



CONGREGATIONAL PREACHING NEWSLETTER

Congregational Development Ministry, ISKCON

International Society For Krishna Consciousness

Founder-Ācārya : His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda

October, 2002

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

My dear Congregational Preachers and ISKCON leaders, PAMHO, AGTSP.

Siberia Warming Up in Congregational Preaching

Last year I reported about my visit to the congregational Festival in Siberia, Russia. That time about 300 devotees attended. This year I attended again and the turnout was about 500 devotees. Reports on how the Bhakti Vrksa Group preaching strategies are working there very successfully have encouraged other areas to take up the methodology. The satisfaction expressed by the participants is one of the most enlivening aspects. We want the devotees participating in Krishna consciousness to feel happy in their devotional service. The support and interactive approach provided by BVG (Bhakti Vrksa Groups) and Councillor Groups give a high satisfaction amongst the participants. This causes a longer participation period with less drop-outs and more growth by attracting new members. At this rate if Siberia keeps warming up to Congregational Preaching it will be one of the hottest places for Congregational Development.

Penang Doubling It

Penang, Malaysia just a couple of years before began from practically nothing and by September, 2001 achieved its goal of 20 Bhakti Vrksa Groups. Inside information tells us that they are about ready to inaugurate their 40th Bhakti Vrksa Group before September, 2002 which would achieve their goal of doubling it within one year. The Penang Temple is busiest on Sundays when the whole morning program

is dedicated as the Sunday Love Feast Program and hundreds of Congregational Devotees revel in the nectar of: Mangala Arotik, Joint Japa Sessions, Deity Greeting, Srimad Bhagavatam Class, Breakfast Bliss, Harinamas, Prasad distribution (Food for Life) outings, and late morning Sunday Feast Class with midday feast. This kind of joint program not only unites the congregation as a wide family, but helps train everyone in the essential importance of starting our days with a spiritual orientation. Srila Prabhupada always stressed the importance of



spiritual life in the morning. Their Morning Sunday Program is possibly a FIRST in putting that into practice through the Sunday Love Feast. We are looking forward to some more details from Penang Island Yatra and their Congregational Preaching Experiences.

Its Not What You Do as Much as How You Do IT

Temples and Congregational Preaching Directorates alike are always trying to expand their base of supporters and participants. What research has found out is that little things make big differences. How visitors to the temple are received, chaperoned,

hosted, made to feel welcome, gives a lasting impression. A better presentation with nice dealings makes a friend for life and encourages repeat visits. Impersonal, neglectful, rough or insensitive dealings are discouraging to the visitor. It is important to know the cultural background of the visitors and to respond with sensitivity to their own habits and nature. The Congregational Development Ministry is studying the possibility of creating a training course/seminar for educating devotees who need to interact with congregation and guests with needed skills. Until then kindly be careful how you deal with the visitors and congregational members so that they feel truly welcome and appreciated. Try to make them feel fully part of our Krishna conscious family. Then they will act as family members.

As I am visiting different festivals around the world everywhere we go we can see how enthusiastic the devotees actually are. Sometimes congregational members come to me with tears in their eyes and thank me for having promoted Congregational Preaching. They said without Nama Hatta's and localized house programs they would never have gotten the opportunity to become devotees and practice Krishna consciousness. You can all make an unlimited difference in peoples lives by giving them Krishna consciousness through congregational development. This will fulfil Srila Prabhupada's dream and make Lord Sri Nityananda Prabhu very happy.

Yours in service,

*Jayapataka Swami
ISKCON Global Minister of
Congregational Development*

GUEST COLUMN

Commitment to the Congregation

Developing Moscow

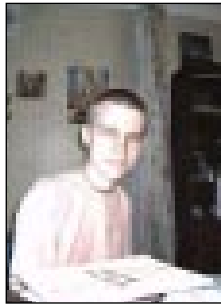
Nama Hattas:

His Grace Veda

Vibhagaka prabhu

joined ISKCON in Moscow around 1992.

He has been living in and serving at the



Moscow -Temple for all these years. While living in the temple he managed to finish his studies at the Institute . He became a Nama Hattas secretary for Moscow in 1997. In 2001, he got married and now his wife, Yamini dd., is helping him in the development of Nama Hattas in Moscow.

CP NEWS: We are very impressed with the level of commitment you have for Congregational preaching. What inspired you to take it up?

HG VVD: I was acquainted with the Krishna consciousness movement in the year 1991. Since 1992 I began living in the Moscow Sri Sri Dayal Nitay Saci Suta Temple. Since 1994 I have been engaged in preaching to the guests at the Temple. All the while I had questions: "What to do with those people who come to the temple due to active preaching. Who will take care of them. How to engage all of them in active service?" I received answers to these questions in 1996 when HH Jayapataka Swami Maharaja conducted some seminars on Bhakti Vrksa preaching in Moscow. After these seminars I was inspired to organize Nama-Hattas preaching, and so in 1996 in Moscow several Nama-Hattas were started with the "Bhakti-vriksa" standards. It has inspired me to develop these programs further, and together with Angira Muni prabhu we began to organize Moscow Nama-Hattas more systematically. **I liked this kind of preaching, because it gives us opportunities to care for so many people, to train them, to**

engage them in preaching and active service, and then these devotees in their turn could preach and care of others. I have understood, that at the present moment this is the most important sphere of preaching in ISKCON.

CP NEWS: What is your vision for Congregational preaching in Moscow?

HG VVD: On the basis of my experience, I understood, that actually there is only one way of development of Krishna consciousness movement in the world - that is to develop communities of the devotees (rural or urban) with the Temples. Urban community have to be consist of many Nama-Hattas (better, on the "Bhakti-vriksa" basis). Devotees of Nama-Hattas have to actively participate in the follow up program, invite their friends and others devotees on the Nama-Hattas and thus Nama-Hattas have to multiply regularly, the new groups have to be created. Our main focus in the strategy is to train new leaders and to develop preaching. In our community there should be developed social infrastructure.

