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Dedicated to
His Divine Grace
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

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“To wander through the nine islands of Sri Navadvipa-dhama is the essence of all opulences, the essence of all religious principles, the essence of all bhajana, the essence of all perfections, the essence of all glories and the essence of all kinds of oceans of sweetness”

WHO IS GAURANGA?

No other country in the world can claim a culture that is as spiritually saturated as India. There are innumerable holy places in the land of India. Varanasi, Ayodhya, Dvaraka, Tirupati, and Hrsikesha are just a handful of the many pilgrimage destinations. With this in mind one may ask, “what is so special about Sridham Mayapur?” There have also been many saints, sadhus, and even incarnations of the Supreme Lord that have appeared in this great land of India. A reasonable question is thus, “What makes Sri Gauranga Mahaprabhu so special among this pantheon of religious personalities?” In order to fully appreciate significance Sridhama Mayapur and Gauranga Mahaprabhu it is important to understand the answer to these questions.

The corpus of spiritual and dharmic literatures in India are collectively known as the Vedas. Despite the fact that the word “Hindu” is not mentioned anywhere in the Vedas, the various strains of Hinduism all have their source within the Vedic texts. The massive amount of knowledge and information found within the Vedas can be bewildering when trying to understand its essential teachings. This is why Krishna states in the Bhagavad Gita (4.34) that one must submissively approach a qualified guru if one wants to understand the Vedas and thus the absolute truth.

The spiritual master is capable of guiding his sincere disciple towards realization of the most confidential knowledge. In the present age, which is called Kali Yuga, it is impossible for anyone to study all of the vedic rituals, sacrifices and philosophical treatises; what to speak of following all of them. Fortunately for us, the essential teachings of the Vedas have been presented in the scripture entitled Bhagavata Purana, otherwise known as the Srimad Bhagavatam. Therein it is said “O expert and thoughtful men, relish Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam, the mature fruit of the desire tree of Vedic literatures.(SB 1.2.6)” What does the Srimad Bhagavatam teach as the absolute truth?

Unambiguously it states, “The supreme occupation [dharma] for all humanity is that by which men can attain to loving devotional service unto the transcendent Lord. Such devotional service must be unmotivated and uninterrupted to completely satisfy the self.” And how should one go about doing that? “Therefore, with one-pointed attention, one should constantly hear about, glorify, remember and worship the Personality of Godhead, who is the protector of the devotees.(SN 1.2.14) .

So what does all of this have to do with Sridham Mayapur and Gauranga Mahaprabhu? Simple, Gauranga Mahaprabhu is the incarnation of the supreme personality of godhead for the present age of Kali and He has descended to show us how to properly “remember and worship the Personality of Godhead.” Taking into account the difficulties of practicing genuine spiritual life in the age of Kali, the Lord has revealed to us the

“The spiritual master is capable of guiding his sincere disciple towards realization of the most confidential knowledge.”

simple yet most powerful spiritual process of sankirtan. Sankirtan is the process of chanting and singing in congregation the maha mantra – Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare. In kali yuga this process of bhakti yoga through the performance of sankirtan is the only method for achieving the ultimate perfection of life.

In contrast to previous ages, this age of Kali, described as the age of quarrel, hypocrisy and irreligion, most people are distracted from genuine spiritual practice. Yet it is described in the Srimad Bhagavatam that the great saints and sages worship the age of Kali more than any other age! Why? It seems contradictory to say that great saints and sages who are always praying and concerned for the ultimate well being of the suffering living entities should worship the age characterized by irreligiosity.

Continued on page 3



Gauranga Mahaprabhu Deity at ISKCON Mayapur

ISODYAN BHAVAN

We are happy to announce that in Mayapur a new guest house, *ISODYAN BHAVAN*, is under construction. One of the most common suggestions we receive from Mayapur guests is the request to build more guest rooms. Srila Prabhupada had expressed the need for comfortable visitor accommodations.

We have been working on this and now, finally by the mercy of Lord Gauranga Mahaprabhu some land has been available for construction within the campus to build a new guest house. Located next to Vamsi Bhavan, Isodyan Bhavan will offer spacious clean rooms and many onsite facilities for the guests. These facilities include:

*Restaurant & Dining *Internet cafe
*Health spa *Gift boutique *Travel agency
*Open lounge *Large conference room



The ground floor and the 1st floor will house the above mentioned facilities and the guest rooms will be located in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors. All rooms feature:

*Attached bathroom *Hot water facilities
*Room dining services *Laundry pick up / delivery

One of the best features of this new guesthouse is that it takes only a minute or two to walk to Mayapur Chandrodaya Mandir temple from your room. Additionally, all of the guest rooms are situated above flood level with scenic views of Mayapur.

