



July 2016

BHAKTIVEDANTA
LIVES IN SOUND SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
ISSUE #3



On the front page: Devotees from both BLISS Vinodol and BLISS Montreal joyfully pose for the current issue just prior to performing a harinam-sankirtana (chanting of the Holy names of the Lord) in the neighbourhood in Montreal, Canada. Makhancora Prabhu and Bhakta Filip Prabhu are being hosted by Montreal devotees for the summer and together preaching and distributing Srila Prabhupada's books.

Srila Prabhupada Speaks on the Topic of Devotee Association

There are many mercantile, scientific and other associations in human society to develop a particular type of education or consciousness, but there is no association which helps one to get free from all material association. If anyone has reached the stage where he must become free from this material contamination, then he has to seek the association of devotees, wherein Krsna consciousness is exclusively cultured. One can thereby become freed from all material association.

Because a devotee is freed from all contaminated material association, he is not affected by the miseries of material existence. Even though he appears to be in the material world, he is not affected by the miseries of the material world. How is it possible? There is a very good example in the activities of the cat. The cat carries her kittens in her mouth, and when she kills a rat she also carries the booty in her mouth. Thus both are carried in the mouth of the cat, but they are in different conditions. The kitten feels comfort in the mouth of the mother, whereas when the rat is carried in the mouth of the cat, the rat feels the blows of death. Similarly, those who are sadhava, or devotees engaged in Krsna consciousness in the transcendental service of the Lord, do not feel the contamination of material miseries, whereas those who are not devotees in Krsna consciousness actually feel the miseries of material existence. One should therefore give up the association of materialistic persons and seek the association of persons engaged in Krsna consciousness, and by such association he will benefit in spiritual advancement. By their words and instructions, he will be able to cut off his attachment to material existence. **SB 3.25.24**



A devotee who believes that the holy name of the Lord is identical with the Lord is a pure devotee, even though he may be in the neophyte stage. By his association, others may also become Vaisnavas.

One is known as a materialistic devotee if he simply worships the Deity of Hari with faith but does not show proper respect to the devotees and to others. This is confirmed in Srimad-Bhagavatam (11.2.47):

**arcayam eva haraye
pujam yah sraddhayehate
na tad-bhaktesu canyesu
sa bhaktah prakrtah smrtah**

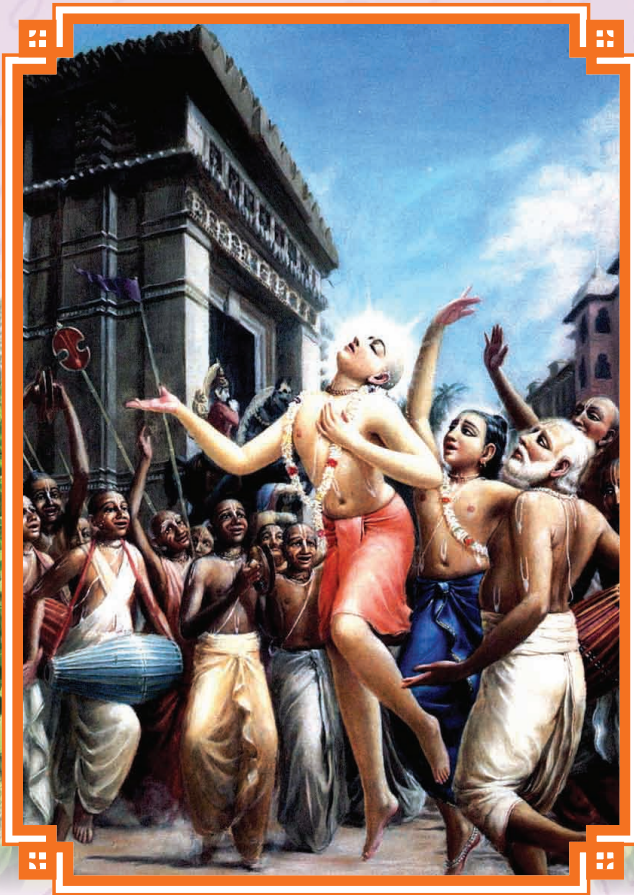
“Anyone who engages with faith in the worship of the Deity of Hari but does not show proper respect to the devotees and to others is known as a materialistic devotee.” However, by associating with a neophyte devotee who believes that the holy name of the Lord is identical with the Lord, one can become a devotee also. When Lord Caitanya was teaching Sanatana Gosvami, He said:

