

Sahaja Newsletter

APRIL 16th '93

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A Prayer

LORD,
make me an instrument of Thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O DIVINE MASTER,
grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born
to eternal life.

1181/2-1226 After ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Music of Joy

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The Sahaja Yoga Bhajan Group will perform in concert at Parramatta Town Hall, Friday, 30th April at 7:30 pm. Any of us who have seen them performing at public programmes will have experienced the great responses they have received. The original idea for organising a concert came from Shri Mataji who suggested that a concert be organised when the Nagpur Musicians were last here. This was to raise funds, provide good publicity for Sahaja Yoga and provide a new means of attracting seekers through spiritual music.

This concert is now being organised. The idea was presented to Shri Mataji at Pratistan together with a draft of the poster titled 'Music of Joy'. Shri Mataji was very keen about the idea and gave the concert Her blessings.

The concert will be a vibrant presentation of music drawing from both Eastern and Western sources choosen for its splritual and joyfull qualities.. The success of the concert can only be assured through the support of the collective. With this in mind each centre or ashram can support the concert by:

- o Selling 25 tickets to yogis, friends, and family in your area.
- o Postering in your area, each centre will be allocated 40 posters.
- o Any other means you can think of to promote the concert.

The concert is little more than two weeks away so a representative from each ashram/centre needs to take their allocation of tickerts and posters and begin work almost immediately. With all your support this concert may mark a new chapter in the way we spread Sahaja Yoga.

Other Interested cities around the country may also like to arrange for a Tour of this concert.

Rehearsals started last night and they will continue on Saturday nights, Sunday afternoons and Thursday nights at various venues.

The next rehearsal is on Saturday 17th April at Prue and Asmira's new house. The address is 218 St. John's Rd, Glebe (off Ross St, which is off Parramatta Rd). Ample parking exists in a big grass area "before" the house. Bhajans are at 4:30pm. Choir practise is at 6:30pm. Prue's birthday party/house cooling party will be afterwards. All welcome. Please bring a plate if you are staying on. Following day, Sunday 18th, there will be a rehearsal at Burwood starting with Bhajans 2 pm, Western 4.30 pm. For more details about rehearsals contact Peter at Burwood.

SIGNS OF THE ERA OF SATYA YUGA:

After conversations with Juan Vega at Croydon Ashram and with Phil Trumbo in Los Angeles, it was clear that the following newspaper editorial regarding P.M. Keating's personal portfolio on the Aboriginal situation was directly in line with what Shri Mataji has said in New York and South America regarding the historical Native Indian situation.

Just to paint a brief picture, after being offered a Cherokee Chieftain's feather head dress at the Virata Puja, 1988, Shri Mataji kept it on for a brief time only, perhaps a minute. She took it off saying if she kept it on it wouldn't be proper, that she would be crying, that she felt immense sadness and tragedy, that they must have felt like God had forsaken them. They offered Her Native Indian arrows to break, a symbolic action used in the past to restore peace between the Natives and the whites. Shri Mataji said that she couldn't break them now, for the peace is not yet there for them. At another time during that visit, she apparently said something like "The battle is still on. You killed these people who were so close to realisation - I cannot, you have to pay for it/fix it(?)".

When Juan was in South America, Dr. Pepe apparently had rearranged a native Cuban song for Shri Mataji to induce Her to restore the peace between the Spanish conquerors and the Native South Americans. Shri Mataji apparently couldn't accept the song saying that the Spanish had to pay for what they had done. She later instructed Dr. Pepe to approach his government to solve the problem, to accept responsibility for what they had done in South America, that the government should go and apologise to the people there. Along the same lines at another time, Shri Mataji was reported to have said that Portugal, Spain and England had killed so many innocent people, that now the governments would have to solve it, to take responsibility for it.

At another time, during Saraswati Puja in Vancouver, Shri Mataji was offered a beautiful Native Indian ceramic figure of a flute player. Shri Mataji immediately went quiet, examining the figure very intently, then saying that the yogis must get in touch with these people.

I am very happy to announce the coming of Sri Mataji Nirmala Devi here in Greece. There will be a Puja most probable Sri Athena Pallas Puja and a public program.

The title of the public program was chosen by Sri Mataji and it is: The Goddess Athena

Prove to be Reality

By Sri Mataji Nirmala Devi

The press has show/interest and most of the journalist are very positive on Sahaja Yoga. There will be: 50 minutes TV interview of Sri Mataji Nirmala Devi 2x15 minutes TV reports on Sahaja Yoga from another channel 1 magazine interview and more coming up.

