



# ଚିରନ୍ତନ

## Chirantan (Newsletter)

ଓଁ ଜୟ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ଜୟ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ଜୟ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ଓଁ



ଷୋଡ଼ ଶ ସଂଖ୍ୟା, ଫେବୃଆରି ୨୦୦୬, 16th Issue, February 2006 <http://www.jogaworld.org>

ମୟାବେଶ୍ୟ ମନୋ ଯେ ମାଂ ନିତ୍ୟସୁକ୍ତା ଉପାସତେ  
ଶୁଭୟା ପରୟୋପେତାସ୍ତେ ମେ ସୁକ୍ତମା ମତାଃ ॥

ଏହି ଶ୍ଳୋକଟି ଭଗବତ୍ ଗୀତାର ଦ୍ଵାଦଶ ଅଧ୍ୟାୟରେ ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା କରାଯାଇଛି ।  
ଶ୍ରୀ ଭଗବାନ କହିଲେ - ଯେଉଁ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ମୋର ସାକାର ରୂପରେ ମନକୁ ଶୁଭି  
ରଖି ସର୍ବଦା ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧା ଓ ବିଶ୍ଵାସର ସହିତ ମୋର ପୂଜାରେ ନିୟୁକ୍ତ ଥାଏ,  
ମୋ ବିଚାରରେ ସେ ସର୍ବୋତ୍ତମ ଯୋଗୀ ଅଟେ ।

Lord Krishna told Arjuna in Chapter 12 of Bhakti Joga that the person who worships the Lord with utmost love, belief and devotion, he or she is the true devotee. Those who work with devotion, their work is always being guided by the Lord

### Third Saturday Program

Since the third Saturday bhajan program started at Baltimore Jagannath temple in August 1997, the program has brought many young and old people together. We have seen many visiting parents come to the program and enjoy the kirtan and discourse. Occasionally the devotees come from far of places like NY, NJ, and NC. We thank all of you who have attended the program. The Baltimore ISKCON temple's new executive board members have been very cooperative with the bhajan program. We thank Goura Sundar and Sunanda Prabhu for their cooperation. In August 2005 program, we listened to Dr. Kabi Mishra, a great Jagannath devotee from Chenai, India. He explained.



(Bhajan program and Chanda puja at Kali temple)

how Lord Jagannath is unique compared to other God's  
September was children's month. Children spoke about

their favorite Gods. In October, we organized bhajan program at Kali temple in Silver Spring, MD. It was Durga puja time. Many devotees attended this special program, and sang bhajans in praise of Mata Durga and Kali. It has become a ritual for the children and some of us to attend the third Saturday bhajan program to rejuvenate our spiritual energy.

### Satellite Science Center in Bhubaneswar

With the members support, JOGA is in process of setting up a satellite science center in Unit I high school in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India. This center of excellence in Physics and Chemistry will not only be used by the student of above school, but also student from nearby schools and also for teacher's training purpose. JOGA has sanctioned Rs. 100000.00 to buy the laboratory equipments and install workstations. The school management committee is now in the process of hiring a person to manage the laboratory and plan the experiments. We plan to organize science Olympiad among the students who will be using the laboratory. Since we last reported the list of donors in fifteenth issue of "Chirantan" ([www.jogaworld.org/chirantana/chiranatan.htm](http://www.jogaworld.org/chirantana/chiranatan.htm)), we have additional donors as given below.

1. *Shashadhar and Meera Mohapatra, MD*
2. *Koneti and Neelam Rao, MD*
3. *Abhijit and Julie Ray, MD*
4. *Visav Saini, MD*
5. *Gatikrishna and Jangyseni Tripathy, MD*
6. *Bimal and Leena Mishra, MD*

### RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Debendra Pattnaik, Iowa

To realize that a person has had a stroke can often be

difficult to recognize. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

1. \*Ask the individual to SMILE.
2. \*Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.
3. \*Ask the person to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e. It is sunny out today). If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call emergency immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness, and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

## CHARITY

By Ruchi Kohli, MD



Charity is an opportunity presented as a gift to lighten yourself,

To assist you to separate your material self from your spiritual self.

Isn't it generous of the Sun to brighten each day, the Air to share of its spirit in every breath.

A tear is twice blessed in soothing sorrow, While shielding eyes with care.

Tears take you away from the circumstances that are not in your best Interest.

Its interest is in the pain from which you gain.