CPNEWS: How do you organize the Moscow temple to also share in your vision?

HG VVD: In our temple we have the Nama-Hatta department which coordinates the activities of Nama-Hattas, and also organizes the follow up program. Also we organize Sunday programs, during which we preach to the people about the importance of participating in the Nama-Hattas and in the development of our community. Also we try to engage congregational devotees in practical services: different preaching programs organized by the temple, such as festivals, Harinam programs and in book distribution. We also engage them in the service to the Temple Deities. Brahmacaris from the temple regularly visit the weekly meetings of Nama-Hattas.

CP NEWS: What are the advantages you have in Russia to do congregational preaching?

HG VVD: I think, that some of advantages are that the Russian people in general have a great interest to spirituality, education, they are open minded and personal by nature, and they like to preach. Therefore they accept the ideas of Nama-Hatta and community development.

CP NEWS: What have been your achievements in this field?

HG VVD: Regarding the achievements in Congregational preaching, I would say, that they are not so great. In Moscow we have several Nama-Hattas, which are far from the Bhakti-vriksa standards. Somehow we also try to develop the Follow up program - we collect contacts, we have a database of the Congregational members - about 1800 peoples - from Moscow as well as Moscow region. It is pleasant to note that Congregational members do a lot of services in the Temple and also take part in different preaching activities. But we should do a lot more in this direction.

CP NEWS: What difficulties need to be overcome?

HG VVD :Basic difficulties: is a lack of experience - how to organize Nama-Hattas, the lack of spiritual education and culture of people. Also we had negative experience of the development of Krishna consciousness in Moscow and Russia in the previous years, which still negatively influences the pace of our present development.

CP NEWS: What have been your steps in this regard?

HG VVD: The main solution is to develop educational programs, to train devotees which we are trying to organize.

CP NEWS: We request you to share some realizations which could inspire other Congregational preachers around the world?

HG VVD: One of my realizations is that if we simply take care of the devotees, then after some time they will become ready to do a lot of service in Krishna consciousness. It is very important, that all devotees have to participate in preaching. In the community of the devotees there is big potential for preaching, and if devotees united together they can do many amazing things in service to Krishna.

HH Bhanu Swami Maharaja

His Holiness Bhanu Swami Maharaja ,

born in an aristocratic family of Japanese origin living in Canada, renounced everything 30 years ago to serve Srila Prabhupada in spreading the message of Godhead all over the world.



His Holiness has translated several works (viz. Madhurya Kadambini, Harinam Cintamani, Caitanya Siksamrta, etc.) of the great Vaishnava Acharyas from Sanskrit and Bengali into English. He is expert in the field of astrology and Deity worship.

He is a Co- Governing Body Commissioner (CO_GBC) with His Holiness Jayapataka Swami for South India except Belgaum, and Sri Lanka. He presently travels to Malayasia, Singapore, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA to help Srila Prabhupada in spreading the message of Godhead. He is leading a team of devotees in Chennai to build a gorgeous Radha Krishna Temple

THE REAL PURPOSE OF A TEMPLE By HH Bhanu Swami Maharaja

Till the present time we have had a paradigm of establishing a temple, and then making full time devotees. It has not occurred to us that one could make and maintain devotees without a temple, and that the quality of such devotees could be equal or better than those residing in temple.

Of course quality of devotee will depend on proper association, whether it is with or without a temple. Living in the home is not such a formidable obstacle to advancement. Living in the temple, one has to worry about maintaining the temple.

There is not much difference. There is family life for congregation and also family life for some of the resident devotees. This could be problematic or favorable for either.

The obstacle occurs where there is too much time dedicated to material maintenance. Thus the devotee has to become cautious to allot a definite amount of time and energy to Bhakti.

Congregational members can do any service for Krsna that a resident devotee can, provided they have the proper qualifications. They can do Deity worship if they are initiated, they can collect funds, manage, preach, distribute books, do menial services etc.

Obstacles usually involve lack of communication, immaturity and reactive behavior usually from the Temple resident devotees.

:The whole point of a temple is to engage members in service, whether they are inside or outside. We don't have to see them as distinct entities.

Understanding the 'Tree of Devotion'



In this column we would like to explore in depth the mood and techniques of the Bhakti Vrksa.

Breaking the Ice

Visualize this scene..... You have managed to convince a few new people of around 15 or less to attend your home program of Bhajans and discussion on the Bhagavad Gita (or whatever else you called it to attract them to pay you their first visit.)

As they sit around shyly overawed by a group of strangers around them, there is a thick and heavy silence as all eyes are focused on you, the common link, to break the uncomfortable ice .

Since it is a spiritual gathering, they are not aware of what to expect and are afraid of speaking up. They are nervous about the rest of the crowd, as they try to size them up in their minds. How do you cut through their inhibitions and make them participate in your kirtan, discussion, etc?

Enter ... the Ice Breaking session to your rescue. Introduce yourself to them briefing them also on your job, family, interests, and how you came to Krishna Consciousness, etc. Then request one by one all the guests to speak about themselves. This should take you about fifteen minutes.

You can see smiles on everyone as they relax. They are not total strangers any longer! Feeling less self-conscious, they can be ushered to the next part of your program with ease.

Now what do you do the subsequent week to get them a little more acquainted with one another? You have ideas galore in the book on "Ice Breakers" compiled by His Grace Kaunteya das secretary, ISCON Congregational Development Ministry.

You have very interesting questions that could animate even the most tongue – tied...” questions like .’ “If you could meet any celebrity of your choice, who would that person be, and why?”; “ What What is the most significant, important thing that happened to you last week?

