



NIRANKARI JOURNAL

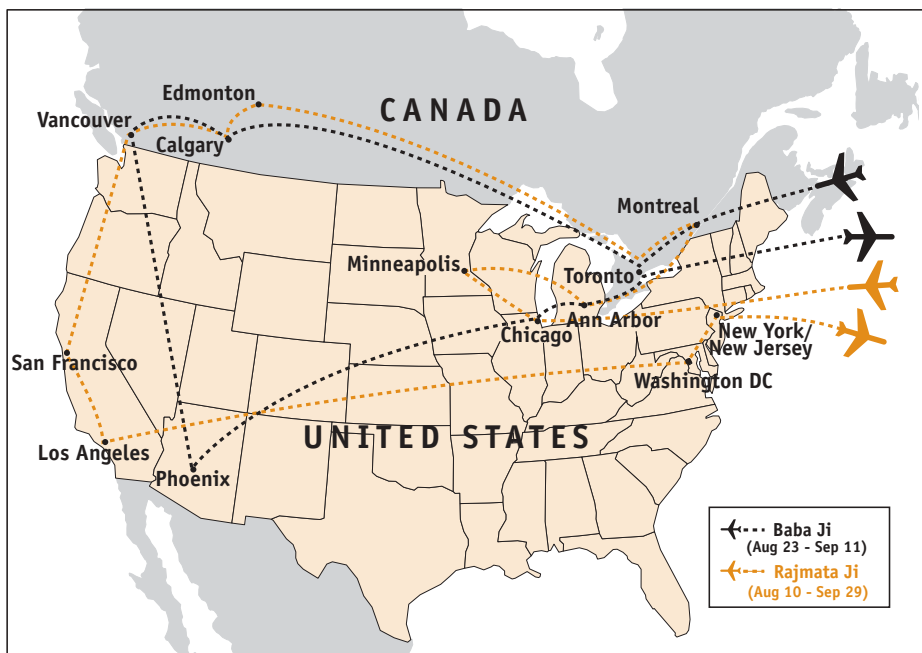
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A quarterly newsletter published
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Baba Ji & Rajmata Ji Visit USA/Canada

Discourse:

Baba Hardev Singh Ji



Montreal, Canada

We heard the words of praise for the Almighty Nirankar. Many speakers focused on the role of the Nirankari Mission in promoting peace, harmony, and human values. We also heard worthy MP, Mr. Kattar. He conveyed his own feelings and the message of worthy Prime Minister. I am also thankful to the Mayor who was represented by the Deputy Mayor. I thank them all for the courtesy and love they

Heard in Satsang...

Two Wolves

Speaker: Arun Ahluwalia

Reporter: Sherry Kumar, NJ

In a well-known tribe of Cherokee Indians, a grandfather and his grandson were having a very spirited conversation. The grandfather told a story. "Each human being," the grandfather began stating, "has two wolves carrying out a constant battle within us. One is a good wolf, the other a bad wolf. The good wolf signifies an individual's good deeds, such as devotion, love, compassion, kind-

ness, faith, etc. The bad wolf, however, symbolizes hatred, faithlessness, greed, lust, anger, attachment, ego, and dishonesty, etc." Shocked and bewildered, the young grandson questioned, "Grandfather, which wolf wins this battle?" With a calm expression upon his wrinkled face, the grandfather replied, "Whichever one you feed." The moral is simple—it's our choice. We become what we choose to be. Our Satguru Baba Ji wants us to be good human beings. We can achieve it by imbibing positive and constructive attributes in our life.

"Love shreds hatred."

showed. They acknowledge the Mission's principles of love, tolerance, universal brotherhood, oneness of God, and oneness of our common human family. The Mission is working day in and day out to establish these feelings, always trying to unite people.

The Nirankari devotees always want the welfare of the mankind. It is often said that a politician thinks
(Continued on page 2)

Discourse: Baba Hardev Singh Ji

(Continued from page 1)

of the next election, a statesman thinks of the next generation, and a saint thinks of Eternity. Similarly, when we think of the welfare of others, we should not limit it to short-term social welfare only. We have to also think of the salvation of our soul. We must be careful about how we live on this earth and what we are giving to others. Let's ask ourselves: what sort of a foundation are we building for the future? What legacy are we going to leave for our children? What are they going to get from us? We have to search our hearts and mind our actions.

