



Sri Swamiji's much anticipated arrival in the US is fast approaching. On May 2 he will arrive at Washington, DC Dulles airport to begin another three-month North American tour, reaching from the East Coast west to Chicago and Colorado, north to Canada, then south to North Carolina. There Sri Swamiji will host programs at his Ganesh Place ashram. The tour again will culminate in a week-long Meditation Retreat at Indian Valley in the mountains of western Virginia. Although attendance for the full-week retreat is highly encouraged, weekend or daily attendance is also highly rewarding. Twice-daily meditation programs and group question and answer sessions with Sri Swamiji, daily bhajans, a Homa and Pada Puja ceremony, and the opportunity for individual darshan, create an atmosphere overflowing with our Guru's bountiful blessings.

# Sri Shivabalayogi's Birthday Celebration in Agra



AUM SHIVA BALA!

Mriganka Gupta

Sri Swamiji's birthday celebration was held at the Agra ashram on January 26th. The function was fabulous; the Homa was held outdoors and everybody participated, much like they do at Ganesh Place. The most striking thing about the celebration was that there were so many people that at the time of the arthi I found myself right at the back, unable to push my way to the front to perform the arthi to Sri Swamiji. But believe me, I was extremely elated by the huge crowd!





Sri Swamiji's Samadhi at Agra

Sri Swamiji's Samadhi at the Agra ashram contains his statue, his jatas and vibhuti from Adivarapupeta (his birthplace and where he took his final Samadhi). The vibhuti was taken from Sri Swamiji's feet where he sat in state after his Mahasamadhi. The Samadhi has very powerful vibrations.

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# Voices of the Devotees To Sri Swamiji

#### moksha\* motivation ian marie

for anyone to want incarnational experience/enjoyment rather than or as a delay of moksha

#### is like someone in a swamp wanting to smell the one flower there

instead of climbing out into the lovely clear cleansing pool

in the middle of an infinite flower Garden of far lovelier and better-fragranced and eternally ever-new ever-fresh flowers

and the one in the swamp is only temporary and transitory

the flower in the swamp might be quite nice if one knew of nothing better however it's in the mud

the flower in the swamp will eventually reach the eternal Divine Garden also

a Guru will help it do so.



\* Moksha is liberation from the cycle of rebirth. This can be attained through regular daily meditation, with the Guru's Grace. Regularity and punctuality are important. The duration should be gradually increased, beginning with at least one-hour sittings.

#### A Professor of Science Rvan Sukhoo

Last summer 2004, my family and I were given the great pleasure to meet Sri Sri Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj. At the time I did not know who Sri Swamiji was; I was told that he was a "selfrealized or God-realized" person. I had thoughts that Sri Swamiji was a yogi from India who went into seclusion up in the mountains to find God or some sort of spiritual peace. This interested me a lot; being a man of science, I always questioned everything. I always asked "Why?" or



"How?" whenever confronted with new information. In Sri Swamiji's case, I questioned, "How does one know that he/she is a God-realized individual? How do you measure that? Is there a test or a rite of passage that one must endure to get to this level of a God-realized person?" I had all these thoughts and many other questions going around in my mind.

My father, brother and I met Sri Swamiji for the first time at the Toronto International Airport. As I looked out to the arrival entrance, I saw a man all dressed in

white, with white hair and a white beard; it was Sri Swamiji. As he came closer I could see a huge smile on his face and I felt an unexplained feeling of happiness. When Sri Swamiji came closer, I greeted him and he gave me a big hug. Sri Swamiji has a very strong hand and with his hug he accidentally bent the frame of my glasses. I said to myself, "Wow! This guy is strong!" In my mind I envisioned a yogi as a frail person, but Sri Swamiji was quite the opposite. Side note: When Sri Swamiji comes back to visit. I'd better wear contacts!

The main part of Sri Swamiji's visit was to teach dhyan meditation. The first time I tried to meditate, I found it to be very difficult. Sitting still and being quiet just allowed for a million thoughts to race in my mind. In general, my mind is constantly thinking about what I have to do for that day or about something medically related that I am trying to figure out. When I tried to meditate, I had sensory overload. I could not imagine how Sri Swamiji could sit and meditate for hours, days and even months and years without thoughts just racing in and out.

