



Lord Mahaveer

# JVB International Reflections..



Acharya Mahashraman

Volume 8, Issue 2



May—Aug 2016

## **JVB Orlando**

Samani Bhaviti Pragma  
Samani Kanchan Pragma  
www.jainvishwabharati.org

## **JVB Houston**

Samani Vikas Pragma  
Samani Maryada Pragma  
www.jvbhouston.org

## **JVB New Jersey**

Samani Sanmati Pragma  
Samani Jayant Pragma  
www.jvbnj.org

## **Miami, FIU**

Samani Satya Pragma  
Samani Rohini Pragma

## **Moving Towards Awareness**

A beautiful saying in Jain Agam goes: ‘savvato pamattassa bhayam’ – A person having remissness is always in fear. Man can do mistakes. To err is human’s nature. A very few people would be there in this world who never does any mistake. It’s not fair to exclude the person who does small mistakes. One saying goes as ‘skhalitah skhalito vadhyah’- Kill the person who has committed mistakes. If any wrong does is killed just because of his mistakes, then only just a few persons would remain in this world because ‘bahudoshah hi manava’ – man has many evils. Those great souls are exceptions who were aware to their full extent during their spiritual practice. Lord Mahavir did sadhana for twelve years and thirteen fortnights. The total period of remissness was of a day and forty eight minutes, and it was not continuously.

Remissness may be possible by a human, but he should try to keep himself away from it. He should try not to repeat his mistakes. Making mistake is not a big issue. However, atonement for mistakes made and resolution not to repeat them in future is very important. A walking person may fall down, but to help getting him up or to save him from falling down is a great thing.

Many spiritual persons are very aware and they are almost free from remissness. It is also found that some practitioner get strayed knowingly or unknowingly. For, man has the seeds of attachment and aversion. He has inauspicious emotions. These states motivate a man towards remissness. Therefore, man should decide what is right or wrong after understanding the real elements. Thereafter, his determination to do the right and avoid the wrong becomes possible to protect himself from the remissness. Still once in a while

## **Highlights of this issue:**

### **Moving Towards Awareness**

News from JVB Orlando Center



News from JVB New Jersey Center



News from JVB Houston Center



Once, a man was praying to his God standing in the night. Suddenly the king passed by him. The king asked – ‘O Mahatma! Why are you standing? This is the time to sleep and you are awake. If you are scared of an enemy then I shall arrange for security. The sage replied – ‘O king! I am not scared of external enemies but of my inner. I myself shall have to become police for that. No other person can help protecting me from them. A small amount of remissness brings danger of their attack. Therefore, I am always aware of remembering the God.

In the field of sadhana there is always conflict between remissness and awareness. After continuous practice, a spiritual person can develop such a state that all the conflicts get resolved and remissness is defeated and awareness wins. Man wants to move from darkness to light, from non-existence (asat) to existence (sat), and from mortality to immortality. But until he moves from remissness to awareness he cannot get light, reality and immortality. Therefore, man should try to avoid the actions of remissness. One can achieve veetraaga and be successful by his determination and practice of remaining constantly in the state of awareness.

~Acharya Mahashraman

## News from JVB Orlando Center

### Akshay Tritiya Celebration JVB Orlando

On May 8, 2016, there was a three-fold celebration at JVB Orlando. Under the guidance of Samani Bhavit Pragyaji and Samani Kanchan Pragyaji, commemoration of Bhagwan Rishabdev's varshitap parna, the anniversary of their center, and the Varshitap of Ritaben Parikh. Mangalacharan was done by the elders.. The adults presented a wonderful skit, "Chha Aaro ki Kahani, Apni Zubaani." It depicted the time before Bhagwan Rishabdev, present time, as well as the future. Next, ladies presented a song. Samaniji presented a beautiful song on tap in honor of Ritaben Parikh's varshitap. It was followed by Samani Bhavit Pragyaji's lecture in which she explained the importance of Tirthankar Upasna, Gurubhakti, Satvanukampa, etc. The audience listened to the lecture very attentively. The community also donated generously to the center in the form of 'tithis.' Next was an exciting quiz session, 'Naseeb Apna Apna' The program culminated with Aarti, performed by all the mothers on Mother's Day and Mangal Divo, performed by the children. It was followed by a Swamivatsalya dinner. This wonderful program was attended by grand audience from Orlando, Melbourne, Ocala, Tampa, Vero Beach, etc. and was enjoyed by all. Devang Chitalia was the master of ceremony.