The itinerary is: 26 April arrival, Puja 27 April press day, TV, magazines, newspapers 28 April public program 28 departure to Italy Cabelaia.

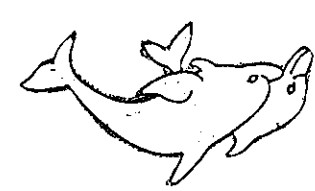
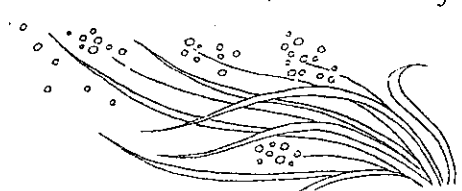
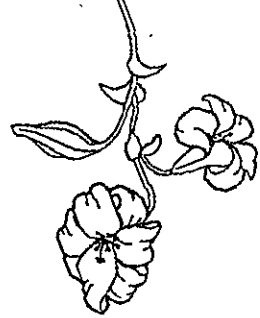
All are welcome to participate. For more contact: Nicolas Chrissakis tel: 30-1-7290-369, fax service 7236-492 Theodoros Effathiou: tel: 30-1-8217-630 Popy Pallatou: tel: 30-1-6421-428

We hope to revive the Ancient Greek spiritual sensitivity in the land called Deva Loka were the gods of the right channel reside. This land in the past has been blessed by Sri Athena Pallas incarnation of Sri Adi Shakti, Sri Socrates and the 12 gods of mountain Olympus the Greek Kailash. Kundalini awakening seems to have taken place in the past here in Greece and must have been the reason for the ancient civilization. The Goddess was worshipped in the past and will be worshipped in the future also.

May Sri Athena Sri Durga Sri Mataji Nirmala Devi Bless All

Much Love

Nicolas , Athens, Greece



Church hijackers are the real heretics



THE decision of the Presbytery of Sydney (of which, as minister of the historic Scots' Church, I was once a member), to find the Rev Dr Cameron guilty of heresy, may spell the beginning of a considerable movement to separate from the Australian Church as it is now constituted. At the age of 73, after more than 40 years as an ordained minister of that Church, I do not speak lightly, but sorrowfully.

Nevertheless I have a compelling sense of the need to rescue the essence of the Gospel of Jesus Christ from what is now appearing as a ruling heresy in many places. I have studied the sermon of Dr Cameron which has been the trigger for the heresy action. I find it unexceptionable, as far as it goes. The problem, for me, is not the nature of ordination, but the authority and inerrancy of the Bible. I believe that the Presbyterian Church of Australia is being hijacked, to borrow an expression used by the Queen's Chaplain and former Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Very Rev Dr Leonard Small, when describing this same situation.

The hijackers, in my own view, are the real heretics. They have a triune deity for sure, but it is belief in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. They even convey the impression that the work of the Holy Spirit was completed at the close of the Apostolic Age when, they believe, Holy Scripture was provided for the church authorities to study and use as law, in precisely the same way as the Jews had treated the Mosaic Law.

What the scholars fail to admit is that these scriptures are themselves at best translations of translations with all the difficulties and opportunities for misunderstanding that this process involves. Any even cursory study of the teaching methods of Jesus must surely lead one to conclude that he at no time pointed to the coming of an infallible set of writings which would lead people into the full truths of his gospel. On the contrary, he spent the last period of his ministry preparing His disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit in wholly new ways, as began at Pentecost.

To leave the matter there, however, is to leave out one of the most important factors of all, and that is the truly infallible teaching that Jesus left us, and in a form which mistranslation could hardly affect. It is virtually impossible for biblical scholars to put into a modern language precisely and totally what Jesus meant by an expression he used in His native tongue. On the other hand it is impossible to misconstrue the heart and essence of the Gospel because Jesus left us not words but stones. What did Jesus believe about the nature and purpose of Almighty God? He was like the father of the Prodigal, like a shepherd who had lost a sheep (even to the shepherd laying down his life for his sheep), etc, etc.

DR MALCOLM MACKAY, reflecting on the Sydney Presbytery's finding that the Rev Dr Peter Cameron is guilty of heresy for undermining the authority of the Bible, thinks that true heresy is slavish obedience to the word, not the Spirit.