The devotees always strive to

“It is often said that a politician thinks of the next election, a statesman thinks of the next generation, and a saint thinks of Eternity.”

improve themselves and set a good example for others. On the other hand, man is going in the opposite direction. He is getting worse. He lives his life enjoying all the materialistic things but without the feelings of kindness, open-heartedness, welfare for others. Thus, he becomes the cause of pain for others.

Human life is always considered superior to other species. However the way man is living today, he is worse than the animals. For example, when a dog wags its tail, it means it is expressing its love and happiness. Although outwardly a man may show his love toward another person, but you never know that he he may be harboring

feelings of ill-will inwardly. Man has become hypocritical, selfish, and egoistic. When he gets rich, he becomes proud of his wealth; he thinks he has so much power. All these materialistic things, however, last only as long as man is alive. What he does not understand is that his life is like a bubble in the water; it is transient. It is an irony that although he knows his life is like a bubble, he does not consider how short-lived it is. Instead, he thinks that a bubble is always formed on the top; so I must keep my ego at the top. A devotee's life is also like a bubble. Knowing that life is short, a devotee tries to lead a good life. Because of his high morals and actions, others respect him and put him at the top.

We must always strive to keep human values and be human in the real sense. The world needs

love and peace, not violence and hatred. Love is like the sun that comes out of the clouds and warms and illuminates our souls and hearts. Love shreds hatred. Those who live with love, live in

“Love is like the sun that comes out of the clouds and warms and illuminates our souls and hearts.”

peace. Such persons are always remembered for their beautiful actions, whether their life is short or long. In the end, I pray that may God bless the entire mankind with wisdom to live with love, in peace, imbued with tolerance, and devoid of hatred and violence.”

Baba Ji Makes An Unscheduled Stop

Some incidents leave an indelible impression on your mind. The memory lingers and you wonder at the mysterious ways of the Almighty. For a true devotee, the 'darshan' of the Satgu-

ru is one such memorable occasion. It is written in scriptures that this takes place only when one is greatly blessed. We are very fortunate that, in Canada and America, Sat-

(Continued on page 4)





EDITORIALS



Word of God: Best Navigation

If we plan on hiking, we need a map and a compass to find our way through forests or mountain trails. Since we do not have limitless time to wander aimlessly, we can use the available resources to find our way to predetermined destinations.

Our task would be so much easier if we had access to the maps used by successful hikers in the past. It would be even better if we had an expert who could help us understand and interpret those maps in the light of today's conditions. Similarly, if we need to achieve the ultimate goal of human life—God-realization—we have some reference tools available to us. The word of God, as found in Holy Scriptures, provides the directions and cautions needed to bring happiness in this life and to achieve God-realization. Satguru is the expert who can help us understand the inscrutable scriptures. He is kind and interested in showing the Way to anyone lost on the path.

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

(John 5:39)

*Uth Farida Sutya Dunya Bhalan Ja...
Phol layo ithas purane ho gaye walian peeran
de
Rukh badle ne satgur ne hee uhanah dian
taqdeeran de*

The holy books are filled with peace and joy otherwise unattainable. Allowing God to guide our lives through his messenger, the Satguru, ensures an understanding of the path, the achievement of our goal, and our return to a blissful life.

“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give your rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly of heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

(Matthew 11:28-30)

—Dr Iqbaljit S. Rai

Mission Accomplished

The November issue of the journal is published—on time. In the July issue, we had requested that the materials for the November issue be submitted by October 10. By that date, however, we had received materials for only 4 pages. It was too little and it was getting late. There was not much publishable content—not enough to bring out a publication. There were suggestions to publish a few weeks late. I was, however, somewhat stubborn—determined to publish on or before the due date. “Let’s not even think of an extension please,” I said and prayed to the Satguru for help. After all, it was Satguru Baba Ji himself who had directed us to bring out the Journal on time.

We sent a reminder email on October 2, requesting all the branches to expedite the reports. What happened within the next few days was amazing—my phone started ringing non-stop. Parmukhs and Mukhis from the Mission’s branches in USA and Canada started calling and assuring that the materials would follow soon. FedEx and UPS packages, emails, and faxes started pouring in. Within 15 days, Dr Rai and I had more materials than we could accommodate in this 12-page issue. It was a famine-to-flood situation.

All of you, Parmukhs and Mukhis, came forth. Your cooperation is amazing; your dedication to the cause of the Mission is commendable and inspiring.