**sraddhavan jana haya bhakti-adhikari
'uttama', 'madhyama;', 'kanistha' -- sraddha-anusari
yahara komala-sraddha, se 'kanistha' jana
krame krame tenho bhakta ha-ibe 'uttama'
rati-prema-taratamye bhakta-taratama**

“A person who has attained firm faith is a real candidate for advancing in Krsna consciousness. According to the faith, there are first-class, second-class and neophyte devotees. One who has preliminary faith is called kanistha, or a neophyte. The neophyte, however, can become an advanced devotee if he strictly follows the regulative principles set down by the spiritual master. The pure devotee whose faith advances becomes a madhyama-adhikari and uttama-adhikari.” (Cc. Madhya 22.64,69-70)

It is thus concluded that even a neophyte devotee is superior to the karmis and jnanis because he has full faith in chanting the holy name of the Lord. A karmi or a jnani, regardless of his greatness, has no faith in Lord Visnu, His holy name or His devotional service. One may be advanced religiously, but if he is not trained in devotional service, he has very little credit on the transcendental platform. Even a neophyte devotee engaged in Deity worship in accordance with the regulations set forth by the spiritual master is in a position superior to that of the fruitive worker and speculative philosopher. **Madhya 15.106**





above : Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is enjoying an ecstatic kirtan together with His associates.

What is B.L.I.S.S?



Bhaktivedanta Lives In Sound Society is an international organization of Hare Kṛṣṇa devotees practicing and teaching bhakti-yoga (the essence of religion) under the direct guidance of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, who is the last link to the ancient unbroken chain of disciplic succession (parampara) originating with the Supreme Personality of Godhead Sri Kṛṣṇa Himself. Although His Divine Grace has departed physically from this world in 1977, the members of the society hold him to be still transcendently present in his instructions.



The speech is the most important quality in man and a great politician of the by-gone ages Canakya Pandita says that a well-dressed fool cannot be recognized unless he speaks. A fool may be decorated by nice dress, titles, or superficial knowledge, but as soon as he speaks, his foolishness is revealed at once. In the same way, a bona fide association of devotees is recognized by what they say, not by what they wear or what nationality they belong to, nor is it very important to know to which particular religious sect they belong to. If we become overly concerned about these external signs of a devotee, we will be misled because such signs can be very easily imitated by imposters. Bhaktivinode Thakura warns all sincere followers of the Krsna consciousness movement to avoid pseudo devotees who despite manifesting signs of Krsna devotees externally are actually disciples of Kali. Devotee association therefore can be primarily recognized by Krsna-katha -discussion about Krsna. Krsna, the Supreme Personality says(Bg. 10.9):

The pure devotees thoroughly engage their minds in Me, their lives are fully devoted to My service, and they derive great satisfaction and bliss enlightening one another and conversing about Me.

Just like a man madly in love with a particular woman cannot stop but discuss about her, a pure devotee is always discussing about Krsna, or God -in his classes, in his morning conversations, in his casual conversations with guests, in his letters, etc. The pure devotee is so untiring in his discussion of Krsna-katha that sometimes people plead with him not to speak just so they can continue to enjoy the slumber of material existence. The following humorous remembrance, for example, has been told by Srila Prabhupada's early associate:

“Actually, he [Srila Prabhupada] was always preaching: harer nama harer nama harer namaiva kevalam/ kalau nasty eva nasty eva nasty eva gair anyatha-no other way except



The guru injects the transcendental message about Krsna into the receptive ear of a disciple and impregnates him with spiritual realization provided the disciple is ready to follow his instructions faithfully.



