

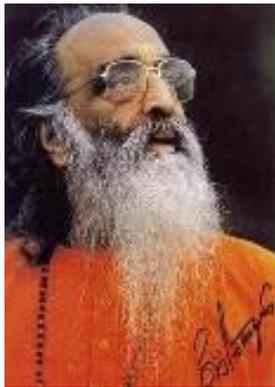


Chinmaya Pradipika

CMSD Quarterly Newsletter



Oct 2013, No. 8



The Master Speaks:

A Conquest, without facing dangers is as dull as Victory without a shining glory. A game without a prize!

Swami Chinmayananda

In this issue of *Chinmaya Pradipika*

The highlight of this issue is the Inauguration of *Sa sk ti Nilayam* at our very own *rama- Chinmaya Jyoti*. This was celebrated grandly with lighting of *Chinmaya Jyoti* and 108 small lamps. The grand opening of the *rama* was on the first day of Bala Vihar and was followed by the first *Bhagavad G t Jñ na Yajña* in the *rama* by *Pujya Swamini Gangananda*. We were also fortunate to have Swami Siddhananda's *Bhajan sandhy* and *Satsa ga* at the close of September.

Featured in this issue are also the Tenth Annual Youth Camp for children and the first Youth Empowerment Program outside India held this summer. Also read in this issue about the experience of our high schools students who visited CORD Sidhabari for *sev*.

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Inauguration of *Sa sk ti Nilayam* – August 3, 2013

The third of August is an auspicious day for Chinmaya Mission, especially here in San Diego, the place where *Pujya Gurudev* left his mortal coils. The day began with the lighting of *Chinmaya Jyoti* in the courtyard of *Sa sk ti Nilayam* at *Chinmaya Jyoti* followed by *Guru P duk P j* in the evening and a grand Kerala feast.

Lighting of *Chinmaya Jyoti*

A small group of *sevaks* led by **Swami Shantananda** gathered on the morning of this auspicious day to inaugurate *Chinmaya Jyoti* by lighting the big *Chinmaya Jyoti* and 108 small ones. At this time the building was very close to completion and landscaping was in progress. As the *rama*



was getting its finishing touches, the hills on the west side seemed to become more prominent, as if showing the greater presence of the *Guru Parampar* .

On the morning of August 3, activities began by listening to *Chinmaya Suprabh tam*. The octagon in the courtyard of *Sa sk ti Nilayam* was decorated with *kolam* and 108 lamps were placed with the prominent *Chinmaya Jyoti* in the middle. The flower arrangements and *ra goli* around the lamps was a beautiful sight. The presiding deity in *Pra va Nilayam*, Lord *Jyoti Vin yaka*, was prepared for *p j* . The ambiance was divine with so much light pouring in to the abode of *Jyoti Vin yaka* with *Tapovana Giri* in the background.



Jyoti Vin yaka P j was performed by Swami Shantananda and *Ga apati Atharva- r opani ad* was chanted. This *Upanishad* is known to be the most effective and elevating prayer of worship offered to Lord *Ga e a*. As the chant describes, Lord *Ganesha* who is beyond the qualities, states, bodies and divisions of time, the One who himself is *Brahm* , *Vi u* , *iva*, *Indra* and *pañca mah bh ta-s* may protect us. Swami Shantananda lighted *Chinmaya Jyoti* after this *Jyoti Vin yaka p j* , followed by the lighting of 108 lamps by Lakshmi with the chanting of *Pujya Gurudev's a ottara- atan m vali*. This dedication with *bh vayukta a ottara n m rcan* filled *Chinmaya Jyoti rama* with the presence of *Gurudev*.

The *rama* was thus inaugurated by the light of *Chinmaya Jyoti*. As the prayer says, may the light of *Chinmaya Jyoti* bring the truth of immortal knowledge and guide the generations of children and adults to



come. This culmination of a decade of effort to build the *rama* is a new beginning to serve, learn, grow and reach more with the blessings of *Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda* and the guidance of *our Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda*.