2. Share something good, or new, or interesting that you have experienced in the last 24 hours.
3. What do you do to relax after a busy day?
4. If you were to win a crore of rupees how would you spend it?
5. What is the quality you appreciate most in a person?

There are also more light hearted questions like “What is the last thing that you lent that never came back?”, “What is the most satisfying job you have ever done?” or “Who has been your fast friend and for how long were you together?”... questions anyone will feel comfortable talking about but which also reveal some aspects of their personality and interests. There are activities to get to know one another better... very innovative and enjoyable ones like asking them to imagine that they were on a ship wreck, and there is only one life boat. They have to decide who is going to be that person, and each one has to give reasons why he or she should be given that life boat! Or alternately, why the person to the right or left should be given the life boat.

There are questions for youngsters, there are questions for those who are already acquainted with some amount of Krsna consciousness. There are so many well thought out games described to suit different kinds of gatherings . So it may be quite natural that we question the need for these activities in a spiritual gathering... have they not come to learn some philosophy? Why waste time in such social activities? **But the reality is that becoming a devotee involves lot more than learning just philosophy even if it is on Krsna consciousness.**

If it were just a matter of learning the theory, they could do that even in their homes... you provide them with the study material and keep testing them periodically.

However we know that this is not sufficient to make them love Krsna.

They need a lot of encouragement, love and care before they can give their hearts to Krsna. Initially it is the devotees that they start to love and serve. The appreciation of Krsna comes by the mercy of the devotees. So by setting a mood congenial for such warm, personal exchanges, the devotees will start to encourage and appreciate one another and this will make them even more enthusiastic to take part in the program

and advance in their commitments and services to Krsna. It will also pull them out of their mental worlds and make them focus more and be involved in the program that you are conducting.

Then Bhakti will begin to flow in their hearts...

After a while when you feel that the group is quite comfortable and familiar with one another, you can ask them to share some Krsna conscious point that they learnt from Srila Prabhupada’s books that week.

Initially only one or two might volunteer. You can lead the discussion by sharing your own point and realization, and as others follow, more would like to try doing it as it gives them the opportunity to be heard.

Those who are not yet on to reading may continue with some general ice- breakers, so that no one remains just a spectator.

Very soon you will have the whole group enthusiastically sharing something they read every week. And . their realizations on what they read will follow too ... and what better way is there for devotees to come closer together? It also trains them to put across Krsna conscious ideas to others , a fundamental requirement for preaching.

You will have a very effective and enthusiastic Kirtan, japa, discussion and preaching sessions following it ,when you start on such a nice note.

FROM THE EDITOR

Holding Hearts Together

Kali Yuga is an age of dissension - of quarrel and hypocrisy.... Of myriad material motivations. Unity among people of any group be it the family, community, society or any organization is an exception, rather than a rule.

In such a scenario, one may think that holding vast numbers of people together can only be done by tight control and authoritarianism....

But it depends on which side of people you are looking. Are you looking only at their material natures and hence being pessimistic of them co- operating, or are you looking at their spiritual natures which can be enhanced more and more and which is all good and wonderful and can work in harmony with the will of the Lord?

If you are looking at the former , then you would shudder at the thought of a growing congregation of devotees, who are all into

different groups and following their own versions of Srila Prabhupada’s teachings and refusing to co –operate with the official ISKCON.

Your reaction would then be to micro manage everything, never trusting anyone or letting them grow, and not be too concerned about the spiritual growth of any one as you would be too busy “ safe guarding” your own power and control.

This as you will agree will spell the beginning of a gradual death of the real spirit of the movement as well as the spiritual lives of everyone, as nobody will grow in spiritual life. **Spiritual life is personal and voluntary. It has to be spontaneous, for it to be called devotional service. If you get people to work out of fear or coercion, that is not devotional service. That is just a job done for your satisfaction. Not Krishna’s.**

If you look at the spiritual natures of everyone, then there is unlimited possibilities of co- operation for the service of the Lord.

The Lord Himself takes charge to facilitate the service, and then all we have to do is flow with His desire of expanded preaching, empowerment and spiritual growth and happiness of everybody . This is what a Spiritual movement is all about.

Unlimited concentric circles can be drawn around a common point. Similarly unlimited people can all co-operate around a common goal, a goal that is truly beneficial for everybody... a spiritual selfless goal of satisfying the Lord completely.

Srila Prabhupada , in his seven aims of setting up ISKCON, has preaching Krishna consciousness to everyone as the very first aim. Preaching involves so many activities- Kirtan, Deity worship, Prasad making and Distribution, giving classes on Srimad Bhagavatam and Bhagavad Gita., Book Distribution, Congregational preaching, etc, etc. **As long as the focus is always on helping people to advance in Krishna consciousness, these activities complement one another to bring about the total revolution in the lives of all the people as envisioned by Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu and the Acharyas. There is then a direction, a focus that sets the priorities in our lives. We can bear with certain material shortcomings since our aim is something so noble and elevating. Our goal is spiritual success , not temporary material gratifications and achievements. That spiritual success is determined by the spiritual advancement and satisfaction and**

CP Scores - March 2002

Highlights : The Yatra registering highest growth rate is **LAGOS TEMPLE,NIGERIA:** (89.53%)

TOP SCORERS IN CONGREGATIONAL PREACHING !!!