Hare Krsna nama. So, always discussing, sometimes the whole night he was discussing with me, and sometimes I was fed up. I was requesting, 'Please don't disturb me. Please let me sleep.'

The spiritual master is Krsna-haunted, completely obsessed with God, and therefore his faithful follower must also become Krsna-haunted and speak of Krsna if possible twenty four hours a day. This is the symptom of one's hearing from the spiritual master sincerely. The guru injects the transcendental message about Krsna into the receptive ear of a disciple and impregnates him with spiritual realization provided the disciple is ready to follow his instructions faithfully. The transcendental sound enters one ear, but does not come out through another ear as it is the case with a mundaner. It comes out through the disciple's mouth. Therefore, the disciple cannot indulge in mundane talks pertaining to the impermanent nature of the material existence having received the transcendental news from the Goloka Vrndavana (kingdom of God) from the pure acarya. He does not hear or read about mundane topics, nor does he delight in hearing such topics if heard accidentally. If many of such faithful followers gather in order to hear from the bona fide acarya and then exchange pleasing talks about Krsna, it can be rightfully called a bona fide devotee association, or a bona fide association of sadhus (sadhu-sanga) and one's advancement in Krsna consciousness becomes very swift if one takes shelter of such association. It is for this reason Narottama Das Thakur prays: "My dear Lord, let me be engaged in Your transcendental loving service, as indicated by the previous acaryas, and let me live in the



association of pure devotees. That is my desire, life after life.”

The faithful followers of the acarya not only speak of Krsna, but also



practically engage in His service. Sometimes neophyte devotees think that they can continue the sravana-kirtana process without worshipping the Deity, but the execution of sravana-kirtana is meant for highly developed devotees like Haridasa Thakura, who engaged in the sravana-kirtana exclusively. Therefore faithful devotees engage in the service of Krsna without interruption and this pure mentality grants them transcendental immunity from the Lord even if they become temporarily deviated from the path. Lord Krsna says(Bg. 9.30):

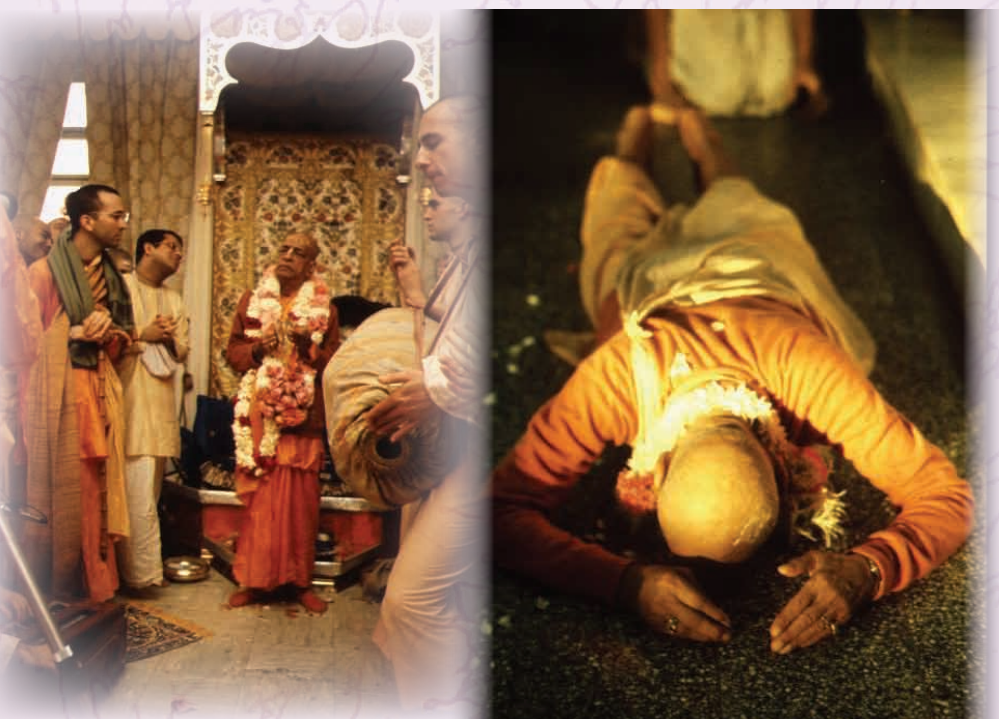
Because he is rightly situated, one engaged in devotional service is to be considered saintly, even if he commits the most abominable action.

