



Parmarth Niketan

Quarterly Newsletter

August, 2011



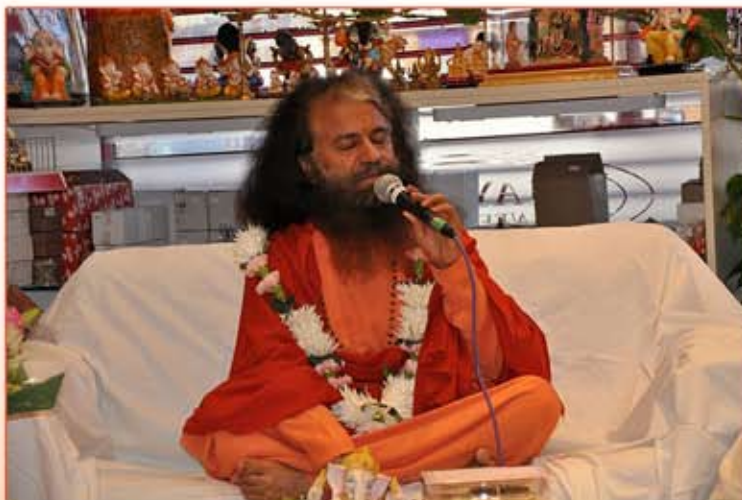
Featuring

Pujya Swamiji's Yatra Abroad, including Pujya Swamiji's Birthday Celebrations and Guru Purnima





Pujya Swamiji arriving at the shop



Pujya Swamiji reciting mantras in the shop

Pujya Swamiji was in London for a few days between India and USA. A large function was organized at the Swaminarayan Mandir in Stanmore on His birthday; it was the first time that He had graced the London community on that sacred and divine anniversary of the day He took birth!

On the way to the Stanmore Mandir, Pujya Swamiji blessed Shay Naiy, the sweet shop which serves as the location for Swaminarayan Gurukul UK - London (SSGP - UK). Each week dozens of young devotees gather together there and learn prayers, mantras and ancient philosophy and history. The shop-owner and Gurukul leader Ravji Hirani had been in Rishikesh at the last Swaminarayan Shibir and had been requesting Pujya Swamiji to grace their shop and group of students with His presence.

To see the full photo album of pictures, [click here](#).



Pujya Swamiji performing aarti



The function on June 3rd at the Swaminarayan Mandir was a huge and divine success. The local M.P. said that he had attended several events there since its opening and he had never seen the hall so packed! Over 1000 people gathered together to offer their love and devotion to Pujya Swamiji and to hear His divine words of wisdom and inspiration.

The event was attended also by dignitaries of the British Parliament, including Lord Dolar Popat, Bob Blackman, M.P. and Virendra Sharma, M.P. [Click here to see/hear the discourses.](#)

Prior to the discourses, there were bhajans and classical Indian dance by Shivali Bhammer, Vedic mantras chanted by Risha Dholakia and Yash Mehta, and a beautiful poem read out loud by Tejal Thakrar.



Pujya Swamiji lights His birthday lamp with the children



A large crowd gathered to share Pujya Swamiji's birthday



Pujya Swamiji with Pujya Rambapaji, who came to give his love and respect for Pujya Swamiji



Shivali Bhammer sings bhajans and dances to bhajans from her album *The Bhajan Project* (Sony)



Pujya Swamiji with Lord Dolar Popat and Bob Blackman, M.P. before the program





On May 24th, Member of Parliament Bob Blackman had made an Early Day Motion in the British Parliament lauding Pujya Swamiji. The EDM had been read aloud in Parliament, saying:

“That this House warmly congratulates H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji on the occasion of his birthday; recognises that his life and work have been an inspiration and an example to millions throughout the world and the work of the India Heritage Research Foundation with the compilation and publication of the world’s first comprehensive Encyclopedia of Hinduism; and welcomes the event in Stanmore Temple in London on 3 June 2011 to celebrate the occasion.”

MP Bob Blackman came to personally present the Early Day Motion to Pujya Swamiji at His birthday event in London on 3 June.