TOP TEN TEMPLES WORLD WIDE:

MAYAPUR, INDIA (L)	1
RADHA GOPINATH MANDIR, INDIA (L)	2
DURBAN, S. AFRICA (L)	3
PENANG, MALAYAIA (S)	4
PUNE, INDIA (M)	5
COMILLA, BANGLADESH(M)	6
PHOENIX FARM,MAURITIUS (M)	7
CHENNAI, INDIA	8
JUHU, MUMBAI (L)	9
MOSCOW, RUSSIA (L)	10

TOP 5 LARGE (L) TEMPLES

MAYAPUR	1
RADHA GOPINATH MANDIR	2
DURBAN	3
MAURITIUS	4
MOSCOW	5

TOP 5 SMALL (S) TEMPLES

PENANG	1
MEXICO CITY	2
BUDAPEST	3
GUYANA	4
TAIPING	5

TOP 5 MEDIUM (M) TEMPLES

PUNE	1
COMILLA	2
PHOENIX, MAURITIUS	3
CHENNAI	4
MIRA ROAD, MUMBAI	5

TOP 5 CONGREGATIONS

MATHURADESH	1
SHYAMADESH	2
CHITTAGONG	3
BALARAMDESH	4
DAMODARDESH	5

Rank	Yatra	Temple	Cultivation	Outreach	Shiksha	Bonus	Total	GROWTH
		Based	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	
1	Mayapur , India	19.15	7120.00	270	0	0	7409.15	
2	Mathuradesh,M. East	74.93	1921.00	156	58.25	24	2234.18	↑ 1.30%
3	Shyamadesh,M.East	34	1145.00	15	75.25	28	1297.25	↑13.11%
4	Chowpatty Temple, India	175.6	525.00	175	0	0	875.60	
5	Durban, South Africa	517.5	290.30	45	0	0	852.80	
6	Chittagong,Bangladesh	4.25	840.00	2.4	0	0	846.65	
7	Balaramadesh, M.East	42.12	669.00	7.5	0	20	738.62	↑50.22%
8	Penang, Malaysia	66.2	535.00	4	0	0	605.20	
9	Damodar desh, M. East	214	351.00	30	0	0	595.00	
10	Pune, India	60	482.80	1	0	0	540.80	
11	Bangalore, India	7.5	480.00	0	0	0	487.50	
12	Comilla, Bangladesh	13	390.00	75	0	0	478.00	
13	Phoenix Farm, Mauritius	71.5	355.61	45	0	0	472.11	
14	Mauritius Temple, Mauritius	14.875	428.08	18	0	0	460.95	
15	Chennai, India	25	330.00	66	0	0	421.00	
16	Juhu, Mumbai	16	334.70	22.5	0	22	395.20	
17	Moscow, Russia	33.98	290.00	15	4.5	30	373.48	↓ 12.19%
18	Mira road, Mumbai	19.8	195.00	112.05	0	0	327.30	
19	Kuala Lampur, Malaysia	15.2	280.00	21	0	0	316.20	
20	Tirupati, India	15.5	275.00	18	0	0	308.50	

Rank	Yatra	Temple Based	Cultivation Points	Outreach Points	Shiksha Points	Bonus Points	Total Points	GROWTH %
21	New Delhi, India	23.5	200.40	60	0	0	283.90	
22	Zagreb, Croatia	13.9	220.00	18	0	0	251.90	
23	Melbourne, Australia	92.5	122.50	24	0	0	239.00	
24	Mexico City, Mexico	7.6	120.00	106	0	0	233.60	
25	Guwahati, India	6	207.62	18	0	0	231.62	
26	Budapest, Hungary	7.25	220.00	0	0	0	227.25	
27	Kiev, Ukraine	19	200.00	0	0	0	219.00	
28	Guyana	10.7	40.00	6	140	16	212.70	
29	Singapore	0	210.00	0	0	0	210.00	
30	Taiping, Malaysia	16.82	187.00	1.5	0	0	205.32	
31	Munich, Germany	5	190.00	0	0	0	195.00	
32	Chicago	11	146.00	6	12.5	18	193.50	
33	Avatari Desh, M.East	3.25	118.00	0	44	28	193.25	↑ 65.43%
34	Albetione, Italy	5.1	100.00	0	62.75	22	189.85	
35	Coimbatore, India	8.75	120.00	58.1	0	0	186.85	
36	Teluk Intan, Malaysia	5.47	150.00	27	0	0	182.47	
37	Birmingham, United Kingdom	4.3	157.00	15	0	0	176.90	
38	Towaco	11.34	129.00	10.5	0	22	172.84	
39	Kaunas, Lithuania	7.2	102.13	55	0	0	164.33	
40	Johannesburg, Africa	21	19.10	90	0	20	150.10	
41	Kurukshetra, India	2.5	140.00	3	0	0	145.50	
42	Ljubljana, Slovenia	7.25	130.00	7.94	0		145.19	
43	Czech Republic	15.5	93.00	27.5	0	0	136.00	
44	Omsk	12.9	104.00	3	0	14	133.90	
45	Far Eastern Region	11	110.05	7.5	0	0	128.55	
46	Sreerangam	29	84.50	12	0	0	125.50	
47	Mathchomohani, Agartala	6.58	20.00	9	67	20	122.58	
48	Toronto, Canada	25.45	90.00	3.41	0	0	118.86	
49	Chelyabinsk, Russia	17.6	89.55	11	0	0	118.15	
50	Sarajevo, Bosnia	3.5	90.50	18	0	0	112.00	
51	Amsterdam, Holland	7	90.00	3	0	0	100.00	
52	Auckland, N.Zealand	12	75.00	11.7	0	0	98.70	
53	Lagos temple, Nigeria	3.6	76.20	0	0	18	97.80	↑ 89.53%
54	Saint Petersburg, Russia	10.9	74.30	10.5	0	0	95.70	
55	Chandigarh, India	10.5	80.00	0	0	0	90.50	