**Samaniji visit New Jersey Camp** On the 8-16<sup>th</sup> of June, the Samaniji attended a camp.

**Milwaukee, Wisconsin Temple Anniversary** On June 18 and 19th, 2016, Jain Temple of Wisconsin celebrated their 15<sup>th</sup> temple anniversary program

**Milwaukee** in Wisconsin under the guidance of Samaniji. The program began in the afternoon on June 18 where Samaniji's started with manglacharan and jin bhakti songs. Samani Bhavit Pragyaji conducted a lecture on Gyanyog with a help of a power point which she had prepared. She stressed on the importance of Gnanyog and why it was important for everyone to experience it. Each slide was well prepared and explained with examples to make it easy for all who attended. Yoga Class was held under the guidance of Samani Kanchan Pragyaji on Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Members of all age groups showed interest and participated in the Yoga Class. Many different Asanas were demonstrated and performed by all. Samani Bhavit Pragyaji started on another topic of 12 Jain Bhavanas. She made it a very interactive session by asking everyone relevant questions. She first recited each bhavna and then explained the deep meaning of each. Everyone felt the 12 Bhavnas were very enlightening and were thankful to the Samaniji. This program was attended by Jains from Milwaukee, Madison and the Chicago area.



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**Tourist from India Visit Center** 4 buses of tourists from India visited the JVB Orlando Center July 28,29 and August 5th where they had Satsang with Samaniji. They were very impressed with the Samaniji and the Jain center.

**One Day Camp JVB Orlando** A one day camp on Sunday,7th August was conducted by Samaniji from 9am – 4pm. The theme of the camp was "Who Am I". Camp was attended by about 35 people. Yoga and Pranayama was conducted by Kamleshbhai. Then Samaniji spoke on topics like Aatma, Jeev and Pudgal. Participants appreciated the practical way of explaining Jain subjects. A vow of silence and strict discipline during the duration of the camp was mentioned by Samaniji. After, the practice of Relaxation, Aahar-yog Sadhana for healthy digestive system, Mantra Meditation and Contemplation were practiced. Session followed with Q-A. In closing, Manoj paid her heartfelt thanks to both the SamaniJi and also appreciated the efforts of all the attendees. All the participants followed the strict discipline of inner silence throughout the camp. They found this camp a great medium of self-discipline and spiritual upliftment.

**Paryushan Mahaparv** Paryushan Parva at JVB, Orlando was celebrated from August 30 – Sept 6, 2016. Motivated by Samani Bhavit Pragyaji and Samani Kanchan Pragyaji, members of the sangh did many tapascharyas. A 13-day upvas, 8 athais, many paushadhs, telas, belas, upvas, 8 day ekasnas were done by the JVB community. Bhaktamar and Bhagwatiji sutra readings by Samani Kanchan Pragyaji took place every morning and pravachans on topics such as 'Appa divo bhav', 'Utthiye no pamaaye', etc. by Samani Bhavit Pragyaji and Pratikraman took place in the evenings. Many members participated in a 12 hour jaap on Saturday, September 3. An excellent quiz competition on the knowledge of Tirthankars was conducted on the same evening by Samani Kanchan Pragyaji. Tremendous enthusiasm was shown by everyone. The tapasvi bahuman took place on September 5 in a program conducted by Mr. Mehul Shah. The Samvatsari Pratikraman was attended by over a 100 people on Sept. 6. The tapasvi and sangh parnas took place after completing porsis on Wednesday, Sept 7.



## News from JVB New Jersey Center

### Path of Ahimsa Mahavir Jayanti, Akshay Tritiya and Tribute to Gurus



JVBNA celebrated Path of Ahimsa - Mahavir Jayanti, Akshay Tritiya and Tribute to Gurus - on May 7, 2016 at the JVBNA Center for Peace and Preksha Meditation under the auspicious guidance of Samani Sanmati Pragyaji and Samani Jayant Pragyaji. Chairman Pratap Jain highlighted the uplifting importance of gurus in our lives. Samanijis pravachan and the geet- "Guru se poshan paayen" were heartfelt.

**Family get together** More than 30 JVB members attended the program on Saturday, May 21, under the auspicious presence of Samanis. Kamal Daga led the Bhajan program along with the members. The program was followed by dinner which was coordinated by Rohit Jain's and Sudhir Jain's family.

**Gyanshala and Youth Forum Annual Day Celebrations** Gyanshala and Youth Forum Annual Day was celebrated on 5th June, 2016 in the auspicious presence of Samanijis. The event was inaugurated with blissful Navkaar Mantra by Samanijis followed by Gyanshala prayer led by students, teachers and parents. This annual project gave the glimpse of knowledge what each group of students had learned during the year.



**Annual Spiritual Family Camp** was held from June 10th to 12th at Arsh Vidya, PA under the blessings of Acharya Shri Mahashraman & it was led by six distinguished Samanijis: Samani Bhavit Pragyaji & Kanchan Pragyaji (JVB Orlando), Samani Sanmati Pragyaji & Jayant Pragyaji (JVB New Jersey), Samani Vikas Pragyaji & Maryada Pragyaji (JVB Houston). The main theme of the 3-days camp, Jain Yog based on the book by Ac. Mahapragya is a Jain philosophy & values to maintain an optimum balance between mental & physical health.



**Bhajan Sandhya** was held on June 14th under the auspicious presence of Samani Bhavit Pragyaji & Kanchan Pragyaji from JVB Orlando, Samani Sanmati Pragyaji & Jayant Pragyaji from JVB New Jersey, and Samani Vikas Pragyaji & Maryada Pragyaji from JVB Houston. It was a beautiful evening of bhakti and music composed and sung by Samanijis and JVBNA members.

