



Balavin Kural

Balambika Divya Sangam newsletter

issue: 3
July 2011

Temple Construction updates:

- A new website for the Balambika Temple is being designed.
- A fund raising committee has been formed for Phase 1 temple construction.
- Discussions have been initiated with a lawyer regarding creation of the Balambika Divya Sangam trust deed.
- The lawyer will also prepare the necessary legal documents for the land acquisition.

Editorial Board:

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Mrs. Latha Chakravarthy
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Mr. Raghu Ranganathan

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UPCOMING RELIGIOUS EVENTS:

Bala Sahasranamam recital is to be conducted on August 6th 2011 at 3:30 PM at Bala's residence. If you want to take part kindly contact Mythili Sundararajan at:

myyasundar@gmail.com

Lalitha Sahasranamam Recitals are conducted every month.

Next Sahasranama Parayanamis scheduled to take place on on August 5th 2011 at 7:00 pm in Chicago at Anu Srinivasan's residence.

Devotees who want to take part in the recital can contact her:

asriniv65@gmail.com

Lalitha Homam

details:

Devotees have sponsored items from the pooja items sponsorship list, for the yearly Lalitha Homam which is to be held in Bangalore from:

August 22nd – 24th 2011.

As the list is being updated, final sponsorships are welcome.

Bala speaks...



Sri Devi said: The Great Self is the only Supreme Thing in this world of Mâyâ (Illusions). He it is that under the various Upâdhis of an actor and enjoyer performs various functions leading to the Dharma (righteousness) and the Adharma (unrighteousness). Then he goes into various wombs and enjoys pleasure or pain according to his Karma. Then again owing to the tendencies pertaining to these births he becomes engaged in various functions and gets again various bodies and enjoys varieties of pleasures and pains. There is no cessation of these births and deaths; it is like a regular clockwork machine; it has no beginning and it goes on working to an endless period. Ignorance or Avidyâ is the Cause of this Samsâra. Desire comes out of this and action flows thence. So men ought to try their best to get rid of this Ignorance. And Vidyâ is the only thing that is able and skillful in destroying this Ignorance. As darkness cannot dispel darkness, the Karma done out of Ignorance is Ignorance itself; and such a work cannot destroy Ignorance. So it is not proper to expect that this Avidyâ can be destroyed by doing works. The works are entirely futile. The Jîvas want again and again the sensual enjoyments out of this Karma. Attachment arises out of this desire; discrepancies creep in and out of this ignorant attachment; great calamities befall when such faults or discrepancies are committed. So every sane man ought to make his best effort to get this Jñânam (knowledge).

Much Thanks To...

Archana contribution

Latha Chakravarthy

S. Rajendra

Parth Vaidyanath

Vaishnai Mukundan

Sharanya Sundararajan

K. Manoharan

Meghna Murali

Flower and Oil donation

Mrs. Jayalakshmi Ananthakrishnan

Mrs. Sowmya Ganesh

Mrs. Bhuvana Krishnaswamy

Mr. Raghuraman

Mrs. Purnima Prasad

Mrs. Indumathi Sundar

2011 Lalitha Homam Donation

K. Sreenivasan

Shashi Venkatesh

Anuradha & Srinivasan

Shivasadashivam

Radha Hariharan

Rukmini Chakravarthy

Vivek Raman

Kousalya Raman

Priya

Priya's relative

Padma

Poornima

Muthulingam

Vani Muralidharan

Ramesh & Latha

Shankar

Lalitha Raghuram

Gargi & Sarathy

Thangam

Indumathi

Kanchana & Raghu

Usha & Murali

Mythili Sundararajan

Asha & K. Manoharan

Roopa V. Rajan

Vaishnavi

Akila Rajendran

Souvenir Sponsorship

Shashi Venkatesh (Rs. 5000)

Anbaana Thozhiyae

Days passed by and there was no sign of Bala. Mala was quieter than usual and she tried to keep Bala aside and get on with her work. She felt miserable inside. Her class work was incomplete; she stayed in school much longer and didn't bother to do her home work. Mrs. Jessica, her class teacher stopped her on the corridor one afternoon and asked her if everything was okay. She just nodded and moved on. Mala wandered about like a lonely cloud in despair, for no fault of hers. She couldn't blame it on Bala either. It was quite unexpected and nobody was to blame. As she passed the chapel on her way to the main gate, she stopped and decided to go inside.

The chapel had two entrances, one on the eastern side and the other on the northern side. Mala always used the northern entrance through the north porch. This had five niches for statues above the outer doorway, three of which were canopied, with a fan vault inside. The inner doorway was set in a square, surrounded with traceried spandrels, and had an order of bowtells at the sides. The interior of the chapel was for some reason always cool and spacious, the result of the use of clunch and of the absence of heavy stained glass which could so easily have ruined the effect. In the chancel, the chalk had allowed the carving of elaborate niches between the windows, all different but all supported by large angel corbels. The chancel roof was of low pitched couple construction but the nave roof was supported by arched braces with openwork tracery in the spandrels. The wall plates in the chancel and the aisles were decorated with carved figures and animals.