MP Bob Blackman greets Pujya Swamiji at the event

25/05/2011

Early day motion 1852 - UK Parliament



www.parliament.uk

Early day motion 1852

WORK OF H.H. PUJYA SWAMI CHIDANAND SARASWATIJI

Session: 2010-11

Date tabled: 24.05.2011

Primary sponsor: Blackman, Bob

Sponsors:

Blackman, Bob

That this House warmly congratulates H.H. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji on the occasion of his 60th birthday; recognises that his life and work have been an inspiration and example to millions throughout the world and the work of the India Heritage Research Foundation with the compilation and publication of the world's first comprehensive Encyclopedia of Hinduism; and welcomes the event in Stanmore Temple in London on 3 June 2011 to celebrate the occasion.

parliament.uk/edm/print/2010-11/1852

1/1

Copy of the EDM read in British Parliament in praise of Pujya Swamiji





Puja Swamiji performing the purnahuti of the yagna

From London Puja Swamiji flew to Louisville, Kentucky where He graced the occasion of the Maha Kumbhaabhishekam at the Hindu Temple of Kentucky with His presence. The mayor of Louisville and the CFO were also present as well as a huge crowd of devotees. The event was sponsored by Dr. Rajan and Jayshree Amin.

Puja Swamiji spoke about the meaning and significance of the Maha Kumbhaabhishekam and the role of temples and spirituality in our lives.

[Click here to see the full photo album from this event.](#)





Sadhvi Bhagawati speaks at the function;
to her right is the Mayor of Louisville



Pujya Swamiji lighting the lamp





On 13th June, Pujya Swamiji spoke at the Cartersville Shri Rama Mandir, near Atlanta. The program was organized at the last minute, but still generated a very large gathering. Pujya Swamiji spoke about Bhagawan Shri Rama and bringing His message into our lives.

[Click here to see the full album from this event.](#)

[Click here to see videos from this event.](#)





Upon hearing about the project to save Ganga, little Simran was so excited that she showed Pujya Swamiji her piggy bank, saying she would save up money in there!



Pujya Swamiji is able to make divine music anywhere!



From Atlanta Pujya Swamiji traveled to Columbia, South Carolina where He met with the President of the University of South Carolina, the Dean of the Medical school and other renowned deans and professors. At a beautiful dinner hosted by Dr. Meera Narsimhan, they discussed numerous projects including bringing better rural medical care to India and also the monumental project of the *Encyclopedia of Hinduism* which had been supported by USC for many years. There was also a beautiful spiritual discussion, satsang and a question-answer session.



Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Bhaishri walking with devotees as they carry the katha books

After Columbia Pujya Swamiji traveled to Greenville, South Carolina for the inauguration of the Bhagawat Katha by Pujya Bhaishri. The Katha was organized and hosted by the Rama family on behalf of the Vedic Center which they have created.



Pujya Swamiji, Sadhvi Bhagawati, the Mayor of Greenville and JP Rama light the inaugural lamp of the katha





On the 25th June Pujya Swamiji was a special guest at the 18th Anniversary of the Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago. Pujya Acharya Lokesh Muniji, one of the main spiritual heads of the Society, had taken Pujya Swamiji's promise nearly a year in advance that He would grace the event with His presence. The anniversary function featured beautiful song/dance and cultural performances by the youth and a panel on "Peace Through Non-Violence." Pujya Swamiji, Pujya Lokesh Muniji, Sadhvi Bhagawati, Michael Ribet (on behalf of Sant Rajinder Singhji, Shri Hiteshbhai Vidhikar and Dr. Hukumchand Bharill gave talks on internal and external peace through non-violence and the crucial role each of these plays in the present and the future.

[Click here to see the full album from this event.](#)

[Click here to see videos from the event.](#)





From left to right: Hiteshbhai Vidhikar, Michael Ribet, Pujya Swamiji, Acharya Lokesh Muniji, Sadhvi Bhagawati and Dr. Hukumchand Bharill on stage



All of the speakers gathered with the Society's leaders



The audience at the event numbered well over 1000 devotees



While Pujya Swamiji was in Chicago, He also went to Wisconsin at the request of Robert and Judith Wright to bless the retreat of the Wright Leadership Institute. Bob and Judith are doing great, leading work in the field of transformational leadership and Pujya Swamiji was very impressed to hear about it when they visited India. They and their group had been so touched by His words



and presence during their trip to Rishikesh that they requested Him to please bless them with His presence on His next trip to Chicago. Pujya Swamiji also brought Pujya Lokesh Muniji to the program so they were blessed also by his presence and words. Pujya Swamiji gave a talk on how to be super all the time!

