

Welcome to the monthly newsletter of Amma's Madison WI Satsang

Dedicated to Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi,
also called "Ammachi", "Amma", "Holy Mother" and
"Amma".

Her mission in life is to awaken the Infinite Divine Power within
everyone
and lead humanity along the right path of selfless service and
love for others.

The World Is Unreal

*Like the blue of the sky
and the water of the distant mirage in the desert,
remember that this world is unreal,
brought forth by the magic
of maya, or illusion.*

- Amma -

NEW SATSANG TIME

**Amma's Madison Satsang voted at it's annual meeting to try a *new* satsang
time for a trial period of three months.**

**Please note: monthly satsang meetings will continue to be held on the 3rd Sunday
of each month.**

Lalitha Sahasranamam chanting will begin at 2:00 pm.

Regular satsang meeting will begin at 3:00 pm.

Potluck will begin immediately following satsang.

***Please see calendar below for specific dates*.**

Jyotish Tour with Amma's Astrologer

Amma's astrologer Vilasitha will be available for jyotish (Vedic astrology) readings

on Friday, March 2 and Saturday, March 3

**at the home of Madhu and Sajan Thandaserry.
(Scroll to end of newsletter for directions.)**

Please e-mail Madhu directly at madhuandsajan@hotmail.com to book an appointment.

May the New Year Lead to the Birth of a New Individual and a New Society

New Year, Sunday, 00.10 am, 1 January 2012 – Amritapuri

“May our lives and the lives of all beings be pervaded with goodness. This is Amma’s prayer on this occasion. May the divine power to effect positive change – both in ourselves and in the world – awaken in Amma’s children. Amma’s prayer is that this New Year may lead to the birth of a new individual and a new society.



“New Year is an auspicious moment wherein people try to correct all the mistakes they made the previous year and try to overcome their laziness. Interest in and enthusiasm for a new beginning is awoken. Many make New Year’s resolutions. They try to start new habits. Many begin keeping a diary. However, if we look at that diary six months later, we will see that entries were made only for the first two weeks – maximum, three months. This is what we see in many people’s lives. We don’t have the ability to persist with good things. Sustained efforts are always appreciated. For example, someone who has served the army or any other organization for many years is always honored by that organization. But we don’t persevere with our good actions and promises. Many start doing yoga, but then, two or three days later, they quit. Many children start practicing meditation with a lot of enthusiasm, but after a couple months they stop.

“We should not delay in doing good actions. Our mind is constantly changing. We need constant awareness and conscious effort to speak good words, perform good actions, and to practice patience and compassion. Such actions slowly turn into habits, which eventually become spontaneous. Such habits bring success in life.

“Human beings have been given total freedom to write what they wish upon the pages of life. God has given us the pen and paper, but He will never tell us what to write. He will only show us how to write. He will keep giving us hints. He has left what we write on the pages of

life up to us. We have the freedom. If we want, we can write letters of goodness, love and beauty. We can also write letters of evil hatred, and ugliness. God will keep giving us hints regarding the respective results of goodness and evil. During the course of 2011, humanity has received so many such hints.

“Natural disaster, social conflicts and economic crises are spoiling the sleep of countless people throughout the world. Fear and anxiety are hunting the minds of humanity with more and more intensity every day. Because of humanity’s indiscriminate actions, Nature has lost its harmony. The air, the water and earth have become full of poison. Nature – which was once like a *kamadhenu*, the wish-fulfilling cow-has dried up. The oil supply is rapidly decreasing. The food supply is dwindling. Potable water and pure air are becoming scarce. Where did we go wrong? The real mistake we committed lays in our inability to differentiate between requirements and luxuries.

“If our current generation could reinstate such an awareness of *Dharma*, then poverty and starvation would vanish like a bad dream.

“The New Year reminds us about the flow of time. Just as water drips, drop by drop, out of a cracked vessel, so too is our lifespan diminishing, minute by minute. As human beings, the most precious treasure we have in this world is time. Anything lost can be found again-except for time. Understanding this, we should live with awareness, every moment. We should also remember that each tick of the clock is really a footstep of Death, who is coming closer every moment.

“Whatever we see, hear or experience in the world is ephemeral. We need to find the eternal substratum of everything, which is the Atma. Then we will understand that no one in this world is different from us.

“Whether we laugh or cry, the days are going to pass by nonetheless. So why didn’t we choose to laugh? Laughter is the music of the soul. We should not laugh, seeing the faults in others. Let us see good in everyone and share good thoughts, words and actions. Let us also try to laugh, seeing our shortcomings and drawbacks.