I asked Sri Swamiji, "How do you quiet the mind when you meditate?" He said that thoughts will come in and out of your mind, but if you focus on one thing, eventually your mind will quiet down. He said it may only be for just a minute at the beginning, but eventually it will be for longer. Sri Swamiji was right. The more I meditated and did so on a regular basis, I did get longer periods of no thoughts in my mind. The interesting thing I found was when I was in this state of relaxation I was very excited, and then I would find myself starting to think, "What is this state of relaxation?" and then I would fall out of my meditation. I guess it is the scientist in me still wanting to know how this comes about? Maybe not everything in life we have to figure out, but just accept.







In science there are things that we just accept and take as being true, even though we have no real proof. For example, in physics there are many theories that exist to explain how and why things in nature are the way they are with no real proof. When I see Sri Swamiji as a God-realized person, I see him practicing a branch of science that very few people can comprehend. He is like a professor of that branch of science trying to explain to all of us how to achieve self-realization.

## A Flight to Life: Taking Shelter at the Feet of Sri Sri Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj Marijo Makufka

... "Swamiji gives free meditation, free vibhuti and free prasad. He has come all the way from India. He has come here for a purpose. He says, 'My shop is open. I am giving freely. All I am taking away is love and affection.' It depends on you, how much you want to take."

In the Footsteps of the Yogi

It started in the spring of 2000. I had been following Eastern traditions for over five years. I

believed I'd already found my guru, an incarnation of Saraswati, who once a year left her native India and toured the United States. A warm spring afternoon, then, when a friend said he'd sent me a flyer about Sri Sri Sri Shivabalayogi, I was disinterested at best. "What I don't need is to meet any more gurus." My voice was firm, ground-heavy.

"Why are you crying?" my husband Michael asked as he stood behind me in our dining room. He looked over my shoulder at the flyer I held of Sri Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj. "Why aren't you moving?" The flyer's two images of Sri Swamiji had become three-dimensional, and my eyes were locked with those in the photo. Sri Swamiji's presence-through the photos-was as real as if he stood in front of me. "I can't let go," I said softly. It was true. My hands were still where I first held the flyer, clutched tightly, getting hot from my grip.

"How is that possible?" Michael tried to pry my hands open. No go. The background faded. I had my first darshan of Sri Swamiji that day, though I didn't realize it at the time. Quiet tears fell. I was filled with a bliss I'd never known before. Eventually I released the flyer murmuring, "Guess I better go to the Sri Shivabalayogi program after all." With my decision, it was as if a flock of birds took flight.

In Philadelphia, having made the four-hour trip just days after receiving the blessed flyer, I saw Sri Sri Sri Shivabalayogi for the first time. Dressed in a white dhoti and white shirt, he moved noiselessly into the hall. Devotees sang "Jaya Jaya Yogi Shah" and performed a brief arthi with a candle flame. Sri Swamiji closed his eyes. The smell of incense skimmed the



room. Sri Swamiji's long white hair and beard, his smooth face, shimmered in the evening light. When we entered the main room and were seated, we received instruction in dhyan, a one-hour meditation focusing on the third eye. Sri Swamiji pointed out that dhyan was "not a religion in the sense of being a sectarian body of belief." Rather, it served to strengthen and enhance whatever spiritual path a person chose. For me, the hour of meditation was filled with racing thoughts. This was nothing new. My efforts at meditation over the past five years had always produced a busy mind. That's where meditation had always started and ended for me–l tried, my thoughts paced impatiently, and then I quit trying. That night learning dhyan was no different, and I grew frustrated anew.

People went one by one to speak with Sri Swamiji. All questions, requests and comments were warmly received. I watched from my seat, seeing how open and accessiblehow loving-Sri Swamiji was. When someone was sad, Sri Swamiji's face grew sweetly concerned. When someone said something funny, Sri Swamiji roared with laughter. He went effortlessly from one emotion to another, without the lag time common in most mood shifts. When it was my turn, Sri Swamiji asked my name. "How was your meditation, Marijo?" I shook my head, heavy with defeat. "Not good. My thoughts went everywhere." Swamiji spoke, aided by a translator, about keeping a meditation journal. "At the end of each meditation session, write down your thoughts. Good thoughts, bad thoughts. Then put the journal away until the next meditation. Read it before you start. Slowly, slowly, your thoughts will go away."

