

## **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Brahma Kumaris' Guatemala Center and BK Heroes of El Salvador**

### **Service Report: August 20, 2012**

Guatemala's Brahma Kumaris Center celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of spiritual service with Sister Mohini, the BK Family of Central America, and the people of Guatemala. What better time than the season of Rakshabandan for the divine family to gather in unity with a BK retreat at the beautiful Brahma Kumaris Center of Guatemala and a grand public event at the Guatemala Westin Camino Real Hotel for 500 people.

Festivities began with a workshop for the public called, 'Awakening the Dreamer' facilitated by BK Elizabeth of San Francisco and BK Anne of Guatemala City. In collaboration with the BK Green Team and the Pachamama Alliance this workshop's mission is to awaken the great Kumbhakarna and inspire participants towards environmental sustainability, spiritual fulfillment and social justice.

Sister Mohini was given a grand welcome, honoring her 55<sup>th</sup> spiritual birthday of world service. BK Brothers and Sisters from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala gathered to celebrate and enjoy a powerful retreat called, "Becoming a Powerful Yogi", experiencing the different stages of yoga. The retreat was ignited by a powerful yoga bhakti with Sister Mohini, Center Coordinators, BK Anne and BK Leticia.

As the retreat began that evening, nine members of the BK family (Eight BK Sisters, one BK Brother and their driver.) from El Salvador were making their way across the border of Guatemala to participate in the retreat. They traveled together with a driver in a large white Volvo van while being pursued by a pickup truck with six armed bandits (a gang of thieves). While the BK passengers were practicing a song, "Choose to be Calm", the truck of bandits tried to push the van off the road. The hired driver of the van was very courageous and thought to himself, "These are very holy spiritual people that I am driving. I cannot bear the thought of any harm coming to them. I have to save them" The driver used the weight of the van against the pickup truck, bashing into the truck and regained control of the van. Then the bandits drove ahead of the van and two armed bandits jumped from the truck and stood on the road holding loaded weapons in front of the moving van. As the van came towards the bandits the driver swerved around the standing men to one side of the road and escaped the ambush. The angered bandits chased after the van firing their weapons blowing out the two rear tires. The driver of the van with his BK passengers did not stop and drove as fast as he could. Apparently when the van and pickup truck had collided the bandit's truck was damaged and could not catch up with the van. The driver with his valuable cargo of Baba's instrument souls made it to a gated condominium complex. The van swerved onto a low cement wall of a garden and could not move farther. It was at that time that driver told everyone to run to the condominium complex. The guard of the complex heard the crash of the white Volvo van and saw the running passengers and thought these must be special people and let them into the gated condominium complex. After the yoga bhakti at the Guatemala Center, Sr. Anne came to know of the event of the BK travelers by phone. She immediately called the fire department and police to aid the BK family and their driver. The officials found that one bullet entered the van from the side but no one was injured. BK Center Coordinator of El Salvador, Sister Balbi, said she could feel the heat of the bullets from behind her legs but was not touched. The police helped to repair the van and replace all the tires. The El Salvadorian family with their driver made it safely to the Guatemala center by 1:00 AM. They were welcomed with great love by all and the driver was cheered with applause.

Sr. Mohini gave a deep and beautiful class the next morning with the BK Central American family. She said, “We as Brahmins tend to be very action oriented in service. However, we forget the importance of the power of yoga in a time of need. While our Brothers and sisters from El Salvador were passing this scene in the drama with the bandits we were having a powerful yoga bhakti in the remembrance of the Ocean of Light and Might. The impact of the power of silence can transform any situation and make an experience of a crucifix into an experience of a thorn prick. This was a heroic feat of the driver and the El Salvador BK family. This marks a great act of courage by these Yogi souls in the history of the Yuga.”

On the following Saturday evening the BK family had their Rakhi tied by Sr. Mohini. The atmosphere was so light and powerful and created an experience of total peace. The driver was inspired to have his Rakhi tied with everyone and his face became so elevated. He shared with everyone how light and easy he felt and that he was very inspired by love and spirituality of the Brahma Kumaris. He felt that he was in the presence of Angeles.

A public Rakhi event was held at the Center on Sunday evening. Over 100 attendees enjoyed a talk by Sr. Mohini and Sr. Bhumi of New York. After everyone had their Rakhi tied by Sr. Mohini and listened to lovely songs by BK Gorge of Guatemala and BK Elizabeth of San Francisco the room was cleared for Indian Garba Rassa dancing. Everyone enjoyed the dance including the Ambassador of India and his wife.

On Monday evening, August 20, 2012, a grand public event at the prominent Westin El Camino Real Hotel was presented on the theme of “Discovering Your Inner Beauty”, for 500 people. The history of 25 years of spiritual service in Guatemala was narrated by, Center Coordinator, BK Anne Bonin while impressive images were projected on two video screens at either end of the immense hall. BK Gorge of Guatemala opened the program with a dedication in song to the Supreme Soul, "My Baba", with great love and pure feelings. The Indian Ambassador to Guatemala, Shri S. Bhattacharjee, gave a thoughtful and inspiring talk. He stated, “Spirituality has no boundaries, no property, no government and no religion. To be spiritual is the opposite of being materialistic. To be spiritual means to have love, patience, forgiveness, harmony, responsibility and inner peace.” BK Raj Yogini Mohini Panjabi spoke on the theme with warmth and depth and said; “Choose to think positive and be calm. We have a choice. You may not be able to change the situation but the situation can’t change you. If the situation is negative and we then think negatively about it we have compounded the negative making it a double negative.” Sister Mohini concluded with three keys to happiness, “1. Have a close connection to God, 2. Speak words of ‘Om Shanti’ by increasing your patience, and 3. Create good actions. Then everything goes well and you stay inspired. After the meditation with a guided commentary by Sister Mohini, BK Elizabeth Padilla of San Francisco, USA sang a meditative song in Spanish called ‘Remember Me’.

--

Brahma Kumaris  
Anubhuti Meditation and Retreat Center  
[www.anubhutiretreatcenter.org](http://www.anubhutiretreatcenter.org)  
[415 884-2314](tel:4158842314)