Charity lives in our hearts as love.

God is love silently witnessing our expressions of care.

Contributions must not be confused with charity.

Giving the dog a bone is not charity but a contribution.

Giving the dog a bone you need as much as the dog is charity.

Never assume that the recipient of your charitable goods is lower than you are as he may very well be the Disguised Presence presenting you with an opportunity to fill your basket.

## Remembering Grandma

By Subhadra Mahanti, PA

As I opened my eyes, I saw a heart of gold

And I saw a greeting smile on your lips.

As you close your eyes and leave this world

I see you sailing away to the Lord's land in His ships.

You rocked me gently on your knees  
With the promise of a new beginning  
Love was mine with every passing breeze  
And safe was I, under a Mother's wing.

But now, it's time for you to return  
On angel's wings, a heavenly flight  
For your purpose in Life fulfilled  
You journey home, towards the light.

I see you fly high in the skies so blue  
Far away to the Heavenly abode in bliss  
Where no sorrow, fear or pain can touch you  
And your soul will rest in peace, everlasting peace!

Farewell to our sweet and dearest Grandma  
Farewell to you.  
You live as long as we live-  
After all, we are only a part of you.

Your loving memories are going to stay with us  
Long after you have entered the Heaven's door  
Within our hearts, our minds, our souls,  
For now and forever more.

(I had written this poem in memory of my grandmother when she passed away.)

### [Amaresh Sahu Selected for US National Table Tennis Cadet Team](#)

Amaresh Sahu from Germantown, MD participated in the 2005 US National Table Tennis Championship held at Las Vegas on December 14-17, 2005. He played for inclusion in the US National Boys Cadet Team. Amaresh qualified for placement in the group A of this competition. In this group, he defeated all his co-competitors and qualified again to play for one of the top two spots on the Cadet Team. Amaresh earned second spot on the Boys Cadet team. He was awarded a second-place medal and a check for \$100. Amaresh will represent the US in international table tennis competitions in 2006 and all his expenses would be paid for by the USA Table Tennis organization.

Cheng Yinghua and Tong-Seng Huang at the Maryland Table Tennis Center coach Amaresh. He lives with his parents Urmila and Devaraj Sahu and is a ninth grade student in Montgomery Blair Magnet High School in Silver Spring, MD.

# ବ୍ରହ୍ମ ଦର୍ଶନ

## ଶଶଧର ମହାପାତ୍ର

ଯୌବନ ଗଲାଣି ଫୁରି  
ବାର୍ଦ୍ଧକ୍ୟ ଦେଲାଣି ପାରି  
ଜୀବନ ହେଲାଣି ଭାରି  
ନିଅ ମୋତେ ଶିରିଧାରୀ ।

ଲୋଡ଼ା ନାହିଁ ଏ ମୋର  
ରୂପ ହୀନ, ରସ ହୀନ,  
ରଙ୍ଗ ହୀନ, ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟହୀନ  
ବେସୁରା ଜୀବନ  
ଲୋଡ଼ା ନାହିଁ ଦେଖିବାକୁ  
ଅଧାଗଢା, ଅଧାଭଙ୍ଗ  
ଗୋଲାପି ସପନ  
କୁହ ତୁମେ  
କେତେଦିନ ବାହୁଥିବି  
ଏ ଜୀବନ ତରୀ ?

ତୁମେହିଁ ପୁଷ୍ପ  
ତୁମେହିଁ ପୁଷ୍ପ  
ତୁମରି ପୁଷ୍ପରେ  
ତୁମେହିଁ ଆଲୋକ  
ତୁମେହିଁ ଅନ୍ଧାର  
ତୁମେ ଶିଶୁଭଳି  
ଅତି ସରଳ, କୋମଳ  
ତୁମେ ପୁଣି କବିଳ, କୁଟିଳ ଓ  
ସୁନାମି ଭଳି ମହା ଭୟଙ୍କର  
ତୁମେହିଁ ସୁସ୍ମ  
ତୁମେହିଁ ସ୍ଥୂଳ

### ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ଜଣାଣ

ରସାନନ୍ଦ ବେହେରା

ନୀଳ ପରବତେ କଳା କାଠ ଦେବତା  
ପରମ ସୁନ୍ଦର ହରି ଭାଗ୍ୟ ବିଧାତା ।  
ନୀଳ ପରବତେ କଳା..  
ଜରା ଶବରକୁ କରି ମାୟାରେ ବାୟା  
ନନ୍ଦିଘୋଷେ ବଡ଼ଦାଣ୍ଡେ ହୋଇଲ ଠିଆ ।  
ନୀଳ ପରବତେ କଳା..  
ଗୁଣିତା ରାଣୀଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ୱପ୍ନେ ରଙ୍ଗ ଭିଆଇ  
ଶ୍ରୀପୁରୁଷୋତ୍ତମ ଧାମେ ଲୀଳା କରଇ ।  
ନୀଳ ପରବତେ କଳା..  
ଶ୍ରୀକ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ରଥଯାତ ଭାରି ବଢ଼ିଆ  
ଦାସିଆ ବାଉରୀ ହସ୍ତ ନେଇ ନତିଆ ।  
ନୀଳ ପରବତେ କଳା..  
ରକ୍ଷାକର ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ସ୍ୱଧାମେ ଥାଇ  
ଭଣଇ ଶ୍ରୀରସାନନ୍ଦ ଶରଣ ଯାଇ ।  
ନୀଳ ପରବତେ କଳା..

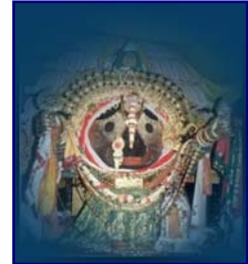
ତୁମେହିଁ ଅଶାକାର ।  
ମନେଅଛି କ୍ଷୀଣ ଯୋଧିବିଏ ହୋଇ  
ଆସିଥିଲି ତୁମରି ନାଭିରୁ ,  
ଆସିବାର ବାଟ ଥିଲା ଜଣା  
ସଂସାରର ଚକ୍ରବ୍ୟୁତ ମଧ୍ୟେ  
ସିବା ବାଟ କରେ ମୋତେ ବଣା ।

ହେ ମାୟଧର !  
ଅସୀମ ତୁମରି ମାୟା  
ତୁମେବି ଜାଣନା  
ତୁମେବି ବୁଝନା  
ଏହାର ଆଦି, ଅନ୍ତ  
ତୁମକୁ ମୁଁ ଖୋଜିଖୋଜି ଲୁଚ  
କି ମାୟା ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ଲଗାଇ ଦେଲ ?  
ଜଗତର ନାଥ ହୋଇ  
ଏମିତି ଦାଇ ସାଧିଲ ?

ଜନ୍ମ ପରେ ଜନ୍ମ  
ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ପରେ ମୃତ୍ୟୁ  
କେତେ ମୁଁ ହଜିଲି ,  
କେତେ ମୁଁ ଖୋଜିଲି  
ଚାଲୁଥିଲି ଆଗେଆଗେ  
ପଥହରା, ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟହରା ପସିକଟି ଭଳି  
ପହୁଣିଲି ତୁମ ବଡ଼ ଦାଣ୍ଡେ  
ଏକା ଏକା ଧର୍ମକୁ କରିଲି ତକା  
ସଙ୍ଗେ ମୋର ନାହିଁ କେହି ସଖା.

ସହୋଦର, ପତ୍ନୀ, ପିତା, ମାତା ଅବା ସନ୍ତାନ ସନ୍ତତି  
ପାଖେ ଥିଲେ ଦହଗଞ୍ଜ କରିଥାନ୍ତେ ନିତି ।

ଆକୁଳେ, ବିକଳେ କେତେ ମୁଁ ଡାକିଲି  
ଆଖିକୁଳି ଅନ୍ଧଭଳି ତୁମକୁ ଚାହିଲି .  
ହାତ ଯୋଡ଼ି ମୁଣ୍ଡିଆ ମାରିଲି ,  
ତୁମର ସେ ଶରଧା ବାଲିକୁ ମୁଣ୍ଡରେ ଲେପିଲି .  
ଡାକିଲି ହେ ଆର୍ତ୍ତତାଣ  
ହେ, ପ୍ରଭୁ ନିରଞ୍ଜନ  
ଥରେ ମାତ୍ର ଦିଅ ଦରଶନ  
ମାଗୁନି ମୁଁ ଧନ, ମାନ  
ମାଗୁନି ମୁଁ ଜନ ଓ ଯୌବନ  
ମାଗୁନି ମୁଁ ସୁଖ ଅବା ଶାନ୍ତି  
ମାଗୁନି ମୁଁ ରତ୍ନ ସିଂହାସନ  
ଏତିକି ମାଗୁଛି ପ୍ରଭୁ  
କଥା ଦିଅ  
ଯାଦତଳେ ଦେବ ଚିକେ ଆଶା  
ଆଉ ଲଭିବାକୁ ଥରେମାତ୍ର  
ବ୍ରହ୍ମ ଦରଶନ ।