A famous disclaimer in financial investment advertising is: “Past performance is NOT a guarantee of future results.” Based on this performance, however, I can say with confidence: With your continued cooperation, we CAN do it again. The next issue will be published January 31, 2003. The deadline for the submission of materials is January 10. Please mark your calendars. Thank you all.

—Ashwani Madhok
Associate Editor

Spiritual Fuel

—Daniel J. Slebodnik, Washington, DC

Every vehicle needs fuel. The choice of fuel depends on the type of vehicle. Gasoline, kerosene, diesel may be suitable for physical vehicles, but not for spiritual ones. If we wish to be transported beyond the physical plane, we need metaphysical fuel (meta, a Greek word means 'beyond'). Otherwise we may find ourselves left behind. What exactly are the metaphysical fuel and the spiritual vehicle that can help us in our journey from here to hereafter? What fuel can propel us in the service of mankind?

No doubt, the three most important things in a Nirankari saint's life are simran, sangat, and seva. These three are central to the philosophy of the Nirankari Mission. We hear of these three so many times that we begin to tune these out. We must never let simran, sangat and seva become commonplace in our heart, mind and soul, because sangat and sewa form the spiritual vehicle operated by the metaphysical fuel of simran

The strength of this fuel (sim-

ran) can be referenced in The Holy Bible as the three qualities of — Faith, Hope, and Love. These three enduring qualities work together to develop our spiritual well-being once we receive the enlightenment from Baba Ji.

We may develop 'faith' on our own, but it would become a source of pride. When it is received through the grace of the Lord Master it inculcates humility. True Faith comes from receiving the word of God from the Lord Master. Once we realize Him, we can have 'faith' in God. "For it is not until you know God, that you can have faith in Him."

When our faith grows in God, we get hope. Hope is what gets us through each day. "For without hope people perish", the Bible tells us. If someone is in a desperate situation, without any hope of success at all, he will not succeed. Hope is a byproduct of faith. It enables us to get through any situation.

We receive a greater perspective of God's ultimate gift to us — eternal salvation—through the development of 'faith' and 'hope'. Gaining perspective of eternal salvation

is like viewing the earth from outer space and understanding the relationships of all living creatures, the ecosystems, and the planet. We can identify ourselves with the Oneness and universality only with this wide-angle viewpoint. If we stand on the ground, we only see what is in front of us — our needs.

The next step — 'love'—is a bold step. Love is the result of active and enthusiastic faith and hope. Love and forgiveness are like a coin toss. The law of probability states that with numerous coin tosses, there will be a 50% heads and 50% tails outcome. So too, love and forgiveness are each side of a spiritual coin, and the outcome will always be fifty-fifty. In your lifetime, expect to be forgiving just as much as you love.

The three enduring qualities of faith, hope and love enable us to do the best simran, which fuels our sangat and seva. They are intertwined, interdependent, and integral to our being and becoming better human beings. Watch out! Do not let your fuel run out.

Baba Ji Makes An Unscheduled Stop

(Continued from page 2)

guru blesses us with 'darshan', upclose and personal once a year or once in two years. We get to bow and touch His lotus feet and even spend some personal moments with him.

This year Baba Ji's tour itinerary was rather short; it included only a few short stops in North America. Vancouver (where I live) not on the tour map. The Samagam was for Western Canada was held in Calgary, but I could not get there

because I was recovering from surgery. I did receive Baba Ji's blessings on the telephone yet I longed in my heart for His darshan. Later, when the tour had started, to my pleasant surprise, I learnt that Satguru Baba Ji would travel to Vancouver to make an unscheduled stop at the airport. My heart was filled with great joy and I could not believe my ears. My heart echoed these thoughts: My Lord, you are so merciful, kind, and caring. I am thankful to you.

The other devotees from Vancouver who could not travel to Calgary assembled at the airport and everyone was happy and filled with great excitement. We greeted the Satguru with moist eyes and joyous hearts. The merciful Master showered his Divine smile and blessings on everyone. We have all read in the sacred books that Satguru appears for His devotees, but to actually see this happen was one of the greatest treasures of my life.

—Daljit Sidhu

Baba Ji & Pujya Mata Ji Visit USA/Canada

Montreal, Canada

August 23, 2002: Arrival at Montreal's Dorval Airport

After a much-anticipated wait of approximately 2 years, Satguru Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj landed in North America from the U.K. along with Pujya Mata Ji, Rev. Sharma Ji, Rev. Jagat Ji, and Rev. Upashak Ji. The Holy Mother, Rajmata Ji arrived from Detroit, USA and was received along with Rev. Sukhdev Ji & Rev. Sister Niranjana Kaur Ji of Amritsar, and Rev. Sukhdial Ji of Ann Arbor, USA.