When one says, as I do often, that the Bible is the Word of God, what then do I mean? Let me illustrate with a true story. A friend received a gift from a mutual friend who ran a tea plantation in (then) Ceylon. It was a beautifully wrapped box about 25 cm square which contained fine, brown coloured tea. But they did not find it pleasant to taste. When one day the donor was visiting Australia, he asked if they had enjoyed the gift. There was an embarrassed silence.

Do you have any of the tea left, he asked? When it was brought he put his hand down through the tea and extracted a much smaller, aluminium foil package. You don't seem to have opened this tea, he said.

You see, they had treated the packing, made of factory tea-floor sweepings, as the real thing. When they tried this tea, however, it was magnificent.

Just think for a moment about the greatest problem Jesus faced with regard to his earthly ministry. In himself he was aware of the fullness of his relationship with God, and he took some 30 years to ponder all that was going on in his heart and mind before he felt the time had come for him to talk about it to those who became his disciples. His great obstacle was in the realm of communications.

How on earth could he begin to tell time-bound men and women about the realm of the Spirit, about timelessness? We are told in the New Testament that on many occasions Jesus never tried to teach *except* by the use of parables. But there was to come an even more important medium of communication.

It was spelled out, in the most amazing way, by the Prophet Jeremiah: The time is coming says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with (mankind). It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers... but this is the covenant that I will make... I will set my law within them and write it on their hearts... No longer need they teach one another to know the Lord; all of them, high or low alike, shall know me... these are the words of the Lord. (Jeremiah 31, VV.31ff.)

That is how I see the Bible. I regard it as the most precious book on Earth. It contains the clearest and surest way to God. It brings down to us the result of millennia of experiences and discoveries about God's way and will for mankind. It has at its heart the best that his friends could do to pass on to us the exact teaching of Jesus by men and women who had met him in the flesh. Their

language is just the packing; the priceless truth lies behind the words, revealed by the Spirit.

The people who want to treat the Bible as infallible text, to be interpreted by infallible males huddled in infallible assemblies have simply lost the plot of Christianity. The core of the Christian Gospel is a personal experience of a God who moves in one's own heart and mind, and who speaks to us individually.

HIS voice is heard most clearly as we learn from the lessons of thousands of years all that mankind has already learnt about the Godward life and certainly about great ethical principles which again each individual has to discern for her or himself.

Our world today is torn apart with hatreds and bitterness brought about principally by religious groups, as in Yugoslavia, India, Ireland, Palestine, Turkey, etc.

At the heart of these conflicts are men, yes, mainly males, who believe they have a divine authority, an infallible truth to secure against all who do not embrace their way. The same kind of forces are at work today in the Presbyterian Church of

Australia. It is not just a doctrinal matter, based on their view of the authority of Scripture, but behind it are the naked and frightening results of ambition, pride, greed and selfishness.

Behaviour which contravenes the most elementary requirements for Christians is today commonplace within the very courts of the Church. Methods of factional number-crunching, of partisan activity of an order which denies the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit are the order of the day. Certainly the numbers are there to back up the schemes and plots which seek to ensure power in chosen hands but when one stops to think that these men are daring to invade the Body of Christ with such paganism, then one has sympathy with Dr Cameron and rather lends towards the position of letting the women have a go!

Of course that is not the answer either. The answer really lies in change, in profound changes in the hearts and lives of these shepherds who are at present leading their flocks into dangerous fields. Conversion, rebirth, whatever you call it, is still the need of the hour. The promise is still there, if any person be in Christ he is created anew (however you translate the Greek). The courts of the Presbyterian Church of Australia might much better set out on a course of repentance and prayer for the change Christ brings, rather than collecting numbers to vote some other brother out of office.

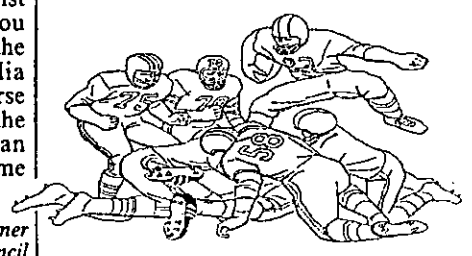
Dr Malcolm Mackay AM, a former general secretary of the Australian Council of Churches, has retired from the Presbyterian ministry.



Clergy may switch

LONDON: The Vatican was close to reaching an agreement which would allow Anglican clergy who were opposed to women priests to continue their vocation within the Catholic Church, the *Sunday Telegraph* said. — Reuter

— S M H. 5.4.93.