Failure is a pillar of success and it is not expected that one becomes completely perfect from the very beginning. Srila Prabhupada explains (BTGPY6a: Who is a 'Sadhu'?): "Because a person is spiritually inclined—he cannot have unnecessary material hankering—just like a man fully fed cannot have any further hunger. The material hankerings do completely stop at the highest stage of spiritual perfection. India's civilization



was based on this principle. Because they were spiritually advanced they demanded the utmost material necessities of life. Less material advancement in the past was not due to lack of material knowledge but they did not like to bother in unnecessary paraphernalia. But in the interim period i.e., transition stage of spiritual advancement from materialism, it may sometimes occur that a spiritualist, is suddenly materially miscarried due to his past material vicious habits. We should not be disturbed by such occasional signs provided one has not diverted from the service of the Lord. Fixed up faith in the service of the Lord, will put a diverted devotee again on the right path and the devotee will make undisturbing progress. The devotional path is so assured.”

It does not mean that one can indulge in all sorts of nonsense and then instruct others on how to execute devotional service, but if a sincere follower temporarily deviates from the path or show some mundane qualities in his behaviour he should not be derided provided he sticks



to the service. Unfortunately those who have themselves been deceived by pseudo-devotees, who indulge in sinful activities on the pretext of devotional service in the past and are left with bitter taste on their tongue, are unable to chant the glories of the Lord in the association of pure devotees and find unnecessary fault with sincere devotees who might



be temporarily imperfect. They think that the wilful engagement in sinful activities on the strength of spiritual immunity granted by the Lord by a pseudo devotee and an accidental manifestation of mundane behaviour due to one's previous bad habits by a neophyte aspirant are one and the same, but as the saying goes, we should not throw away a baby with the bathing water. There is a gulf of difference between the above mentioned two classes of men. The pseudo-devotee continues to act sinfully despite all good instruction given to him by the spiritual master without any reformation and in order to justify his position he tries to misinterpret the instruction of the spiritual master and thus he misleads others.

The sincere aspirant although temporarily found to be manifesting some mundane traits is not envious of the instruction of the spiritual master and repeats it as it is. He knows he is not perfect but does not justify his misbehaviour by twisting the meaning of the spiritual master's instruction. In this way, he soon recovers from a temporary fall down, continues his service and ultimately reaches complete perfection.

It is therefore advised to all who aspire to associate with devotees not to see the sadhus, but to hear the sadhus. The sincere devotee will never contradict the conclusions of the scriptures, nor will he try to minimize the instruction of the bona fide spiritual master if he himself is not able to yet follow it perfectly. Thus he represents the parampara (disciplic succession).

It is also important to understand that one has to become himself serious about accepting the shelter of the bona fide spiritual master, otherwise why should he look for the association of the spiritual master's faithful followers in the first place? If one is not ready to accept the shelter of a bona fide spiritual master, he will unnecessarily find fault with the bona fide aspirants on the path of bhakti in order to justify his



material attachments and the Lord will then direct him to the association of rascals, where he can be cheated to his full satisfaction again and again. One should therefore not be envious of the bona fide devotee association but become a faithful follower of the spiritual master himself, being ready to ultimately give up all sort of sense gratification for the mission of the spiritual master and in this way, it will be very easy for him to find a bona fide association of devotees.



The Value of Devotee Association by Makhancora dasa

We live in a society. Man is said to be a “social animal”. Every day we interact, share, communicate etc. with the aim to facilitate achieving our goals, enhance our endeavors or simply to fulfill that inherent need for reciprocation, love and understanding.