**"Lifestyle and Diet for preventing and reversing Heart Disease and controlling Diabetes, High BP, and Obesity" Workshop with Dr. Bimal Chhajer** : On July 10, JVBNA hosted a workshop with Dr. Bimal Chhajer, renowned cardiologist from India in the auspicious presence of Samani Sanmati Pragyaji and Samani Jayant Pragyaji. Dr. Chhajer is widely known for his lifestyle program to reverse heart disease naturally.



**A Presentation on "Anekantvad, Nayavad, and Syadvad and their implications for inter-religious relations" with Dr. Jeffery Long**: JVBNA hosted a special presentation on "Anekantvad, Nayavad, and Syadvad and their implications for inter-religious relations" with Dr. Jeffery Long, Professor of Religion & Asian Studies at Elizabethtown College, PA, on Sunday, August 21.



**Paryushan Parva** was celebrated during August 30 to September 6, 2016. During that week, under the auspicious presence of Samani Sanmati Pragyaji and Samani Jayant Pragyaji, Pratikraman and Pravachan sessions were held every evening. The theme of the Pravachan series was "Choose a path, but which one?" The pravachans by both the Samanijis were full of knowledge and very inspirational that took the audience to the spiritual depth every day.

## News from JVB Houston Center

### Mahavir Jayanti, Akshay Tritoia & Tribute to Gurus with Path of Ahimsa Program

Under the auspicious presence & guidance of Samani Vikas Pragyaji & Maryada Pragyaji, JVB Center celebrated three major events, Mahavir Jayanti, Akshay Tritoia & Tribute to Gurus on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> with a magnificent musical play. 125+ community members were present to witness a resplendent ceremony of art, music & drama put together by the dedicated members of JVB, Current EC Team & JVB Gyanshala kids and parents.



### 3rd Annual Gyanshala Graduation & Teacher Appreciation Day

To mark the end of another great learning year of Gyanshala 2015-16 and to honor its dedicated teacher volunteers, Annual Gyanshala day was celebrated with full excitement and enthusiasm by the kids and parents alike. All the teachers were duly recognized and rewarded for their commitment, dedication, time and efforts throughout the year.

### Three community workshops: How to manage Dual Careers; Navigating the High School- Course Selection & Beyond in association with Sewa International and Water therapy Workshop

JVB Houston center took a step forward towards its vision of serving the community by holding three community workshops in the month of June & July inside its unique pyramid hall. All three workshops were conducted by distinguished speakers, Pramod Bengani, Mrs. Anuradha Nigam and Archana Jain from Birmingham, UK. 50+ people attended as well as participated in each of these informative and interactive workshops.

**Beginning of Chaturmasik month with Adhyatmik Sadhana Shivir** First day of Chaturmasik month was welcomed by JVB Houston Center by keeping a full day Adhyatmik Sadhana Shivir for its devotees. 40+ people attended this spiritual Shivir to mark the beginning of this special month. Samani Vikas Pragyaji initiated the Tapasya chain & encouraged all Tapasvees to hold Upwaas, Ekaasan, Ayambil on each day of these 4 months.

**"Art of Living" Youth Workshop** Art of Living Workshop for Jvb youth group of ages 15yrs.+ was conducted under guidance of Samanijis. Lecture, Mediation and Group activities were the part of this Interactive workshop. Youth participated with great zeal in the lecture and group activities.



### Annual Children Summer Camp with 5 different color coordinated themes

With Samanijis blessings, JVB Houston Center conducted its Annual Children Summer Camp from August 8th-12th with much vigor & enthusiasm. A total of 15 Kids, ages 6 to 13years, attended the week long eventful camp where they played, explored, laughed and learned together. 15 dedicated volunteers came together to join and in nurturing the young curious minds with their creativity, enthusiasm and love.



### Charitra group students perform at ICC, I

**Fest 2016** Jvb Gyanshala charitra group students presented a meaningful skit "Bharat Mata ke Uphaar" beautifully scripted by Samani Vikas Pragyaji in front of 1500+ people to honor India's Independence Day Celebrations.

### Paryushan Mahaparv Celebrations

Under Samanijis guidance & motivation, the entire JVB community became spellbound in an atmosphere of Tapasaya for 8 consecutive days. Agam Discourses on Kalpa Sutra by Samani Vikas Pragyaji and Uttaradhyayan Sutra by Samani Maryada Pargyaji & Evening Discourses on the detailed meaning of "Mahamantra ki

Prikrama", Pratikraman for young & old was the daily morning and evening rituals of this auspicious week. A special spiritual practice was followed on each day such as Maun pachranghi, Samayik pachranghi, Dhyan, Aahaar, Krodh Samayam & more. Tela Tap Anumodhana of dedicated JVB patrons, Chairman Shri Swatantra and Bimla Jain, Anusha Jain, Sarika Jain, Khushboo Jain, Bela Tapasaya of Sachin Jain, Swarna Jain, Kajal Jain and upwaas by the young Gyanshala student, Tanvi Jain were the highlights of this Paryushan Mahaparv.