(ଅଗଷ୍ଟ ୨୧, ୨୦୦୫ ରେ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଧାମ  
ପୁରୀରେ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ ଦର୍ଶନ ପରେ ଏ ଲେଖା)

### ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତାତ୍ତା

ନାରାୟଣ ପ୍ରଧାନ

ହେଇ ବିତିଗଲା  
ହେଇ ବିତୁଅଛି  
ହେଇ ବିତିଯିବ  
ଏଇ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତଟି ।  
ତେବେ କଣ ଏ ଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଅଲଗା ଅଲଗା ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତ ?  
ଯଦି ନୁହେଁ, କାହିଁ ତେବେ ଏତେ ଛକା ପଞ୍ଚ  
ବିତିଗଲା ବୋଲି ତୁଚ୍ଛା ତୁଚ୍ଛା ସନ୍ତାପ  
ପୁଣି କାଳେ ବିତିଯିବ ବୋଲି ତୁଚ୍ଛା ତୁଚ୍ଛା ଉଦ୍‌ବେଗ  
ତେବେ କଣ ଏଇ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତଟି ବହନ କରିଛି ଖାଲି ଦୁଃଖବୀଜ ?  
ଯଦି ମୁଁ ଦେଖିପାରେ ସ୍ପଷ୍ଟ କରି  
କାହିଁ କିଛି ବିତିନାହିଁ ବୋଲି ?  
କାହିଁ କିଛି ବିତୁନାହିଁ ବୋଲି ?  
ପୁଣି କାହିଁ କିଛି ବିତିଯିବ ନାହିଁ ବୋଲି ?  
ଆରେ, ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତଟା ତ ସେମିତି ରହିଛି ସଦାଚିର ଅନନ୍ତ ଅନନ୍ତ ହୋଇ !  
କାହିଁ କେତେବେଳେ କିଏ ଆସି ନିଜକୁ ସତ୍ୟ, ତ୍ରେତା, ଦ୍ୱାପର, କଳି  
ବୋଲି କହି ଦେଇ ଚାଲିଗଲ ବୋଲି .....  
ମୁଁ ତ ସେମିତି ଅଛି, ସେମିତି ଥିଲି  
ଏହି ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତତାରେ ଓତପ୍ରେତ ହୋଇ  
- ସଦାଚିର ଅନନ୍ତ ଅନନ୍ତ ହୋଇ ।

## My Concept of Life

Hari Govind Shrivastava, PA

**Abstract:** God in His infinite wisdom carved out a small part of Himself on *Jiva-Atma* and coupled this randomly with the propensities surrounding Him at the time of *Mahapralaya*. Then, He coupled this *Jiva-Atma* with a 'Law-of-Karma', and threw the baggage into the world, in the form of a human being, one of them being myself. Prior to setting my life in motion, He assured me of His continual guidance and left it to me to accept it or decline. . As of now, I feel I may have ignored some of His instructions, hence I am in such a deplorable state of mind. Having come to this state, all I can aim or wish for my total surrender to Him.

**Introduction:** This article was written immediately after the loss of my dear and beloved wife. I was (and still am) missing her and was trying to understand why did this happen to me? What wrong had I done in my life to deserve this punishment from God? So, in an attempt to answer that self-imposed question, this article evolved.

- 1 The almighty God in his infinite wisdom and the most causeless mercy, all of a sudden decided to carve out a very small, almost miniscule yet the eternal and truly representative part of His own being, better known as *JIVA-ATMA* (Bhagavad-Gita 15/7) and then He coupled the same randomly to any one of the many basic propensities surrounding Him at the time of *Mahapralaya* (not any specific one waiting eagerly to be coupled to any *Atma*. All propensities have been separated from their respective Doers and mixed thoroughly at that time. Choice was entirely His prerogative without any interference from any source whatsoever).
- 2 He then encased this amalgam in an envelope, wishing the same to hold the precious contents correctly and drop-off the non-essential or the used-up ones, whenever they may be present or may have gained entry temporarily, in the package. He then named this mysterious bag as 'THE LAW OF KARMA'. I fancy that one of those bags is my own *JIVA-ATMA* encapsulated in that mysterious LAW OF KARMA assigned to me exclusively.