Rank	Yatra	Temple Based	Cultivation Points	Outreach Points	Shiksha Points	Bonus Points	Total Points	GROWTH %
56	Krsna katha desh, M.East	4	80.00	4.5	0	0	88.50	
57	Tiruchi, India	1.77	80.00	6	0	0	87.77	
58	Perm, Russia	22.75	60.00	4.51	0	0	87.26	
59	Croatia	6	17.00	45	0	18	86.00	
60	Sydney, Australia	7.25	70.00	8.59	0	0	85.84	
61	Wellington,N.Zealand	0	80.00	0.9	0	0	80.90	
62	Suva, Fiji	8.76	60.00	12	0	0	80.76	
63	SanJose, Costa Rica	0	80.00	0	0	0	80.00	
64	Taiwan	0.4	10.00	67.02	0	0	77.42	
65	Coventry, U.K	24.75	41.00	11	0	0	76.75	
66	Ekatarinberg,Russia	18.5	50.00	7.9	0	0	76.40	
67	Brazil, S. America	0	70.00	0.3	0	0	70.30	
68	Beresniku, Ural	6.8	40.80	3	1.5	18	70.10	
69	Skopje, Macedonia	7.5	60.00	0.6	0	0	68.10	
70	Radhadesh, Belgium	17.1	6.00	30	0	14	67.40	
71	Tokyo, Japan	3.67	44.00	1.5	0	18	67.17	↓ 1.29%
72	Abidjan, Ivory Coast	5.75	60.00	0	0	0	65.75	
73	Ahmedabad, India	2.085	60.00	3.5	0	0	65.59	
74	Potomac, USA	4.75	50.00	10.48	0	0	65.23	
75	Kerala, India	0	65.00	0	0	0	65.00	
76	Buenos Aires, Argentina	6	31.46	27.5	0	0	64.96	
77	Istanbul, Turkey	0.1	53.02	10	0	0	63.12	
78	Belgrade,Yugoslavia	0.025	60.00	3	0	0	63.03	
79	New Talavan,USA	4.5	40.00	13	0	0	57.50	
80	Belarus, Mogilev	3.5	50.00	3	0	0	56.50	
81	South Russia	10.75	22.00	7.5	0	16	56.25	
82	Helsinki,Finland	10	30.00	16.2	0	0	56.20	
83	Benin, West Africa	5.7	50.00	0	0	0	55.70	
84	Detroit, USA	9.5	44.00	1.5	0	0	55.00	
85	Montevideo	2.75	40.00	1.5	0	10	54.25	
86	Hosur	0	0.00	54	0	0	54.00	
87	Heidelberg, Germany	3.25	50.00	0	0	0	53.25	
88	Sungei Petani, Malaysia	16	30.00	7	0	0	53.00	
89	Denver, USA	5.25	30.00	70.7	0	0	52.95	
90	El Salvador,C. America	1.65	50.00	0.5	0	0	52.15	

Rank	Yatra	Temple Based	Cultivation Points	Outreach Points	Shiksha Points	Bonus Points	Total Points	GROWTH %
91	New Vraja dham, Hungary	9	41.50	0	0	0	50.50	
92	Vladivostok	14	30.03	4.5	0	0	48.53	
93	Bahau, Malaysia	3.8	4.00	4.5	0	0	48.30	
94	Pandharpur, India	2.5	38.49	6	0	0	46.99	
95	Riga, Latvia	0	40.00	0	0	6	46.00	
96	Habarovsk, Russia	1	40.03	4.5	0	0	45.53	
97	Perth, Australia	2.5	40.00	3	0	0	45.50	
98	Kosomolsk nd Amur,China	3	40.70	0	0	0	43.70	
99	Zlatoust town, Ural	0.98	20.50	3	1	18	43.48	
100	Ipoh, Malaysia	18.5	20.00	4.5	0	0	43.00	
101	Roustovon, Don, S Russia	11.8	1.00	3	9	18	42.80	
102	Kaliningrad, Russia	2.175	40.00	0.6	0	0	42.78	
103	Miami, USA	1.25	40.00	1.5	0	0	42.75	
104	Copenhagen, Denmark	0.375	40.00	1	0	0	41.38	
105	Pretoria, S.Africa	4.75	30.00	5	0	0	39.75	
106	Sialulia, Lithuania	1.5	30.00	6.3	0	0	37.80	
107	Nikolaev, Ukraine	1.015	30.00	4.95	0	0	35.97	
108	Montreal, Canada	6.75	20.00	7.75	0	0	34.50	
109	Cebu& Manila, Philippines	7.4	20.00	7.06	0	0	34.46	
110	Leicester, England	7.6	19.65	6	0	0	33.25	
111	Accra, Ghana	2.63	20.00	0	0	10	32.63	
112	Cape town, S.Africa	17.75	0.00	14.22	0	0	31.97	
113	Cakovec, Yugoslavia	7.5	20.00	3.8	0	0	31.30	
114	Timisoara, Romania	0.35	0.00	30.5	0	0	30.85	
115	Nuremberg, Germany	0	30.00	0	0	0	30.00	
116	Cordoba, Argentina	2.5	20.00	7.5	0	0	30.00	
117	Panama, C.America	4.15	20.00	5.3	0	0	29.45	
118	Rome, Italy	0.25	25.00	2.7	0	0	26.70	
119	Rosario (Sta. Fe)	6.55	19.68	1.5	0	0	27.73	
120	Madrid	1.4	20.00	0	0	6	27.40	
121	Den Hag, Holland	1.1	20.00	5.6	0	0	26.70	
122	Szeged, Hungary	3.7	20.00	2.65	0	0	26.35	
123	Uruguay	4.02	20.00	1.5	0	0	25.52	
124	Belfast, Northern Ireland	3.4	19.47	1.5	0	0	24.37	
125	Brisbane, Australia	6.75	0.00	16	0	0	22.75	