On behalf of the sadh sangat of Montreal, Rev. Mudhar Ji, Rev. Bassan Ji, Rev. Arneja Ji, and Rev. Gautama Ji were present at Dorval Airport, along with Rev. Mr. & Mrs. Shah Ji and Rev. Mr. & Mrs. Nayyar Ji of Toronto to receive the Holy Trinity and their entourage.

Following the presentation of flowers, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.), escorted the Holy Trinity to the Montreal satsang bhawan for a brief reception. More than 300 devotees waited there to receive blessings from the Satguru.

Reception at Montreal Bhawan

The reception consisted of the local Montreal sadh sangat and several saints from Ottawa and other neigh-



boring areas. Addressing the congregation, Rajmata Ji said that she saw Baba Ji after 1 month, and the Montreal sadh sangat after almost 2 years. The Holy Mother said the Satguru has shown us the light, and once we imbibe the Truth and live by the Truth, we become true devotees.

Prior to Babaji's departure for His night stay, the male youth of the Montreal sadh sangat performed a bhangra act.

August 24, 2002

Babaji made a special visit to Rev. Bittoo Ghambir Ji at the Montreal General Hospital to bless him with a speedy recovery from a serious illness. His Holiness spent the rest of the day meeting and blessing local families of Montreal, Ottawa,



Brockville, and surrounding areas. Many saints from other parts of Canada and USA (Toronto, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts) also arrived at the bhawan to have a glimpse of the Satguru. Rev. Jagat Ji, Major J. D. Sharma and many other devotees sang devotional songs. The Montreal youth staged a skit with a moral message. The women of the Montreal sadh sangat also presented a giddha dance.

August 25, 2002: Sant Samagam

Many saints and devotees from 15 different North American cities attended this samagam. The

keynote speakers were: Rev. Sharma Ji, Rev. Sukhdial Ji, Rev. Sukhdev Ji, Rev. Bassan Ji, Rev. Shah Ji of Toronto, Rev. Arun Ahluwalia of New York, and Rev. Tyagi Ji of Boston. Rev. Kamla Ji of England and Rev. Arneja Ji recited poems. Rev. Jagat Ji, Holy Sisters Jagjit and Niranjana Ji sang devotional songs. Rev. Mudhar Ji thanked all the participating saints and the Satguru for their gracious visit.

Honorable Prime Minister and the Mayor's Messages

A special message was read and presented to Satguru Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj, on behalf of the Honorable Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Jean Chretien. A similar greeting was sent by the Honorable Mayor of Montreal, Mr. Gerald Tremblay, and was presented to Baba Ji by the Deputy Mayor. Also, the president of the "Share The Warmth Foundation" conveyed a letter of gratitude and appreciation to His Holiness, for the Sant Nirankari Mission Montreal's active and continuous participation, support and contribution of food, clothing and toys to their organization, for further distribution to less fortunate people.

See Baba Hardev Singh Ji's discourse on page 1.





Toronto

From Montreal, His Holiness was supposed to leave for Toronto by air. But at the request of devotees from Brookville, he readily decided to travel by road, covering a distance of about 400 miles. By the time His



Holiness along with his entourage reached the Toronto Bhawan, it was past midnight. Despite that, a large number of devotees waited there to welcome the Satguru.

On August 27, Satguru Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj along with Pujya Mata Ji, Rev. Rajmata Ji and the rest of the saints arrived at Barrie, Canada. On August 28, a massive congregation was held in Toronto.

Calgary, Canada

August 31, 2002

On August 31, a samagam of the Western Canada was celebrated in Calgary in the presence of Satguru Baba Hardev Singh Ji and Pujya Mata Ji. Addressing the devotees, Baba Ji stated that he was very happy to see saints come from different parts of Western Canada. He also thanked

Mr. O'brai, the Member of Parliament of Canada, who spoke for the goodwill of the people. Baba Ji appreciated the participation of the youth and called upon them to take more interest in the Mission's activities and in spreading the message of peace in this troubled world.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Baba Ji Changes His Tour Itinerary to Visit Vancouver

"My personal experience of Baba Ji's visit."