This is the farthest I can honestly conjecture about the possible origin of my living being, thus bound and set in continuous motion of cycles of birth and rebirth, forever, right up to my present birth.

- 3 Prior to my being set in motion, the Lord has been kind enough to provide me with the initial guidance and agreed to continue giving me the same, wherever required. This He did by placing another bit of His own being, in my heart and named this as the "Super soul" or the *Param-Atma* (Bhagavad-Gita 18/61). Whereas the primary *JIVA-ATMA* or the individual soul is specifically accommodated and bound for all its action it performs during its individual birth cycle and be accountable for all of

them to the Super soul, the latter is merely sitting by its side, to:

- a. Keep a watch as witness
- b. Give counsel or advice to the *JIVA-ATMA*, whenever required by it. The Super soul may voluntarily advance advices also for the benefit of the *JIVA-ATMA* who is free to abide it or to discard it as deemed fit in the circumstances prevailing at that time
- c. Dispense with the justice and respect to the *KARMA* or the actions of the *JIVA-ATMA*.

My present dilemma is that not only I have totally ignored the sagacious advice of my inner self, i.e. the *Param-Atma* in all my the previous lives and the present one, but also I have pursued my own choice of the sensual pleasures, thus forcing myself to land in a situation where I presently find myself. Now, my past is staring at me squarely and I am unable to rectify my own wrong deeds, which I might have done previously, whether intentionally or unintentionally. I am absolutely helpless now in my present position.

4. Irrespective of the two facts: (1) Whether I have been degraded to my present miserable position of the life from my erstwhile better position or (2) have been upgraded to my present form of the life from my apparently previous lower position of life, I remain strongly and irrevocably in a very intimate relationship with HIM, EVEN NOW. I feel that I have a very strong claim to my basic Kinship with Him as briefly outlined in section 1 above. Thus, in a somewhat sullen and remorseful mood I look for some solace from the Bhagavad-Gita, which I find in plenty as given below selectively:

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Lord Krishna addresses Arjun in Bhagavad-Gita (18/64, 65, 66):

- a. Listen then again to my supreme words – the profoundest of all because you are my dear friend, I will speak for thy benefit
- b. Merge thy mind in me. Be my devotee, Worship me, Offer your homage to me, Thou shall come to ME without FAIL. I promise this. This is my truth.
- c. Abandon all *Dharmas* and just surrender to me, and I shall liberate you from all the sinful reactions. DO NOT FEAR

5. The above Shlokas are very much reassuring and provide a succor, a silver lining and guidance to me in an otherwise very much disappointing and very hopeless atmosphere. I must try very sincerely to abide by this advice for the remaining part of my life. I am really thrilled very much to read a *Shloka* further where Lord Krishna says (Bhagavad-Gita, 7/19): At the end of many births, the man of wisdom takes refuge in me, realizing that all this is “Vasudev” i.e. the inner most as well as wide spreading soul – the highest conception for a very pure life.

To be very true to myself, I am yet unable to see or feel Vasudev everywhere right now in my present state of mind, but I think that I do have an occasional feeling of a very fleeting glimpse of a very vague Vasudev. I do hope that this wishful thinking and the vision of mine will grow stronger and stronger and thus the same will ultimately lead me to a state where I will be in a position to visualize his presence everywhere, for all the time to come.

6. Based on Bhagavad-Gita and further realizing that there is still some chances left for improvements towards my own salvation during this remaining part of my life, let me do my best to live a very uncomplicated and very simple life, limited to the present only i.e. without worrying about the future or without brooding over the past. The only thing left in my hand now is to live a life of total contentedness along with complete surrender to Him. Let me try to be in constant remembrance of Him at all times.
7. Thus at the end of my life when eventually confronted with the God I may visualize three possibilities.
  - a. The God may not be satisfied at all with my efforts and so reject all of them, terming them to be very insincere and just a sham. Thus, He may still decide to keep me bounded in cycles of birth and rebirths for yet a very long time to come.
  - b. He may welcome me with open arms and absolve me completely within Himself as His primary Part and Parcel – the original and the *ab-initio* condition.