My second evening seeing Sri Shivabalayogi was in a small, hushed hall in Philadelphia. Seats faced Sri Swamiji, his chair covered with white cloth. On small tables on either side of him sat photos of Lord Shiva, arrangements of flowers, fruit to share with attendees, burning incense and candles, packets of vibuthi (sacred ash). Over 100 people filled the seats and floor in front of Sri Swamiji; no space remained. The lights were turned low. The space felt close and warm.

My meditation went more smoothly than the night before. Although I heard noises around me-stirrings, throat clearings, breath–I also had moments of quiet and calm. Feeling pleased, at the end of the meditation I joined with others in chanting "Om" three times. *(continued on page 6)* 







| Washington, DC Area   | May 5-8  | Denver/Boulder/Evergreen, CO  | May 25-29  |
|---|--|---|--|
| DC Area Contact: Ricky 540-907-5289<br>rickycook21@hotmail.com  |  | Colorado Contacts: Wade/Adela 303-319-GURU or<br>Pola 303-504-6067  |  |
| Sri Siva Vishnu Temple<br>6905 Cipriano Road<br>Lanham, MD<br>ph 310-552-3335<br>www.ssvt.org   | <b>Thursday, May 5</b><br>7:30 pm<br><b>Sunday, May 8</b><br>3:00 pm   | of Boulder (Labyrinth Room)   | Wednesday, May 25<br>Saturday, May 28<br>7:00 pm   |
| Unity of Fairfax<br>2854 Hunter Mill Road<br>Oakton, VA<br>ph 703-281-1767<br>www.unityoffairfax.org  | <b>Friday, May 6</b><br>7:00 pm  | Unity Church of Denver<br>3021 So. University Boulevard<br>Denver, CO 80210<br>www.denverunity.org<br>United Methodist Church         | Thursday, May 26<br>7:30 pm<br>Sunday, May 29  |
| Agnihotra House<br>3501 N. Rolling Road<br>Winsor Mill, MD<br>Info: the resonancepoint@yahoo.com  | <b>Saturday, May 7</b><br>7:00 pm  | of Evergreen<br>3757 So. Ponderosa Drive<br>Evergreen, CO 80439<br>www.evergreenumc.org   | 7:00 pm  |
| New Jersey / Philadelphia, PA   | May 12-15  | Canada  | June 2-18  |
| Manmohan & Upasana Bryant<br>Ringoes, NJ 08551<br>ph 908-806-8648<br>atmafm@yahoo.com   | Thursday, May 12<br>7:00 pmCanada Contact: Robby 905-567Radha Krishna Mandir<br>67 Old Mill Road<br>Cambridge, Ontario |   | -6397<br><b>Thursday, June 2</b><br>7:00 pm  |
| All Saint's Episcopal Church<br>6301 Crescentville Road<br>Philadelphia, PA<br>Contact: Andrea 215-514-2727<br>Directions: janamallis@aol.com | <b>Friday, May 13</b><br>7:00 pm<br><b>Saturday, May 14</b><br>4:30 pm   | Contact: Deo<br>ph 519-650-1337<br><b>Durga Shakti Mandir</b><br>750 Markham Road<br>Scarborough, Ontario<br>Contact: Pundit Kanhaiya | Friday, June 3<br>Saturday, June 4<br>Sunday, June 5<br>7:00 pm                            |
| Chicago, IL   | May 19-21  | ph 416-439-9483   | 7.00 pm  |
| <b>The Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago</b><br>10915 Lemont Avenue<br>Lemont, IL<br>Contact: Geetha 708-345-5535<br>omshakti1@aol.com          | <b>Thursday, May 19<br/>Friday, May 20<br/>Saturday, May 21</b><br>7:00 pm   | Hanuman Mandir<br>190 Milvan Drive<br>Toronto, Ontario<br>Contact: Pundit Brahmarine Sharma<br>ph 416-748-9977                        | Wednesday, June 8<br>Thursday, June 9<br>Friday, June 10<br>Saturday, June 11<br>7:00 pm   |
|   |  | Toronto Hindu Dharmic Sabha<br>130 Westmore Drive, Unit 15<br>Etobicoke, Ontario<br>Contact: Pundit Mahindra<br>ph 416-674-0415       | Wednesday, June 15<br>Thursday, June 16<br>Friday, June 17<br>Saturday, June 18<br>7:00 pm |