Excitement and anticipation mounted as we all waited for Baba Hardev Singh Ji and Pujya Mata Ji to arrive. As Baba Ji arrived at the airport, not only Nirankari devotees but also many non-Nirankari Canadians stood up and bowed. When asked if they knew who Baba Ji was, they said that there was just something holy, a special aura around Him that compelled them to bow in respect. The devotees felt a special gratitude because Baba Ji changed his tour itinerary to visit Vancouver. This gesture had a pro-

found impact on the youth.

Each one of the youth had a special, personal experience that reinforced their faith and love for the Almighty Nirankar. There was a message that stuck with each individual according to his or her phase of development and understanding. Baba Ji reiterated how we should all imbibe good feelings for all mankind. A little screw may seem unnecessary for making a watch run, but once it is removed the watch stops. Such is the importance of each and everyone—in satsang and outside. In His eyes we are all special as Baba Ji himself expressed. A devotee asked him, "Baba Ji, when we pray, we focus on Nirankar or on you. Whom do you concentrate on?" Baba Ji said, "On millions of devotees around the world." Baba Ji stressed that it is an irony that the nations have guided missiles but misguided men.

We all have a Divine calling—to love, to be kind, and to be tolerant. The mankind needs our unconditional love and selfless service. The march toward universal brotherhood requires that we receive God-realization from the Holy Master and practice these virtues in our daily doings and dealings.

Baba Ji stayed up late each night to listen to the words of each and every devotee. His mere presence left an unparalleled smile of comfort upon all. Everyone was humbled by Baba Ji's unplanned visit to Vancouver.

(Summarized by a youth of Sunday topic in Vancouver Satsang)



Rajmata Ji also visited Vancouver.

Phoenix, Arizona

Reception

Baba Ji and Pujay Mata Ji arrived at the hotel in Phoenix,



Arizona. The Tracy Bhawan Band was in attendance, playing welcome tunes. As the band led the way for Baba Ji from his hotel room to the lobby, Baba Ji followed along with the Sewadal members and the organizer saints. Rev. Jagat Ji and Rev. J.D. Sharma also accompanied them on this Salvation Tour.

As Baba Ji sat on stage, there was singing of devotional songs led by Rev. Jagat Ji, as well as other devotees taking part in the Satsang. After a few songs, Baba Ji showered his blessings on everyone with a brief discourse. After the Satsang, everyone in the Satsang received a chance to meet with Baba Ji personally. While Baba Ji was blessing the saints personally, others saints sang devotional songs.

Samagam

All the Sewadal members, saints and guests gathered at a nearby hall where the official Satsang was to be held. Upon Baba Ji's arrival, the Sewadal band once again greeted him. During the satsang, there were speeches and songs in many different languages including Hindi, Gujrati, Sindhi, Punjabi, and English. Rev. Nand Lal Tehliani, local

Parmukh, thanked everyone for taking time to attend the Samagam. Rev. Tehliani and other saints in the area worked real hard to make this Samagam a success, and all the

hard work showed as everyone appreciated the arrangements.

—Aradhana Sooch

Chicago

September 5-9, 2002

Hundreds of Nirankari devotees welcomed His Holiness Baba Hardev Singh Ji at Chicago O'Hare International Airport. The devotees were excited and inspired by the first glimpse of their beloved Satguru Baba Ji and Pujya Mata Ji. The President of Sant Nirankari Mission, USA, Rev. J. S. Puri, and other organizers garlanded the Satguru. They presented bouquets to Pujya Mata Ji and the accompanying saints Rev. Jagat Ji and Major J. D. Sharma.



Welcome congregation

The devotees gave a traditional welcome to the Satguru by throwing flower petals, raising slogans, and singing devotional songs in the praise of the Lord Master. Young children from Chicago sangat rendered a song in the praise of the Satguru. Chicago sangat girls performed Giddha (a traditional Punjab-style group dance performed on happy occasions). All the attendees appreciated the enthusiastic performances. Rev. Jagat Ji and Major J. D. Sharma also sang devotional hymns that lifted the spirits of the attendees.

September 6: Blessing the Saints of Chicago

Baba Ji blessed the local devotees at the bhawan. Every individual family got a chance to meet the Holy couple and express their feelings of joy and gratitude in person. Rev. Sheetal Ji, Rev. Jagat Ji, Maj. J. D. Sharma Ji and other saints sang hymns that created a sense of devotion, enthusiasm and excitement. The atmosphere was charged; everyone could feel the magnetic spiritual field in the presence of the Satguru.