Please see the opening paragraph where you will find that my *Atma* was coupled absolutely, arbitrarily and without my consent in the least, by God to any one of the propensities

available to Him at that time. I have been carrying out His will exclusively till now to the best of my capabilities and without the injection of any of myself interest and to the best of my knowledge. Now is the time for Him to take me back and free me from the bondage, which He has put me deliberately without any fault of mine. This is my most cherished desire and the most ultimate aim of the *Advaitas* i.e. the Nondualists too. No separate existence of any entity whatsoever, everything summed up in ONE forever.

- c. He may partially accept me as a Secondary soul and keep me as an eternal servitor to Him at whatever place He desires.

This is the final aim of the *Dvaitas* or the Dualists – There is always a separate existence for them. They insist on this condition – Always TWO – forever and altogether separate existence for each one of them. These people demand the security of the God, together with the enjoyment of *SAT-CHIT-ANAND*, the eternal bliss at His lotus feet—a partial merger with a slight selfish ego and the motto of the security of His Grace. They do not want the absolute merger – as in case of the NONDUALISTS.

Presently my daily prayers to God start with a dualistic submission. I start with a prayer to my Bhagavan Lord Krishna and then end up in the non-dualistic conception - freely floating blissfully in the sea of the *SAT-CHIT-ANAND*

. So let me surrender completely to My Lord and say LET THY WILL BE DONE.

## **My pilgrimage to tsunami affected Galle in Sri Lanka**

### **Tinu Mishra**

On January 27, 2005, my dad (Dr. Indu B. Mishra) and I left US for Sri Lanka to visit Tsunami affected areas, to be in touch with the affected people there and help them to our utmost capacity. Initially, we tried to go to Sumatra as Java, Sumatra and Bali had many Oriya expatriates (where an elephant is called *gaja*, a very typical Oriya word) but we found several obstacles. Doing Tsunami relief in India was out of the question, because I was granted visa to India with the undertaking that I may not engage in Tsunami relief work in India. What a pity! I departed from San Francisco, whereas my dad left from Baltimore. We met in Amsterdam and went straight to Colombo, via Chennai. My dad had been involved in housing projects earlier in India and wanted to extend the same in Sri Lanka, whereas I wanted to be of help in saving the children there. In addition, we wanted to establish contact with Lions club, which had received funds through JOGA.



We had the experience of a lifetime on the second day we arrived in Colombo. We and two other volunteers from Atlanta associated with Habitat for Humanity (HFH) went to Galle and we did see devastation in proportions one can't imagine. We basically saw about 50-60 miles of entire communities wiped out. Along the way, we saw the famous train that used to carry several hundred people everyday, was washed away by the Tsunami together with 1300 people who perished. It was a very humbling place. People were just sitting and looking at the train in disbelief. Our guide, Francis Fernando (Sri Lankan of Portuguese decent from way back) told us, "People think the train was haunted. They are also angry at the ocean and won't even look at it".



Anyhow, we made it to Galle and found the HFH development. People over there were beautiful and smiling even though they were living in conditions beyond poverty – no electricity, no running water. To our surprise, we found that the Sri Lankan government had done nothing. The Italians donated some live-in tents, and the medicine donated by the Koreans. The Holland government was rebuilding several schools there. The French, US Marines and Indian Navy were doing some relief work. United Nations aid was bringing prepared meals for people through a contractor/yet people weren't bitter. Several pictures, taken by us show their plight as well as their mood.

The experience at the village was quite moving. When we gave one lady and her son 50 Sri Lankan rupees (which is equivalent to 50 cents only), she went and bought medicine for her family. She showed the medicine to us and was grateful beyond comprehension. It was quite a moment. We did keep our composure and tried to laugh it off. However, Francis told us what we really helped her and she was very grateful. We handed out money equivalent to about US\$10 to about 10 families and this meant the world to them. The community had about 50 children. These kids, most of them under 5, had nothing. We met one, who was snatched away by the raving waters from his grandmother's arms and washed some 200 feet away. Their family found him later on the day of Tsunami. He became the miracle baby of the village.

We thought of donating all the money we had for an orphanage of this community, which can get toys and other supplies for the children. But finding an orphanage in Galle was really difficult. So, we spoke to the orphanage in Colombo; but they weren't all that receptive to us -maybe they're being extra careful. Nonetheless, kids are kids, and this community we saw, has become a special place for us.

Maybe someday, many years from now, we will visit Galle with our family!