Rank	Yatra	Temple Based	Cultivation Points	Outreach Points	Shiksha Points	Bonus Points	Total Points	GROWTH %
126	London, Soho St	19	0.02	3	0	0	22.02	
127	Maribor, Slovenia	1.215	20.00	0.6	0	0	21.82	
128	Osigek, Hungary	0.15	20.00	0.4	0	0	20.55	
129	Cochabamba, bolivia	1.48	15.90	3	0	0	20.38	
130	Nigeria, Africa	0	0.00	20	0	0	20.00	
131	TelAviv, Israel	2.2	0.00	17.5	0	0	19.70	
132	Kedah, Malaysia	1.7	10.00	5.5	0	0	17.20	
133	Nrsimha-Ksetra (German Farm)	1.8	14.75	0	0	0	16.55	
134	Bratislava, Hungary	2.25	10.00	2	0	0	14.25	
135	Vishakapatanam	1.7	0.00	12.5	0	0	14.20	
136	Mar del Platta, Argentina	2.3	10.00	1.5	0	0	13.80	
137	Paris, France	0	10.00	3.5	0	0	13.50	
138	New Orleans	0.8	11.70	0	0	0	12.50	
139	Varazdin, Hungary	2.3	10.00	0	0	0	12.30	
140	Okinawa, Japan	1.575	10.00	0.56	0	0	12.14	
141	Keta, Ghana	1.5	10.00	0	0	0	11.50	
142	Malaga, Spain	3.2	0.03	8	0	0	11.23	
143	Vancouver, Canada	0.05	10.00	0	0	0	10.05	
144	Klaipeda , Lithuania	0	0.00	10	0	0	10.00	
145	Canberra, Australia	4.76	0.00	4.65	0	0	9.41	
146	Baroda, India	3.2	0.04	6	0	0	9.24	
147	Punta Atla, Argentina	0	0.00	9	0	0	9.00	
148	Vilnius, Lithuania	1.5	0.00	5.8	0	0	7.30	
149	Santiago del Estero, Argentina	0.6	0.05	5	0	0	5.65	
150	Kumasi, Ghana	2.35	0.00	0	0	0	2.35	
151	Rijeka, Croatia, Europe	1.9	0.00	0	0	0	1.90	
152	Stockholm, Sweden	0	0.00	1	0	0	1.00	
153	Takoradi, Ghana	0.26	0.00	0	0	0	0.26	

Large Temple (L)

Small Temple (S)

Medium Temple (M)

Congregation (C)

new - Reporting for the first time ↑ Increase ↓ Decrease * Siksha last reported, not included in Total

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the constant growth in quantity as well as quality of the congregation.

After all we also have the transcendental tricks of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's to follow in order to fulfill His prophecies of a flood in Krishna consciousness... to cure the spiritual diseases of people with our humility, tolerance and spiritual love. The evidence He gave are from the lives of Jagai and Madhai, from the lives of Prakananda Saraswati and Sri Sarvabhauma Bhattacharya to name just a prominent few from the ocean of people who received His mercy.

Our love and selfless service can touch the hearts of everyone and elevate them spiritually, including our own. It is love that controls the hearts of everyone and holds them together, and empowers everyone to do the magical work of Sri Chatanya Mahaprabhu's – to bring in the Golden Age in the worst of all times . the age of Kali, the age of man kind's worst moral degradation.

Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita, chapter 6 Text 40, " Oh son of Prtha, a transcendentalist engaged in auspicious activities does not meet with destruction either in this world or in the spiritual world; one who does good , My friend, is never overcome by evil."

What doubts can there be of our success when we remain focused on our spiritual goal? Empowering people to love and spread Krishna consciousness will truly bring about the Golden age for everyone, including ourselves.

Your servant,

HG Prema Padmini dd

We are looking forward to suggestions to serve you better.

Please e-mail to caitavtari@satyam.net.in

Striving for Quality: ISKCON Ministries Look at the Future

by Kaunteya das

Alachua, 15-16 June 2002 - Representatives of several Ministries of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness got together for a two-day meeting, to chalk out a common vision and strategy. ISKCON Ministers act as educators and consultants in their field, they work to improve the quality of life of devotees and the effectiveness of the mission by sharing relevant values, information and techniques. In Alachua the atmosphere was relaxed and the

mood highly cooperative; present were: For the Ministry of Communication - Anuttama and Merudevi Prabhus For the Congregational Development Ministry - Jayapataka Maharaja and Kaunteya das For the Ministry of Cow Protection and Agriculture - Chaya and Laksmi Prabhus. For the Ministry of Educational Development - Sesa Prabhu For the Youth Ministry - Manu Prabhu For the Child Protection Office - Dhira Govinda Prabhu Other Ministers, although they could not make it this time, said that they liked the idea of meeting. His Holiness Sridhar Maharaja, GBC Emeritus, was the special guest. He offered that-health permitting-he will assist the efforts of the Ministries as consultant and trainer for fund raising (a spontaneous round of applause raised from the participants when he said that).

The Ministries introduced their present work and goals; they discussed shared ground and how they can help each other, especially in areas of common interest. The heart of the second day was identifying how the Ministries-as a united whole-would like to be in ten years.

Sesa Prabhu facilitated the brainstorm and consequent discussion that produced a number of agreements in areas such as the internal structure and organization of the Ministries, cooperation among the Ministries, and training of the Ministries' personnel and of the members of the movement at large. The Ministries also discussed how to better assist the Governing Body Commission of ISKCON in improving the standards in the different areas of the mission.

Participants agreed on taking immediate practical steps such as establishing a common web site-a one-stop approach-to make their assistance more readily available to the community of Vaisnavas. They also decided to meet again, for two-days, in Mayapur, just before the annual GBC meetings.

Representatives from the Ministries sounded eager to serve all the devotees and determined to share the knowledge, the vision and the skills in their areas of expertise.

Voice of the Congregation

Mood of the Bhakti Vrksa

The Spiritual seminar presented on the successful Bhakti Vrksa preaching in Bangalore, for Bhakti vrksa leaders, presented by H.G Vijay Venugopal prabhu and H.G Prema Padmini mathaji who are preaching in the Middle East, was really a heart touching experience.