September 7: Blessing the Saints From Outside Chicago

The evening was reserved for saints outside of Chicago to get blessings from the holy couple. Saints from many cities and states (Atlanta, Houston, Washington

DC, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Ann Arbor, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Ohio, Massachusetts, Denver, Toronto, Florida, Indiana, Milwaukee, Minneapolis and several other states in USA) got together in a hall where each family spent a few minutes with the holy couple.

Highlights and Excerpts From the Samagam

The congregation hall was packed to capacity; more than 900 saints attended. The hall was beautifully decorated with flower arrangement and banners depicting the philosophy of Nirankari Mission: "Religion Unites Never Divides" and "Blessed are the Peacemakers".

A large number of invited guests also participated. The Mayor of the City of Naperville, George Pradel welcomed and thanked the Holy couple and the Nirankari saints for hosting the Nirankari Samagam in the city of Naperville. He also welcomed the holy couple and the visiting saints and praised the humanitarian services by the members of the Mission. The mayor also praised the participation of young Sewadal saints.

The Vice Counsel General of Indian Embassy in Chicago, Mr. Naresh Chopra welcomed the holy couple and the Nirankari saints. He recognized the contributions of the Sant Nirankari Mission in India as well as abroad.

Major Adam Graham of Salvation Army was introduced to the holy couple. Major Graham thanked the Nirankari saints for their generous donations of clothes, food, toys, and other household items.

Ms. Regina Clark praised the work of the Mission in establishing

peace, harmony and universal brotherhood in the entire humanity.

Sister Kim from Atlanta recited the couplet from Avtar Bani – "Roop rang te rekho Nyare" which was an inspiring feat on the part of



this local American saint reciting a Punjabi hymn.

Rev Jagat Ji, along with Sheetal Ji of Chicago and Devender Ji of Toronto, sang a devotional song.

Rev. J. D. Sharma spoke on universalism and how the derailed human being is haunted by the demon and is following the path of violence and revenge, harming his fellow human beings in the pretext of religious beliefs, cast, creed, color, and racial discrimination.

Rev. J. S. Puri thanked Baba Ji for visiting America. He also called upon the people of the world to come nearer to the Lord Master and receive enlightenment. He also mentioned that Baba Ji does not call foreign countries "foreign" but "distant places" because in our mission no one is a foreigner.

Dr. Kalra, pramukh of SNM Chicago, thanked the Mayor of Naperville, the Vice Consul, the representatives from the Salvation Army, and all the Nirankari devotees for participating in the convention. He thanked Baba Ji for selecting Chicago as a venue for this grand convention. He appreciated and acknowledged the role of the Nirankari sewadal volunteers who made this grand convention a

success through their selfless service.

Departure

On September 9, Baba Ji and His entourage left for Ann Arbor, Michigan.

— Major J. D. Sharma, Delhi and Sharmishtha Dureja, Chicago

Ann Arbor, Michigan

September 9-11, 2002

Baba Ji arrived in Ann Arbor after blessing the samagam in Chicago. A congregation was held on September 11. The



bhawan was packed to capacity. On this day everybody was praying for the victims and families of the Sept. 11 tragedy. In his discourse Baba Ji prayed for peace in the world.



Baba Ji was given a special message from the Mayor welcoming him to the city. ■

Rajmata Ji Visits USA/Canada

Washington, DC

September 21-24, 2002

Beautiful holiday lights illuminated the night as the saints lined each side of the long drive-



way holding candles. In this Diwali atmosphere, the candles lit up the saints' smiling faces with a warm glow. Once Rajmata Ji arrived, the saints became elated. Later, in the satsang, many devotional songs enhanced the saints' heartfelt joy. In her discourse, Rajmata Ji gave many blessings to the youth. She inspired the youth to continue to participate in the Mission's activities, attend Satsang regularly, promote the teachings of Baba Ji, and be blessed.

A youth picnic was organized on September 23. It was a blessed event as the youth participated in outdoor games as well as a spiritual battle of wits. Four questions developed from the Avtar Bani were presented to the youth. Many saints presented their thoughts. Reverend Upashak Ji gave the final thought.