| North Carolina   | June 24 - July 12  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Asheville, NC  | June 24-26   |  |
| Namaste Yoga & Healing Center<br>57 Broadway<br>Asheville, NC<br>ph 828-253-6985<br>www.namasteasheville.com   | Friday, June 24<br>Saturday, June 25<br>7:00 pm  |  |
| Unity Center<br>2041 Old Fanning Bridge Road<br>Fletcher, NC 28732   | <b>Sunday, June 26</b><br>6:30 pm  | Virgi  |
| Contact: Jana 828-891-8700<br>www.unitync.net  |  | <b>Unity</b><br>3300 (<br>Roano                        |
| Raleigh / Durham / Chapel Hill A   | rea July 1-13  | ph 54<br>www.  |
| Ganesh Place<br>Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj Ashram<br>4724 Ganesh Place<br>Durham, NC 27705<br>ph 919-402-8445<br>Contact: Marty 919-929-0462<br>www.shivabalayogiguru.org | <b>4-Day Healing Homa</b><br><b>Friday, July 1 -</b><br><b>Monday, July 4</b><br>Healing Homas<br>8:30 am<br>Darshan w/<br>Sri Swamiji and<br>meditation 7:00 pm | Indian<br>358 H<br>Willis,<br>Contac<br>tomwi<br>www.i |
| Unity Church of the Triangle<br>524 E. Whitaker Mill Road<br>Raleigh, NC 27608<br>919-832-8324<br>www.unitytriangle.org  | <b>Thursday, July 7</b><br>7:00 pm   | option   |
| New Light Center<br>7125 New Light Trail<br>Chapel Hill, NC 27516<br>ph 919-929-3755<br>www.newlightcenter@bellsouth.net   | Friday, July 8<br>6:00 pm  | µ<br>₩<br>Nan<br>µ<br>₩<br>Add                         |
| Watersong Peace Chamber<br>Saxapahaw, NC<br>Contact: David 336-376-9000<br>periwinkleton@bellsouth.net<br>www.watersong.peacechamber.com                                 | <b>Saturday, July 9</b><br>7:00 pm   | <sup>∥</sup> City<br>∥ Ema<br>∥ Pho                    |
| Unity Center of Peace Church<br>8800 Seawell School Road<br>Chapel Hill, NC 27516<br>ph 919-968-1854<br>www.unitychapelhill.org  | <b>Sunday, July 10</b><br>7:00 pm  | City   |
| Ganesh Place<br>Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj Ashram<br>(see above)  | <b>Tuesday, July 12</b><br>7:00 pm   | <br>   <i>Send</i><br>  <br>   Roa<br>                 |



| Virginia   | July 16-23                        |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Unity of Roanoke Valley<br>3300 Green Ridge Road, NW<br>Roanoke, VA 24019<br>ph 540-562-2200<br>www.unityroanokevalley.org                                     | <b>Monday, July 18</b><br>7:00 pm |  |
| Indian Valley Meditation Retreat<br>358 Homestead Road, NW<br>Willis, VA 24380<br>Contact: Tom 540-789-4295<br>tomwill@swva.net<br>www.indianvalleyretreat.com | <b>July 16-23</b><br>noon - noon  |  |
| Cost for full retreat: \$290 meals / loc<br>options: \$50/day for meals / lodging<br>\$5/day for daily drop in + \$  | 0 0                               |  |
| Sri Shivabalayogi Charitable<br>Please accept my donatic<br>Sri Swamiji's 2005 To  | on for                            |  |
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| Send checks to: Martin Soloman, 313 Woodhaven  |                                   |  |

# Voices of the Devotees (continued)

### A Flight to Life (continued)

Soon after, the sound of bhajans (Indian spiritual songs) soared within the rented hall. A harmonium, drums, kartals and tambourines sailed along with voices, all singing in Sanskrit. I tried as best I could to follow along in my song book, stumbling over the pronunciations, but by the second song my eyesagainst my will-closed. And stayed closed. I thought this interesting, but not altogether noteworthy. After all, I had just finished an hour of meditation. Maybe I was simply relaxed. Without warning, a latent energy filled my legs. Although I wasn't moving, my legs held what seemed to be an enormous potential for motion. I wanted to look around, to see if anyone else felt what I did, but my eyes stayed closed, firmly so. Then my legs moved. More specifically, they danced. Sitting in my chair, my upper body mostly motionless, my legs and feet danced in a complicated pattern. My eyes still closed, I was a gopi, a cowherd girl, dancing with Krishna. Just as quickly, I was Krishna dancing with the gopis. A before-unknown bliss took wing within me.