Devotees of Lord Krsna are no exception to this. Still, there is a gulf of difference between the society or association of devotees and of those, who live their lives centered around their personal egos and agendas. What is actually “association”? Srila Rupa Gosvami in his Sri Upadesamrta defines it for us:

**dadati pratigrhnati guhyam akhyati prcchati
bhunkte bhojayate caiva sad-vidham priti-laksanam**



“Offering gifts in charity, accepting charitable gifts, revealing one’s mind in confidence, inquiring confidentially, accepting prasada and offering prasada are the six symptoms of love shared by one devotee and another.”

Nectar of Instruction, verse 4

Giving and receiving gifts and food, revealing one’s mind and asking confidential questions constitute that, which we call association or company. Again, one may ask: “So what? Anyone meets and shares gifts, food or thoughts...” Of course everyone does that, but the difference



is, that association of nondevotees entangles one deeper and deeper in the complexities of material nature, while the association of devotees facilitates one's liberation from the pangs of material existence. How?

When someone gives something to the devotees, whatever it may be - money, decorations, clothes, a house, kitchen utensils or whatever, everything is being used by them in the transcendental loving service of the Lord. Thus one also becomes engaged in the service of the Lord, simply by this grand act of giving. If we give anything to anyone else, it will be (mis)used by him in pursuance of gratifying his own senses or the senses of his close or extended circle, in fulfilling his desires of concentrated or extended selfishness. Devotees have but one desire, to please Krsna. And when Krsna is pleased, when the root is watered, then the whole tree becomes nourished automatically, directly or indirectly.

You bring bhoga (unoffered food) to the temple? Or give some to a devotee? You'll get back prasadam - a food sanctified by the saliva of Krsna's delight. Every morsel of food not offered to the Lord implicates one in sinful reactions, as the Lord says in Bhagavad-gita (3.13), but every morsel of the same food offered to Krsna liberates one from the tight knots of karma.

And when one comes to devotees to discuss with them the values of life, some real philosophy, if one tries to go deep with them into



Makhancora Dasa frying puris in clarified butter soon to be offered for the pleasure of Srila Prabhupada at the altar of The Hare Krishna Center Montreal.





understanding of reality, what can benefit him more? We live our lives in this matrix, swallowed by the system, pushed, oppressed, forced by the unbridled senses to so-called enjoy the waves of flickering so-called happiness, ultimately being frustrated by Krsna in the form of invincible death. Yet, maya will always inspire us in millions of ways how to doubt Krsna, how to doubt the possibility of eternal life full of knowledge and bliss, how to doubt the process of self-realization. But she's tricky. She'll never supply any doubts towards herself. These doubts, which trigger the urge for spiritual achievements are supplied by devotees only. The real questions are asked by devotees. And they also have the answers. One should not hesitate to take advantage of this. Hare Krsna!



Anyone who joined this Krishna consciousness movement even for a few moments experienced spiritual pleasure. This type of pleasure is different, it is superior. In fact its superiority can be understood through observing the life of an aspiring Krishna conscious person. The aspiring candidate has to refrain from any type of material pleasure, of which illicit sex, meat eating, intoxication & gambling are the prime pillars. You might ask, "How is it possible? No enjoyment?" Indeed, it is true. Ananda-mayo 'bhyasat (Vedanta-sutra 1.1.12) the living entities are full of consciousness, and they are after pleasure, therefore denying pleasure is artificial. So the candidates are experiencing pleasure by experiencing a higher taste. Someone might ask, if the aspiring devotee cuts off from any kind of material sense pleasure what is he left with and how can there be anything higher? But it is a fact. Param drstva nivartate (Bg 2.59). Only by developing a higher taste one can give up anything.



So the aspiring devotee gives up sinful life not out of pride, just to talk about how austere his lifestyle is, but he wants to curb down his false ego and associate with like-minded practitioners who are also aspiring to be engaged in the service of Krishna
- the reservoir of pleasure.



B.L.I.S.S. Slovakia Festival Success

The members of the Bhaktivedanta Lives in Sound Society branch in Vinodol, Slovakia have attended a very well known and popular festival called "Drienok" at the end of June.