“Many children tell Amma that the world is going to end in 2012. Amma doesn’t feel this will happen. There may be some incidents in some parts of the world. If we look at the earth, if we look at the water, if we look at the air, if we look at Nature, if we look at human beings, we can see that all in a state of agitation. This agitation is bound to echo like thunder somewhere in the world in one form or another. Anyway, death is an inevitable part of life. It can happen anytime, anywhere. But just as we start writing a new sentence after making the period mark, so too the end of one life just marks the beginning of another. But we should not live in fear. Instead, we need to cultivate the attitude of acceptance. Our attitude should be “Whatever happens I will remain strong, courageous and happy.” Living in fear is like lying on top of a bomb; we will never be able to sleep peacefully. But again, Amma does not see anything very serious happening. Tragedies are always taking place everywhere in the world. Even today, don’t we see accidents while we are travelling? Don’t we hear about airplane crashes? Floods, earthquakes, cyclones and tsunamis are regularly occurring.

Wherever we may be, let us be happy and develop faith in the True Self. Let us perform good actions.



“Worms take birth, procreate and die. Animals do the same. If human beings also live like this what then is the difference between us and other beings? What message do we leave for the world? Through their selfless actions, mahatmas live forever. Even if we are unable to contribute to the extent they do, let us try at least a little but to see what we can do for others. Even if just one tree is able to grow in a desert, at least that much shade is created. If just one flower blossoms, at least there is that much beauty. We may not be able to read under the light of a zero-watt bulb, but when a number of such bulbs shine together, we will be able to properly see. Similarly, through unity we can achieve so much. The world is like a lake that cannot be cleaned by just one person. However, if everyone does his part, we can clean it together. Let us not be lazy. Let us try to do what we can. In this way, we will definitely achieve what we need to.

“Like any other decision, happiness is also a decision—a firm decision that “Whatever happens, I will be happy. I will be strong. I am never alone. The *Paramatman* is always with me.” May my children have the necessary mental strength, enthusiasm and self-confidence. May divine grace be there for all of my children.”

Upcoming Local Amma Events

*(All events are at Madhu and Sajan's home unless otherwise specified.
Directions are at the end of this calendar.)*

January 15, 2 pm (Sunday) - Chanting of Lalitha Sahasranama (1000 Names of the Goddess). You are welcome to join this practice whether or not you stay for the meeting that follows. You are also welcome to attend even if you are not familiar with the practice. It provides a wonderful atmosphere in which to meditate. We have a few spare chanting books in various languages (English, Telugu, Tamil, Hindi and Kannada) if you want to join.

"This worship will bring prosperity to the home and peace to the world. It will be an atonement for sins committed. One will gain strength, longevity and good health. Every nerve in our body will be vitalized by the Thousand Names of Sri Lalitha. The atmosphere will be purified. Mother is making a resolve that the effects of undesirable planetary conjunctions, evil forces and other negative energies will be counteracted by this worship." —Amma

January 15, 3 pm (Sunday) - Monthly satsang meeting. Includes Amma's teachings, Amma's bhajans (devotional songs), arati (waving light before Amma's picture) and a vegetarian potluck. First timers are welcome to come and enjoy the meal without feeling obligated to bring anything.

January 16, 6:15 pm (Monday)

- Meal Seva at Grace Church. Volunteers should arrive at the church by 6:15 pm. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

Custom note: Our more traditional Hindu members prefer the offerings to be egg free.

For events in Milwaukee, contact AmmaMilwaukee@gmail.com

For events in Oakbrook , IL , contact bcnair3021@gmail.com

For events in Fairfield , Iowa , contact info@amma-fairfield.org

For events in downtown Chicago , contact rebeccaanderman@hotmail.com

Directions to Madhu and Sajan's home
2 Willowbrook Ct. ([608 848-5033](tel:6088485033))
Verona Road to Hwy PD (McKee Road)
Right onto Hwy PD
Left at first light onto Nesbitt Road
Continue straight through the 4-way stop at Maple Grove Road , onto Cross Country Road
First right — a very short block — onto Ambleside
Corner of Willowbrook Court

Please park on Ambleside or in our hosts' driveway,
so as to avoid over-parking the Willowbrook cul de sac.

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Please share these announcements with anyone not on our list who might be interested.

*In order to protect the nonprofit status of Amma's organizations,
Amma Satsang mailing lists are used solely for the humanitarian activities of
Sri Mata Amritanandamayi.*

To unsubscribe from this list, please reply with "unsubscribe" in the subject line