Moments later my head rocked backward and forward, going a little farther back and a little farther forward each time. Within minutes, the top of my head touched the back of my chair on the rear swing. My chest lay in my lap on the front swing. These movements rushed by, over sixty each minute. My thoughts divided. Sometimes I thought, "What is this?" and "I'm going to get whiplash." Other times I thought, "Don't think. Just be." When I didn't resist, my mind perched in a space without time or thoughts. It was a meditation beyond any I had experienced before. Although my legs performed a complicated dance and my head swung back and forth, my mind nested peacefully in silence.

After the bhajans ended, everyone stood to perform the arthi to Sri Shivabalayogi. Though my movements stopped when the music did, still I was unable to rise. I knew from the night before how beautiful the arthi was and wanted to see it again, to participate. My eyes remained closed though, even as I tried desperately to open them. Finally, as people lined up and approached Sri Swamiji one by one for darshan, my eyes opened. Still, I remained unable to rise from my chair for an hour more.

Almost five years have passed since I received that fateful flyer in the mail. Though I'm still trying to process the whirlwind of events that brought me to Sri Swamiji, I'm not trying to figure them out. With blessings like these, the "how" and the "why" become less and less important. That Sri Swamiji calls us to him is all that matters. Sri Swamiji's mission is a love

that feels ages old. It is a journey that makes the waves of life quiet and calm. I don't know who or what I will become next. I don't know what life has in store for me. But with Sri Swamiji's protection, I know the air will lift me, will give flight to my wings.

### Faith in the Guru's Love Mriganka Gupta

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We have three dogs named Skinner, Shock and Puff. All three of them are a cross between Pomeranian and German Spitz, and all three are white and very cute. However, there is one difference between Skinner and the other two. Skinner has a hearing disability, he is tone deaf and has a cataract in one eye. All of them are healthy three-yearolds in Doggy Years.



On the 16<sup>th</sup> of February my worst nightmare became a reality. My granddaughter left the back garden gate open and Skinner escaped out onto the main road and into totally unfamiliar territory. There is enough space in the backyard for all three dogs to exercise, hunt and fight, so they don't need to be taken for walks. By the time everyone realized that Skinner was out and we all went looking for him, he had disappeared into thin air. It was my worst nightmare which had become a reality. Repeatedly I had warned everybody that if ever Skinner got out, he would be dead in a moment because he wouldn't be able to hear a car horn at all.

Well, after searching for over two to three hours in the neighborhood I was still hesitant to call Sri Swamiji. Frankly I was embarrassed. So many people call Sri Swamiji and talk about their own distress and problems that I didn't want to trouble him about Skinner. My granddaughter Yashasvini and I walked miles all over the neighborhood from house to house, and my son and daughter-in-law drove for miles in the car in the vain hope of spotting Skinner.

### Call for Newsletter Submissions

We would like to include personal stories, experiences and/or realizations from devotees in our future newsletters. Please email your submissions to Marijo Makufka at mmakufka@guilford.edu or snail mail to 349 Edgewood Church Road, Mebane, NC 27302.

At last I called Sri Swamiji and told him that Skinner was lost and just prayed to him that if his end had come, it should be swift. Sri Swamiji said, "Mriganka, your dog will come back on his own, walking on his own four legs." I replied, "Swamiji, but he is deaf, he will be killed." Sri Swamiji said, "He has his nose and his eyes, doesn't he?" My only reply was, "Swamiji I have faith in your word and I believe that Skinner will be back."

Days passed by and Yashasvini and I walked to every neighbor's home. The police were informed and I went to the veterinary hospital and the pet shop, but there was no sign of Skinner. Every day we talked to Sri Swamiji, but I gave up mentioning Skinner. Then one day Sri Swamiji said, "You have all forgotten Skinner but Swami hasn't." I replied, "Maharaj I have looked everywhere, what more can I do." Sri Swamiji said, "You can walk miles and miles looking for him, but Skinner will come back on his own." I was totally at a loss though I hadn't lost my faith in my Guru.

Yesterday morning, i.e., the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February (the 8<sup>th</sup> day), my daughter was leaving for work when a couple came running to our home. The husband works as a night security guard at a place called India International Centre, just a minute away by car. My husband and I are members of this Institution, and two days after Skinner's disappearance my daughter-in-law and I had lunch there.