On the final day of her visit, Rajmata Ji again focused on the youth of the Mission. She noted that the current generation of young people has lost respect for elder people. However, the Mission has helped keep the

youth respectful. Rajmata Ji mentioned that the young people nowadays are not willing to follow the tradition of touching the feet of their parents. The Nirankari youth, however, are enlightened by the Satguru's

teachings and take pride in upholding their values and the tradition of touching the feet of their parents and elders. —Daniel J. Slebodnik

New York Metropolitan Area

September 25-29, 2002

Holy mother, Nirankari Rajmata Ji, along with Rev. Sukhdev Ji, Rev. Niranjan behan Ji, and Rev. Upashak Ji arrived in New Jersey on Wednesday, September 25. A Welcome congregation was held at the bhawan. More than 350 devotees

availed of this opportunity to receive the holy mother's blessings in the welcome congregation.

A group of youngsters presented a skit called "Maya". A group of sisters performed a welcome dance, "Jago." The holy mother and Rev. Upashak Ji appreciated both the performances.

Rajmata Ji and her entourage visited the blood donation camp held at the bhawan. (See News). They also visited the Ground Zero—the site of the September 11 tragedy in New York.

A samagam was held on Sunday, September 29 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The bhawan was filled with more than 650 devotees. In her address, Rajmata Ji said:

"The Sant Nirankari Mission is a way of life. After attaining God-realization from the Satguru, we have learnt what it means to be truly religious. It has not only given us spiritual bliss but also an improved quality of life. The Satguru has inspired us to lead a virtuous life. The credit for this improvement goes to Satsang, Sewa, and Simran. These three help shape our character just like a mould shapes something in a production process. Those who pass through the mould of Satsang, Sewa, and Simran, become fine human beings.

"Baba Ji says we need to be human, and act with a sense of responsibility.



News

BLOOD DONATION CAMP Toronto

The Toronto branch organized its sixth Blood Donation Camp on October 12, 2002. It coincided with the Thanksgiving Weekend in Canada. The weather was perfect. There was a great



enthusiasm among the devotees to donate blood. Although the Blood Donation clinic was scheduled from 12 noon to 4 pm, the Sewa Dal volunteers set up the clinic 2 hours earlier. According to Ms. Mary, the official incharge of blood donation services, such camps are being set up everyday, but only 3% of the people donate blood. She said the Nirankari missionaries are among those select few who are ever eager to help us. She said, there is a need for about 6000 blood units for different kinds of surgeries everyday. One person's blood could be given to as many as 4 different needy people. On this Thanksgiving Day she specially thanked the Mission and the missionaries for their contribution. More than 79 people had registered for donating blood, but because of very stringent qualifications criteria only 59 could finally qualify for blood donation. The enthusiasm of

the donors and the potential donors was exemplary. There was a very good arrangement of snacks and beverages for the donors. The incharge of blood service specially thanked each and every donor and the organizers for their interest in this kind of community service.

—Bachitter Singh, Toronto

TORONTO: BREAST CANCER MARATHON

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) organizes a Breast Cancer Aware-

disease, prevention, and treatment. In addition to many educational symposia, fund-raising drives and marathons were also held in several locations. Various social, religious, and financial institutions contributed toward this noble cause.

The Sant Nirankari Mission, Toronto supported the CIBC, Brampton branch in its fundraising and the marathon. One hundred and thirty-one (131) Nirankari devotees participated in the marathon. The missionaries wore special T-Shirts with an imprint of



ness campaign every year. As a part of this nationwide campaign, on October 6, 2002 many events were held to create awareness about the



the Mission's logo and the message: "Religion Unites, Never Divides." It also helped create awareness about the Mission. Rev. Sukhbir Shah Ji flagged off the march from the Toronto Bhawan. The Nirankari kids and youth showed commendable enthusiasm in this noble endeavor. The officials of the CIBC bank thanked the Sant Nirankari Mission and the missionaries for their generous contribution and active participation.

Report: Bachitter Singh, Toronto
English Translation: Rajinder Singh 'Mintu', New York

CALIFORNIA SEWADAL TRAINING CAMP

*Tan, man, dhan tinna to uchi oh
sewa kehelandi ey*

*Jo hove nishkam nirichhat te satgur
noon bhandi ey*

To fulfill the above and many other noble objectives, the first Northern and Southern California Sewadal Camp was held at the Tracy Satsang Bhawan on July 13-14, 2002.

