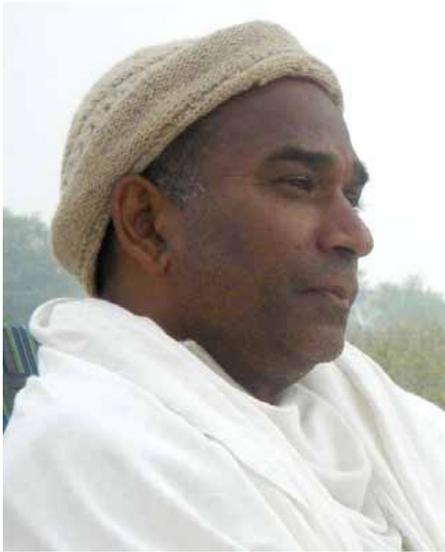


Namasté from Bal Ashram

Varanasi, India
23 February 2010

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Dear Friends,

With two weeks left in Varanasi, we are striving to make as much progress as we can at Amrit Sagar Environmental Center. The Gowshala (cow shelter) is nearly complete, and soon we will bring in 10 cows to start the dairy.

Indian press has taken a keen interest in the project as well. We have received visits from 5

different newspapers, including a troop from New Delhi TV who will make a 30 minute documentary about all our Varanasi projects.

Already, Babaji's students are coming forward to take responsibility for different aspects of the Center's operations. It is inspiring to see so many people actively participating—children, staff, management team and visitors from abroad.

Enclosed is a photo tour of our work.

Babaji sends you his love and blessings.

Namasté,

Shivani

[Please click here](#)
[to help further](#)
[this work](#)

Funds are still needed for Amrit Sagar. We require \$15,000 more to get Phase I of the Center up and running.



Gowshala progress at Amrit Sagar - after three weeks of hard work, it is nearly complete.



To add to the excitement, our Ashram cow, Lakshmi, had a baby bull 10 days ago. As soon as the Gowshala is complete, we'll move them across the river to their new home.



Visitors from abroad are also lending a hand.

Amrit Sagar, a model of inspiration for all.

Although this first phase of Amrit Sagar will look like a mini farm, it will be run according to the best environmental practices and sustainable methods. As early as this summer, we expect to start welcoming school children, youth and farmers for educational programs. All will learn how their daily activities help or harm the environment, and gain hands-on experience with new methods.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ABOUT AMRIT SAGAR](#)



We dug a 15 by 20 foot hole for our bio-gas system that will turn waste into energy. A bio-gas expert will visit this week to start work.



We brought in 6 boxes of bees to start our bee farm. They are busy at work making honey.

Vision Varanasi - Week long eye camp at Amrit Sagar

Dr. Ivor was inspired to hold an eye camp at Amrit Sagar. News spread very quickly. With only one days notice that free eye exams and glasses would be given, crowds of locals poured into the site and waited all day for their turn. The camp lasted one week, and Dr. Ivor saw nearly 1000 people. Dr. Ivor has since returned to England and will return next Fall for another season of service.



Project Shakti

Our Project Shakti efforts are moving forward. We are formalizing our seamstress training by issuing certificates to help participants secure jobs. More than 30 women of all ages are coming 4 times a week to learn this valuable skill that will help them support their families. They really are proud of what they are now about to accomplish.



Anjali School

Anjali School is thriving with 150 children now enrolled. We will build a fourth classroom before the new session starts in July for Class 3.



Here is Kamla with Indra, the baby boy we welcomed to Bal Ashram last year. It is a joy to see him running around, playing, smiling, and engaging whole-heartedly with others. The vibrancy he now shows is a huge contrast to the state he was in just one year ago. There are so many children in the world who could benefit from this kind of love and care, and we are grateful that with your help, we can do our part at Bal Ashram.