She had always liked the serenity of this chapel. At the entrance close to the wall, there was a holy water stand which was filled everyday by volunteers. Mala dipped her fingers into it and moved between the rows of benches which had a kneeling stand in front of it. Mala skipped between them and went to the front of the altar. There was a huge table called the communion table covered with a white linen "altar cloth" with a white lace piece embroidered with leaves and flowers over the upper front portion of it. The rose wooden table was covered with a nice laced linen table cloth. In the centre of the table was a Bible because God's word was the centre to the Christian faith. Just behind the altar on the wall was Jesus Christ on the Cross and on either side were two large candles which was made of 100% beeswax and while burning it gave out a delicate fragrance that covered the entire room. The two candles on either side represented the human nature and the divine nature of Jesus Christ. On the left and right side of the communion table were two bells. The larger brass and wooden bell on the left was rung three times to announce the commencement of the services, and also to signal the end of the worship. On the extreme right was the piano and a row of benches for the choir to stand, and onto the left were special wired chairs for the sisters (nuns as they are called) who sat there and watched the students with trained eyes.

Today it was empty and Mala moved forward, knelt before the altar and lowered her head and said "Our Father" and prayed for Bala to come back. She missed her terribly. She asked Jesus to bring her back and said that she was foolish to have behaved that way. None of what had happened at the mandapam was her fault or Bala's. It just happened. It caught Mala by surprise and she didn't know how to react. So she had written a letter to Bala explaining how she felt and how miserable she was without her company. She took out that letter from her school bag, opened it and read it again. She wanted to post it, but she didn't know Bala's address. So she decided to post it in the chapel box because Sr. Jeanne in her speech during the chapel sermon had said that Jesus would take all the messages, read it and help people with their problems. Mala folded it and put it into the box, came back to the altar, knelt once again, prayed and asked Jesus to keep Bala safe, tell her how much she missed her and to bring her. Relieved, Mala left the chapel and hurried through the gates and left for home. She was tired when she reached home, washed herself and went straight to bed. Her mother fed her while she was still half asleep.

Wish List & Volunteer Needs

The sponsorship for the **souvenir** is welcome, and sponsors can make their contribution according to their convenience.

If you want to participate, contribute or require more details, please contact us via email or website.*

Contribution can be made in cash/cheque/DD/online transfer etc.

Mala woke up because she could hear her mother calling out to her. She looked at the time, and it was half past six in the morning! She was late for school. She jumped from her bed and for the next 30 minutes she didn't know what she was doing, but was ready by 7 'o' clock. She opened the door and to her surprise Bala was sitting on the steps! She wore a light green pavadaai with pretty small pink flowers on it. The blouse matched her pavadaai. She wore a small pendant with embedded pearls. Her ear studs sparkled in the morning sunlight which was hitting her face and lit up like thousand suns. She was little tanned but her complexion did not give up to the heat of the sun. Bright as ever, she had neatly plaited her hair and the jasmine flowers on her hair was beating its glory, mocking the other fragrances around. Mala quickly closed the door behind her and dragged Bala along with her. She was so happy to see her once again.

As they crossed the streets and turned the corner, Mala gasped for breath, stopped around and looked at Bala. "Oh God! at last Bala you have come!". She was so happy to see her. Mala hugged her and said, "I missed you so much". Bala as usual smiled and her pretty eyes looked at her mischievously. The two girls looked at each other and both cried and laughed at the same time. The tears of joy was indeed sweet. Bala took out a small tiffin box from her bag and gave it to Mala. She opened it and there were two puttu pieces. Mala remembered telling Bala in one of her conversations, that she loved puttu with banana and honey. Tears rolled down her eyes. Bala wiped her tears and squeezed Mala's hand as reassurance that everything will be alright. This relationship started making sense. Mala understood how much she had missed Bala. This girl entered her heart through her eyes. Mala could see Bala's general concern. There was a kind of underlying emotional bond between the two of them. She couldn't put her finger on it yet but she began to understand that this friendship is special and because it happened very quickly it doesn't lose its importance. This girl is very special to her and she could see how she could respond to Bala without making any kind of effort. The affection for her flowed and she could feel the purity in their relationship. This mysterious girl really meant everything to her and her musical voice was like a small stream running through deep rocks, slowly but steadily. Sometimes she was very mature but sometimes she was like any other girl. Mala knew she could trust her with her life! She did have some friends in the past, but no one was like Bala. She cared for her, loved her and Mala could feel her love all around her and when Bala was around, it gave her so much of confidence that the world seemed to be a small place.

Both the girls smiled at each other. Mala forgot everything else and started telling Bala all that had happened during the past few days, but she didn't tell Bala about the letter. Bala listened attentively and when she paused, she smiled and pulled out the piece of paper, waved it to her and asked her, "What about this? You never told me about this!", and smiled from the corner of her lips. Mala gasped! It was the same paper which she had dropped yesterday in the chapel. Turning she asked, "How did you get this?" Bala laughed and said, "Jesus gave it to me. He said your friend is crying, go and console her. Did you cry because I didn't come?" Mala nodded sheepishly. Bala stopped, stood in front of Mala and said, "Enn Anbana Thozhiye, how will I leave you? I love you very much. I cannot run away from you. I am with you today and forever. Poothumaa? So from now on you don't have to send messages. You call me and I will come." Mala asked, "Whenever?" "Yes!", she replied and "Wherever?", "Yes!" she said emphatically. That sealed their relationship. The two walked hand in hand chirping.....

Natpoo Thodarkerathu.....



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