On our second visit to Galle, we bought games for the children, school supplies for older children, and some utensils for needy families there. Mr. Jayantha and Ms. Roshan (both members of the Board of Trustees of HFH Sri Lanka) came along with us. We first stopped at a village about 10 km north of Galle. All brick and mortar homes have been destroyed there. The women and children were cleaning up the mess and were saving the bricks by breaking the walls to reuse them in building their new homes, while the men were away to deep-sea fishing. HFH brought them a donation of 75,000 Sri Lankan rupees to help them buy weaving equipment and for making ropes/fishing nets from coconut shell fibers. This village was located about 1000 ft from the oceanfront. Then we proceeded to Galle and the small community of about 40 families we met earlier. We distributed the supply for children of all ages and gave about 55000 Sri Lankan rupees to the needy families.

HFH has housing projects on going in Galle and Batticaloa and they were gearing up to build houses at Trincomalle. The materials to build a 200 square feet house on a concrete pad, using fired concrete blocks would cost there between 800 and 1000 US\$. People put in their labor to build the house with HFH participation as their sweat equity. In addition, we have agreed to fund four years of expense for college for three very needy high school seniors including their boarding and lodging. In short, we made this community in Galle as our extended family. Later, many of my friends also donated funds of US\$850 to cover the expense of one house very willingly. It was a great experience to feel these people's pain and extend our sympathy and concern to show that we care. On the last day of our stay, we visited the Lions Club and its president in Sri Lanka, who escorted us to their warehouse of relief supplies and showed us a model home they were building with patented materials. The president expressed his thanks to JOGA for its help.

Human misery is there everywhere. Sometimes these are inflicted by nature. I was fortunate to witness this first hand, although my father had been involved since his childhood and during the high floods in 1955, when he had the good fortune of doing relief distribution in Binjharpur areas of Jajpur district. He has also seen devastation during the super-cyclone in the coastal Orissa. Everywhere, the miseries were nature inflicted. But Tsunami had affected large areas in Sumatra, Thailand, Sri Lanka and southern India and received widespread media coverage. All over Sri Lanka we heard praise for the efforts of the foreign countries including India, which gave us some inner happiness. I request my friends and fellow Oriyas, "when tragedies happen please donate from the deep corner of your heart to your favorite charity".

Trinayana (Tinu) Mishra, Castro Valley CA  
Email: [tmishra@gmail.com](mailto:tmishra@gmail.com)

### ***Bhajan Program sponsors:***

Thanks to all the families for their participation and contribution for the success of the bhajan program. What a better way to celebrate your family special function such as birthday, Memorial Day etc at temple and offer prasad to the devotees. That is what many of our community members are doing by sponsoring bhajan program. Our heartfelt thanks to the following families for sponsoring feasts on different months:

*Sujata and Shashadhara Mohapatra, MD*  
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### **Today's thought:**

**Richness depend upon how much  
you GIVE, not how much you have.**

**Anonymous**

### **Chirantan**

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*Our hearty thanks to following reviewers for  
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*Dr. Indu Mishra*

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# HOLI FESTIVAL

Organized by JOGA ([www.jogaworld.org](http://www.jogaworld.org))

Day: 18th March 2006

Time: Saturday, 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Place: Murugan Temple Auditorium

6300 Princes Garden Parkway, Lanham, MD 20706,

Ph. (301) 552-4889

## Program:

- ❖ Holi procession of Deities
- ❖ Arati and Bhajan
- ❖ Cultural: Songs, Dances, Dramvie (Drama+movie) “କଳିର କଂସ (Kalira Kansa)” and Talent shows, Door Prizes,
- ❖ Prasad/Dinner

## Contacts:

Please confirm your participation by March 4, 2006 to any of the following volunteers. For participation in the cultural program, please confirm by February 28, 2006.

**Cultural Coordinators:** Julie Acharya Ray ([ankapa67@yahoo.com](mailto:ankapa67@yahoo.com)), Mousumi Pattnaik ([maushumi\\_p@hotmail.com](mailto:maushumi_p@hotmail.com)), Bigyani Das ([obhajan@yahoo.com](mailto:obhajan@yahoo.com))

**Public Relations:** Meera Mohapatra (301) 879 8188; Bandita Mishra (301) 540-4641; Anil Das (703) 430 3874, Jhunu Mishra (410) 997 7256; Padmanava Pradhan (732) 319 0034; Hemant Biswal (571) 236 2642

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