There are still a few rooms available for purchase but you must act quickly as many are coming forward to take advantage of this rare opportunity. For any further queries you can contact Gopijanaballabha Prabhu at Gopijanaballabha.JPS@pamho.net. . Or if you want to immediately book a room, you can book online here .



EVENTS

6.12.2011 - Tuesday

Fasting for Moksada Ekadasi
Advent of Srimad Bhagavad-gita

T: Gaura Ekadasi Y: Variyan N: Revati
Sun: Moon:
rise: 06:05 rise: 13:47
set: 16:50 set: 02:12
Arunodaya: 04:19

7.12.2011 - Wednesday

Break fast from 06:05 to 09:40

T: Gaura Dvadasi Y: Parigha N: Asvini
Sun: Moon:
rise: 06:05 rise: 14:25
set: 16:50 set: 03:03
Arunodaya: 04:19

10.12.2011 - Saturday

Katyayani vrata ends

T: Purnima Y: Sadhya N: Rohini
Sun: Moon:
rise: 06:07 rise: 16:42
set: 16:51 set: 05:40
Arunodaya: 04:21

14.12.2011 - Wednesday

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura
Disappearance (Fasting till noon)

T: Krsna Caturthi Y: Indra N: Pusyami
Sun: Moon:
rise: 06:10 rise: 20:23
set: 16:52 set: 08:51
Arunodaya: 04:23

21.12.2011 - Wednesday

Fasting for Saphala Ekadasi
Sri Devananda Pandita Disappearance

T: Krsna Ekadasi Y: Atiganda N: Swati
Sun: Moon:
rise: 06:14 rise: 02:22
set: 16:55 set: 13:44
Arunodaya: 04:27

22.12.2011 - Thursday

Break fast from 06:14 to 07:27

T: Krsna Dvadasi Y: Dhrithi N: Visakha
Sun: Moon:
rise: 06:14 rise: 03:27
set: 16:56 set: 14:38
Arunodaya: 04:28

23.12.2011 - Friday

Sri Mahesa Pandita Disappearance
Sri Uddharana Datta Thakura -
Disappearance

T: Krsna Caturdasi Y: Soola N: Anuradha
Sun: Moon:
rise: 06:15 rise: 04:32
set: 16:56 set: 15:36
Arunodaya: 04:28

25.12.2011 - Sunday

Sri Locana Dasa Thakura - Appearance

T: Gaura Pratipat Y: Vridhi N: Mula
Sun: Moon:
rise: 06:16 rise: 06:31
set: 16:57 set: 17:41
Arunodaya: 04:29

27.12.2011 - Tuesday

Srila Jiva Gosvami - Disappearance
Sri Jagadisa Pandita - Disappearance

T: Gaura Tritiya Y: Vyaghata N: Sravana
Sun: Moon:
rise: 06:16 rise: 08:09
set: 16:58 set: 19:42
Arunodaya: 04:30

SHELTER: SANDHYA ARATIKA

Visiting Sridham Mayapur means taking advantage of the many varieties of devotional service. In the 7th canto of the Srimad Bhagavatam Prahlad Maharaj has revealed to us that there are nine types of activities in the process of devotional service: hearing about the Lord, chanting the Lord's names, remembering the Lord's glories and activities, offering prayers to the Lord, serving the Lord's lotus feet, worship of the Lord's deity form, executing the order of the Lord, serving the Lord as a friend, and surrendering everything to the Lord. In order to receive the full benefit of your stay in the holy dhama it is necessary to performing at least one of these auspicious activities in the association of other devotees. In future newsletters we will regularly include a section entitled Shelter which will describe many devotional opportunities that Mayapur offers. This month we will describe the evening aratika kirtan entitled Sri Gaura-Aratika which takes place every evening at the Mayapur Chandrodaya Munder.

The apex of Gauranga Mahaprabhu's lila in Navadvipa was the all night kirtans at the house of Srivas Thakura-Srivasangan. It was during this time that the Lord gave the sweetest benedictions to His most intimate devotees. Normally the Lord played the role of a devotee of Krishna and would not like anyone to call Him Bhagavan Krishna or God. This is the Lord's lila or pastime. On special occasions, however, the Lord would reveal His actual identity as bhagavan to His most intimate associates. During these rare events the devotees took great pleasure in offering heartfelt prayers to the Lord.