**Makhancora Dasa distributing Prasadam
at the "Drienok" festival**

People from all over the country and also from abroad gather in this colorful meeting to present and share their, mostly, hand-made products varying from food to jewelry, musical instruments, cosmetics, clothes, utensils, decorations, making workshops of all kinds and enjoying concerts, performances



and meeting friends all at one place. Devotees from the B.L.I.S.S. set up a tent with a small kitchen and Guru-Gauranga altar and conducted a regular program of everyday kirtan (chanting of the Holy Names of Krsna), prasadam (spiritual food) and book distribution and classes on the Vedic scriptures which became a highlight for many festival-comers. Since the first day people began to recognize the “Krsna stage” as a place of nice and friendly atmosphere, deep discussions, blissful chanting and free, delicious food, culminating on Saturday night in an uproarious kirtan with some 40 people participating in ecstasy. We thank everyone for coming and taking part in the Sankirtan-movement of Lord Caitanya, all the friends who kindly donated funds to help with our humble attempt and we believe that some fortunate souls became inspired in their heart to chant the Holy Names of the Lord: Hare Krsna, Hare Krsna, Krsna Krsna, Hare Hare / Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare.

Questions And Answers

What are the conditions to affiliate as a branch of the Bhaktivedanta Lives in Sound Society? Answered by Purujit Dasa

The purpose of BLISS is to give aspiring devotees a chance to become bona fide disciples of Srila Prabhupada. Therefore a BLISS center should be run in such a way that a new devotee can be trained and initiated in the association of other Prabhupadanuga Godbrothers. In November 1966, Srila Prabhupada wrote the following notice for his early initiated disciples:

“All initiated devotees must attend morning and evening classes.

Must not be addicted to any kind of intoxicants including coffee, tea and cigarettes. They are forbidden to have illicit sex-connections.

Must be strictly vegetarian.

Should not extensively mix with non-devotees.

Should not eat foodstuff cooked by non-devotees.

Should not waste time in idle talks nor



Engage himself in frivolous sports.
Should always chant and sing the Lord's Holy names.

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare,
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare."

NOTICE

All initiated devotees must attend morning and evening classes.

Must not be addicted to any kind of intoxicants including coffee, tea and cigarette.

They are forbidden to have illicit sex-connections. Must be strictly vegetarian.

Should not fraternize with non-devotees

Should not eat foodstuff cooked by non-devotee

Should not waste time in idle talks nor

Engage himself in frivolous sports.

Should always chant and sing the Lord's Holy names

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna
Hare Hare.

Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama
Hare Hare.

Thank you,

International
Society for Krishna Consciousness
26 Second Avenue
New York N.Y.

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami
Acharya.

Dated Nov. 25, 1966

The original notice from Srila Prabhupada to his early disciples

In our BLISS centers we are following these principles strictly, so the devotees who would like to affiliate with BLISS would also be expected to follow the same. It is not difficult, anyone can do it -whether your center is a big palace, a small apartment, or a spot under a tree, that doesn't really matter. Anyone can hold a class by reading Srila Prabhupada's books aloud and discussing their conclusions and follow the basic regulative principles such as chanting 16 rounds, avoiding the 4 sinful activities, rising before 4am and others. Even if there is little discrepancy we can adjust as long as the devotees are not opposed to the actual standard itself and are willing to improve. The most important is that the center is open for people from the outside to come and take part in the activities. This is the whole purpose that the outsiders





“The most important is that the center is open for people from the outside to come and take part in the activities.”

have an opportunity to come in contact with the bona fide spiritual master and engage in the activities of devotional service under his guidance via his representatives, namely sincere devotees who push on the preaching despite all odds. It is not supposed to be a closed circle of officially initiated who feel they have the monopoly on spiritual advancement. No. This is not the idea Srila Prabhupada wants from us. BLISS is open to the whole world to come and challenge if they want. It is not a closed sectarian group controlled by fear. This is very important that we don't lose this openness.

