

Acharya Kriyanandamayi assisted by Ahil Siva and Devaki offer Yoga classes to more than 375 children and 30 school teachers in remote, war torn northern Sri Lanka

See links to photos at the end of this article. This mission was sponsored by the Order.

We are happy to inform all of the Order's supporters that we have received this report today from Acharya Kriyanandamayi, of Colombo:

"We went to Jaffna on 1st of April night and reached there on 2nd of April, 2017 morning.

We had a informal meeting with the education department officers and Jaffna University Professors.

Monday April 3- we visited to one of the remote islands ,Nainativu which is 40km from Jaffna town. It was a 30 minute boat ride followed by a one hour car drive.

We conducted a Yoga class for 130 students at the Sri Ganesha Kanista Mahavidhyalam school in Nainativu. The Principal, teachers and students were all very interested.

Tuesday April 4 - we went to Kilinochchi which is 65 km from Jaffna. There we gave Yoga classes 90 students of Ambalpuram Vivekananda Vidhyalayam school.

Wednesday April 5 - we visited another island, Eluvaitivu, a 45 minute board ride from Jaffna, and at the school, Murugavel Vidhyalayam we taught Yoga to about 65 students.

Thursday April 6 morning – We gave a Yoga class to Primary school students at Jaffna and later, in the evening we have taught Primary school Teachers from different parts of Northern Province how to teach basic Yoga to their students.

Friday April 7 morning, at Thirunelveli, Jaffna, we taught a Yoga class to 40 Teachers, Professors and department officers from 12 different Zones of Northern Province

Afternoon – we taught a Yoga class to the United Nations UNICEF staff in Kilinochchi.

April 8, we returned to Colombo today morning.

We have donated a set of all of our Tamil language publication on Yoga to the schools, education department, College of Education and UNICEF libraries.

During this trip we had many wonderful experiences, and we are very satisfied with the response from the participants in the classes we offered. On this trip, we chose schools which are in remote areas of the Northern province where no one takes any interest to visit because of transport difficulties and the distance.. The boat service is available only four times a day. Also there were no vegetarian restaurants and hardly any shops, even to purchase bottled

water or biscuits. There are no hospital in these areas. Their main source of income is from fishing. The students are from poor families, and most of them have suffered during the 25 year civil war, which ended only a few years ago. Electricity service is sporadic. Some of the students are from the families which lost one or more family member during the war. Some of them wore torn clothing and shoes. In spite of this, the students were very obedient, and they all showed interest in the Yoga practice. They said it was a blessing for them.

After the session for the school teachers, some of them came and hugged us, and said that now, after many years, they can also smile through all the difficulties in life. All these Teachers are from war affected areas and some have lost their family members during the war. Tears came to our eyes when we saw them smiling and laughing and when they accepted that Yoga can help them to overcome all the sadness in life. We are very happy that we were given this wonderful opportunity to share Yoga with them.

On the 18th and 19th of April we will return to Jaffna to teach Yoga to nearly 115 school Principals from schools in the Northern Province. We received this proposal from the Department of Education, only yesterday after a discussion with their members, who were very much satisfied with the classes we taught, and who found that this Yoga practice will help both them personally and their students. So we have been asked to offer this training in Yoga to the school Principals also. Looking forward more sessions in war affected area public and students. We are looking forward to offering more Yoga classes in the war torn area.

Thankyou both for encouraging and supporting us. Thanking Babaji for choosing us in this great mission.

Herewith I am attaching the links of the photos which uploaded in Facebook.”

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1038451716289135.1073741858.100003729503742&type=1&l=66999ef6f8>

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Jai Babaji.