One such occasion took place at Srivasangam during the pastime known as the mahaprakash or the great revelation. Vrindavan das Thakur, in his biography of Gauranga Mahaprabhu entitled Chaitanya Bhagavata, dedicates four chapters to this auspicious event. Vrindavan das Thakur writes:

"On previous occasions the Lord would sit on Lord Visnu's throne immersed in devotional ecstasy, as if unaware of His own conduct. No so today; today He did not obfuscate His real identity with the cloak of His internal energy. But sat on the throne continuously for twenty one hours. The devotees stood in front of Him with folded hands and hearts effervescent with joy. It was a wonderful sight the devotees were fully content, they spontaneously expressed that it felt like they were in Vaikuntha... Lord Nityananda held the umbrella over the Lord's head, while one of the more fortunate devotees began to whisk the Lord with the 'camara'. The devotees collected the paraphernalia for offering worship to the Lord and began to worship Him."

(CB Madhya Ch. 9)

A prominent theme in this pastime is the glorification of the relationship of love between the Lord and His devotees. Love is a concept which often means different things to different people. The great saint Krishnadas Kaviraja has given



Pancha-Tattva Sadhya-Aratik during Domodara Mas

a clear understanding of the difference between love and lust. Lust is an action in which the motive is to satisfy one's own senses. In contrast, love is defined as an act in which the sole motive is to please the beloved without any expectation of return. During the mahaprakasa the Lord called upon each devotee to take a benediction from Him. Since the Lord is all-powerful he can offer any benediction imaginable. He offered the devotees mystic powers, riches, fame and even liberation from all suffering. One by one He called on His devotees to accept these benedictions and one by one each devotee respectfully expressed disinterest in these benedictions. Instead the devotees requested that they always have the opportunity to be with and serve the Lord and His devotees. The Lord shares this quality with His devotees. He acts only to increase the pleasure of His devotees. As a result there is a transcendental competition of loving exchanges between the Lord and His devotees.

Every evening at Sri Mayapur Chandrodaya Munder resident devotees and pilgrims gather to perform kirtan in celebration of this pastime. Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakur has written a song entitled Jaya Jaya Gauracander Arotika which poetically describes the Lord's evening kirtans in the house of Srivasa Thakur. For many devotees, this evening kirtan is the highlight of their day. After performing various services throughout the day the evening kirtan offers a blissful end of the day activity. It is natural for people to want to spend quality social time with friends and family at the end of the day. Instead of dance clubs, bars, or the cinema the devotees flock to kirtan which offers a spiritual, purifying and blissful alternative. There are hundreds, and sometimes on festival days, thousands of people attending these evening kirtans. In the winter this kirtan begins at 6:00 PM (summer: 6:30) and often continues nonstop till 8:30. After the initial sandhya-aratika the devotees circumambulate the temple room three times and after parading around the temple the kirtan continues for another hour and a half.

If this evening festivity is approached with a prayerful and respectful mood the resultant precious benefits are incalculable. During your next visit to Mayapur we invite you to join us every evening for this very special event! Additionally, when you are not in Mayapur you can log onto Mayapur.com click the link for MayapurTV and participate in the live festivities from your own home!



Mayapur Sandhya Aratika



BEAUTIFUL SRI KRISHNA

Composed By HG Dravida Das

(1) His smooth complexion conquers sapphires—stunning to the eye! Kadamba blooms with fragrance full on each ear gently lie. His beauty's greatened by His chest, where gunja garland stays. All glories to the Lord who in Vrindavan's forests plays!

(2) Cakora longing for the moon of Radha's radiant face, A thief purloining patience from the cowherds' wives apace, His expert rhythmic dancing winning Apsaras' loud praise— All glories to the Lord who in Vrindavan's forests plays!

(3) When Indra's sacrifice He stopped, He stole the deva's pride By playfully uplifting Giri-govardhan to hide His friends and cows beneath the hill for seven nights and days— All glories to the Lord who in Vrindavan's forests plays!

(4) Heartwarming warbling melodies adorn His flute, which sings of Cupid's fest—to Him unending happiness it brings! The parrot pair His loving pastimes never tire to praise— All glories to the Lord who in Vrindavan's forests plays!

(5) His glist'ning garments steal the splendid glow by gold possessed, A perfect peacock plume bedecks His most exquisite crest, Vrindavan's radiant girls rejoice to see His loving ways— All glories to the Lord who in Vrindavan's forests plays!

