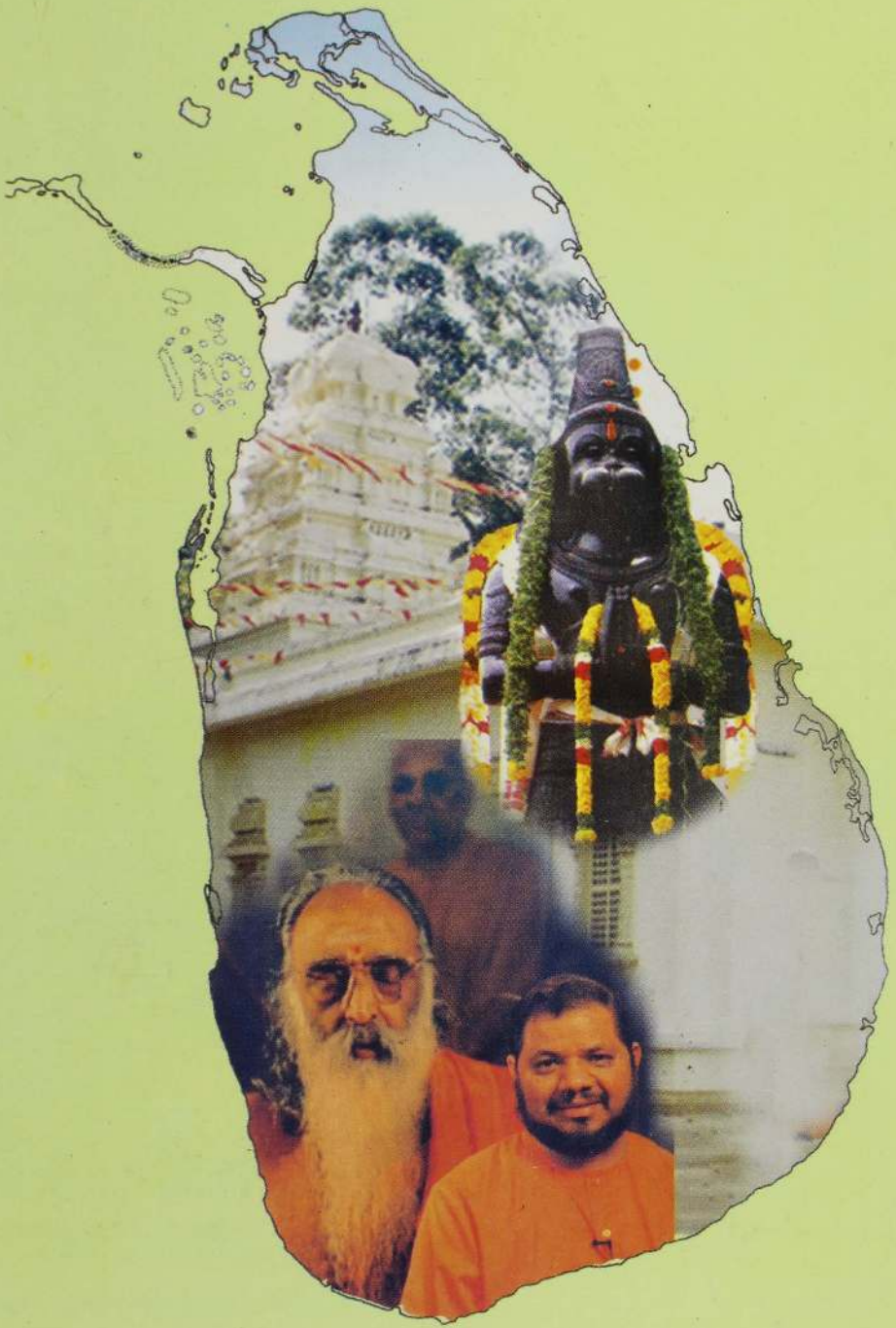

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