



TI-SARANA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

Ti-Sarana NEWS

90, DUKU ROAD, SINGAPORE 429254. TEL: 6345 6741 Fax: 6348 0844

Email: tisarana@singnet.com.sg Website: www.tisarana.org.sg

NEWSLETTER ISSUE : SEP/OCT 2012

Message from Bhante

Activities of the Sunday Dhamma School

- Examination Blessings Service on 8th Sep. 2012, Sat.
- Children's Day Celebration on 23rd Sep. 2012, Sun. - page 1 & 2

Activities of The Sunday Dhamma School

- Children's Day Celebration: Programme on 23rd Sep. 2012, Sun.
- Parent's Day Celebration - page 3

Observance of Abhidhamma Day on 30th Sep. 2012, Sun.

Testimonials from Abhidhamma Students - page 4

Snapshots of activities at Ti-Sarana - page 5

3-month Vassāna Programme

Snapshots of Invitation to Vassāna Ceremony - page 6

Welfare Activity

- Dhamma-In-Action on 6th Oct. 2012, Sat.

Kathina Celebrations

- Special Blessing Service on Eve of Kathina, 13th Oct. 2012, Sat.
- Conferment of Buddhist Names on 14th Oct. 2012, Sun. - page 7

Kathina and Robes

Offering Ceremony on 14th Oct. 2012, Sun. - page 8

Message from Bhante

AN UNDER-ESTIMATED BUDDHIST NORM: CARING, SHARING AND SERVING

Max Weber, one of the earliest sociologists argued to show that since values emphasised in Eastern religions including Buddhism discourage and obstruct social and economic progress, they stand as insurmountable barriers for development. Referring to Buddhism in particular, Weber says that personal performance and self-reliance are stressed and therefore no social community can help the follower. Also, he notes that in Buddhism, specific asocial character of genuine mysticism is carried to its maximum. In other words, according to Weber, values emphasised in Buddhism focus only on individual progress and not on social progress whatsoever. Later sociologists as well as critics of Buddhism got hold of this wrong view and continued to popularise it in the West.

(Continued on page 2)

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUNDAY DHAMMA SCHOOL

Examination Blessings Service on 8th Sep. 2012, Sat.

The Sunday Dhamma School will hold the Examination Blessings Service on 8th Sep. 2012 (Sat.) at 3.00 pm. All parents are encouraged to accompany their children or relatives for the Blessings Service to imbue and instil in them the confidence they need to perform well during the year-end school examinations.

Programme on 8th Sep. 2012 (Sat.)

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 3.00 pm | Briefing at the Shrine Hall |
| 3.05 pm | Children to assemble at the Relic Chamber |
| 3.10 pm | Offerings to the Buddha at the Relic Chamber |
| 3.15 pm | Invitation to the Venerables to conduct Blessing Service |
| 3.20 pm | Start of Blessing Service |
| 3.50 pm | Blessing by Venerables and tying of Blessed Thread |
| 4.00 pm | Gilānapaccaya for Venerables |
| 4.05 pm | Light refreshment for children and their parents |

Children's Day Celebration on 23rd Sep. 2012, Sun.

To celebrate Children's Day this year, the Sunday Dhamma School is organizing a Beach Cleaning and Sand Castle Competition at the East Coast Beach. The aim is to inspire our children to do their part towards caring for the environment by helping to protect the ecosystem of our shores. Please register your names on the form posted at the Shrine Hall by 15th Sep. 2012 to enable us to plan the event logistics.

(Continued on page 3)

(continued from page 1)

It is needless to say that Weber's is a very superficial assertion. As we understand (if he had no hidden agenda in his mind) he has not paid sufficient attention to either what is found in the Buddhist canonical texts or the cultural history of Buddhism in the countries where Buddhism spread in the vast period of the last two millennia. Had he read at least the Sigālovāda Sutta, the Charter for an Ideal Society, he would not have made such an assertion. Among the numerous references in the Buddhist canon to social concern and its well-being there is a specific instance, where the Buddha has illustrated the significance of serving society as an obligation of a cultured individual living in society. As recorded with a captivating simile in the Anguttaranikaya, once the Buddha addressed the monks and illustrated the importance of serving society for its welfare is as important as one's own welfare. The Buddha said:

“Monks, these four persons are found existing in the world. What four?”

- I. He who works neither for his own welfare nor for the welfare of others
- II. He who works for the welfare of others, but not for his own welfare
- III. He who works for his own welfare, and not for welfare of others
- IV. He who works for the welfare of both himself and others”

“Monks, he who works for the welfare of both himself and others, is chief and best, topmost, highest and supreme. Just as from the cow comes milk; from milk comes cream; from cream comes butter; from butter comes ghee; from ghee, the skimming's of ghee and that is reckoned the best. Even so, this person who works for his own welfare, as well as for the welfare of others, is among those four persons, chief and best, topmost, highest and supreme.”

