



TI-SARANA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

# Ti-Sarana

## NEWS

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## New Year Message from Bhante

### *Welcome the New Year with Right Vision!*

Since the year 2010 is around the corner let us think seriously to make the year a happy and beneficial one. In order to avoid repentance at the old age, the forthcoming New Year has to be spent wisely with full of hopes while fulfilling the obligations and demands of a better life. What is more pertinent in this regard is that one has to be vigilant and mindful about one's undertakings. Because, as it is said in the **Asātarūpa Jātaka** that unwholesome as the wholesome, unpleasant as the pleasant and unhappiness as the happiness may engulf a person who is not vigilant and mindful. Here the repentance is the expression of one's sincere regret or remorse that arises when one recollects one's omissions and commissions in the past. In this regard, let us look into the age-old Buddhist wisdom embedded in the Buddhist scriptures and understand how and why we should avoid the causes of repentance. It is said in the **Dhammapada**:

“That deed is not well done when after having done it,  
one repents, and reaps its result weeping with tearful face.” (Dhp. 67)

“It is indeed an act done well when, after having done it,  
one does not repent and reaps its results with joy and pleasure.” (Dhp 68)

**Samyuttanikāya** emphasizing the fact with an alluring simile says that one who does not do what is to be done at first, later keeps on brooding over just as a cart driver who broke his cart's axle by driving it on an uneven road, avoiding the even road behind.

According to the **Janasandha Jātaka**, once the Bodhisatta was born as a king named Janasandha. One day he thought: “I should declare the Beneficial Conduct for the people for them to continue to do good which is a blessing to them, and also it makes them vigilant in their life.” Thus thinking he sent out drummers throughout the city and assembled the people on the courtyard of the palace. He got on to a couch under a pavilion and described ten fundamental causes leading to repentance at the old age. Namely;

1. Not earning wealth at an opportune time
2. Not learning any trade or profession when young
3. Leading an immoral life when young which is harmful to others
4. Being merciless and resorting to killing of living beings
5. Going after others' wives when there are unmarried women in the world
6. Not giving to needy when there is plenty of food and drink

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7. Not attending to one's parents when one is hale and hearty
8. Disobedience to the father who gratified one's every wish
9. Not associating with virtuous and learned clergy
10. Neglect of good conduct

The ten fundamentals outlined by the king deal with happiness and prosperity of a layman's life. This can be considered as a typical paradigm for living a gratified and blissful life with familial relationships and fellowship feelings. To welcome the New Year with a clear vision of your own, avoid the sources that may contribute to repentance when you recollect and look back on the days gone by. King Janasandha gives an ideal set of ethical principles for you to adhere to. What is done cannot be undone. As the English saying goes "Virtue and happiness are mother and daughter". Therefore, be virtuous and broaden your vision on a sound footing. The **Dhammapada** explains how one becomes happy here and hereafter by doing good:

" Here he is happy, hereafter he is happy. In both states the one who does good is happy. Furthermore he is very happy having gone to a blissful state." (Dhp 18)

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year!  
Ven. Dr. P. Gnanarama Mahā Thera

## Fulfillment of Aspirations/Wishes

In our earlier newsletters, we highlighted that on Vesak Day many of our members and devotees had recorded their aspirations/wishes on slips of paper which were folded into the shape of a lotus and placed into a "Wishing White Lotus" at the Shrine Hall.

During the 3 months Vassāna Observation which started on 7<sup>th</sup> July, our Bhantes together with members and devotees chanted the Ratana Sutta for more than 1,000 times to invoke the blessings of the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha for the fulfillment of all these aspirations/wishes. Kaṭhina and Robe Offering was held on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct.

One week after the Kaṭhina Ceremony, on the New Moon Day of 18<sup>th</sup> Oct., the Bhantes again recited special Parittas for the fulfillment of the members and devotees' aspirations/wishes before the paper lotuses were ceremoniously burnt.

By the power of Truth of the Ratana Sutta  
May all the members and devotees' aspirations/wishes be fulfilled!  
May all sentient beings be well and happy!



*Bhantes reciting Parittas  
for the fulfillment of members /  
devotees' aspirations*



*Bro. Khem k c rrying the  
"Wishing Lotus" of aspirations*



*The paper lotuses were  
ceremoniously burnt*

## Activities of Sunday Dhamma Classes

Children's Day celebration was held on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept with cake cutting and sing-a-long by the parents and children of the Sunday Dhamma Classes. Besides receiving a gift from Bhante, the children were also treated to an enthralling magic show.

