

BROTHER GOLO VISITS TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



On the afternoon of Wednesday 24th May 2017, Bro. Golo arrived in Trinidad and was taken swiftly to his first engagement locally, a seminar arranged by the BK's with the Power and Engineering Society of Trinidad and Tobago. Bro Golo shared with the audience of about 60 engineers and technicians in the industry on physical effects of climate change and the current trends with renewable energy. He shared with them Madhuban's successful renewable energy efforts culminating with the India One project as the feature of the BK's involvement in clean energy. His presentation also incorporated spiritual aspects of diet, consciousness and self /lifestyle change and their effect on the world's climate. The younger members of the audience were quite interested with his presentation of the concept of shifting awareness to assist in alleviating climate change whereas the more experienced professionals in the audience were preoccupied with practical particulars, such as cost, policy and logistics for the move to renewables in order to understand how feasible movement in the clean energy direction is locally. Much impressed by the presentation, the

Chairman of the Society wants to collaborate with the BKs on some environmental projects that he has in mind, particularly a mega agricultural project with interest in yogic agriculture. Lydia Singh (Founder of Regenvast buildings) also wants to work with the BKs in future projects as she is eager on promoting the aspect of creating awareness of self, consciousness building and spiritual aspects in her work with building design and Vastu, the traditional Hindu style and system of architecture.



In the evening, Sister Kay Narinesingh held a memorial meditation gathering at her home in honour of her husband, Kenny Narinesingh, who had passed away one year earlier. The gathering was attended by about 100 BK's and close friends of Sis Kay. She used the opportunity to also welcome Bro Golo into the country with dinner and meditation; Bro Golo then shared with the BK's present a few words on his return to the Caribbean after many years and his experience of living in Madhuban and seeing

the birth of the renewable energy initiative 20+ years ago. His words were well received by the BKs and also inspired Sis Kay's close contacts.

On Thursday 24th, after murli class, Bro Golo was taken to meet members of the ENMAN Group, a group of high-powered executives who are social entrepreneurs that seek to use appropriate technology and engineering solutions to address practical problems and challenges in a wide array of areas including Power and Petrochemical Industry, the Environment, the Carbon Zero Initiative of Trinidad and Tobago. These executives were very responsive to Bro Golo's presentation and engaged him in extensive discussion and questions. Convinced that he could be an asset to their work, they asked Bro Golo to be the official advisor for a non-profit organisation that they are starting up with regard to implementing renewable energy technology in the country. As such, they may seek to bring him back into the country at a later date as their project proceeds.

Bro Golo then departed for Grenada, where he spent two days before returning to Trinidad. Upon his return, a national class had been arranged for the Sunday morning so that students from all centres in the country could meet Bro Golo. After murli was read, Bro Golo was invited on stage and welcomed in regal style with crown, mala and flowers. A bit abashed by the exuberant display, he gracefully accepted the investiture but also modestly took it off before he shared with the class. His experiences with Brahmin life and living in Madhuban were brought alive by his entertaining nature and his sharing was finished in standard BK style with toli and blessings.

In the evening of this day of rest, Bro Golo was taken to the Caroni Bird Sanctuary and was taken on tour to see the return of Trinidad's national bird, the scarlet ibis, to their roosts in the Caroni Swamp. The boat tour of approximately one and a half hours is great for those who wish to get close to nature and observe wildlife in their natural habitat while taking a relaxing and quiet boat ride through the mangrove swamps.



On a power packed day, Monday 29th began with a public seminar organised by the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) in collaboration with the BKs as they presented this instalment in their series of public seminars. Distinguished academics/scientists from University of the West Indies (UWI) and University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and an industry professional from the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (the local power company) were called upon to present to an audience of about 100 people at this seminar entitled 'Solar Energy – A

Renewable Energy Resource'. While the academics outlined efforts in renewable energy at their various institutions and the industry professional outlined the current state of power supply laws and their need to be expanded to meet the phenomenon of individual solar energy supplies to the grid, Bro Golo's presentation was of international conference quality and impressed all present who learned of the BKs remarkable efforts and advances in solar and renewable energy. After individual presentations, the presenters shared the platform to facing the audience for questions; the panel of experts comprised Dr. Curtis Boodoo, Assistant Professor, Utilities Engineering Group UTT, Mr. Kevin Atwaroo, Senior Engineer at T&TEC, internationally acclaimed solar expert and environmental

physicist from UWI, Dr Indra Haraksingh and Bro Golo. The programme was well attended with well over 100 participants comprising both BKs and the public, particularly academics and professionals in the energy sector.



In his afternoon engagement, Bro Golo, Sis Hemlata and Bro Steve held audience with 30 senior officials in the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries at Orientation Centre of the Royal Botanical Gardens. Bro Golo's presentation was attended by the Minister himself, Senator, the Honourable, Clarence Rambharat. The Minister was very appreciative of the concepts of yogic farming and solar energy and expressed interest in collaborating with the BKs in the future. The Minister presented Bro Golo with a token of appreciation and

Bro Golo reciprocated by offering the Minister a token on behalf of the BK's. Sis Hemlata also shared toli and blessings to all present.

In the evening, Bro Golo was taken to the St Augustine centre for a public event titled 'A World In Transition'. The feature presentation was a conversation between Bro Steve and Bro Golo followed by a guided meditation for the 30 or so attendees.



Tuesday 30th May was a national holiday in commemoration of the first batch of East Indians arriving to Trinidad in 1845. After morning class at the St Augustine centre, Bro Golo was taken in the afternoon to a courtesy call on the Deputy Head of the German Embassy, Dr. Michael Freudenberg. Dr. Freudenberg, a man of intellect and diplomacy, held Bro Golo in extensive discussion with Bro Golo introducing him to the Brahma Kumaris and their environmental initiatives and Dr Freudenberg outlining the nature of the Embassy's work in the region. As he explained that his and the current German Ambassador's term is nearly over, Dr Freudenberg promised to pass on information about the BKs to his successors thereby creating potential for collaboration on social projects with the BK's.

After a very serviceable trip to Trinidad, Bro Golo was flown to Tobago on Wednesday 31st for some downtime to enjoy the beaches and be a tourist in our beautiful sister isle for one day. Bro Golo returned to Trinidad and after murli class at St Augustine centre departed Trinidad on Thursday 1st June 2017.

The divine family in Trinidad and Tobago has enjoyed the presence of Brother Golo immensely. His charming and humorous nature made him easily relatable to everyone whether in the Brahmin world or on the service field.

He has also been able to do some valuable service, making connections in previously unbroached territory in service locally. Service in these areas will now continue to develop into new opportunities for the BKs to reach highly skilled professionals in science and engineering.

Many thanks to Golo bhai for accepting the invitation to revisit the Caribbean after so long! Thanks to Baba and Drama for providing this wonderful opportunity. Om Shanti.