

Series of the New Year's Celebration in St. Petersburg, Russia

New Year Public Program for old people “With Hope in the New Year” 26 December, 2010

New Year is a special time when in our hearts all our sacred dreams and hopes emerge. This festival makes all equal. Even in old age we still are ready for some magic, some wonder. That's why we like children are decorating Christmas tree, calling for Father-the-Frost. In Russian culture image of Father-the-Frost is quite different from Santa Clause. He is very royal, in long fur coat, with long white beard and magic icestaff. He is always accompanied by his grand-daughter Snow-maiden, who looks like a princess-angel. This festival carries beautiful memory of God's coming on the Earth, when Supreme Soul, represented by big star on the top of the Christmas tree puts on human costume and with the help of His grand-daughters distributes spiritual gifts of peace, happiness, power to all His spiritual children.

On 26 December 2010 a New Year festive programme for senior citizens in Lighthouse (Brahma Kumaris Center in Saint-Petersburg, Russia) gathered audience of about 300. They were suggested to solve riddles presented in form of skits and to name companions of Hope, with whom they would enter the New Year. When there are Love, Tolerance and Courage, Unity and Benevolence, Wisdom and Honesty, Generosity and Selflessness – then Hope becomes Victory, guaranteed Success. And with such companions one can fearlessly enter the New Year. Last secret of success was revealed to them by Father-the-Frost. “You have been calling to me using different names. I have come hearing the voice of your heart. I know what you really need and I brought these gifts to you. Just know who you are – eternal souls, children of Supreme Soul. Wherever you may be, I am always there for you, I will guide you, help you, protect you. Just remember me as I am.” If we know our true self, if we know God – than New Year can be celebrated every day, because then we have free access to Father-the-Frost by rights of His children.

New Year Public Program for children “Meeting Under the Lucky Star” 3 January, 2011

On 3rd January 2011 New Year programme for families (children and their relatives) gathered about 250 guests who enjoyed New Year Big Electric Adventure”.

Main hero of the New Year story was... not even a magician or illusionist, but just a simple Electrician – extremely rare character in fairy tales. But electricians do a very good work – they fill lives of other with light. And where there is light there will always be joy. During New Year it is Electrician who has to make Christmas tree sparkle. But when "cold" magic of the Snow Queen interferes, simple wire connection will not help. Then only magic spell can help! To find this magic spell three Christmas toys – Lantern, Snowman and Mandarin were sent to the wise Bear, to jolly Giraffe in Africa and to brave Dragon in China. Sufferings help us to understand happiness. In the same way all tests that our little heroes passed made them realize that victory is possible only when there is friendship and unity, that actually all those who create problems for us are our true friends. The Snow Queen turned to be the Snow-maiden, who purposely arranged this Big Electric Adventure. Father-the-Frost came to the festival in His three-horses sledges and of course brought to all children and adults a lot of gifts and congratulations with New Year. He invited on the stage a special Fairy - Didi Santosh, director of St. Petersburg Centre of Brahma Kumaris.

This beautiful Fairy reminded that Father-the-Frost has invaluable and eternal gifts for us and He is always a Bestower. What can we give Him in return? The only thing which He wants from us is our

faults and weaknesses. She inspired everyone to give everything old to Father-the-Frost and to promise in return to perform in the new year at least 50 good deeds. As a symbol of this exchange and promise all received beautiful diamond rings from the Fairy.

New Year's Celebration
The Time and the Dream Call upon us!
5 January, 2011

The New Year's get-together at St. Petersburg Brahma Kumaris centre attracted about 50 IPs and VIPs, friends and close contacts of the BKs. The New Year holidays are a period of transformation when many miracles can occur. And sure enough, miracles began as soon as the guests were seated in the hall. The vigorous dance of two Clock Hands reminded everyone of the fast speed of time. A couple of Snowmen played near the Christmas Tree with such joy that even the Tree could not keep from dancing! Well, when even the trees dance, human beings just cannot sit back idly. A series of entertaining contests worked yet another miracle: adult people, experienced scientists, doctors, politicians, businessmen changed into - - - little children heartily enjoying the games.

And then another wonder happened carrying everyone into a journey to a different time and space. The combination of video, music, poems and dances "The Festival of Light" gave everyone the subtle experience of the 2010 Deepawali and New Year Celebration in Madhuban!

Addressing the guests, B. K. Santosh underlined that in this New Year we have to make our every day new. It is clear that we cannot change our dress, food, place of residence or our relatives on a daily basis. But what we can change is our consciousness. Every morning we should choose a new spiritual title or a task for ourselves, and then every day of this new year will become truly new. She also told the guests about the recent celebration of Dadi Janki's 95th birthday. Many of the guests had already met Dadi ji in Madhuban at "Peace of Mind" retreats. B. K. Santosh said that the secret of Dadi's long and inspiring life lies in her constant and selfless giving.

Mr. Albert Asadullin, Russia's famous singer, greeted the audience in Russian (with a "Soul" song) and in English (with John Lennon's "Imagine"):

Imagine there's no countries.
It isn't hard to do.
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too.
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace...

Mr. Stanislav Gorkovenko, a leading Russian musician and conductor of St. Petersburg Governor Orchestra, shared the feelings of his heart,
"Every time I come to the Brahma Kumaris Centre I feel that the atmosphere here is full of harmony of thoughts and feelings. This atmosphere reminds me of music. And I adore music! My meetings with you are a continuation of music and therefore the continuation of life".

Mr. Vladimir Lukyanov, president of a large charity foundation "Nevsky Angel", expert of the Russian government on evaluation of social projects, said after the programme,
"Now I am getting more and more convinced that the time of cynicism and corruption is about to end. I feel it deep in my mind and heart, I can almost touch this feeling with my hands! A new era is about to begin. It will be the era of love, the era of peace, the era of mercy".