(6) Most fragrant sandal paste anoints His limbs, so slightly blue. A golden belt adorns His handsome waist. He's likened to An elephant bound by the ropes of Radha's bosom raised— All glories to the Lord who in Vrindavan's forests plays!

(7) His fulgent forehead glows with golden tilak He's applied, His playful pastimes swing His campak garland side to side, He meets the gorgeous gopis for their rendezvous in caves— All glories to the Lord who in Vrindavan's forests plays!

(8) Their work ignored, the cowherds' wives are fairly paralyzed When dancing glances strike them from the corners of His eyes. Ecstatic hero setting love-mad Radha's heart ablaze— All glories to the Lord who in Vrindavan's forests plays!

(9) The pastimes that the Lord enjoys in Vraja's sylvan bowers Enhance this octave's beauty and pour forth pure nectar showers. Whoever reads these verses soon acquires saintly traits And serves His lustrous lotus feet with love that ne'er abates.



WHO IS GAURANGA?

Continued from page 1..

The explanation for this apparent contradiction is found in the concluding canto of the Srimad Bhagavatam (SB 12.3.51):

*kaler doṣa-nidhe rājann / asti hy eko mahān guṇaḥ
kīrtanād eva kṛṣṇasya / mukta-saṅgaḥ param vrajet*

My dear King, although Kali-yuga is an ocean of faults, there is still one good quality about this age: Simply by chanting the Hare Krishna maha-mantra, one can become free from material bondage and be promoted to the transcendental kingdom.

To the degree that one is afflicted with serious disease, the medicine required to combat the disease must similarly potent. That medicine for curing our ignorance is the incessant glorification of the Lord through harinam sankirtan or the congregational chanting of the Hare Krishna maha mantra. Sridham Mayaur is the holy land where this sankirtan process was inaugurated by Lord Gauranga Mahaprabhu approximately 500 years ago.

It is said that in the age of Kali all of the holy places gradually decrease in spiritual power. The one exception to that prophecy is Sridham Mayapur. As the degradation of Kali yuga increases, the spiritual potency Sridham Mayapur increases as well. Thus as Kali yuga's malicious influence increases over time the importance of taking spiritual shelter in Sridham Mayapur similarly increases. Gauranga Mahaprabhu, in contrast to previous incarnations of the Lord, does not kill envious and hypocritical personalities with His Chakra; instead He very mercifully kills their wayward and ungodly mentality with the weapon of the holy name! Thus performing harinam sankirtan in the spiritually infused dhama of Mayapur is doubly auspicious!

