

Aum Amriteshwaryai Namah

Welcome to the monthly newsletter of Amma's Madison 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.

*All things such as money and worldly objects
are gone forever when you give them away -
but not love.*

*The more love you give,
the more your heart will be filled with love.
Love is like a never-ending stream.
Amma wants all of Her children
to become sources of love,
always spreading love and compassion,
and thereby inspiring others to do the same.*

-Amma-

Vow Not to Commit Suicide

24 February, Bharata Yatra 2008
Washim, Vidarbha Region, Maharashtra

Amma's first visit to Washim, an agricultural town in Maharashtra's Vidarbha Region, was truly something to see. The people had never met Amma before, but they welcomed her with all the hearts and souls—filling the streets and offering her their pranams as she drove past and surrounding the house where she was staying.



Vidarbha is the place where of India's farmer suicide problem at its peak, with thousands upon thousands of debt-ridden farmers taking their own lives (and often the lives of their wives and children along with them). It has been reported that in 2006, farmers in Vidarbha we committing suicide at a rate of one in every eight hours. These same people were coming here for Amma's darshan. Dressed in their simple village clothes—turbans and white hats for the men, traditional big nose ring, fluorescent green, pink and yellow saris for the women—50,000 or so came to seek Amma's blessings. It looked like entire Washim was there.

Dr. Vijay P. Bhatkar, the famous computer engineer from Pune, addressed the people just prior to Amma's arrival. He said to them, "Jagadamba has come to Vidarbha. You must all now take a vow that you will not commit suicide. You must take this vow on Jagadamba's feet, which have now touched your soil." All of the people enthusiastically shouted forth in accord, many raising their arms into the air and calling out Amma's name.



On the dais was a huge collection of the area’s political figures—a total of 17 Members of the Legislative Assembly and seven Members of Parliament, representing diverse political parties. They all humbly welcomed Amma with flower garlands and stayed throughout Amma’s satsang and bhajans. Smt. Prabha Rao, the president of the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee, was one of those to address the people assembled. She said, “We are fortunate that Amma’s feet have blessed the land of Vidarbha.” She also spoke about the immense relief program that Amma has created to curb India’s farmer-suicide epidemic and helped Amma distribute scholarships to children of impoverished farmers from the area who had previously been forced to discontinue their educations due to their parents’ inability to pay school fees.

The leader of the opposition, Sri. Baba Saheb was also on the dais, and he similarly helped distribute scholarships.

Between the stage program and darshan, Amma distributed 5,000 such certificates throughout the night. [{Read about the project announcement}](#)

Darshan lasted until 10 am the next morning, with Amma blessing a large sack full of prasad to be distributed to latecomers.

—Sanjaya

Amma's Madison Satsang will offer

IAM Training

IAM - Integrated Amrita Meditation Technique

will be offered in Madison:

Saturday, April 19, 2008

8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

at the Friends Meeting House at 1704 Roberts Court.

For more information call or e-mail Sharad at:

(608) 257-6229

iam.dayal@yahoo.com

For registration information logon to:

www.ammamadison.org/iam.html

The IAM - Integrated Amrita Meditation Technique® is a powerful way to reconnect with our real center, our inner Self, and thereby experience true joy and peace in life. Born out of Amma's deep resolve for our spiritual enhancement, this technique, when practiced with dedication, is designed to bring about integration in our lives - an integration of body, mind, intellect and heart.

For details please see <http://www.amma.org/events/iam.html>.

Upcoming Local Amma Events

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

March 11, 5 pm (Tuesday) - Service at Community Meals Program (lasagnas needed).

March 16, 1 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 the worship." —Amma

March 16, 2 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.

March 17, 6 pm (Monday) - Service at Grace Church Homeless Shelter.

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)
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.