SHRI MATAJI'S BUILDING PROJECT AT WAMURAN QUEENSLAND

It will be necessary to make 15,000 "mud bricks". To help do this the Brisbane Sahaja collective would like to invite yogis to help and at the same time enjoy their visit to Queensland during the winter. It has been suggested that if we can arrange teams of four able bodied (not necessarily terribly strong) people to go to Wamuran for a week's working holiday, the brothers and sisters of Queensland would like to offer the following itinerary which includes free board and meals and transport to and from the site, plus sightseeing as proposed below.

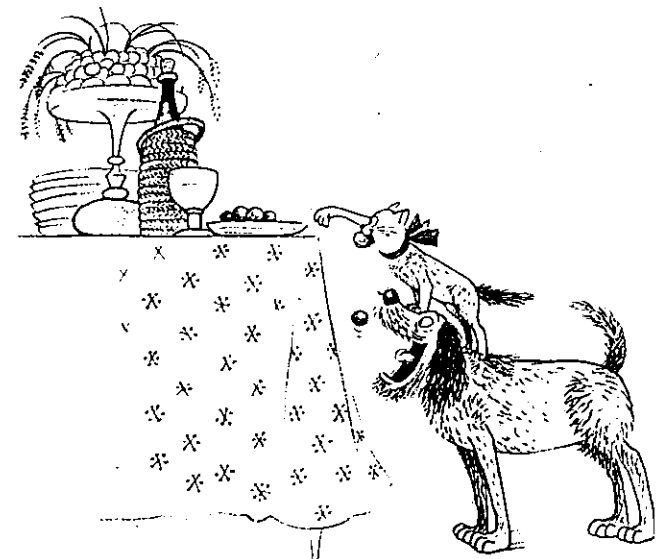
Brickmaking includes:

1. Screening; 2. batching; 3. Mixing cement (mixer); 4. pressing and stacking.

It will be a combination of effort and relaxation. Proposed itinerary is as follows:

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| Sunday | Arrivals, pick up bus terminal and airport Free time bushwalks |
| Monday | 6-6.30 Meditation; 6.30-7.30 Breakfast; 7.30-12.30 Brickmaking; 12.30-1.30 Lunch; Visit Bribie Island |
| Tuesday | 6-6.30 Meditation; 6.30-7.30 Breakfast; 7.30-12.30 Brickmaking; 12.30-1.30 Lunch; 1.30-4.30 Brickmaking; 7.30-9.30 local program |
| Wednesday | 6-6.30 Meditation; 6.30-7.30 Breakfast; 7.30-12.30 Brickmaking; 12.30 Lunch Visit Glasshouse Mountains, Malaney, Pottsville |
| Thursday | 6-6.30 Meditation; 6.30-7.30 Breakfast; 7.30-12.30 Brickmaking; 12.30-1.30 Lunch; 1.30-4.30 Brickmaking; 4.30 Freetime |
| Friday | 6-6.30 Meditation; 6.30-7.30 Breakfast; 7.30-12.30 Brickmaking; 12.30 lunch Visit Maloolabar; 7.30 Collective program |
| Saturday | 6-6.30 Meditation; 6.30 Breakfast Freetime bushwalks or shopping or even snoozing 1.30 General maintenance, ie. mowing, tidying, chopping, weeding etc. 5.30 Barbeque campfire |

This is an excellent opportunity for yogis to work together, escape the winter and be part of the building fun on Shri Mataji's property at Wamuran.



Teamwork makes the impossible simple.

AUSTRALIAN POETRY IN PRAISE OF HER HOLINESS SHRI MATAJI NIRMALA DEVI

A collection of poems from all over Australia titled above was presented to Shri Mataji during the birthday celebration in New Delhi a few weeks ago. It was highly appreciated by Her. She recommended the then present world leaders to have a look at it in appreciation. (It was last seen in Her bedroom in April 1993.)

Shri Mataji was first shown the draft version of this book in February 1993, and was very happy, spending some time reading the poems and enquiring about those who were involved in this project. She made some suggestions regarding additional topics, which were included in the final draft.

It has been a great collective effort and we wish to thank everyone involved who really put all their heart, time and talents into it. Also all those who encouraged the idea especially Uncle Michael Fogarty. But, there is no time to relax, for we have been asked by Shri Mataji to collect poems from all around the world and publish them. (A letter will soon be sent to all the national leaders).

We again look forward to your help as we offer this project at the lotus feet of Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi.