



TI-SARANA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

Ti-Sarana NEWS

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Message from Bhante

In Search of Wisdom.....

The *Dighanikaya* (D. III, 219) states that there are three methods of acquiring wisdom. Discussing the levels of wisdom and the methods of achieving it, Bhadanta Buddhaghosa has elaborated the ways of achieving wisdom further and has given a comprehensive description of it in his masterpiece, the *Visuddhimagga* (p. 439). According to his description, there are three ways of acquiring wisdom:

1. Wisdom acquired through reasoning without any external help (*cintāmayī paññā*);
2. Wisdom acquired via learning through reading or listening (*sutamayī paññā*); &
3. Wisdom acquired through mind culture with a fully developed mind (*bhāvanāmayī paññā*).

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ACTIVITIES OF THE SUNDAY DHAMMA SCHOOL

New In-take of Students

A new YMBA Buddhist Studies class will commence on **1st Jul. 2012 (Sunday)**. Those who are interested to attend a structured course on Buddhism can register their names with any of the Management Committee members or the Sunday Dhamma teachers.

Annual Speech Day

Joyful students were presented with their YMBA Buddhist Studies Certificates in a ceremony held on 19th Feb. 2012.



Bhante Gnanarama addressing the students



Students receiving their certificates from Bhantes



We have a certificate too!



Some of the students with their teachers



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Out of these three methods, the second, learning through reading or listening is widely practised since it widens one's perspectives and provides one with food for thought thereby facilitating the achievement of wisdom by reasoning. It is because of this reason that the Buddha has described five advantages of listening to Dhamma in the *Anguttaranikaya* (A. p. 247). When one listens to Dhamma, one:

1. hears what has not been heard before;
2. clarifies what has been heard before;
3. dispels his doubts by knowing the Dhamma better;
4. straightens one's view with regard to Dhamma; &
5. experiences peace of mind

It is quite clear that to acquire the best out of listening one has to be attentive, heedful and observant. But unfortunately, not everyone listens attentively to derive the best out of listening. The Buddha, observing the attitude of listeners, categorised the listeners into three types:

1. Topsy-turvy brained (*avakujja paññā*). When the teaching is in process, he is a listener who does not pay any attention from beginning to end. He is like a pot turned upside down. The water poured thereon flows off and does not remain in the pot.
2. Scattered brained (*ucchanga paññā*). His understanding is only for that moment only. He listens from the beginning to the end but when he rises up from the seat, he forgets everything he has heard. He is like a person who collects things on his lap while sitting and scatters what he collected on to the ground when he rises.
3. A person of wide understanding (*puthu paññā*). He pays attention from beginning to end and retains properly what he had heard. He is like a pot set upright, the water poured therein remains in the pot without flowing off (A. II, p. 135).

There are of course people of different capacities for understanding. When one knows of one's own capacity for grasping, one has to listen or read constantly and regularly until one masters the teaching. It is likely that in order to encourage people of diverse intellectual capacities, the Buddha, in the *puggalapaññatti* (Pug. P. 42), has classified four types of persons in accordance with their cognitive capacity for understanding:

1. He who learns by taking hints only (*ugghatitaññū*);
2. He who learns by full details (*vipacitaññū*);
3. He who has to be led by constant instruction (*neyya*); &
4. He who is a just word-perfect, that is, at most he knows only the text without thorough understanding (*padaprama*).

Undoubtedly, in the sphere of learning, heedfulness or attention occupies a predominant place. Heedfulness is considered an essential factor in acquiring wisdom. In the *Kiṭāgiri Sutta* (M. I, p. 477 ff.), there is a structural illustration that shows how heedful listening and remembering followed by successive stages of evaluation can culminate in final realisation.

Happy Vesak to All!

Ven. Dr. P. Gnanarama Anu-Nāyaka Mahāthera

Sunday Dhamma Activities / Events – May/June 2012

6th May 2012 – Pāli & English Pūjā @ 11.00 am / Post Vesak Day Celebration “Clean Up”
13th May 2012 – Pāli Pūjā @ 11.00 am / Ti-Sarana Chefs’ Day
20th May 2012 – Pāli & English Pūjā @ 11.00 am / Video Screening @ 12.30 pm
27th May 2012 – Pāli Pūjā @ 11.00 am / Dhamma Sharing by Sis. Sylvia Bay @ 11.40 am

3rd Jun. 2012 – Pāli Pūjā @ 11.00 am / Dhamma Sharing by Bro. Piya Tan @ 11.40 am
10th Jun. 2012 – Pāli & English Pūjā @ 11.00 am / Video Screening @ 12.30 pm
17th Jun. 2012 – Pāli Pūjā @ 11.00 am / Dhamma Sharing by Bro. TY Lee @ 11.40 pm
24th Jun. 2012 – Pāli Pūjā @ 11.00 am / Dhamma Talk by Bhante Ānanda

Buddhist Symposium held on 24th Mar. 2012

The Buddhist Symposium “Dhamma in Action: Here and Now” organized by the Buddhist & Pali College of Singapore and its Alumni, together with partners Mangala Vihara Buddhist Temple and Ti-Sarana Buddhist Association, in conjunction with the 80th birthday celebration of our Bhante, Dr. P. Gnanarama was well attended.

At the one-day symposium on 24th Mar. 2012 at the Nagapuspa Theatre, Level 1B, Buddha Tooth Relic Temple, eminent Buddhist scholars, Ven. Dr. R. Chandawimala Thero, Ven. K. Rathanasara Thero, Prof. Chandima Wijebandara, Prof. Kapila Abhayawansa and Dr. Ang Beng Choo presented their papers to create more awareness on Buddhist Social Philosophy, its application and relevance to our modern societies today. It was a very insightful day for many of the participants.

We thank all the members and devotees who came forward to support this event.

Qing Ming Memorial Service held on 29th Mar. to 4th Apr 2012

Qing Ming Jie was observed at Ti-Sarana from 29th Mar. to 4th Apr. 2012. On 1st April 2012, a Saṅghika Dāna for 12 Venerables was held for members and devotees to offer gifts of essential requisites to the Mahāsangha in remembrance of all their departed relatives and friends. In addition to invited Venerables from other Buddhist organizations, Bhante M. Pannaloka Thero who was in Singapore and en-route to Sri Lanka from the United States also participated in the Saṅghika Dāna.



Requisites for Venerables



Buddha Pūjā at 11 am



Saṅghika Dāna



Venerables invited for the Qing Ming Service



Offering of requisites to the Mahāsangha



Transference of merits to all departed relatives & friends



A photo with some the Bhantes

WELFARE ACTIVITIES

Mettā Youth Centre (MYC)

In March 2012, Mettā Youth Centre played host to a group of volunteers from Singapore and Australia who were there to conduct enrichment programmes for the girls. Ms Linda Thomas, who brought along a sewing machine and sequined fabric, taught the girls how to sew their own skirts. Other volunteers conducted baking lessons. The girls also spent time brushing up their English speaking skills. If you are keen to conduct any enrichment programme for the children, please contact any one of the Management Committee members.

Here are excerpts of the volunteers' experience at MYC:

"It is wonderful to see a place that provides a safe haven for so many girls. The girls have such beautiful personalities and all look so happy. It was such a rewarding experience to teach the girls to sew and I hope it is a life skill they will be able to use."

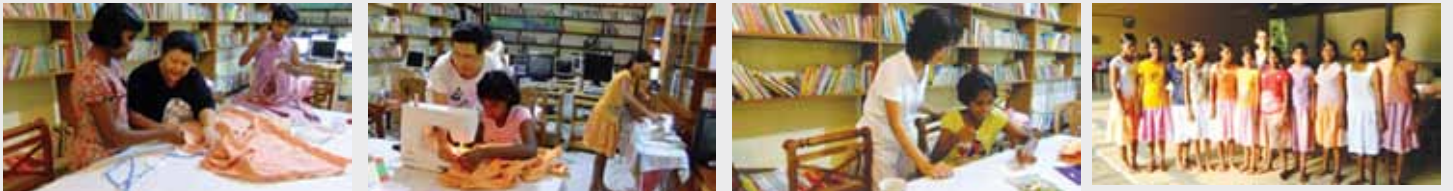
Linda Thomas, Sydney, Australia.

"It is so wonderful to see that MYC provides a safe place for these girls to grow up in. Everyone shows such enthusiasm for everything – even when it is something small. I hope that these girls will find happiness wherever they go and I hope that all those who provide this haven for these girls will be blessed."

Ms Diana Thomas, Singapore



Sewing sessions



Linda with the girls in their new skirts



Cookie Baking Sessions



Let's try to bake a cake

It's time for English



Interaction with the children

Pūjā at Matara Temple prior to outing at the beach in Galle District

35th Anniversary Celebrations (26th Mar. 2012)

Mar. 26th 2012 marked the 35th Anniversary of Ti-Sarana. To celebrate the occasion, a Sanghika Dāna was held on the eve. Many members and devotees participated in the offering of Dāna and essential requisites to the 12 specially invited Venerables. On the actual anniversary date itself, members and devotees re-affirmed their commitment to learn and practise the Dhamma.

Sanghika Dāna on Eve of Anniversary



Vandanā and Offerings to the Buddha by members and devotees

Viewing the Ti-Sarana Montage



It was also the 100th Day Memorial Service for the Ang Family

Offering of food and essential requisites to the Mahāsaṅgha

On the actual anniversary date, 26th Mar. 2012



Address by Bhante Gnanarama

Re-affirmation of Dhamma Work

35th Anniversary Cake

Management Committee for the term 2012 to 2014

At the Annual General Meeting held on 1st Apr. 2012, the following members were elected to the Management Committee for a term of 24 months.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Hon. President: | Bro. Khemaka David Chew | Sports & Recreational Supervisor: | Bro. Andrew Gan |
| Vice President: | Bro. Lee Kwok Lim | Welfare Sub-committee Chairman: | Bro. Alvin Yeo |
| Hon. Secretary: | Sis. Patricia Wong | Committee Members: | Sis. Helen Mei |
| Hon. Asst. Secretary: | Bro. Vipula Chow | | Sis. Dolly Goh |
| Hon. Asst. Secretary: | Sis. Lina Koh | | Bro. Senaka Tan |
| Hon. Treasurer: | Sis. Bhaddā Lim | | Bro. Bandhu Wong |
| Hon. Asst. Treasurer: | Bro. Upali Alex Tay | | Sis. Lilian Tan |
| Hon. Asst. Treasurer: | Sis. Khemā Tay Sim Geok | | Sis. Susilā Loo (co-opted) |
| Hon. Librarian: | Bro. Lau Kim Koon | | |

The Management Committee wishes to thank all members for their attendance and support. We look forward to your presence and participation in our activities.

VESAK DAY CELEBRATION

Vesak Eve – Blessing Service (4th May 2012, Fri.)

We will be holding a Vesak Blessing Service on 4th May 2012, (Fri.) to bless all members and devotees. Venerables from other Buddhist organizations will also be invited to the Blessing Service at 8.20 pm. All members and devotees are encouraged to participate in the Blessing Service.

Vesak Eve Programme

| | |
|---------|--|
| 7.30 pm | Evening Pūjā |
| 8.00 pm | Gilanapaccaya for Venerables |
| 8.05 pm | Light Refreshment for members and devotees |
| 8.20 pm | Invitation of Sacred Buddha Relic to Shrine Hall |
| 8.30 pm | Start of Blessing Service by Venerables |
| 9.30 pm | End of Programme |

Vesak Day Programme (5th May 2012, Sat.)

On Vesak Day the Sacred Buddha Relic will be unveiled for veneration from 8.00 am till 5.30 pm. Do take this opportunity to come with your family members and friends to view and pay respect to the Buddha Relic at the Relic Chamber on the 3rd storey. The Sacred Buddha Relic is unveiled only once a year on Vesak Day. For members and devotees who are keen to make a contribution to our Vesak Day Celebration, please fill up the enclosed form and mail it with your donation to the Honorary Treasurer. Donations received for Vesak are used for the welfare of our Bhantes, the activities of the Sunday Dhamma School, maintenance of the premises and the Sangha Abode (monks' residence) and welfare activities.

Vesak Day Programme

Morning

| | |
|----------|---|
| 7.00 am | Hoisting of the National and the Buddhist Flags |
| 7.05 am | Buddha Pūjā |
| 7.15 am | Breakfast for the Mahāsaṅgha |
| 8.00 am | Unveiling of the Sacred Buddha Relic |
| 8.30 am | Blessing for Vesak Day Helpers |
| 10.45 am | Buddha Pūjā |
| 11.30 am | Dāna for the Mahāsaṅgha |
| 11.35 am | Programme by the Sunday Dhamma Students |
| 11.35 am | Vegetarian Lunch for members and devotees |

Members and devotees can continue to view and pay respect to the Sacred Buddha Relic at the Relic Chamber till 5.30 pm.

Evening

| | |
|---------|---|
| 6.15 pm | Assemble for Buddha Relic Candlelight Procession |
| 6.30 pm | Invitation of the Buddha Relic for Candlelight Procession |
| 6.45 pm | Start of the Buddha Relic Candlelight Procession |
| 7.30 pm | Evening Pūjā |
| 8.00 pm | Dhamma Talk |
| 8.10 pm | Invitation of the Buddha Relic to Relic Chamber |
| 8.15 pm | Programme by the Sunday Dhamma Students |
| 8.30 pm | Blessing by Venerables |
| 8.40 pm | Gilanapaccaya for Venerables |
| 8.45 pm | Light refreshment for members and devotees |

**Ven. Dr. P. Gnanarama Anu-Nāyaka Mahāthera,
Ven. W. Ratanasiri Mahāthera, Ven. R. Ānanda Thera and
the Management Committee wish all members and devotees
A Very Happy and Blessed Vesak!**