- Raja Reddy Kalva

Guru Paduka Pooja - August 3, 2013

In addition to the small ceremony held at *Chinmaya Jyoti* that morning a grand inauguration and celebration was held at *Chinmaya Nivas* that evening. The *Chinmaya Jyoti rama* was scheduled for inauguration on August 3, 2013, the twentieth anniversary of the *Mah sam dhi* of *Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda*, in presence of *Chinmaya Mission* family and invited guests. However He had other plans, and construction delays prevented us from receiving the occupancy permit in time for this big day, so the celebrations were simply moved to *Chinmaya Nivas*. Twenty one *Yajam n* sponsor families had the opportunity to perform the *Guru Paduka Pooja* that evening. The following is the experience one of the families shared with us.

A grand celebration, with a beautiful *Guru Paduka Pooja* and a sumptuous feast, was held on **August 3, 2013** at *Chinmaya Nivas*. At the exact time of the twentieth anniversary of His *Mah sam dhi* - 5:45 PM, the

big lamp- **Chinmaya Jyoti**- was lit by **Swami Shantananda**. Twenty medium sized lamps were also lit by the light of **Chinmaya Jyoti**. As a tribute to **Gurudev** and His Kerala heritage, all the *Yajam n* families and CMSD members dressed in traditional Kerala outfits. It was a sight to be seen! Men dressed up in cream colored *dhotis*, *kurtas* and *angavastrams* and women in elegant cream colored *sarees*. There was excitement in everyone's faces as they watched the pictures of the beautiful and ceremonious lighting of the 108 lamps that had taken place earlier that day. It made everyone realize just how close we all were to the completion of the dream that is now *Chinmaya Jyoti*. We resolved again to keep it glowing. Just sitting there and watching and performing the *Guru Paduka Pooja* felt like a great privilege. **Swami Shantananda's** presence





made the entire experience extra special.

A special silver coin with *Gurudev's* image and *Chinmaya Jyoti* was released in limited quantity and several members had the privilege of getting it from the hands of *Swamiji* on this *Mah sam dhi* day.

The ceremony was followed by a Kerala style dinner with all the delicacies, some of which we had only heard about before. It was a fitting conclusion to this historic

event for Chinmaya Mission San Diego. We were so glad to be a part of the celebration and a part of the Chinmaya Family.

- Meenal and Amit Chakradeo



Grand opening of Sa sk ti Nilayam - First day of Bala Vihar-September 8

It was wonderful to be back at Balavihar after summer break, and even more special as we were meeting at *Saṁskṛti Nilayam* in our very own *Āśrama*, *Chinmaya Jyoti*. To top it all, we had *Swamini Gangananda*, from Chinmaya Mission Mumbai to bless us as we started our journey in the new building.

Children and adults arrived enthusiastic and eager to taken on another year of spiritual learning and self-improvement. They were greeted and seated by the *sevaks* and *sevikas*. We partook in an elaborate *pūjā*, of our very own *Jyoti Vināyaka*. **Lakshmi** aunty had



dressed up Lord *Jyoti Vin yaka* with such attention to detail that he really looked so cute and loving. After the *P j*, the Bala Vihar students and the Chinmaya Dhvani team presented entertainment for *Jyoti Vin yaka* in the form of music and dance. *Swamini Amma* addressed the crowd thereafter, stressing the importance of Bala Vihar and Gurudev's vision when he first set up the Bala Vihar Program. *Amma's* simple appeal to one and all to treat the *rama* as their own and to contribute efforts and resources to it touched every heart and motivated us towards the same. I feel truly blessed to have access to this center of learning and look forward to contributing in whatever little manner I can. The joy on seeing my Bala Vihar children is something that will bring me back every year. I would also like to thank all *sevaks* and *sevikas*, whose hard work and arrangements made the first day of Bala Vihar at *Chinmaya Jyoti* so enjoyable and memorable.