In the Sanyuttanikaya too, the Buddha, in encouraging people to work for the welfare of others, has expounded the value of benevolence and social service equally in emphatic terms:

“Those who grow gardens and forests and make causeways and dig ponds and wells and provide shelter will accumulate merits day and night forever.”

Many are the references to the importance of serving society in the Teachings of the Buddha. Among them, the Four Ways of Showing Favour enunciated in several places in the canon is also significant in this regard. Those are:

- I. Liberality (dāna)
- II. Use pleasant words in communication with others (piyavacana)
- III. Resorting to beneficial actions (atthacariyā)
- IV. Egalitarianism or treating others with equal status (samānattatā)

In this context, it would be appropriate to quote one of the world's famous Buddhist scholars D. T. Suzuki, who shedding a flood of light on the issue under discussion referred to historical social role played by Buddhism in his “Essay in Zen Buddhism. Third Series”:

“.....In those days, the Buddhist temples were schools, hospitals, dispensaries, orphanages, refuges for old age; and the monks were school masters, nurses, doctors, engineers, keepers of the free lodges etc..... When the community was still in a primitive stage of evolution, the Buddhists were leaders in every sense and the government naturally encouraged their activities.”

What Suzuki has said is true and real with reference to the countries where Buddhism spread in the last two millennia. Hence it is clear that Buddhism advocates caring, sharing and serving society both by admonition and practice.

May all beings be well and happy!

Ven. Dr. P. Gnanarama Anu-Nāyaka Mahāthera

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUNDAY DHAMMA SCHOOL

Children's Day Celebration

Programme on 23rd Sep. 2012 (Sun.)

8.30 am	Bus leaves Ti-Sarana for the East Coast Beach
9.00 am	Beach Cleaning
10.00 am	Tea break
10.30 am	Sand Castle Competition
11.30 am	Bus leaves for Ti-Sarana
12.00 pm	Lunch at Ti-Sarana

Parents' Day Celebration

Our Bhantes, grandparents and parents were honoured by the Sunday Dhamma School students on 8th Jul. 2012. Sis. Carol Chung, on behalf of the congregation, kicked off the celebration by offering a lotus flower each to our Venerables. The Bhantes are like our parents, selfless, patient and ever ready to explain to us the Dhamma (Teachings of the Buddha) and guide us on the Noble Eightfold Path leading to a righteous way of life. Then it was the turn of the children to present their parents with a lotus flower and together they offered it to the Buddha. Later, the children dedicated several song items to show their love and gratitude for their parents. To conclude the joyous celebration, a cake which the children helped to decorate was presented and shared by everyone.



Offering of lotus flowers to the Buddha



Sis. Hui Qing and her mother presenting a lotus flower to Bhante

Address by Bhante Ananda



Song items by the children



Learning the colours of the Buddhist Flag and making their own Buddhist Flags



Students presenting the birthday cards they made for Bhante Ananda

Observance of Abhidhamma Day on 30th Sep. 2012, Sun.

For the past two years Bhante Ānanda has been conducting weekday Abhidhamma classes. Abhidhamma, the Collection of Higher Doctrines expounded by the Buddha, is the golden knowledge which can help us to discard wrong views and acquire right views on the path to total liberation from all defilements. Traditionally Abhidhamma Day is observed on the third Full Moon Day after the Invitation to Vassāna. On this day, Buddhists perform meritorious deeds and make offering of lights in gratitude to the Buddha. We look forward to your participation.

Programme on 30th Sep. 2012 (Sun.)

11.00 am	Buddha Pūjā
11.45 am	Dāna for Venerables
11.50 am	Vegetarian Lunch for members and devotees
12.30 pm	Members and devotees to assemble in Relic Chamber
12.35 pm	Observance of Five Precepts
12.40 pm	Dhamma Talk by Venerable
12.45 pm	Abhidhamma Chanting
1.05 pm	Sharing of Merits with all sentient beings
1.10 pm	Lighting candles of Wisdom
1.15 pm	Meditation
1.30 pm	Offering of lights

Testimonials from Abhidhamma Students

“My heartfelt thanks to Bhante Ānanda for his guidance and patience in teaching and helping us to understand the profound subject of ultimate realities! The course has made me realize the importance of being aware of my thoughts, speech and actions. My thanks to Ti-Sarana as well for the conducive premises and to my wonderful course mates for their friendship and spiritual support.”

Yean

“I have a better understanding of the nature of the mind and how it functions according to Abhidhamma. Cultivating wholesome thoughts and actions not only bring peace and happiness now but a good rebirth as well.”