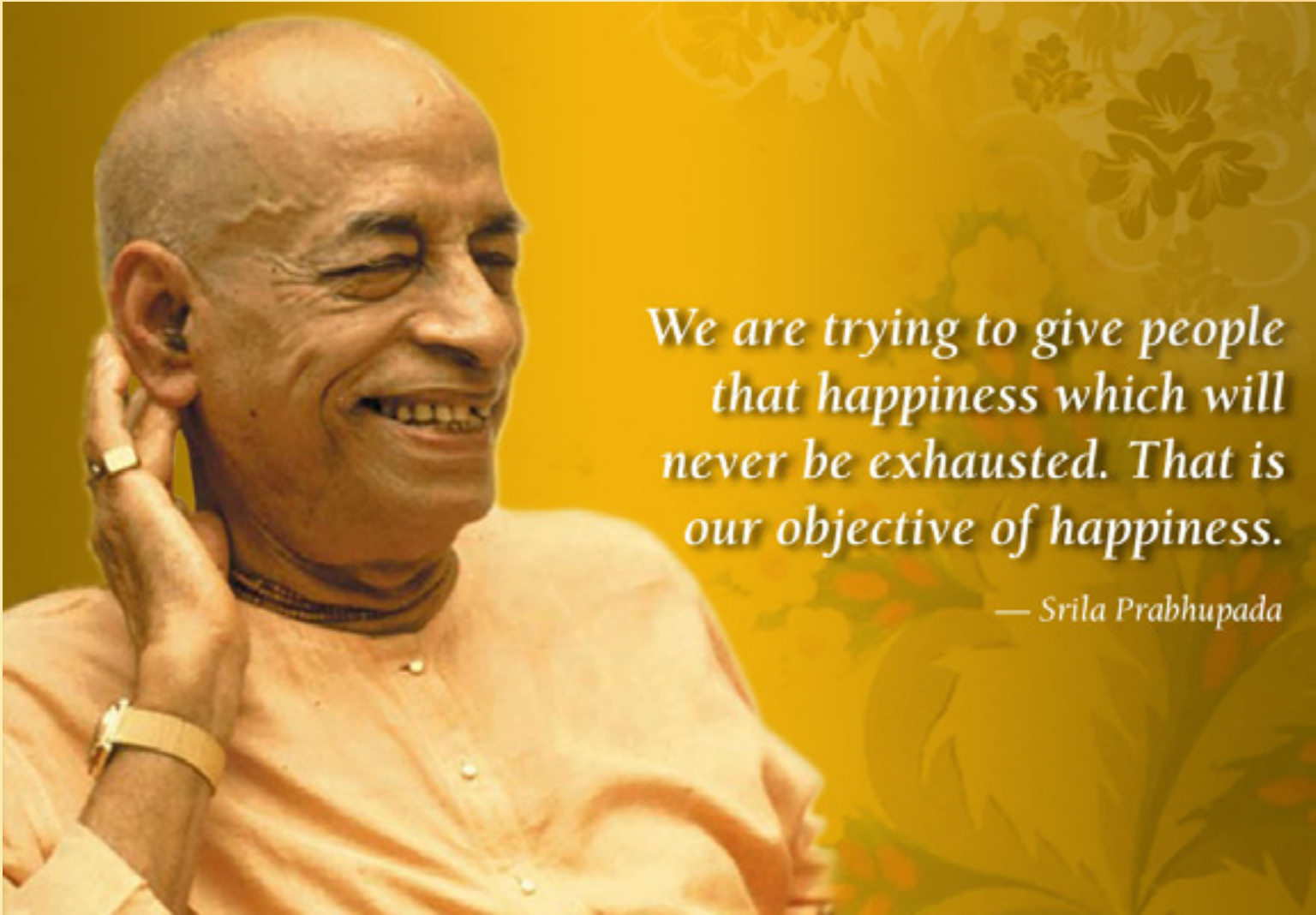
Sridham Mayapur is the international headquarters for the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). It has been predicted, by Lord Gauranga Mahaprabhu Himself and His esteemed devotees, that the glorification of the Lord through sankirtan will eventually reach every town and village in the world! The great vaishnava saint Bhaktivinode Thakur

SRILA PRABHUPADA SPEAKS

“Srila Prabhupada, you are a sadhu (saintly person). I can't understand why you have to build such an elaborate building”.

Srila Prabhupada gestured towards a tree growing close to the banks of the Ganges and replied:

“If Bhaktiviedanta Swani just sat down under this tree how many ladies and gentlemen would come to visit Mayapur? How many would be enthusiastic to stay overnight? We will build many such wonderful guest houses. Not for our own personal comfort but for the benefit of all who are inspired to visit the holy birthplace of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.”



HOW MANY NAMES OF LORD KRISHNA CAN YOU FIND?

F	T	T	R	G	C	Y	M	U	K	U	N	D	A
D	F	M	V	I	N	O	D	N	Q	L	H	T	J
W	V	L	A	D	C	P	V	R	R	T	N	W	L
K	K	G	L	D	H	G	B	L	A	J	N	K	R
M	M	O	K	L	H	N	I	N	Z	A	F	A	R
G	W	P	L	E	P	A	A	R	H	K	D	R	H
O	C	A	R	F	S	N	V	O	I	N	Q	S	L
P	F	L	F	P	E	H	M	A	I	R	E	V	H
I	T	A	V	E	V	N	A	V	K	H	A	L	A
N	P	M	D	Q	A	K	O	V	D	M	W	J	R
A	R	N	V	D	C	G	Z	A	A	R	Y	G	I
T	R	Z	A	G	A	U	R	A	N	G	A	T	W
H	V	M	K	V	D	A	M	O	D	A	R	A	T
G	Q	F	S	H	Y	A	M	S	U	N	D	E	R

How many names do you have? What do you call your father? What does your mother call your father? Your mother calls your father by a different name than you do.

Various names can be given to one person or thing according to its relationship and qualities. Krishna has unlimited qualities and thus has unlimited names. The name “Krishna” means all-attractive while the name “Murlidhar” means one who plays the flute.

Find as many names as you can in the word search below! Can you find all 15 of them? Send your answers, along with your name and birthday to Mayapur.news@gmail.com and we will post your name in the next newsletter!