- Meera Mulchandani



Bhagavad G t Jñ na Yajña by Pujya Swamini Gangananda

Soon after the opening of the *rama*, we had the pleasure to start our year at the *rama* with **Swamini Gangananda**. Listening to her lectures on Chapter 13 of the *Srimad Bhagavad G t* was such a privilege. I felt as if *Gurudev* was speaking through her, because just like *Gurudev*, she had the BMI chart and a pointer to help us visualize the teachings of this chapter. Chapter 13 is known as “The field and its knower”.



The field is called *k etra* and the knower of the field is called *k etrajña*. In essence this chapter reveals that the field is the matter *prak ti* and the consciousness that illuminates the matter is the knower of the field *puru a*, in other words the *Jiva*. Our goal is to be able to discriminate the two so that we can detach ourselves from the field that brings about sorrow and worry, and become that knower of the field, the one who experiences absolute knowledge.

The *Gita* says that the *Puru a* in itself has no expression unless it is perceived through the *prak ti*. *Amma* explained this with an example; she said electricity cannot manifest as light unless it is expressed through a bulb. In other words, when life exists in any living organism, the organism receives stimuli and sends responses by the transaction of life, or the *K etrajña*. Therefore, she taught us that God is the same divine being, even though we identify Him under different forms, names, and functions. The body is the field, but the knower of the field is the divine Self.

Amma also went over the twenty values or moral qualities that need to be instilled in order to reach spiritual awakening. Part of this spiritual awakening or realization is the death of the ego. She explained the three *gu a-s*; *tamasic*, *rajasic* and *s ttvika*. *Tamas*, *rajas*, and *sattva* are three *gu a-s* every living being is bounded by, when they are not realized. Being *s ttvika* does not mean one has reached Om, because it is still a *gu a*. One who follows *sattva* still identifies with the body, mind, and intellect. It is only the true Self that does not fall under the three *gu a-s*, because it has transcended above the body, mind, and intellect.

Throughout the week, *Amma* discussed these topics of self-realization, the knower of the field, and the field of the known through *Pujya Gurudev's* BMI chart. One of my favorite remarks that *Amma* made was when she answered her question of why life is a worry. The reason is simple, we are so greedy and the solution therefore is giving up unnecessary desires. God made us, so He is responsible to take care of us, so we have no reason to worry.

Overall I felt that this chapter is meant to explain that the physical is perishable, whereas the soul is eternal. Without the soul (knower of the field) the physical (field) is dead, therefore the Soul is that truth we need to discover with the help of the twenty values.

- Hinal Parikh

v sya upani ad by Pujya Swamini Gangananda

Swamini Gangananda gave a discourse on the *v sya upani ad* in the mornings during her week's stay in San Diego. **Hema** shares her experience on the same – "I have read *v sya upani ad* but never attended a discourse on the same subject. I was happy when I had an opportunity to attend this discourse by Swamini Gangananda (*Amma*) the week of September 9. The discourse was planned from Tuesday to Saturday. It was an intimate gathering where we all got to sit close to *Amma*.

The *v sya upani ad* cannot be truly absorbed by simply reading. This fact became clearer to me after the discourse with *Amma*. Only in the presence of such a learned teacher can one even start to appreciate the true essence of the *v sya upani ad*. The knowledge is so subtle that it's difficult to grasp on our own. We need to learn from a teacher that has lived this knowledge through their life.

This *v sya upani ad* starts with the shanti path that we chant every day, "*om p r amada ...*" After this verse the *upani ad* explains what that *a* (supreme reality) means. For example, it states that *a* is unmoving and one, yet faster than the mind. It uses such contradictory statements in its explanations. *Amma* explained all of this with great simplicity. What I took away from the discourse was:

- That the whole world is pervaded by the supreme reality (The Lord).
- One should work with a detached attitude, and then no work will bind you.
- While working, see the same Self in all things.
- The essence of existence within you is no different from anyone else.
- Constantly seek and repeat that *Om*.