Wee Goon Hwa

“I am so fortunate to complete this wonderful Abhidhamma course! This is due to the mutual Adhimokkha, Viriya and Chanda of both teacher and student. I thank Ven. Ānanda from the bottom of my heart.”

Dhammapada Lee

“Abhidhamma has deepened my understanding of the two techniques of meditation - Samatha Bhāvanā and Vipassāna Bhāvanā. It has also sharpened my awareness of the arising of wholesome and unwholesome consciousness which is very helpful in my mental cultivation. My grateful thanks to Bhante Ānanda!”

Subhā Teo

“Initially, it was tough remembering the numerous Pali words in Abhidhamma lessons but it got easier along the way. I now know that when I am angry, it is because citta rooted in aversion has arisen. Although I have completed the course, I still have a lot to learn and would like the class to continue. Thank you Bhante Ānanda for your patience and tolerance.”

Judith Soh

“I am most fortunate to have joined the Adhidhamma class – the beautiful Dhamma with the scientific approach that is both clear and interesting. Many thanks to Bhante Ānanda for his effort and time to teach us and guide us!”

Bernny

“Although we cannot claim to have fully understood all that was taught, we can say that as students of Abhidhamma, we do have a better understanding of reality and in particular what is ‘mind and body’. Bhante, thank you for teaching us the Dhamma!”

Arlene



Students sharing their knowledge of Abhidhamma



A memento for all



Offering Dāna to Bhantes

SNAPSHOTS OF ACTIVITIES AT TI-SARANA



Dhamma Talks by Bhante Ānanda, Sis. Sylvia Bay, Bro. T Y Lee and Bro. Piya Tan



Birthday Blessings for a very Happy, Healthy and Harmonious life

Mdm Cheong offering Dāna on her birthday



House Blessing Service

Blessings for donors to Pagoda Lamps



Vassāna chanting and meditation sessions on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

Offering of robes to Bhantes in memory of departed loved ones

3-MONTH VASSĀNA PROGRAMME

On 3rd Jul. 2012 Bhante Gnanarama, Bhante Gnanobhasa and Bhante Ānanda accepted the invitation by the Ti-Sarana Dhamma Community to observe the 3-month Vassāna “Retreat” on our premises. Our Vassāna Programme which features the recitation of the Kāyagatāsati Bhāvanā Ānisaṃsā (The Benefits of Mindfulness of the Body) and the Mettānisaṃsa Sutta (The Discourse on the Benefits of Loving-kindness) and meditation on Loving-kindness commenced on 5th Jul. 2012 and will continue till the Kathina and Robes Offering Ceremony on 14th Oct. 2012.

Do join the Bhantes in the 3-month Vassāna Programme of chanting and meditation which are conducted on the following days:

- Tuesday - 8.00 pm to 8.45 pm (at Relic Chamber)
- Thursday - 10.30 am to 11.00 am (at Shrine Hall)
- Friday - 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm (at Relic Chamber)
- Sunday - 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm (at Shrine Hall)

SNAPSHOTS OF INVITATION TO VASSĀNA CEREMONY



Evening Pūjā prior to Invitation to Vassāna Ceremony



Offering of lotus candles at start of Ceremony



Inviting Bhantes to observe Vassāna at Ti-Sarana



Inviting Bhantes to chant the Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta



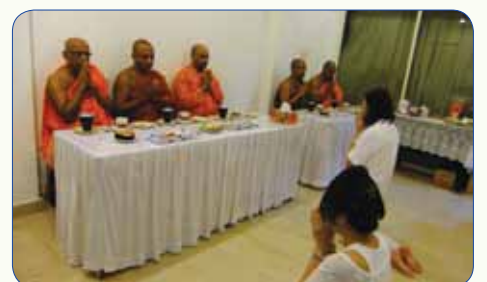
Commencement of chanting



Blessings and Tying of Blessed Thread by Bhantes



Tying of Blessed Thread



Gilānapaccaya for Bhantes

WELFARE ACTIVITY

Dhamma-In-Action on 6th Oct. 2012, Sat.

As part of our Vassāna Cultivation Programme, we will be distributing food and beverage items together with supermarket vouchers to 50 underprivileged families. We need volunteers to deliver the items to the homes of these families and interact with them. Please register your interest to participate by signing up on the form posted on the notice board at Ti-Sarana.

Date: 6th Oct. 2012 (Sat.)

Time: 9.00 am

For those who are interested to make a donation for the project, please send your contributions to the Hon. Treasurer. Funds collected will be used to buy necessities for the needy families.

KATHINA CELEBRATIONS

Special Blessing Service on Eve of Kathina, 13th Oct. 2012, Sat.