On 7<sup>th</sup> Nov parents of the Sunday Nursery Class spent a good three hours bonding with their toddlers in a variety of activities at Pasir Ris Park. The outing enabled the adults to share their parenting skills with each other in a setting that is both fun and stimulating, not only for them but for the children too. The next day, the toddlers put into practice what they learnt by offering Dāna to the Bhantes. Each of them waited patiently for their turn, respectfully offered food to the Bhantes.

**Please encourage your children to attend Pūjā at 10.15am to be followed by Sunday Dhamma Classes from 10.45 am to 12.15pm.**



*Excited children receiving gifts from Bhantes*



*Children entertaining the audience on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept*



*Children offering Dāna to the Bhantes*

## Thank You!

As 2009 draws to a close, the Management Committee wishes to thank all the Bhantes for the guidance and support, the dedicated teachers of the Sunday Dhamma Classes, the Kitchen Chefs who prepared the delicious and sumptuous meals, the various subcommittee members, the Youth Group, Guests Speakers and all who have assisted in making it possible to learn and practise the Dhamma at Ti-Sarana. We look forward to your continued support and participation in the coming year. For those who are keen to volunteer their services please approach any one of the committee members.

May the Blessings of the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha be with you and your family!

## 2010 Activities at Ti-Sarana

1 Jan	Saṅghika Dāna for Bhantes and Blessing for Members /Devotees
13 Feb	Lunar New Year's Eve - Special Blessing Service
14 Feb	Lunar New Year
22 Mar	Inauguration of Pagoda Lamps of Blessings
26 Mar	33 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Ti-Sarana Buddhist Association
30 Mar - 5 Apr	Qing Ming Memorial Service during Evening Pūjā
28 May	Vesak Day
26 July	Invitation to Vassāna – start of 3-month Dhamma cultivation
18 Aug - 24 Aug	Ullambana Service during Evening Pūjā
Oct (actual date to be announced later)	Kaṭhina & Robes Offering
31 Dec	Overnight Chanting (Blessing Service) for the New Year 2011

# Overnight Chanting to Welcome the New Year 2010

We will be ushering the New Year 2010 in less than 2 months' time. Though the Singapore economy has shown signs of recovery, we are still not out of the woods yet. On New Year's Eve (31<sup>st</sup> Dec.) we will be holding a Special Overnight Chanting of Parittas and Suttas to invoke the blessings of the Buddha, Dhamma and Saṅgha on all our members and devotees. We will be inviting Venerables from Sri Lanka to conduct the overnight blessing service together with our resident Bhantes.

The names of members and devotees to be blessed will be read out before the commencement of the chanting of Parittas and Suttas. Do come and join in the recitation of the Parittas and Suttas and be blessed. Confidence in the efficacy of the Paritta chantings will definitely be beneficial to our mental well-being and happiness.

Enclosed in this newsletter is the form "Special Blessing for the Year 2010". Please complete the form and submit it to Ti-Sarana Buddhist Association by 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 2009.

On New Year's Day (1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2010), we will be offering Saṅghika Dāna (breakfast) and lunch to the Venerables. All members and devotees are encouraged to be present to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Bhantes for conducting the overnight chanting. As it is New Year's Day, members and devotees are welcome to come with their parents and children for blessing by the Bhantes.

## Programme on New Year's Eve (31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2009, Thurs.)

7.30 pm	Evening Buddha Pūjā
8.00 pm	Gilanapaccaya for Venerables
8.05 pm	Light refreshment for members & devotees
8.30 pm	Reading the names of members & devotees for Special Blessing
9.15 pm till	Overnight chanting of Parittas & Suttas by Venerables
5.30 am	
5.35 am	Dedication of merits to Devas & Nagas and sharing of merits with all departed beings
5.45 am	Blessing for members & devotees by Venerables

## Programme on New Year's Day (1<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2010, Fri.)

7.30 am	Buddha Pūjā
7.45 am	Breakfast for the Mahā Sangha
11.00 am	Buddha Pūjā
11.30 am	Saṅghika Dāna for Mahā Sangha
11.45 am	Vegetarian lunch for members & devotees
7.30 pm	Evening Buddha Pūjā

**Ven. Dr. P. Gnanarama Mahā Thera, Ven. W. Ratanasiri Thera,  
Ven. Dr. R. Chandawimala Thera, Ven. R. Ananda Thera and  
The Management Committee wish all Members and Devotees  
A Very Blessed and Happy New Year!**

