



NEW

October 2010

## Activities from States

### FESTIVAL OF JOY

With the Divine grace and Blessings of our beloved Swami, Chennai Metro, West district organised the 'Festival of Joy' as part of Bhagwan's 85th birthday celebrations from September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010 to September 5<sup>th</sup> 2010, at German Hall, T.Nagar Chennai. BalaVikas children from the Samithis of the West district presented a variety of programmes focusing Swami's message. It was a Sai Family celebration of Joy and Love which was a joint team effort of the Balvikas children, Gurus, ex-balvikas students, sevadals, Office bearers and parents of Balavikas children.

#### DAY ONE: Sep 2<sup>nd</sup>

The first day's proceedings of the 'Festival of Joy' commenced at 6.00 p.m with the lighting of lamp by the Chief Guest Dr. Mrs. Nithyashree Mahadevan and Mrs Leelavathi Gorey, District Service Coordinator amidst Veda chanting by the Balavikas students. The district advisor, Mr.Balakrishnan welcomed the gathering. Dr.Smt.Nithyashree Mahadevan enthralled the audience with her beautiful, reverberating voice during her classical music concert for forty five minutes. Later the Balavikas Children beautifully sang a collection of songs on the divine mother Sai with love and devotion. This was followed by a Dance on the Life of Swami and a drama on 'Sai Krishna Leela' depicting Faith and Devotion. The story of Jatilan was so beautifully portrayed by our Balavikas Children. It is noteworthy to mention that the Ex Balavikas students played an important role in Audio CD recordings and training the participants. A total of 64 children participated in the Cultural programmes.

After the cultural programmes, the chief guest for the day, Dr.Mrs Saraswathi Ramanathan addressed the gathering. The proceedings came to an end after mementos were distributed to all the participants and choreographers by the chief guest Dr.Mrs Saraswathi Ramanathan. The programme ended at 8.30 with mangala Aarthi to Bhagavan. It was a day of colorful, lively and interesting programmes, which were highly appreciated by the audience. 600 people attended the programme, which included Balvikas students, parents, Gurus, members, office bearers and the public.

#### DAY TWO: Sep 3<sup>rd</sup>

The second day of 'Festival of Joy' programme began at 6.00 p.m with the lighting of lamp by Mrs Anuradha Krishnamurthy, Guest Artist of the day and Mrs Leelavathi Gorey, District Service Coordinator Chennai Metro West amidst Veda chanting by the BalaVikas students. After the welcome address by Mr.Gopalakrishnan, Smt. Anuradha Krishnamoorthy presented a devotional music programme. She kept the audience spellbound with her voice and beautiful song selection.

The Balvikas children started their programme with an invocation to Lord Ganesha and Guru. This was followed by two dances. The first was on Lingashtakam and the second was on the life and mission of Bhagavan. The children staged a drama on 'Mathru Devo Bhava, Pithru Devo Bhava'. The Cultural programme concluded with a Pushpanjali Dance. A total of 54 Balavikas children participated in the cultural programmes. After the cultural programmes, the chief guest for the day, Kalaimamani Sri Vaman addressed the gathering and Distributed the mementos to all the participants and choreographers .The day's programme concluded with Mangala Harathi to Bhagavan. The programmes of the day were entertaining as well as value based imparting Swami's message to everyone present there. 500 people attended the programme, which included Balvikas students, parents, Gurus, members and office bearers and the public.

#### DAY THREE: Sep 4<sup>th</sup>

The third day of 'Festival of joy' programme began at 6.00 p.m with the lighting of lamp by Mrs. Shrimathi District Spiritual Coordinator, Chennai Metro South and Mrs. Padma Rao, District Educational Coordinator, Chennai Metro West amidst Veda chanting by the BalaVikas students. After the welcome address by Mr Sundararajan, Kalaimamani Sri.O.S.Arun transported the audience to a totally different world with his rendition of devotional songs, bhajans and Abhangs. The audience participated well as they joined in his singing of Bhajans. Another pleasurable sight was to see and hear our Balavikas children accompanying this artist on Mridangam and violin. Gomathi Shankar and Sai Rakshit who performed in the Divine presence during Tamil New Year celebrations accompanied Kalaimamani O.S. Arun who appreciated them profusely.

The Balvikas cultural programme began with a dance in praise of Lord Ganesha. This was followed by a Villupattu, on Bhagawan's life and teachings. The Little Champs (group of 7 boys) once again proved their prowess in music during their music concert. The next programme was a recitation of Bharathiyar Kavidaigal by a BalVikas child who was also dressed like Bharatiyar. The cultural programme concluded with a dance in praise of Lord Muruga.41 Balavikas children participated in the Cultural programmes. The chief guest for the day, Prof G.R.Mahadevan addressed the gathering and Mrs. Pushpa Balajagan, Principal Pon Vidyashram school distributed mementos to all the participants and choreographers. The programme ended with Mangala Harthi to Bhagwan.520 people attended the day's programme.

#### DAY FOUR: Sep 5<sup>th</sup>

The last day of the 'Festival of joy' programme began at 6.00 p.m with the lighting of lamp by Dr Ms. Ramadevi State Educational Coordinator and Mrs. Uma Krishnamurthy, Sundaram Singer amidst Veda chanting by the BalaVikas students. Mrs Padma Rao, District educational co-ordinator welcomed the gathering.Kalaimamani Sri TKS, Kalaivanan rendered Devotional Songs on Lord Ganesha, Narayana and Sai Narayana. The cultural programme began with a discussion on the greatness of Guru by two BalaVikas children.

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Small children with rich costumes presented a Dance 'kingdom of Sai', which showed the 5 D's and Harmony and Discipline in Nature and God's creation. The Songs were rendered by Ex Balavikas students. The backdrop for the programme was done by a Group III Balavikas student. The Dance drama 'Ananda Thandavam' by the Balavikas boys was excellent. The quality of the Backdrop for this programme, selection of songs, acting by the children all showed the great effort put in by the Gurus. 56 Balavikas children participated in the Cultural programmes.

Ex Balavikas students participation was seen in many areas and the Ex Balavikas girls did a wonderful job of compeering on all the days. It was very professional. Ex Balavikas Boys operated the laptop and there was perfect coordination which ensured smooth conduct of the programme.

After the Cultural programmes, the prizes/trophies for the inter school competitions held in the month of August, as part of Bhagwan's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations were handed over to the respective winners of the various schools by Dr.Rama Devi. The youth co-ordinator, Mr Sayee Kumar spoke about the activities of the three wings of our organization.

Two parents of BalVikas children who attended the programmes on all four days shared their thoughts with us and also spoke about their transformation due to the association with Balavikas and the organisation. The state educational co-ordinator, Dr.Rama Devi in her presidential address explained the importance of BalaVikas in the Holistic development of the child's personality. The State president, Mr Ramani addressed the gathering and congratulated the District in smooth conduct of the programme and the grand manner in which it was conducted.

The proceedings came to an end after momentos were distributed to all the participants and choreographers by the State President, Mr.N.Ramani. The programme ended with mangala Aarthi to Bhagavan.600 people attended the day's programme. All were happy and grateful for the immense grace of Bhagavan for having given this opportunity to offer their love at His Divine feet.





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Edition**

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