I had a unique opportunity to realize my long cherished desire of conducting effective Bhakti

vrksa programs. I learnt how to make a successful attempt to conduct the same. By the mercy of Guru and Gauranga I was able to interact with dedicated Bhakti Vrksa leaders too.

"The mood is to HELP and not to REJECT." This was what inspired me the most.

It was very well elaborated by Venugopal prabhu who emphasized that "The mood of ISKCON is to PREACH."

To establish the mood of Bhakti Vrksa is very very important in transforming and purifying the consciousness.

I had faced difficulties in convincing the new comers and in enthusing them regarding the tenets of Krishna consciousness as propounded by Srila Prabhupad. After my participation in the seminar, this has become easier and enjoyable. It has become even more of a responsible activity accompanied by a lot of right planning and practical training being given to the members.

The main objective being, Individual care for each devotee, training him/her to help others [Each one Teach one formula] which requires the spirit of Love and trust among devotees based on Krishna conscious principles.

It requires us to give lot of time and attention, selflessness, patience and capability of building and maintaining spiritual relationships.

In my tiny attempt of fulfilling ISKCON's mission of widespread preaching, I realize that I am undertaking immense responsibility, by being a Bhakti Vrksa facilitator.

External things being superficial; simplicity, purity, and humility are the most essential qualities in Bhakti Vrksa preaching.

Setting goals and working on the same is proving to be very helpful for my weekly programs.

Spiritual unfoldment is exactly akin to the growth of a flower in as much as the flower is unaware of its growth but it gives fine fragrance to everyone, this should be the mood of every Bhakti vrksa preacher. Regardless of one's devotional qualities one is not supposed to get puffed up. A preacher can never be arrogant or egoistic.

By being insensitive or narrowly focusing on the spiritual needs alone, cannot help the members in their spiritual advancement, but rather being practical and understanding towards their material problems as well will inculcate a lot of trust and gradual surrender to Krishna.

Krishna consciousness has wonderful things to

offer everyone, and through these kinds of seminars and group discussions everyone is profited.

I'm specially grateful to H.G.Venugopal prabhu for having enthused and guided me to develop my Bhakti vrksa and children's programs and I'm in the process of working on the same putting my heart&soul.

And also my sincere Thanks to H.G.Padmini mathaji for her special personal association, in guiding me on to the right path.

Your servant,
- Bhaktin Sri Lakshmi

Preaching is the Essence

By the arrangement of the Lord, 3 years back my good husband H.G. Subal Shyam Dasa got a job opportunity in Balaram desh, Persian Gulf.

After associating with an established big Temple at Juhu, Mumbai for more than 5 years, congregational temples at Gulf appeared to me somewhat different and smaller for spiritual practices. **But understanding Srila Prabhupada's mood of spreading Krishna Consciousness, I resolved to myself keeping in mind one of ISKCON's motto , that "Preaching is the Essence".** Gradually I developed the mood to serve the congregation temple through general counseling, which was appreciated by the senior devotees. In a few weeks time by the mercy of Lord Caitanya, Srila Prabhupada and Gurudeva H.H. Bhaktisvarupa Damodara Swami, I was given an opportunity to give a morning class(S.B. from Canto 1) and soon 3 more classes followed it.

Around the same time there was a visiting devotee H.G. Vijaya Venugopal das, who was the leader of the Mathura desh congregation. Looking at my past experience as a lecturer and current enthusiasm in devotional life he requested me to understand Bhakti Vrksa techniques, and adopt the same for helping the congregation. Bhakti Vrksa materials and the manuals impressed me, and I felt that this was one of the best methods to train people systematically and monitor their progress through different stages.

A few weeks later, after I was personally inspired and blessed by H.H. Jayapataka Swami, I decided to conduct a Bhakti Vrksa . Subsequently, I was constantly encouraged by H.G. Prema Padmini devi dasi from Mathura

desh, and supported by H.G. Ramananda Gaur das, H.G. Pitambar Chaitanya das and H.G. Madan Mohan Muralidhar das from Balaram desh. I thank all of them for charging me in congregational preaching.

After 2 years when we returned back to Mumbai, a sincere urge and taste remained in me to conduct BhaktiVrksa preaching and thus please Srila Prabhupada .

Very soon I was introduced to a family who were aspiring to practice Bhakti Yoga at home. Around the same time my beloved Gurudeva H.H. Bhakti Svarupa Damodara Swami Srila Sripada visited Mumbai. After receiving his special mercy and the blessings from few senior devotees, I started my first Bhakti Vrksa at Mumbai in Sept.' 2000.

In the process of preaching I began to realize that preaching and practice has to go hand in hand if it has to be effective. In this way Bhakti Vrksa became an eye opener to my personal devotional life.

For instance:

In order to help participants to chant the holy name, I had to select an ideal passage from the scripture say Sri Namamrta, which will induce them to take interest in chanting Japa voluntarily. This made me realize the potency of holy name and alerted me for quality chanting during my daily Japa and my faith in the holy name started growing.

Next, for sharing the philosophy with the members , I started taking more interest in understanding the scriptures This resulted in constantly hearing Srila Prabhupada's lecture, reading transcendental literatures and associating with advanced devotees.

