

# Aghor Foundation,

February & March 2016

Glimpses and Excitements of

## Babaji's Annual Visit to Bal Ashram

With the arrival of Babaji in early Feb to Bal Ashram, a new wave of excitement and enthusiasm engulfed the Ashram. Together with Babaji came Glenn Amazi and Maricruz Morales. Two friends of Sonoma Ashram, although first time visitors to the ashram, their enthusiasm to make a difference was contagious. While Babaji has returned back to Sonoma, his blessings continue to unfold in our lives in Varanasi. Please take a look at our humble report. It is all possible due to your love and support over the years of creating of this magical place.

### Welcoming a new child to the family

On the 25th of February a new boy named Rahul arrived in the ashram. Before coming to Bal Ashram, he was lodged at the juvenile detention facility run by the state. Owing to the financial difficulties, leaving him with his old great grandfather, his parents left the village. Rahul set out to search for his parents himself and got lost. For couple of days he was hungry and finally managed to arrive at a railway station. When he came to the station he was picked up by police and sent to the juvenile house in Ram Nagar, just across the river from Bal Ashram. The authorities tried to locate his parents to no avail and the old grandfather was in no condition to take him in. It was then the juvenile house authorities contacted us and we were glad to take him in. He is a great kid and immediately all the children of the Bal Ashram took him in and shared their clothes, books, toys and bikes to make him feel at home right away.



### Inauguration of the new eye hospital, Vision Varanasi



On the auspicious occasion of the 16<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of the foundation day of Bal Ashram, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the much awaited eye hospital was inaugurated as a charitable registered eye care center in the city of Varanasi. Keeping with the vision of Aghoreshwar, a team of Hindu, Muslim and Jewish doctors came together to alleviate the suffering of the poor.



Within the compound of Aghor Foundation, Vision Varanasi is a free standing eye hospital serving the poor. It is a noble effort conceived by Dr. Ivor Wolfe of London, and completed by him with the financial support of Justin Salisbury of Cathelco, United Kingdom, and ground support of Aghor Foundation. The eye hospital has the vision that no one should suffer from eye problems due to a lack of money. We are committed to providing help to those in need of eye care or eye surgery and can't afford to pay for it.



Children from ages 5-15 years old are the main target for this treatment. In our ten years of experience, we have learned that many very young children in interior villages suffer from cataracts. Their parents are usually illiterate and have no knowledge about the treatment. In the typical case, nothing is done and after a certain period those children lose their eye sight and spend their whole lives blind. A high percentage of elderly men and women also have cataracts in their eyes. They can't reach the cities without help

and all too often no one is there to help them. Our target is to identify every village within a 100 KM radius of Varanasi, to organize eye camps in the villages, to identify the children and the elderly cataract patients and bring them to the hospital for treatment.

Shortly, we'll be starting a campaign to give the **gift of sight** (one cataract operation) for a small gift of \$60. If you feel moved right away, [please click here](#) and make your donation via paypal with a note in the memo field, "Vision Varanasi".

## Bal Ashram boys began teaching yoga in juvenile detention facility and in the community

During this visit, Babaji challenged the Bal Ashram boys to think about the ways they could be of service to the community. Their first response was to spread the gift of Yoga that they all have grown up with. The first place they wanted to bring yoga to was the juvenile facility across the river from where a few of our boys have come. It is such a sight to see Sudhansu and Vishwanath mount their bikes with their yoga mats on their back to go to teach yoga at the juvenile facility.





A new wave of enthusiasm for yoga now fills the ashram compound with locals every morning. Sudhansu with his BA degree in Yoga Sciences is thrilled with his popularity and local support. A team of four boys, Sudhansu, Vishwanath, Suraj and Amit, is now ready to hold yoga classes in the Ashram and beyond.



### Project Shakti: Hair styling class for women working towards self sufficiency

Maricruz, a local hair stylist from Napa, travelled to India with Babaji to give a gift of self-sufficiency to young women of project Shakti. Maricruz brought with her many tools of the trade that were gifted to her from various friends and associates. She equipped all the 10 trained students to continue their practice and even find jobs in local salons.

## Glenn Amazi upgrading the ashram kitchen and Yoga hall



When the residents of the Sonoma Ashram heard that Glenn was accompanying Babaji to India this year, many said, “Bal Ashram in for a treat ... Glenn will create beauty and organization.” Rightly so, within days of his arrival, Glenn took on the job that most are overwhelmed with - organizing the pantry, storage and kitchen to improve sanitation. After days of hard work and finding ways to build things in Varanasi, Glenn succeeded in creating a system that even restaurant owners came to take pictures of and get some new ideas. The yoga hall has new curtains, thick cushions and blocks made out of stuffed cotton ... many shopkeepers have become Glenn’s followers.

## Babaji left Varanasi on March 10<sup>th</sup>

Although it was a short trip, much was accomplished, new initiatives were put in place and various ongoing projects got an overhaul during this visit of Babaji. Next year Babaji wishes to invite a few accomplished Yoga teachers to accompany him to continue preparing the Bal Ashram boys to be good ambassadors of Yoga who spread the message of living a holistic life style.

It is all possible due to the love and ongoing support of our friends like you. Thank you for being a part of this magic.

