

## **Didi Nirmala's visit to Sri Lanka, September 2014**

### **COLOMBO**

On the afternoon of 5 Sep, Didi Nirmala along with Sr Jyoti, arrived at Colombo International Airport and was welcomed and transported to the BK Centre by Br Ganesh and Dr Mohan. Arriving at Harmony House, the main centre in Sri Lanka, Didi briefly met everyone who had come to receive her. In the evening a short welcome program was conducted, followed by a class by Didi and sharing of experience by Sr Jyoti for about 80 BKs.

During the weekend the BK family in the Colombo zone had a retreat with Didi on the theme of "Being with One". On Saturday the sub-theme "Ocean of Forgiveness" was taken up with around 145 participants. The same evening BKs from all the centres in the Colombo zone took the chance of an empowered evening of meditation with Didiji. The next day, Sunday, there was another sub-theme "Karankaravanhar" for more than 200 BKs.

In the evening a public program was arranged especially for a group of 30 female contacts and Didi addressed the topic "Balancing Relationships and Responsibilities". Guests included the Additional Secretary of Ministry of Buddhasasana, a famous artist, members from the Inner Wheel Club of Colombo which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest women's organisation in Sri Lanka and many other professionals, who all took benefit of a spiritual evening with Didiji. On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> morning Didiji left for Jaffna to meet the BKs in the Northern province.

### **JAFFNA**

#### **Mon 8 Sep**

- Around 200 BKs from Jaffna, Vavuniya, Mullaitheevu and Mannar attended a welcome ceremony for Didi and Sr Jyoti.
- Didi laid a foundation stone for a new building.
- In the evening 90 BKs enjoyed Didi's class on "The Benefits of Following Maryadas Accurately".

#### **Tue 9 Sep**

- Nearly 90 mothers took benefit from a class just for them on the topic "How to Become Pillar of the Yagya".
- Didi met the teachers and coordinators of Sub Centres and other Classes.
- Didi met all the service helpers and encouraged them to earn their spiritual income by taking part in karma yoga activities at the Centre.

#### **Wed 10 Sep**

After addressing the class in the morning Didi and Sr Jyoti took leave from Sukdham. Nearly 95 BKs were present to say "Go Soon and Come Soon".

### **KANDY**

#### **Thu 11 Sep**

Didi arrived in the afternoon and met the BKs who were present briefly. A program for around 95 IPs and VIPs was held in the evening on the topic of "Future of Power" at Jyothy Bhawan. Along with the Higher Education Minister to Central Province, the Asst. High Commissioner of India and the Director of Kandy Hospital many other leaders in fields of social service were present.

Didi had a brief visit to Inner Space where she met the service team and advised on improvements for service activities.

The next day, Didi had a half day program for all BKs of the Central province and up country. Around 145 BKs were present at Jyothy Bhawan to take the maximum benefit of Didi's visit. She enlightened them on the "Power of Good Wishes" and answered a few questions. Sr Jyothy also shared her experience with the class. The in the afternoon Didi left for Batticaloa.

## BATTICALOA

Sat 13 Sept.

### Inaugural function of Spiritual Art Gallery at Pasikudah, Batticaloa

Spiritual service of Batticaloa has touched many nooks and corners of the region in different sectors, but this is the first time for BKs in Sri Lanka that a spiritual art gallery has been created. The aim of the gallery is to give spiritual relaxation to tourists from different countries who come in search of peace, happiness and enjoyment.



The gallery, at Pasikudah, was inaugurated on 13 Sept. 2014 by Didi Dr Nirmala Kajaria, Director of Academy for a Better World, Mount Abu, Rajasthan, India. Mr. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, the former Chief Minister of Eastern province, member of Eastern Provincial Council and the current president's adviser, joined as a special guest.



Br Ganesh (National Coordinator of BKs, Sri Lanka), Br Suresh (BK Centre Coordinator of Batticaloa), Rev. Father Mr Ranjith Fernando, Mr S.M.S. Sihatheen the secretary of Pradesh Sabha Valachenai, Mrs K. Pathmaraja the Deputy Chief Secretary of Eastern province, Mr Selvarajah, owner of East Lagoon five star hotel and Dr Thadsanamoorthy, Medical Superintendent of Valachenai Base Hospital were also there glorifying the event. The function finished at 11am after messages of all the above mentioned special guests. Around 50 other guests and 350 BKs gathered. Three trees were planted by Didi Nirmala, Mr Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan and Br Ganesh.



Many local and national media representatives attended, e.g.:

Electronic media: Rupavahini, Nethra, ITN, Vasantham

Internet media: Tamilmirror, Battinews

Paper media: Daily News, Daily Mirror, Thinakaran

Television: Today Netra TV telecasted the event in the main news and other TVs are telecasting

Photos can be viewed at the links:

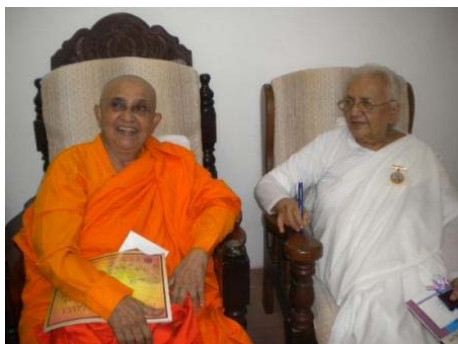
[http://www.battinews.com/2014/09/blog-post\\_721.html](http://www.battinews.com/2014/09/blog-post_721.html)

<http://tamil.dailymirror.lk/2010-07-14-09-13-23/2010-08-12-10-11-54/2010-08-12-10-14-24/126832-2014-09-14-05-59-46.html>

## COLOMBO

### Didi Nirmala's meeting with Buddhist nun Ven. Bhikkhuni Dr Kusuma

On the evening of 15 Sep, Buddhist nun Ven. Bhikkhuni Dr Kusuma met Didi Dr Nirmala at the BK Centre in Sri Lanka. She was very happy to meet Didi and share knowledge and experiences. She remembered her time with Sr Maureen Goodman at Global Retreat Centre in Oxford with a lot of love.



Bhikkuni Kusuma had a meal with BKs and met a few centre residents who had come for a three day program with Didi Nirmala. She was very excited to see the young and old service volunteer group of brothers and sisters.

With the determined thought of Br Ganesh, BKs were able to arrange to meet her at a very good time when Didi was visiting Sri Lanka. Bhikkuni Kusuma noted down the timings of the Centre's meditation sessions including world meditation hour which is on the 3rd Sunday of each month. This month it is the 'ONE' program finale and she showed interest to take part as much as possible.

(source: <http://www.bhikkhunikusuma.info/>)

Ven Bhikkuni Kusuma, MA, PhD, is a fully ordained Buddhist nun from Sri Lanka who has pioneered the re-establishment of the Theravada Female Buddhist Order in Sri Lanka. She is the first woman in Sri Lanka to don the robes of a Bhikkuni after a lapse the Bhikkhuni order for nearly 1,000 years. Her doctoral dissertation on Bhikkuni Vinaya (rules of discipline for ordained Buddhist nuns) is regarded as a **handbook** for Buddhist nuns in Sri Lanka. Now in her eighties, she continues to be active in bringing the higher ordination of Buddhism to women in Sri Lanka as well as abroad.

Didi Nirmala returned to India 18 Sep.

19 September 2014