The Sacred Buddha Relic will be invited to the Shrine Hall for the Special Blessing Service on the Eve of Kathina. The Mahāsaṅgha will be reciting Suttas and Parittas to bless all members and devotees and the bottled water for distribution on Kathina Day. We look forward to your presence and participation.

Programme on 13th Oct. 2012 (Sat.)

6.30 pm	Evening Pūjā
7.00 pm	Gilānapaccaya for Venerables
7.05 pm	Light refreshment for members and devotees
7.20 pm	Invitation of the Sacred Buddha Relic to the Shrine Hall
7.25 pm	Invitation to the Mahāsaṅgha to commence Special Blessing Service
8.30 pm	Blessing by the Venerables to members and devotees

Conferment of Buddhist Names on 14th Oct. 2012, Sun.

In conjunction with our Kathina and Robes Offering Ceremony, we will be holding the Refuge Taking and Conferment of Buddhist Names Ceremony on 14th Oct. 2012 (Sun.). In Theravāda tradition, a Buddhist name is given in Pali which was the language the Buddha preached. A Pali Buddhist name is always meaningful and positive. It establishes one's Buddhist identity and one is reminded of the Dhamma (Teachings of the Buddha) and Dhamma practices.

For those who wish to have a Buddhist name conferred on them by Bhante Gnanarama, please fill up the attached form. The duly completed form is to be submitted to Bhante Gnanarama by 23rd Sep. 2012.

Programme on 14th Oct. 2012 (Sun.)

12.30 pm	Members and devotees to assemble in Shrine Hall
12.35 pm	Start of Ceremony and Observance of Five Precepts
12.45 pm	Conferment of Buddhist Names by Bhante Gnanarama
1.00 pm	Recitation of Chatta Mānavaka Gāthā
1.05 pm	Group photo shoot

Kaṭhina and Robes Offering Ceremony on 14th Oct. 2012, Sun.

We will be holding our Kaṭhina and Robes Offering Ceremony on 14th Oct. 2012 (Sun.). The Kaṭhina Cloth will be offered to the Mahāsaṅgha (including Venerables from other Buddhist organizations) in the morning. Gifts of essential requisites and other items will also be offered to the Venerables followed by Dāna (Breakfast). Thereafter the Kaṭhina Cloth will be cut and sewed. All are welcome to participate in the cutting of the Kaṭhina Cloth. The completed Kaṭhina Robe will then be offered during the Evening Pūjā Service to the Venerables who have observed the Vassāna retreat at Ti-Sarana.

The Offering of Kaṭhina Robe to the Mahāsaṅgha is carried out only once annually after the observation of the three-month Vassāna. Do participate in the ceremony as a mark of respect and gratitude to the Venerables for their selfless guidance in our spiritual development.

For those who wish to make offerings to the Mahāsaṅgha, you can place your orders for Robes (at \$40 each) / a set of Essential Requisites (at \$80 each) by completing the attached form and mailing it to the Hon. Treasurer by 1st Oct. 2012.

Kaṭhina Day Programme (14th Oct. 2012, Sun.)

Morning

- 7.00 am Members and Devotees to assemble for Kaṭhina Procession
- 7.15 am Kaṭhina Procession to Shrine Hall
- 7.20 am Invitation of Mahāsaṅgha to Shrine Hall
- 7.30 am Buddha Pūjā
- 7.45 am Invitation to Mahāsaṅgha to participate in Kaṭhina Cloth Offering
- 8.00 am Welcome Address
Offering of Kaṭhina Cloth to Mahāsaṅgha
Offering of Vassāvāsika Robes to Mahāsaṅgha
Offering of Robes/Essential Requisites to Mahāsaṅgha
Address by Mahāsaṅgha
- 8.20 am Blessing by Mahāsaṅgha to members and devotees
- 8.35 am Offering Morning Dāna (Breakfast) to Mahāsaṅgha
- 8.40 am Recitation of Suttas by members and devotees
- 9.00 am Continuation of Offering of Vassāvāsika Robes to Venerables
- 9.30 am Cutting and sewing the Kaṭhina Cloth
- 11.00 am Buddha Pūjā
- 11.45 am Dāna for Venerables
- 11.50 am Vegetarian Lunch for members and devotees

Afternoon

- 12.30 pm Conferment of Buddhist Names Ceremony
- 1.00 pm Recitation of Chatta Mānavaka Gāthā

Evening

- 6.30 pm Pūjā
- 7.00 pm Offering of Kaṭhina Cīvara (Robe) to Venerables
- 7.10 pm Dhamma Talk by Venerable
- 7.20 pm Blessing by Venerables to members and devotees
- 7.30 pm Gilānapaccaya for Venerables
- 7.35 pm Light refreshment for members and devotees



Monk's Robe



Essential Requisites

**Wishing All A Very Meaningful Vassāna Cultivation and
A Happy Kaṭhina!**