I was also fortunate enough to eat lunch with *Amma* that week after the discourse. It was a treat to spend time with her. Though *Amma* did not have to say much, being in her company was its own reward."

- **Hema Pandya**



While in San Diego, *Amma* visited the Self-Realization Fellowship *rama* with Lakshmi aunty and received a guided tour of the hermitage and the campus by Brahmachari Wolfgang of SRF.

Tenth Annual Youth Camp on “Nine Ways to Love God”

This year marked the 10th annual summer youth camp and it was made memorable by the presence and guidance of a special *c rya*, **Swami Sharanananda** from Chinmaya Mission Chicago, along with our own



Lakshmi. About 75 kids from kindergarten through grade 12 along with Bala Vihar *Sevik* -s had a fun and enriching experience as we learnt "Nine ways to Love God" based on *Navadh bhakti* from the *R macaritam nas*.

Nita shares here experience with us - This was my third youth camp experience and each year has been an exciting event that has been anticipated eagerly. It was a joy to see the children's faces light up when they were listening to stories or learning new songs and *shlokas*. Kids would come in bright and

early in the morning before the *c rya*s arrived and would sit down eagerly waiting to find out what they would learn that day.

Every day would start out with the children chanting *Navadh Bhagati*. Thereafter, the older children would be taught by Swami Sharanananda and the younger children would stay with Lakshmi to listen to stories and learn songs. The camp included a reinforcement of the values that the kids learnt at Bala Vihar, like smiling, sitting straight and being their own policeman. It was an amazing experience to see the children absorb all the learning like sponges.

The children also learnt *Yoga* from Swamiji every day before lunch. Towards the end of the camp, most of them were able to perform the *sana-s* and there would be pin drop silence while they listened to *Swamiji's* instructions. Following *Yoga* was lunchtime, which was exciting to the children as they were always curious as to what delicacies would be served. Our *Annap r dev* 's worked hard every day of the camp to ensure the children had wholesome and delicious food served on time.



The afternoon session would typically be spent in arts, crafts, coloring and learning songs. With **Swaroop**'s guidance, the children painted beautiful pillowcases with **Lord R ma's** pictures. They also made *p j* plates

with *ra goli-s* painted on them. The favorite part of the day, not only for the children but also for the *sevik -s* was the "Om alone" game. On the last day, all the kids performed *p j* to Lord *R ma* guided by Lakshmi. The camp concluded with camp presentations. Our little Bala Vihar kids (K & 1st grade) took the lead by presenting an action song about loving God. Then came the rendition of the song "Door of my heart", portraying the conversation of Mother *abar* and Lord *R ma*. Some of our older boys and girls danced to the beautiful *bhajan* "*r man ma k rtana kare bhakta*

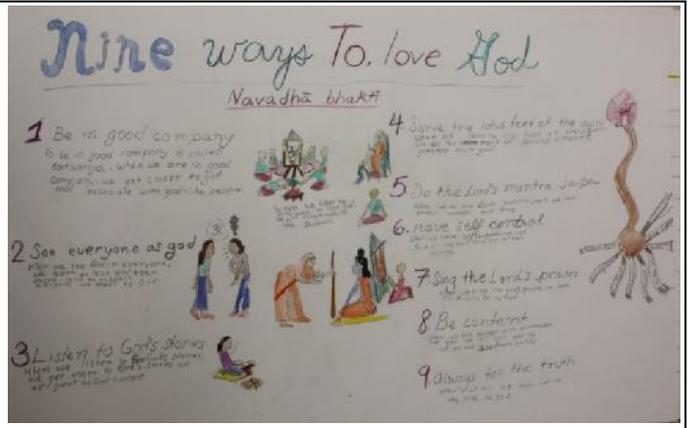


jana". The children also took turns talking about the nine ways to love God. I personally was impressed by the acting skills of some of our kids as they performed the meeting of Lord *R ma* and Mother *abar*. It was a touching experience to watch Mother *abar*'s preparation every day in the hopes of Lord *R ma's dar ana*.

I am already looking forward to the next youth camp and can't wait to find out the topic for next year's camp. Along with the kids, I have become a kid too, eagerly anticipating the future.

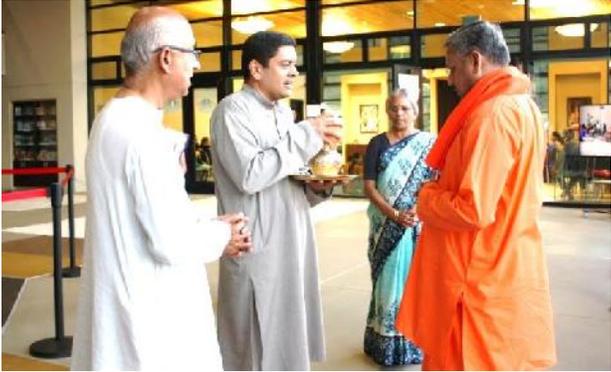
- Nita Halker





Dancing to HIS Tunes

Chinmaya Jyoti came alive this past weekend (September 28-29, 2013) with *Bhajan Sandhy* and *Satsa ga* with Swami Siddhananda. Swamiji, no stranger to CMSD, was in his elements on Saturday, energizing the gathering with up-tempo bhajans and devotional songs. A well-known composer and singer, Swamiji began the evening at *Chinmaya Jyoti* singing the glory of *Jyoti Vin yaka* with the eponymous song, *Veda Vin yaka ara am ara am*. From there, he went on a roll, singing songs glorifying *Durg*, *R ma*, *K a*, *Murug* and other Gods and Goddesses before finishing the program with a soulful rendition in praise of *iva*. In between, he “released” two of his brand new compositions, once of which he had just finished on



his plane ride to West coast. The overall atmosphere in *Pra va Nilayam* was electric and very soon the clapping hands and tapping feet turned into full-fledged dances to go along with the bhajans. He was accompanied by the talented Sukumar sisters on keyboard (Maya) and violin (Asha), Amarnath on the tabla and the Chinmaya Dhvani group as back-up singers, although the last statement is not completely accurate. They were not merely back-up singers, they led from the front on a couple of occasions and received significant praise from Swamiji for their efforts.



Sunday afternoon saw a different side of Swamiji, well almost. He was in a story-telling mood and recapped Gurudev’s life for the assembled students and adults. What made this different from other such historical recollections is Swamiji’s inimitable style of delivery and his passion for singing. Almost every phase of Gurudev’s life was accompanied by a well-chosen song that highlighted the significance of the events. He sang songs in Malayalam when needed, to highlight *Pujya Gurudev’s* ancestry, songs about *Ga e a* to signify the first *jñ na yajña* at a *Ga e a* temple in Pune, etc. Before long, the audience started swinging to his tunes, which really highlights the power behind HIS tunes! Everyone enjoyed their workout and Swamiji enjoyed doing what he does best- making people lose their ego, if only for a short time! This was a great tribute to



Gurudev and it is apt that Swami Siddhananda was here within the first few weeks of the opening of the *rama* to celebrate!

-Ranga Sampath

Seen here are members celebrating their September birthdays along with Swamiji.

Youth Empowerment Program

Chinmaya Mission's Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) for 18-28 year-olds aims to help young adults grow as dynamic, positive contributors to society. YEP is a 65-day study course of *Vedantic* principles and self-development, followed by a ten-month period of community service at an assigned CM center. YEP America has been designed with the guidance and blessings of **Pujya Guruji**, and conducted by **Swami Sarveshananda**, National Director of CHYK West. YEP America is the first YEP Course to be conducted outside of India. Three CHYK-s from San Diego, **Akil Rajaratnam**, **Devesh Madhav Vashishtha** and **Arvin Wali** had the privilege of attending the first YEP America course. Following is the experience they share with us.