Since we also have an application section as part of the spiritual Edification, it gives me a chance to check my own spiritual life through self-examination. This convinced me that there cannot be "Prachar" without "Achar". I started identifying my limitations in practicing Krishna Consciousness Hence I couldn't force them to follow that which personally I am unable to follow. There cannot be dry philosophy. I could emphasize the guiding principle which Srila Prabhupada has given us in the Nectar Of Devotion, "It is better if one fixes up a regulative principle according to his own ability and then follow that vow without fail. That will make him advanced in spiritual life." This way whatever is successfully practiced and realized

could be shared and requested for their practice. **In other words, if we have surrendered to the Lord 1% it is not difficult to convince them of 0.5% surrender. This is what the Lord also expects from each one of us: at least a small percentage of surrender in the beginning. This can also save a fallen soul from the greatest danger of gliding down to the lower species of life.**

It is very important that we develop more compassion conditioned souls who are actually giving us a chance to serve them and thus helping us make advancement in our spiritual understanding. It is they who become instruments in our life for increasing our dependence on the Lord and His pure, sincere servants for Their mercy to be showered constantly on both of us. It is they who help us to practice Samadhi for our deliverance. **By helping such souls through intimate dealings, we begin to realize how much we were also suffering in the past, and how fortunate we are now. This makes us more serious and committed to spiritual life.**

In conclusion, I have realized that in the process of endeavoring to make others increase their surrender to Krishna, we never feel complacent with our own progress in devotional life. We always feel our journey to the spiritual world is very very long. **But our enthusiasm to attain the lotus feet of the Lord never dies, but remains intrinsic in us if we keep preaching.**

- Jagan Mohini dd

VAISHNAVA'S MERCY

Myself and my Wife Triveni have been associated with a Bhakthi Vriksha Program since March 2002 under the able guidance and mercy of His Grace Advaita Candra Das initially, and subsequently by His Grace Caitanya Avatari Das.

I had always had this yearning for Self realization. The Bhakthi Vrksa Program has made a real impact on our lives. Only now have I realised the mercy of Vaishnavas, and the joy of their association. Why I consider Vaishnavas so merciful is simply because, even though I am most unfit to be in their association, they still have been very kind to accept me and to train me to follow the principles of Devotion.

I think the Bhakti Vrksa program is the right

food for nurturing the soul. During one of the sessions, the three modes of material nature was discussed, and Caitanya Avatari Prabhu was trying to make us ponder on which mode of nature we belong to ie., Sattva, Rajas or Tamas, the Mode of Goodness, the Mode of Passion, or the Mode of ignorance respectively.

As a result of the discussions we realised how we are influenced by the three modes of nature and how our activities are under the clutches of material nature. We found out how on how many occasions a soul is acting in the modes of ignorance and passion and not in the mode of Sattva.

Then how do we get to Sudha Sattva (Pure Goodness) which is above the three modes ?!

This has been a fantastic realization which has made us inquire into how we could lead our lives in Krishna Consciousness which is in the mode of Sudha Sattva (Pure Goodness) platform. Triveni has taken to Krishna consciousness very seriously. This has inspired me immensely.

I wish to point out that these realizations of mine could not have been possible without the selfless mercy of the Vaishnavas with whom I am associated with. Further, these realizations are not possible even if one were to just pay a visit to a 100 temples. Now I am thoroughly convinced about the statements glorifying Vaishnavas.

Vancha Kalpatharu Bhayscha Kripa
Sindhubyha Eva Cha,

Pathitha naam Paavane Bhyyoo Vaishnava
Bhyoo namo namaha

Your aspiring servant,
Sunil

HELP DESK

The readers are requested to send in their queries regarding Congregational Preaching to the CP NEWS at caitavtari@satyam.net.in

Question 1:

I work six days a week and am home only by 7 p.m. I am very eager to start a Bhakti Vrksa program in my house, but with my work schedule, I do not know how this can be done, especially since I know that it will me to give a lot of care and supervision to the members who attend.

CPNEWS: Yes, it is true that conducting a

Bhakti Vrksa program involves a lot of caring and commitment to the members , but it does not require proportionately more time to achieve this! Seems improbable, is'nt it? Actually the Bhakti Vrksa program is designed very carefully to delegate, train and empower everyone , so that your work becomes less and less.

An intern leader is identified as soon as you find someone serious about spiritual life and is responsible. You could entrust him initially with responsibilities like contacting members , visiting them to entuse them to attend regularly , helping you in making arrangements for the program, etc. Also while conducting the program, you have to train him to lead the group in the various sessions. So the intern leader is a right hand man for the Bhakti Vrksa leader.

The preaching session of the program is very important, as that is when the members are assigned small services for the week . A senior member is asked to visit a junior member during the week and give some association and encouragement, or visit an irregular member to inspire him.

Other seniors are assigned the service of bringing new people to the program by giving them some new telephone contacts, or new areas to visit and invite . Junior members are trained by accompanying the senior members in this exciting mission. There is also their families and friends to bring along for the junior members. Everybody can be encouraged to distribute books.

So as a leader, your job will essentially be to be enthusiastic and steeped in the service mood, training and empowering the members.

Very soon , you will have all of them engaged in all the services: helping in making prasadam, cleaning up, inviting people, caring for the junior members, you name it!

Your service mood will be infectious!

It is only an ineffective leader who does not inspire or motivate others, but ends up doing all the work himself!

So do go ahead and start a group. You will have plenty of time to plan and train everyone.

Your servant,

H.G. Prema Padmini dd

CP SCORES !!!

The CP scores give us the status of world congregational preaching at a glance.

By sending in your reports quarterly (Please note that variable scores like house programs, telephone calls, mail outs, visitations should be cumulative), you will not only keep us updated about your progress, but also have your rank among the different yatras of the world

go **higher!**

GBC Resolution 2001

[GUIDELINE] Congregational Preaching Newsletter THAT all ISKCON temples and yatras should report on a quarterly basis their activities in relation to congregational preaching in the Congregational Preaching Newsletter.

[ACTION ORDER] The Congregational Development Ministry shall be responsible to establish the scoring system (assigning specific values for specific preaching activities) and to publish the Congregational Preaching Newsletter.

Also at the end of the congregational year, we have the annual awards function at Mayapur during the **Gaura Purnima celebrations**, it will help you if you are regular in sending in your scores.

Please fill in the form and e-mail it to caitavtari@satyam.net.in

or Mail to :

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