FESTIVALS AT A GLANCE



MAYAPUR SANKIRTAN

OFFERING TO SRILA PRABHUPADA
During the month of October 2011

Sri Mayapur Chandrodaya Mandir
has reported distributing the following
number of books:

3085	Maha-big books
856	Big books
602	Medium books
6170	Small books
46,000*	Magazines
79	Full sets
56,713	Total literatures

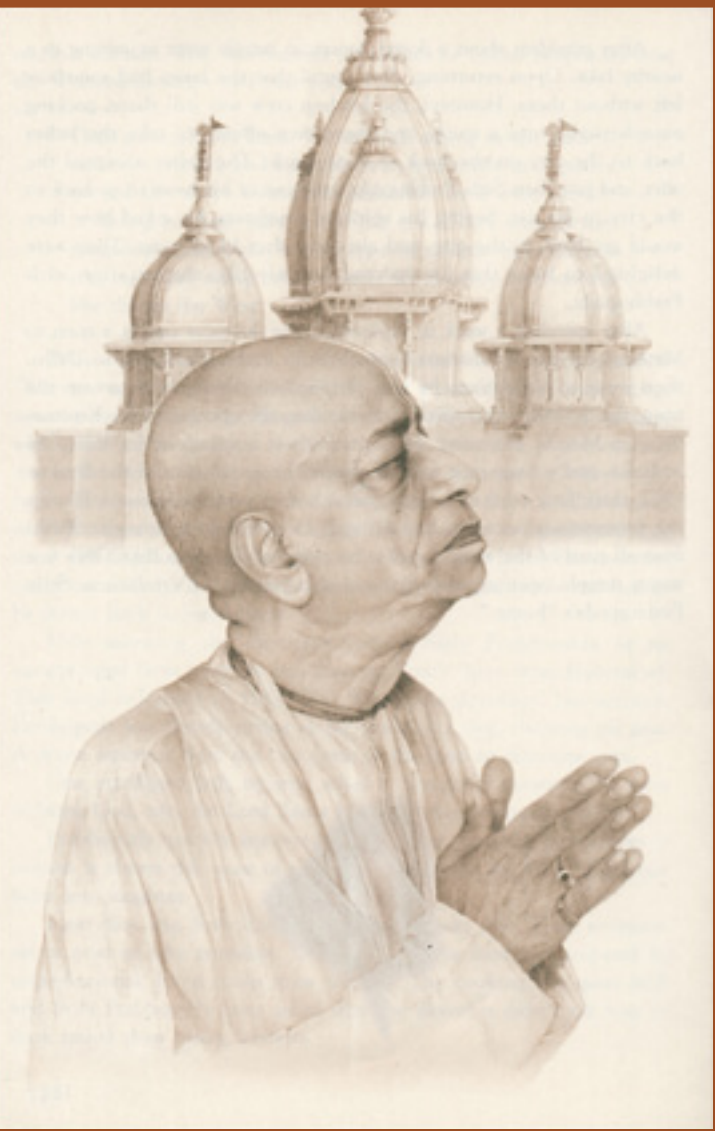
A combined total of 123 temples reported
distributing the following number of books:

79,370	Maha-big books
54,191	Big books
62,986	Medium books
216,477	Small books
107,786	Magazines
4,789	BTG subscriptions
286	Full sets
549,544	Total literatures

4,099,898 literatures year-to-date
484,162,383 literatures worldwide since 1965

All glories to the san-kirtan devotees!
All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

“This is the sum and substance of Lord Caitanya’s saṅkīrtana movement. There is no distinction made between those who are fit and those who are not fit to hear or take part in the saṅkīrtana movement. It should therefore be preached without discrimination. The only purpose of the preachers of the saṅkīrtana movement must be to go on preaching without restriction. That is the way in which Śrī Caitanya Mahāprabhu introduced this saṅkīrtana movement to the world.”
Cc. Ādi 9.29



Srimati Radharani Gopastami Vesh



Gopastami Srimati Radharani Charan Darshan



Gopastami Feeding of Cows at Goshala



Sri Sri Prahalad Nrisimhadev Damodara Arati



Sri Pancha-Tattva Altar Damodara Arati



Radhastami Abhishek



Govardhan Puja Anna-Koot



Sri Madhava Janmastami Vesh



Srimati Radharani Radhastami Vesh



Gita Jayanti Homa



Janmastami Abhishek



Srila Prabhupada's Disappearance Day Abhishek