Akil writes - I was blessed with the opportunity to spend two months in Piercy, California at Chinmaya Mission's Sandeepany West - Krishnalaya, the first institute for traditional Vedanta. With *Bhagav n's* grace, we 31 students spanning North America, Trinidad, and the United Kingdom were able to immerse ourselves in a modern-day *Gurukulam* and learn foundational *Ved nta*, introductory *Sanskrit*, basic *P j Vidhi*, practical management and life skills under some of the best *c rya*-s of Chinmaya Mission.

While we learned things like introductory *Ved nta* via texts like *r di a kar c rya's Tattva Bodha*, and basic rules of *Sanskrit* grammar, my most profound learning came from simply living in an *rama* with 30 inspired seekers and 4 amazing teachers. Personally, over the past two months I have come to appreciate both the difficulty in and importance of living a disciplined life. One thing I strive to take home with me is this discipline, i.e. wake up at 5:30 AM, lights out at 10:30 PM, and lots of study in between. Along with discipline, I also got from this course with a new, profound understanding of *bhakti*, which I learned by simply living with our *Sanskrit c rya*, Sri Swami Ramakrishnananda. While Swamiji is a phenomenal communicator of the seemingly esoteric topic of *Sanskrit*, in my eyes this isn't even his most endearing quality. What is amazing to me is the devotion he shows to both his teacher and his students.

When *Pujya Guruji* Swami Tejomayananda was leaving our course, Swami R amakrishnanada presented him a tribute in *Sanskrit*. While I did not understand a word of what was said, I watched *Guruji's* face as he was speaking. I am unable to put what I felt into words, but this was one of the most moving experiences of my life, and it was this experience that gave me my first real glimpse as to what *Guru-bhakti* really is.

Equally awe-inspiring is the devotion Swamiji shows to his students. Early in the course, some were having trouble learning the many consonants of the language. To help with this, Swamiji took his time to paint the different groups of consonants in different colors on sheets of papers for those who were struggling. This is just one of the many instances demonstrating the countless hours Swamiji put in to make sure his students understand. His dedication, commitment and love for his students are unparalleled.

My new appreciation of discipline and *bhakti* is more than I could have ever hoped to take away from the course, but in addition to these I am also coming home with 34 new family members.

- Akil Rajaratnam

Devesh writes - After completing college and spending a year learning music in India, I found myself in Piercy, CA for YEP. My goal in attending YEP was solidifying my knowledge of *Ved nta* and I realized that the two months spent in *Krishnalaya* were an invaluable blessing.

Within just the first few days, I knew that I had come exactly where I needed to be. Our schedule was strict and our goal was clear: we had come to YEP to understand the necessary practices and skills to achieve inner contentment at all times. As our lectures progressed, I began discovering the necessary tools to combat my negative thought patterns and connect myself with the higher. Some of my favorite texts from the two months included *Bhaja Govindam* by *Bhagav n di a kar c rya* and the second chapter of *Srimad Bhagavad G t* . We had the added benefit of a full-time Sanskrit teacher, the ever-young and ever-hilarious Swami Ramakrishnananda. We were also blessed with the company of Swami Paratmananda, an expert in *Vedic Chanting* and *P j* .



One of the most special aspects of the YEP course was the company of my fellow seekers. All thirty-one of us plunged into each activity with great enthusiasm. Some of my favorite memories from the summer are from afternoon kitchen *sev* , when we would mop the floors diligently while composing impromptu raps on *Lord Ga e a* and songs on chutney. I had the great privilege of having the company of Arvin and Akil, two San Diego CHYKs who are among my closest friends. In such company, every conversation became a *satsa ga*, a chance to share thoughts of self-improvement.