July 13, 2002

The members of Northern California also invited the Sewadal members and guests from Los Angeles (Southern California). The camp was a great success and was a milestone in the history of the Mission in California. In this 2-day camp, the activities, which form the core of the Nirankari Sewadal, were discussed. The camp started on Saturday, July 13. All Sewadal members arrived at the Tracy Bhawan in their full uniforms. Rev. Ajit S. Sooch started the meeting by welcoming Rev. T. S. Nagpal, Rev. Lachaman Singh and all other Sewadal members from Los Angeles and Northern California. There were many instructional and inspirational speeches on the following topics:

- History of the Nirankari Sewadal
- Duties of the Sewadal Members
- Do's and Dont's for the Sewadal Members

The meeting concluded with an address by Dr. I.S. Rai (Parmukh). Rev. Tajinder S. Nagpal and Rev. H.S. Dhillon conducted a training session. Later, the volunteers participated in a games session. The devotees from both Northern and Southern California also played a volleyball match. The games helped inculcate the spirit of unity and teamwork. At the end of day, community meal was served.

July 14, 2002

The day started with a rehearsal of the Sewadal exercises for about 1 hour. The Sewadal rally started with a Guard of Honor by the Sewadal. Rev. Dr. Iqbaljit Rai was the chief guest. He inspected the sewadal rally, watched the prayer, marching geet, and the sewadal game. He also blessed the members and appreciated their work for the Mission and hoped that more of such rallies and gatherings would be conducted in the future. He said that such events help us learn more about the working of the Mission and the Sewadal. After the Sewadal camp, a Satsang was held. In the end, the Sewadal members were honored with certificates and SNM T-shirts that were especially prepared for this occasion.

New York Metropolitan Area

Second Blood Donation Camp

A blood donation camp was held at the bhawan on Saturday, September 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fifty-five devotees donated blood. More than 20 others were lined up to donate but the camp officials decided to close at 2 o'clock. Nirankari Rajmata Ji,



Rev. Sukhdev Ji, Rev. Niranjan behan Ji, and Rev. Upashak Ji visited the camp and blessed the donor devotees.



Holy Sister Niranjan Ji participating in "Jago" — a joyous dance performed at the New Jersey Bhawan in the presence of Rajmata Ji.



Will You Be Able To Answer?

Baba Ji won't ask how many square feet your house is, but
He'll ask how many mahapurshas (saints) you welcomed into your home.

Baba Ji won't ask how many sangats you went to, but
He'll ask how you used the teachings from sangat in your life.

Baba Ji won't ask about the clothes you have in your closet, but
He'll ask, "Does it include Sewa Dal's uniform?"

Baba Ji won't ask what your highest salary is, but
He'll ask how much of it you donated to help the less fortunate.

Baba Ji won't ask what neighborhood you live in, but
He'll ask, "Have any neighbors become so impressed with your good deeds
that they became interested in learning what the Mission preaches?"

Baba Ji won't ask what kind of cars you drive, but
He'll ask how many people you drove to sangat.

Baba Ji won't ask what your job title is, but
He'll ask, "Do you still have humility?"

Baba Ji won't ask if you know the 5 best stocks in New York Stock
Exchange, but
He'll ask if you know the 5 principles of the Sant Nirankari Mission.

Baba Ji won't ask how many Rolex watches you have, but
He'll ask if you had TIME to attend samagams.

Baba Ji won't ask you what philosophies you have studied, but
He'll ask you a simple question, "Do you know what Dhan Nirankar
means?"

—Viraj Tyagi, Boston

—Pankaj Chugh, New Jersey

Just Realized

I had been attending the satsang for a long time. Recently, however, I was blessed with the gyan (God-realization). Having found the 'Truth' through the 'Satguru', the following poems flowed spontaneously from my heart.

Truth

Without Truth, no freedom exists
Non-Truth is the chain that binds
us
Truth is the axe that frees us
Truth lets us move forward
Non-Truth leaves us in darkness
Truth frees us from worries
Non-Truth burdens us with wor-
ries
Truth lets us love
In non-Truth, love is not possible
Thus only one choice exists
Choose the Truth!
Live in the Truth!
And the Truth will live in you!

Satguru

His mercy is indescribable
His love is immeasurable
His smile can melt any stone
heart
His touch makes all worries disap-
pear
His voice calms the troubled heart
His presence changes the world

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**Note to contributors: Please submit your writings electronically, via e-mail to
amadhok@medispin.com. Submission deadline is January 10, 2003**