

NIRBAN MATH TRUST NEWSLETTER

Nirban Math belongs to us all and to all our families, children and friends. So, no matter where you are invitation is extended through this newsletter to renew your faith, spirit and memories by visiting the Math at your convenience.

Regrettably it was not possible to publish the newsletter last year because of the departure of "Brahmachari" Pradip who used to look after the affairs of the Math including accounts. Before his departure he did not hand over the accounts and other papers properly resulting in delaying audit. We have now been able to locate and employ a part-timer named Bimal Dutta with effect from March 2004 who will perform all the functions that Pradip did earlier.

Notwithstanding all these problems, this year like in the previous one, the Birth Anniversary of **Thakuma** was celebrated with devotion and dignity when "Daridra Narayan Seba" was performed.

You are perhaps aware that since long we have been trying to utilise **Shanti Ashram** for the benefit of the poor among the local population. A free homeopathic clinic was tried unsuccessfully because Pradip was practising homeopathy privately elsewhere. Negotiations were held with many charitable institutions without success. It was also not possible for us located in Calcutta to run a charitable organisation at Deoghar. Consequently, Swami Subirananda Maharaj, Secretary of Ramkrishna Mission Vidyapith at Deoghar was approached for advice and help.

Under the advice of Swamiji, efforts are now underway to establish a village school to be named **Brahmajna Ma Balkendra**. Initially the school will be up to class iv where children will be introduced to games, gardening etc. besides studies. If this effort proves successful, then some of these children can later look after Nirban Math.

The Vidyapith has ready volunteers who would function as teachers for a monthly salary between Rs. 700 – 800 per teacher, which will have to be borne by us.

For this school to start some essential repairs are necessary to the Shanti Ashram building. This has been arranged and to meet the expenses for these a sum of Rs.25, 000/- has been transferred to UCO Bank (Deoghar Branch). The progress made will be ascertained when the Ashram is expected to be visited shortly.

However, the problem envisaged with this project will be to ensure that the locals send their children to the school. To that end Swami Sukhen Maharaj, in charge of Vidyapith Balkendra had held discussions with elders of villages nearby and explained to them the importance of education and the necessity for their active participation. The villagers appeared to have been convinced.

We thank Diya, Piya, Riya, Deepon Sengupta for organising a walk and raising funds amounting to Rs.90, 000/- for the school.

We also thank Sri Sudhish Dasgupta and Sri Asok Sen for making special contributions amounting to Rs.50, 000/- each.