The night that Skinner left home it was raining. It turned out that he had been seen loitering around in an uncertain manner across from the gate of this institution. The security guards felt concern for this little helpless dog who appeared to be a pet because he wore a collar and looked well groomed. So they took him and put him on a leash, and Mr. Joshi, the General Manager of the Centre, took him into his home. Here his little five-year-old daughter fell in love with Skinner. Even so, the next evening Mr. Joshi's men took him from house to house within a radius of two kilometers. Our house is No.6 and the last one in our lane. They came up to house No.5, but they didn't ring our bell. How strange! Like Sri Swamiji had said, Skinner walked to his own front gate but the men didn't ring our bell. So Skinner went back to his new little friend, while we looked and looked all the while, feeling more and more as though we were looking for a needle in a haystack.

Then yesterday morning this security guard on night duty at the Centre got to know the description of this little dog with one beautiful eye and one hazy one. The moment he got back from work, he and his wife rushed to tell us. As I said, my daughter Bhavana was just leaving for the office. She went with this gentleman to Mr. Joshi's home and, lo and behold, there was Skinner. He had barely eaten anything in the last eight days and had been pining for home. Mr. Joshi tried to give Skinner a farewell breakfast of bread and milk, but he wouldn't touch it. He was overjoyed to see Bhavana, and when she brought him home he went berserk greeting my husband and the two boys who feed and groom him. Then he went to the back garden and straight to the kitchen door asking for his egg and toast. He didn't budge from there till he was fed his breakfast.

Needless to say friends, our family is overjoyed and extremely humbled that our Guru has kept faith with us. Not only has he cared for us, but he has cared for and protected a helpless dog and brought him back to his home when he was lost. This is nothing short of a miracle; it shows the subtle ways in which our Guru works and his love and care for his devotees and all God's creatures.

There was a very happy little seven-year-old Yashasvini who rejoiced at Skinner's return, but there was another little five-year-old who was sad at the loss of Skinner, whom she had loved and taken care of for seven days. When he left her home she was at school. We are going to invite this little girl to come and visit Skinner in his home whenever she feels like it.





#### Sri Sri Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj Charitable Trust of North Carolina

4724 Ganesh Place Durham, NC 27705

www.shivabalayogiguru.org

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#### The Importance of Sri Swamiji's Mission Richard Cook

There can no longer be any doubt about it-mankind has entered a serious time of troubles. War rages in hotspots around the globe. The gap between rich and poor seems to be increasing everywhere. In the US, people are afraid of losing their jobs, the cost of a home is skyrocketing, household debt is out of control, and materialistic values have taken over.

Faced with such conditions, each and every person is faced with a choice. What do I value? Where do I look for meaning? What is really important? Looking more deeply, where is God in all this? Does God exist, and if He does, why does he allow the people he has created, and whom the scriptures say He loves, to fall into such unhappiness and disorder?

There are no easy answers to these questions. Each of us is challenged to look within and find the best solution we can. Fortunately, we are blessed with the help and guidance of a few exalted souls who can light our path and show us the way. One of these is Sri Swamiji.

Once again, Sri Swamiji will be visiting the US to meet with his devotees and to invite new ones to join his growing mission. Sri Swamiji is a man who has entered deeply within himself

through meditation and found the Self and God. His message is that we can do the same. Indeed, in a world that is literally falling apart at the seams, there truly is nowhere else to look but within our own heart, conscience, and Higher Self for what we need.

So take advantage of Sri Swamiji's presence as he visits for the 2005 tour.

Drink deeply of the inner peace he makes available, which the Bible calls, "the peace which passeth all understanding." Remember, too, that nothing in this world comes free. Sri Swamiji gives his teachings without charge, but there are still expenses—airline tickets and other traveling costs, advertising, rental of meeting rooms, flyers, etc. In addition, the Trust, which is sponsoring the tour, is still saddled with a hefty mortgage on Sri Swamiji's Ganesh Place ashram in North Carolina. If you have never visited there, please do this year. The energy and atmosphere are both rare and indescribable. And please remember how important Sri Swamiji's mission is in the context of these troubling times when you decide how to allocate your hard-earned money in the weeks and months ahead.

# Support the 2005 Tour!



Sri Sri Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj Charitable Trust of North Carolina 4724 Ganesh Place Durham, NC 27705