Perhaps my most important message learned from YEP was that a daily *S dhan* (spiritual practice) routine is absolutely necessary for any serious seeker. I experienced how thoughts of God transformed my relationships with others, giving me greater capacity to receive negative words and deal with challenging experiences. I will remember this as I move on to the next phase of my life, and continue my spiritual practices because I do believe that they will bring me freedom from bondage. It is with an inspired and grateful heart that I returned from Piercy, ready to take on the world.

- Devesh Madhav Vashishtha

CMSD On-Going Events

Sundarak a p r ya a

Host families for the monthly *Sundarak a p r ya a* in this quarter were:

July 2013- Pooja and Vijay Navani

August 2013 –*R ma* and Pavan Neelakanti

The *Sundarak a p r ya a* for the month of September 2013 was held at *Chinmaya Jyoti. Sri Abhaya ñjaneya* was installed in *Pra ava Nilayam* on September 21.



Guru Pūr imā

Guru P r im , a sacred day for all spiritual seekers, fell on July 22 this year. It is a day to remember and express gratitude towards one's *Guru*, or teacher, for the blessings and knowledge one has received. This year, we expressed our gratitude to honor *Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda* and all the other *Guru-s* that have influenced our lives. The *Guru-P duk P j* was performed, led by Lakshmiiji and Sukumarji along with chanting of *r Guru-stotram, Guru- i ya-parampar Stotram* and *r Guru-P duk -Stotram*. The evening concluded with singing of *bhajans and Arati*, led by the Chinmaya Dhvani team. It was an intimate gathering with *sevak-s* and *sevik -s* coming together to celebrate and show their appreciation. I particularly enjoyed the quiet moment inside the *p j* room, offering flower and *namask ram* to *Pujya Gurudev's P duk* .

- Padma Bhat

CMSD in the Community

CORD Experience at Sidhabari

Three Bala Vihar students from San Diego, **Gopika Mavalankar, Shivani Katbamna** and **Priya Garcia** got a chance to serve the Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development (CORD) center this July at **Sidhabari**. Priya shares her experience with us –

We spent three and a half weeks serving the rural communities of Dharamshala and surrounding villages under the guidance of the presiding *c rya*, **Ksama didi**. The legend goes that Gurudev asked *Ksama didi* to stay in Sidhabari and serve the women of Himachal Pradesh, who gave alms to the Swamis long ago.

The three of us went into this service project with the understanding that we were going to end up getting more out of the experience than we could ever hope to teach anyone in a short month. All the girls in the group have parents that want them educated past 12th grade and many of the girls desired careers that they have come into contact with like police-women, teachers, and serving with the military. The occasional few wanted to become doctors, singers, and business-women. We noticed that all these girls knew what they wanted to be, but none of them knew how to get there. In addition to serious discussions, we also had fun performing skits for each other, singing *bhajans*, and playing games. We also played games with the Bala Vihar groups, told them stories about *Ga e a* and *Hanum n*, and did arts and crafts, like our youth camp.



We had a chance to visit a *Mahila Mandal* and learn so much about how they worked. At their monthly meetings they discuss problems with the village, pay their dues, sing *bhajans*, and go through micro-financing. They were keen on knowing from us how America was different from India for women. They all just seemed happy that they were getting things done and that they had visitors to whom they could serve *chai*.



The slum was very surprising to the three of us. As we expected, all the permanent homes next to the polluted river were made of tarps and metal bars, but the smiles we saw in the slum were probably the largest we saw in all of India. The kids three did not care that I could not speak or understand Hindi; they were just thrilled to play with us. We explained to them the importance of brushing their teeth and taking baths; things that prove difficult when you live in a slum.

The slum concluded the social part of our service visit, after which we got to do some physically intensive work. We dug a pit in the backyard of two families' homes and then filled them with stones to assist with the drainage of water. The next project that we worked on was constructing a toilet for a family with a disabled child. After that, our group planted citrus plants on lands of many different hamlets in the foothills. On the final day, we worked in the rice fields, beating the fields to enrich the soil with nutrients.

