



Merry Christmas

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



AUM PRANAVA ASHRAM

Dearest friends of the Aum Pranava Ashram,

We sincerely hope that this letter reaches you all in good health and peace of mind.

When I think back on last year's Christmas, despite the half-yearly school exams around the corner, the children were entirely in the mood for Christmas Holidays and the annual trip to Puttaparthi. This year, Christmas is going to be different amidst the on-going Corona-Virus pandemic. Traveling is out of the question. Only the (online) exams are around the corner again :) However, our Christmas celebration will be the same as ever, with candle lights in the prayer hall on Christmas Eve. We thank God that we are able to celebrate Christmas together, in the most simple and sincere way possible, letting the Christmas carols spread their charm.

I have added plenty of photos from recent months to this mail, and I hope you enjoy seeing them! The letter will be uploaded to the blog section of our website and you may share it with your friends and family.

We have spent most of the time in the ashram premises for the past nine months. Schools and



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colleges are still closed, but Life in the towns and villages is almost back to its normal, the only difference being the masks and distance-keeping. This time has made a marked impact on society, and we don't know what awaits us in the future. The Children's Homes in India have also seen their share of consequences, with more than 60% of the children being sent home to their respective problematic/poverty-stricken families. We are grateful and happy that our Aum Pranava Ashram Children's Home has not been affected by this trend so far.

Online education has practically become the norm of the day. Smart TVs, laptops, computers, and smartphones casting videos from the school to the children have replaced the teachers, the classrooms, and school friends. We tried our best to maintain the educational requirements and guarantee continued education for the children. But in general, digital screens and WhatsApp cannot replace schools. The children are eager to go back to school and meet the teachers and friends. Perhaps this might be one of the children's Christmas wishes for 2021.



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Our elderly people (25 in number) are dealing quite well with the crisis. Diabetes, kidney problems, Hypertension (high blood pressure), body and joint pain are the most common ailments. Sometimes, disorientation and depression overcome a person who has fallen too deep into memories and cannot retrieve him/herself from that estranged feeling of not belonging here. Love, care, attention, and friendly words are usually all it takes to restore their peace. In rarer cases, when the need arises, we have to take them to a local specialist doctor for specific treatments of physical symptoms.

We have continued our social service in the best way possible. The monthly contributions to around 50 needy/destitute/sick/aged persons have been maintained despite the mobility restrictions.

The Aum Pranava Ashram is busy as ever, but without the guests and volunteers that used to be around at all times. We pray for an end to this unprecedented time with its hair- and eyebrow-raising news on all social platforms.

Our Christmas wish is that all people be safe, healthy, happy, peaceful, and content with what Life brings to



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every one of us. Let us not lose sight of the critical values in Life - Truth, Peace, and Love.

In this sense, the Aum Pranava Ashram family wishes you and your family a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Traude and Visvanathan
Children and Elders
Staff members and Volunteers
Cows and Dogs, ... :)



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The young man in the white shirt in the right lower corner is Sathish. He is now working as an associate engineer at Royal Enfield in Chennai for which we congratulate him heartily! You can read about his story in one of our earlier newsletters (July 2019, pg7).

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