



Newsletter ~ Vallabh Vidya Mandir ~



Publisher – VVM

Volume Number 3

Issue Number 2

Date: Feb 2007

An Expression...

This month we celebrate *Vasant* – a season that welcomes love and new beginnings. February month is assigned to love and Saint Valentine. I recall **Mother Teresa's words** *"There is more hunger for love and appreciation in this world than for bread"*.

Love is a relationship, which has got many dimensions and happens to be the strongest chord between two people. True love is undoubtedly the noblest thing on earth because it is a reflection of God Himself. Human's love...but GOD IS LOVE. Love is His very nature and essence. Deep down in our hearts is a hunger for God. This longing itself is a proof that God loves us.

An Atheist once wrote upon a child's slate the words **GOD IS NOWHERE**, but the innocence of the child triumphing over the non-belief read it as **GOD IS NOW HERE**. How true it is....He is Omnipresent. Even nonbelievers, atheists and agnostics can see the power of love and its ability to change people and lives when it is properly walked out and handled.

Is Spirituality and love an illusion?

The experiences of romantic love are real. One feels exhilaration, excitement, attraction, fulfilled, loveable and complete. It is the perceived source of these experiences that is illusory. One itself is the source, not another individual. When a person attributes to another individual the ability to make them feel such feelings, one becomes powerless. As one begins to cultivate the parts of them that are the true source of these experiences, the person becomes powerful. Then, the person is able to interact with others without dependency and without expectations. One is able to act from an empowered heart and not be attached to the outcome. The first experience in which one feels the ability to experience own worthiness, and value — is an illusion. The second experience — in which one is able to experience own value, worth, and lovability with or without another individual — is real.

One who understands the difference between the body, the soul and the Super soul beyond them, attains liberation from this

material world. Bhakti-yoga, pure devotional service to God, is the highest and most expedient means for attaining pure love for God, which is the highest end of spiritual existence.

*"Aham sarvasya prabhavo, Mattah sarvam pravartate
Iti matva bhajante mam, Budha bhava samanvitah"*

"I am the source of all spiritual and material worlds. Everything emanates from Me. The wise who perfectly know this engage in my devotional service and worship me with all their hearts"

The mystical passage of Krishna's life with Gopis and love for Radha is the most marvelous expansion of love expressed in that beautiful

VVM Picnic....

Kitty Hollow Park
9555 Hwy 6 South
Missouri City, TX 77459

Saturday March 3 11- 3 pm

*For details contact Priti Parikh -
pparikh@gardenridge.com or
call 281-277-0903*



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play at Vrindavana, which no one can understand yet, become perfectly chaste and pure. Radha became eternal with her perfect love & devotion for Krishna, she became a noble soul merged into him and above all to proclaim her selfless love, Radha is said before Krishna (Radhe Krishna) meaning, the pure love transcending the devotee to love and merge into Krishna and not the material world. The very concept of God has given rise to many theological disputes and religious warfare. In fact, God is an enduring in-depth experience in the midst of ever-changing mental and sensate experiences - God is the inexhaustible source of love, harmony and peace. Everyone seeks happiness. But the search is not focused in the right direction. We waste precious time seeking happiness in the mirage of objects, place and people; in relationship; and ideologies; in possessions and in indulgence.

Just as the sun and the stars and planets are all giving, we too must give. Just as they are all shining pure love, charity and kindness to us, we must shine the light on to

others.... At the end I would like to conclude with William Wordsworth

*“The best portion of a good man's life,
His little, nameless,
unremembered acts,
Of kindness and of love “*

Phalguni Kikani

Special Thanks....

Drs. Kiran & Saroj Patel
For conducting a successful
CPR Workshop

Jigna Dalal & Mayur Shah
For the workshop on
Will & Trust and Immigration

March Goes On...

Vallabh Vidya Mandir incurs expenses to conduct its activities and needs funds to improve/expand its facilities. Since we charge nominal fees, we do not generate enough money to meet the expenses. We need to look at other avenues to raise funds. Occasionally, in this publication I will describe different ways in which the readers can help. In this month's issue I would like you to consider Matching Grants.

Many large or medium size corporations in USA have a policy to match the contributions made by their employees to approved organizations or approved purposes. Vallabh Vidya Mandir has received such Matching Grants from two corporations – Chevron and American Express. A few more of our applications are under consideration by other corporations. This can make a big impact. Recently American Express contributed a large sum of \$7,000 to match the contribution we received from one individual living in New York who happens to support our education program.

How can you help?

1. Contact Human Resources Department of your company and find out if they have a Matching Grants Program.

...No Classes

VVM will be closed on
March 4th & March 11th
for Holi & Spring Break
respectively



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2. If yes, obtain the policy in writing either from HR or your company's web site. It will also include the form necessary to submit a request.
3. Make a donation to Vallabh Vidya Mandir in the amount you desire.
4. Fill out the application for Matching Grant.
5. Bring the form to me or Phalguniben. We will complete part that needs to be filled out by the Recipient Organization .
6. We will mail the application to an address designated by your employer.
7. If approved, we will receive a check in a few months.

It is that simple and will double the impact of your contribution. Isn't it nice? Once VVM is approved by your employer as a qualified organization, you can help further by requesting your colleagues in the company to support VVM. Direct them to our web site www.vvmhouston.org to learn about us. Maybe they would like to support us.

Matching Grants is a great source of funding and most under utilized. Let us benefit from it.

Sureshbhai Patel

Free Workshop....

February 11, Sunday 2007
At 10 AM

Meditation

By Dr. Anand Vyas
(Pls Register at the Front Desk)

Free Workshop

“Ortho & Dental Care”
Dr. Manish Dhutia

(covers braces, dental hygiene, and gum diseases for children, adults & seniors)

Sunday March 25th, 2007
(Pls Register at the Front Desk)

Surya Namaskar..

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (USA)
conducted a Surya Namaskar

Yagna from January 13th to January 28th, 2007. Its goal - 5000 participants and 1,000,000 Suryanamaskars.

VVM Students also participated in this Yagna under the able supervision of their instructors – Daksha Shah and Atul bhai. The photograph below shows the class performing Surya Namaskars.



Contact Us...

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