

Brother Satyananda – Volunteer Workshop Retreat

We attended the Volunteer Workshop Retreat on June 12, 2010 at Glendale Temple. Brother Satyananda conducted a 2-hour chant and meditation, followed by Satsanga on Guru Seva. Here are a few valuable and inspirational points from his lecture on service:

SRF first-generation disciples (including Sri Daya Mata, Ananda Mata, Uma Mata) always made time for God during service (not just business). Brother Satyananda relayed a story about times when he would talk about business on the phone with Uma Mata and she would break into an informal satsanga to discuss Master's teachings. Brother admires this blending of devotion and spiritual life with work.

Brother defined Guru Seva as a purified form of service to the Guru. We outwardly serve while we inwardly connect to God and Guru. We don't want to separate our actions, goals, and results from Guru Seva.

The foundation of fellowship means putting God first; then we can care about people as individuals. Master put "fellowship" into the title of his organization. Fellowship is also the friendships we form, the personal relationships and the community that grows and expands beyond the temple. Value of spiritual community: communal experience of joy and a united purpose.

Leaders are those who are able to serve others. If we want the lotus to be sweet, it has to come from our hearts and our meditations. The original disciples viewed work experience as a way to share spirituality. It's about attitude: wanting to help others, wanting to be the best you can be. Spiritual leadership is also about helping others make offerings to the Guru. We must create an environment that allows for spiritual community and spiritual experience. Spiritual leadership is an important part of discipleship and of Guru Seva. Jai Guru!