[Click here to watch video from this event.](#)





Pujya Swamiji, Pujya Bhaishri and the priests of the Hari Mandir lighting the lamp

On the 28th June, Pujya Swamiji and Pujya Bhaishri graced the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Hari Mandir with their presence. Pujya Swamiji had been instrumental in establishing the temple, in planning for it, in bringing the deities from India and in inspiring the community. After He had built the Hindu-Jain temple in Pittsburgh, the Harrisburg community requested Him to help them as well. So, as it was through His leadership and inspiration that the temple was created, it was fitting that He blessed them on the anniversary.





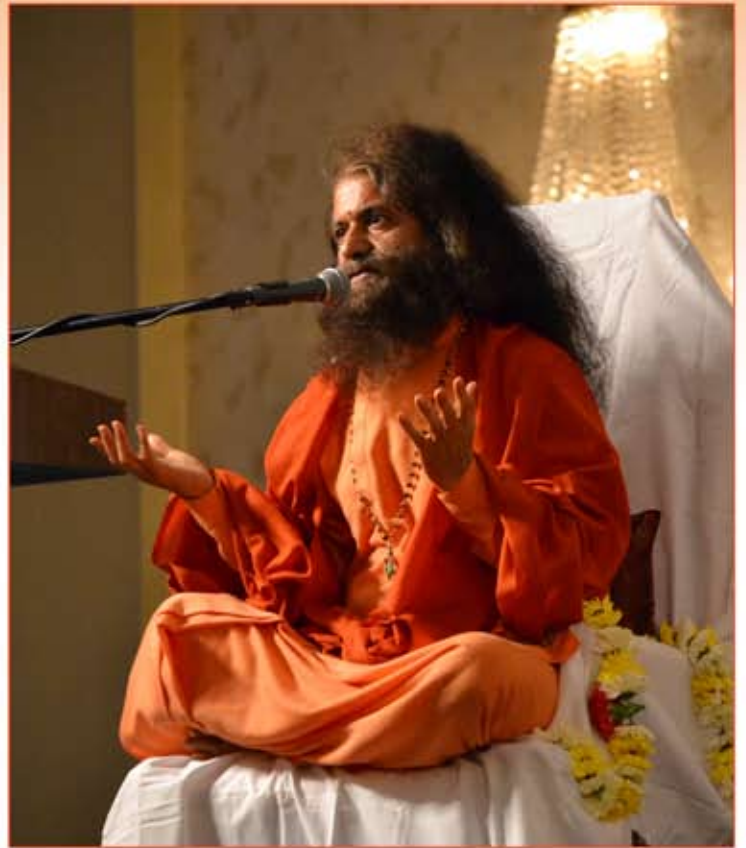
The Harrisburg community and Hari Mandir have also come forward as the first community to sponsor a full village in the Ganga Action project (*see www.gangaaction.com for details*).

Also, while there, the temple celebrated Pujya Swamiji's birthday - the beginning of His 60th year - in a beautiful way with sixty divinely burning dias. *[Click here to see the videos of the event.](#)*





On the 1st July Pujya Swamiji traveled to New Jersey for a day to inaugurate Pujya Bhaishri's Balkrishna Lila Katha organized by the Sanatan Mandir in Parsippany, New Jersey. Pujya Swamiji gave a beautiful talk on the divine Lila of Krishna and how not only His message can guide us, but also His life. Lord Krishna Himself was born in a jail, numerous attempts were made to kill Him in His youth, He had to leave the Divine land of Gokul and Vrindavan. He faced so many trials and tribulations, but throughout it all the song of His flute was on. Throughout it all He never lost His divine smile or His divine song. The story is not just a story, not just something to entertain us. Rather there are deep messages and teachings in every aspect of His life. He reminds us, continuously, that the world will go up and down. There will be failure and success. There will be people who love you and people who try to harm you. There will be moments of great glory and moments alone in the jungle. However, throughout it all we should never lose our divine connection or the song in our lives.





On the 4th of July, Puja Swamiji traveled to Cincinnati where a satsang program was held at the Hindu temple of Cincinnati.

Also while at the temple, Puja Swamiji inaugurated the new Library of Hinduism which has been built by Dr. Rama Rao Pappu in memory of his beloved wife, Smt. Suryakantham Pappu.





On the 8th July Pujya Swamiji traveled to San Diego where He gave a discourse at the fully-packed Ginseng Yoga studio. The program was hosted and organized by Bhava and Sundari Ram, and was so well attended that they actually had to have an overflow room with a projector showing the program being videoed in the main hall!

[Click here to see the videos from this event.](#)



On His visit to San Diego Pujya Swamiji also graced the home of Arielle Ford and Brian Hillard, and -- together with Arielle's beautiful sister Debbie -- had beautiful, divine discussions on so many topics including Pujya swamiji's ceaseless and boundless work for Mother Ganga.





From San Diego Pujya Swamiji came to Los Angeles where He gave darshan at the home of Dawn and Clive Baillie. *[Click here to see photos from all of Pujya Swamiji's Los Angeles events.](#)*



Pujya Swamiji giving darshan



**MoMo Loudiyi and Cooper Madison
Ladnier playing at the satsang**



On the 14th July Pujya Swamiji gave a beautiful program at Exhale Spa yoga studio in Venice, CA. Hosted and organized by Shiva Rea and Exhale director Cristi Christensen, it was a greatly successful program with a fully packed hall even though it was Pujya Swamiji's first time there. Shiva exclaimed that next time we will need to have a program outside, in a beautiful natural environment where even more people can benefit from the divine teachings. Momo Loudiyi provided uplifting music, and Pujya Swamiji even made some time for a question-answer session after the lecture.



Pujya Swamiji with Sadhvi Bhagawati, Shiva Rea and Momo Loudiyi



Pujya Swamiji, Shiva Rea and Sadhvi Bhagawati speaking at the event





In Los Angeles, Pujya Swamiji also graced the new Golden Bridge yoga studio with His presence and blessings. As they had just moved into a new location, Gurmukh and Gurushabd had humbly requested Pujya Swamiji to come and bless the premises. He also led a meditation for all of the yogis gathered on that day.



Pujya Swamiji speaking at Golden Bridge



Swamiji meeting with Gurmukh and Gurushabd Khalsa



Pujya Swamiji meeting with Shri Amma Karunamayi

Respected spiritual teacher Sri Amma Karunamayiji was also in Los Angeles at the time of Pujya Swamiji's visit. She came to meet with Pujya Swamiji and to request His support and presence in a project for the girls of India. As Pujya Swamiji is already so committed and dedicated to women's upliftment and empowerment, and as we already run numerous programs for poor women and girls, He said, "Of course." They will now work together for the protection of girls in India.





From Los Angeles, Pujya Swamiji traveled to Louisville, Kentucky for the sacred occasion of Guru Purnima. The morning began with a divine Guru puja at the home of Dr. Rajan and Jayshree Amin, followed by a huge Guru Purnima function at the Hindu Temple of Kentucky. In addition to the hundreds and hundreds of local devotees, dozens of people had flown in from across the USA and Canada to be with their Divine Guru on this sacred occasion. *[Click here to see the video from Guru Purnima.](#)*



Devotees performing puja to Pujya Swamiji on Guru Purnima





Hundreds of devotees came to celebrate Guru Purnima with Pujya Swamiji



From Louisville, Pujya Swamiji traveled to Pittsburgh from 23rd-24th July where He is the founder of the Hindu Jain Temple in Monroeville, PA ([Click here to download the book on the history of the Hindu Jain Temple](#)).

The Pittsburgh community is always so glad to have Pujya Swamiji back home in Pittsburgh, and on the 23rd July there was the sacred thread ceremony for the grandsons of two of the leaders in the foundation of the temple, Drs. Indra and Devyani Pandit. Their daughter Amy and son-in-law Ashis had met at the Hindu-Jain Temple summer camp when Pujya Swamiji was still leading it. He always knew there was some special connection between Amy and Ashis! Now, their sons were ready for their janeo sanskar and fortunately it was planned at a time when Pujya Swamiji was in Pittsburgh, hence the boys were able to receive the sacred Guru Mantra of the Upanayana sanskara directly from Pujya Swamiji.





On the 30th July Pujya Swamiji gave the keynote address at the concluding program of the Leuva Patidar Convention in New Orleans, LA. The Leuva Patidar is a huge family of Gujaratis living across USA. Every two years they gather together for a convention attended by thousands of their members, particularly the youth. Pujya Swamiji spoke about the importance of maintaining one's Indian heritage and roots even while living and thriving abroad. He commended the Leuva Patidar for the great work they are doing in maintaining the connection of their members to the Mother Land and Mother tongue!



**Pujya Swamiji with Hemantbhai Patel,
chairman of AAHOA**



**Pujya Swamiji gives His blessings to
Bharatbhai Patel and Hasubhai Patel,
the heads of Leuva Patidar**





On 31st July, Pujya Swamiji flew from New Orleans to New Jersey where, at Pujya Dr. Pranav Pandiyaji's request, He graced the culmination of the centenary celebration of the birth of Pujya Shri Ram Sharmaji, the founder of the Gayatri Parivar. The event was huge and attended by thousands of Gayatri Parivar members from across the USA and Canada.



Pujya Swamiji with Pujya Dr. Pranav Pandiyaji



The final day included a special Gayatri Havan ceremony presided over and led by Pujya Dr. Pranav Pandiyaji, the head of Gayatri Parivar and Shantikunj Ashram/Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar. Pujya Swamiji spoke about how Pujya Acharya Shri Ram Sharmaji didn't only stress the importance of yagnas; rather his entire life was a yagna!

[Click here to see the full photo album from the event.](#)





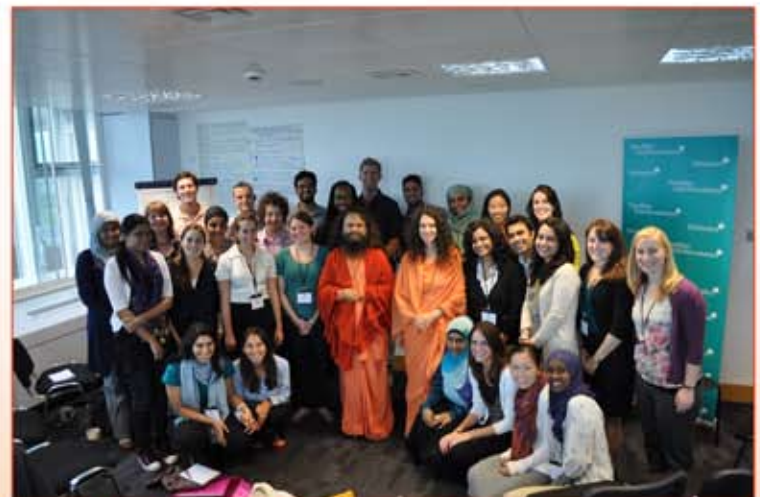
From New Jersey Pujya Swamiji flew to London on His way back to India. While in London He had a cozy satsang/youth session for the “Teen Team” at the home of Kirtiben and Deepakbhai Thakar.



Pujya Swamiji was so glad to see the energy, enthusiasm and dedication of the Teen Team who will be serving Mother India, under His guidance and inspiration, in so many ways.



The main reason for His stopover in London was upon the request of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation which was hosting their leadership training program for the top selected youth leaders of faith from around the world. The one-month training began on the 8th of August and Pujya Swamiji gave a beautiful, inspiring talk and then question-answer session, inspiring the youth in their seva.



**Pujya Swamiji and Sadhvi Bhagawati
with the Tony Blair Faith Foundation
youth leaders**

Special Events | Pujya Swamiji's Birthday at Parmarth



Devotees gathered in Pujya Swamiji's jyopri to perform the puja

To celebrate Pujya Swamiji's birthday at Parmarth Niketan, devotees gathered together in the morning to perform a Guru puja to Pujya Swamiji and celebrate His life.

After the puja, devotees and those staying at the ashram joined together to do a clean-up along Ganga's banks, and afterwards there was a special *bandhara* for all the saints in the ashram.



Sadhvi Abha Saraswati (Mataji) leads the puja to Pujya Swamiji's padukas

Special Events | Pujya Swamiji's Birthday at Parmarth



Feeding the saints after the clean-up



Pujya Swamiji's birthday was a celebration!

Divine Message From Pujya Swamiji

Janmasthanam Blessings

I hope that – by God’s grace – this finds you and all your loved ones in the best of health and happiness at this holy time of Janmasthanam. Krishna Janmasthanam is the celebration of the day that Bhagwan Krishna incarnated in human form upon the Earth. It is celebrated at midnight on the eighth day of the dark fortnight in the month of Bhadrapada, which falls this year on August 22nd.

The Bhagavad Gita says that whenever there is darkness in the world, whenever strife and ignorance prevail, the Lord incarnates to shine His divine light on the darkness. He grabs hold of the faltering world, preventing it from drifting too far astray.

However, the Lord does not simply incarnate, give wisdom and depart. Rather, His divine light, His divine message and His divine grace continue to shine, on and on, upon all future generations. His wisdom is such that, once given, it is timeless and eternal, infinite and universal. Lord Krishna’s message in the Bhagavad Gita and the message of His entire life are not meant merely for those who lived 5000 years ago in the lands of Mathura, Vrindavan, Kurukshetra and Dwarka. Rather, the messages are as timeless as His presence and grace.

As we celebrate the divine anniversary of the date He came forth into this world in human form, we must ask ourselves, “Why did He incarnate? What were the messages of Lord Krishna’s life? What darkness did He come to dispel? In what ocean of ignorance were we drowning, from which He came to save us?”

Many are familiar with the Bhagavad Gita. We know that Lord Krishna’s verbal message to Arjun on the battlefield was “Stand up. Do your duty.”

However, there are many other important messages in the Gita and also invaluable lessons and divine teach-



embedded in the very life He lived. At this holy time of Janmasthanam, let us examine and take to heart these messages. We must remember that Bhagwan Krishna incarnated FOR US. He incarnated to remove our veil of ignorance and darkness. It is our duty to Him to take His message to heart and let it uplift, inspire and transform us.

Never Lose Your Song:

One of the most beautiful lessons of Bhagwan Krishna’s life is: never lose yourself due to external circumstances, never lose your smile, never lose your song... Bhagwan Krishna’s life was full of trials and tribulations, beginning on the day when He took birth in a locked jail cell and ending in the jungle shot by a hunter’s arrow. However, throughout it all – through the

Divine Message From Pujya Swamiji

innumerable challenges wrought upon Him – He always maintained His divine smile. He always played His divine flute. Even after His physical flute was left with Radhaji, the song of Krishna's flute was always on, wherever He went. The song emanated from His very being. He never once said, "I'm in a bad mood today so I will not play my flute." No. Regardless of what the external world brought and wrought, the Song was on. This is a beautiful message for our own lives.

So frequently we let small, small things upset us and ruin our day. However, to truly be Krishna devotees means that we should try, as much as possible, to follow His divine example. Whenever failure, frustration or fury stares us in the face and we are tempted to let it ruin our mood and our day, let us always remember the sound of Lord Krishna's ever-present flute. Let us try to emulate His divine example and let our own song and our smile also be ever-present.

Fearlessness

One of the most important messages that Bhagwan Krishna gives to Arjuna is Abhayam, be fearless. Arjuna was afraid of battle, afraid of killing his relatives and loved ones. In our lives also we are paralyzed by fear. Omnipresent fear is one of the most insidious obstacles to our peace, happiness and progress in life. When I say fear, I don't necessarily mean terror. But, rather I mean all that makes us anxious, nervous, tense and in need of controlling our surroundings. The root of fear is distrust. We have been betrayed, injured and abused. We decide that the world and those around us cannot be trusted. In this way, we lose that faith which is so crucial.

What is the answer? The answer to fear is to firmly root ourselves in God (by whatever name, whatever form you choose). When we realize that God is always with us, always for us, we will never be afraid regardless of the circumstances.

Sure, our family and friends may betray us. They may injure us. But, if we give ourselves to God, if we make our relationship with Him our first priority then we will never be broken inside; we will always be cared for.

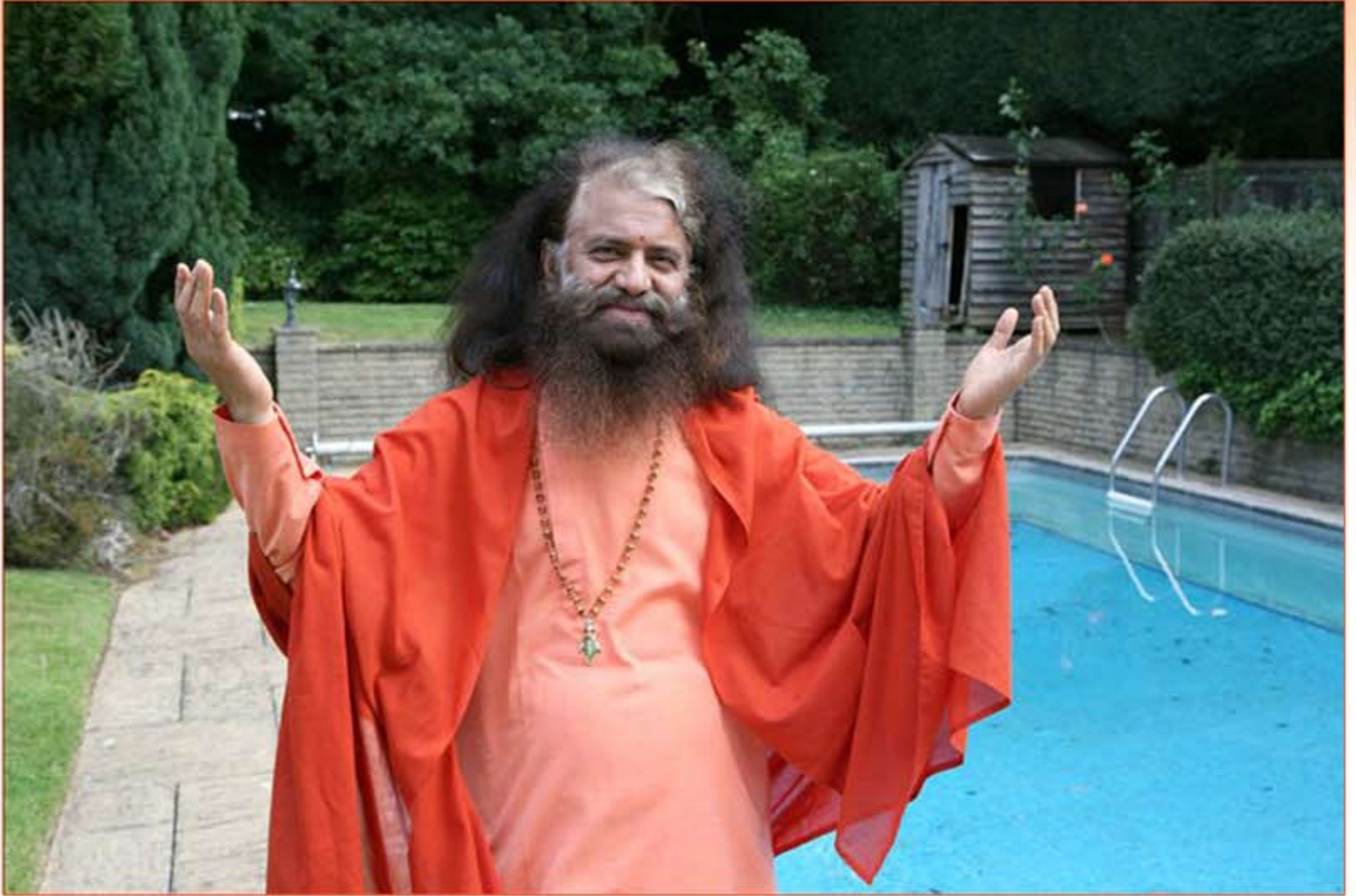
We must realize that we are God's children. Just as a child is never afraid when his mother is near, so we must never fear. Fear immobilizes us. It freezes us. It prevents us from thinking clearly. Most of all, it serves no purpose. No tragedy has ever been prevented by fear. No catastrophe has ever been averted by anxiety. No. Calm, serene, wise understanding of the situation coupled with undying faith is what is needed.

Let us renew our faith in the Supreme. Let us give away our fears, our anxieties. Let us put all our insurance in the Divine Insurance Company. Let us realize that everything is just as it is supposed to be. We are in the lap of our Mother. How can anything go wrong?

On this beautiful and divine day of Janmasthami let us offer to Him not only our prayers, our puja and our aarti, but let us offer our lives at His holy feet. Let us surrender completely to His Divine Will. This will bring great peace, purity and divinity into our own lives.



Pujya Swamiji's Itinerary



August

1 - 3 New Jersey
6 - 8 London
13 - 31 Rishikesh

September - October

Rishikesh



Links

Please visit us on the web for videos, podcasts and music from Parmarth Niketan, as well as information on upcoming programs and seva opportunities.