Even more than the actual work, the three of us just enjoyed being there. We were in the hands of dedicated CORD volunteers and alongside our friends from across America and other parts of the world while being in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. We visited the *rama* multiple times a week and saw the giant *Hanum n* statue. I also had the opportunity to sing a *bhajan* for *Gurudev* outside his *Kutia* and it filled me with the serenity. It was all so tranquil and we thank CORD for bringing us to this wonderful place.

- Priya Garcia

Children's reflections

This year marked the tenth annual youth camp at CMSD. The topic was “**Nine ways to love God**” and was graced by the presence of Swami Sharanananda. Following is what the children had to say about the camp:

Before the camp, I did not want to come, but being here, I realized WOW, this is fun!
- Rajit Agarwal

We got tasty food for the stomach & the brain. Swamiji was awesome! I am definitely coming back next year
- Pavan Navani

Swamiji taught us to love everything & only then will we have a calm, steady and single pointed mind - Aditi Puttur

One thing, Swamiji said, I will never forget, “If you love everyone and everything you will never be disappointed” - Aarti

I learnt that, we must see the whole world as one with God - Divya

There was learning, prayers, listening to stories, crafts, songs, games, yoga, writing and chanting
- Sri Javanth

Swamiji's humor and stories kept me engaged throughout the whole time. I had fun the whole day
- Surabhi Kulkarni

This thought stuck with me, “A content mind is like a bucket full of water, an insecure mind is like a bucket with a hole.
- Ajay Manickam



Blessings from *Pujya Guruji Swami Tejomayananda*

ॐ

Dear Chinmaya Family of San Diego,

Hari Om! Hearty congratulations to one and all for the long awaited inauguration of *Sa sk ti Nilayam* at *Chinmaya Jyoti*!

Sa sk ti Nilayam is the new and beautiful home for our growing **Chinmaya Bala Vihar** children to call their own. All our Mission parents and supporters have worked very hard to bring this project to fruition and now they will see our children reaping its rich benefits.

I understand that our new *Sa sk ti Nilayam* has a large assembly hall, 14 classrooms, an office, a sevaks' meeting room, a full kitchen, 3 storage rooms, courtyard and lawns, a walking trail, and an ample sized parking lot. It is a lot of space—and I am sure all our children will fill it with lots of love and all our teachers will fill it with lots of light!

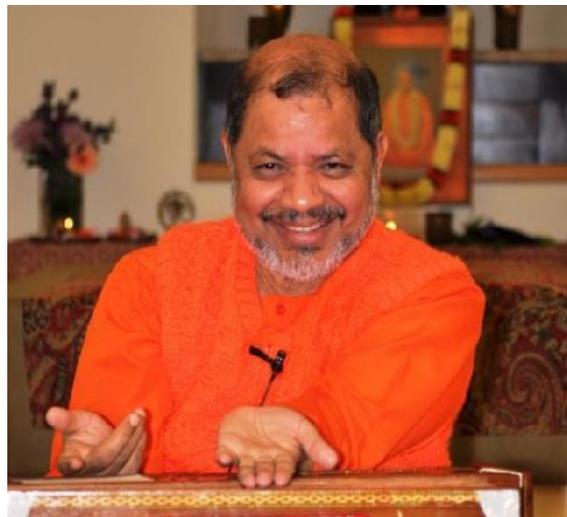
It is wonderful that **Swami Shantananda** will be inaugurating this first phase of *Chinmaya Jyoti* with a *Guru Paduka P j* , and that too, on the sacred eve of August 3rd.

May the Lord's grace and *Pujya Gurudev's* blessings fill this new Bala Vihar home, and the hearts of all, with the wealth of *sa sk ti* and spiritual fulfillment.

Best wishes for the *Bhajan Sandhya* of **Swami Siddhananda** on August 4th, and for the children's camp by him and **Swami Sharanananda** thereafter.

With Prem and Om,

Tejomayananda



Be tender towards the faults of others; be strict towards your own.

Swami Tejomayananda