Please send us your questions and inquiries to :

**C o n t a c t @
H a r e K r i s h n a M o n t r e a l .
c o m**



Harinam - Sankirtan

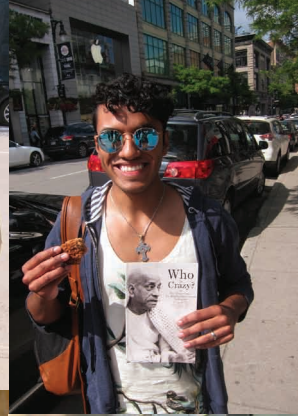


Above are pictures from the 2016 recent TamTam's and an ecstatic harinam on the Disappearance of Srila Sanatan Goswami,

*the pictures were taken by Sriman Vijay, thank you !



Prasadam Distribution On The Street



Feedback from a well-wisher

Hare Krsna. I am enlivened to read and receive your newsletter. Thank you for sending it to me. I appreciate very much your efforts for preaching Krsna consciousness and pleasing Srila Prabhupada. I didn't closely read all parts of the newsletter. From what I saw, though, the writing is alive, dynamic, fresh, filled with spiritual enthusiasm, and I expect it will be captivating for the sincere reader.

Dhira Govinda Prabhu

Monthly Book
Distribution scores:

515

The author of "Prominent Link", "Krishna Israel and the Druze" and the former director of the ISKCON International Child Protection Office



Beautiful drawing of the Bhaktivedanta Lives In Sound Society Center
Vinodol - by Srimati Joanna (Poland)



Thank You List:

We would like to use this opportunity to express our humble gratitude to the following contributors for their kind help and support of the Bhaktivedanta Lives In Sound Society in Montreal. May Lord Krsna bless your souls...

REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS:

Mrs. Srimati Heather Davey (Canada)
Mr. Surendra Krishnan (USA)



S P E C I A L

CONTRIBUTORS:

Sriman Jaganath Prabhu (Spain)
Sriman Bhakta Jindra and
Srimati Hladini-sakti Mataji
(Czech Republic)

REGULAR DONATIONS OF COOKING INGREDIENTS FROM LOCAL STORES:

Depanneur Jean Talon West 992 **Mr. Walid & his dear wife** (milk products)
JAFFA 1992 Queen Mary (fruits & vegetables)
Bengali Vegetables Store **Mr. Babu & Mr. Subahu** (fruits & vegetables).
Ram-Sweet Shop on Jean Talon (milk products, gur).
Indian Curry Restaurant, **Rajni & Rajesh Chopra** Jean Talon W 996 (promotion)
Marche Blair 557 Rue Jarry West (ghee).
MURAD Supermarche 700 Rue Jarry West (vegetables)
Quick Tick Dollar Store Plus 544 Rue Jarry West (candles, rice)
Madhuban (fruits and vegetables).
Rama-Krishna grocery store (saffron threads).
Bazaar Oriental Jean-Talon W.(puja paraphernalia)

Get Involved With B.L.I.S.S

Our Montreal Center is always in need of enthusiastic members and supporters.
At the moment we are searching for contributors to sponsor the following:

Raw ingredients for our Love Feast &
Festivals programs

Help in the kitchen with cutting, cleaning, shopping, etc

Atta, gur, spices for our summertime cookie
prasadam distribution (Tam Tam's)

Translating (any language welcome)

Travelling expenses for the preachers to expand
the mission worldwide

Transcribing

Devotional paraphernalia for the center's giftshop
(malas, beadbags, cookbooks, etc.)

Help with web maintenance

More boxes of Srila Prabhupada's books for
distribution

Painting/drawing or other art work

MOVE IN AND PRACTISE WITH US

We are also looking for persons who are willing to join us on full time basis. Are you looking for a life-changing experience? Are you willing to undergo a little austerity in exchange for deep spiritual realisations? Do you feel inspired by reading Srila Prabhupada's books and want to give something back? Let us know and we'll get back to you to see if we can work it out.

IF YOU ARE INSPIRED FOR ANY OR ALL OF THESE SERVICES PLEASE
CONTACT US:

contact@harekrishnamontreal.com Telephone: 438 937 1080



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