



THE CONCH

www.theconchnewsletter.org

“Lord Sri Krishna and Arjuna blew their celestial conches to rally and enthuse the devotees.”

NEWSLETTER
of New Govardhana Community



Dedicated to His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-acarya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

ISKCON NEW GOVARDHANA AUSTRALIA
Nityananda Trayodasi
Appearance Day of Lord Nityananda
SAT 23 FEBRUARY 2013
FAST TILL NOON

For more information please contact Damodara Pandit dasa 0414 190 313
525 Tyalgum Road, EUNGELLA www.krishnafarm.com

LORD NITYANANDA'S CHILDHOOD PASTIMES

from Caitanya Bhagavata Adi-lila Chapter 9 by Vrindavana dasa Thakura
extracted by Damodara Pandit dasa

All glories to Sri Krishna Caitanya, the ocean of mercy. All glories to Nityananda Prabhu, the friend of the helpless. All glories to the life and soul of Sri Advaita Chandra. All glories to He who is the only shelter of Srivasa and Gadadhara. All glories to Visvambhara, the son of Jagannatha Mishra and Sacidevi who is always beloved by his devotees and followers. Before the advent of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Ananta deva himself had appeared on the order of the Lord. He took birth in the Radhadesh to

(Cont. on page 4)



ISKCON Founder-Acarya His Divine Grace
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

So *nitāi-pada-kamala*, the shade of Nityānanda Prabhu's lotus feet, is *koṭi-candra-suśītala*, as pleasing as one crore of moonshine. One moonshine gives us so much pleasure. So if we want actually peace of mind, if we actually want to be free from this material fatigument, then we must take the shelter of Nityānanda Prabhu. Nityānanda Prabhu is the strength, spiritual strength. And without spiritual strength you cannot approach Kṛṣṇa. So we must have spiritual strength. That source of spiritual strength is Balarāma, Kṛṣṇa's next manifestation, *prakāśa-vigraha*. Kṛṣṇa is manifesting Himself through Balarāma. So we have to take shelter of Nityānanda Prabhu.

nitāi-pada-kamala, koṭi-candra-suśītala, je chāyā jagata jurāy
The whole world is suffering, but if you want peace, then you take the shelter of Nityānanda Prabhu.

**Lord Nityananda Appearance Day
Lecture Bhuvanesvara 2 Feb 1977**

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE



Madana-mohana dasa

L. to R. Nika, Syamamrta devi dasi, HH Mukunda Goswami, Visnujana dasa & Balarama

by Mandakini devi dasi

Russian-born devotees, Visnujana dasa and Syamamrita devi dasi, together with their uninitiated children, Nika and Balarama, reluctantly left New Govardhana on 2 January for their homeland. Estimated temperature on arrival in Moscow, a crisp minus two degrees!

Visnujana and family spent three months at the farm in the service of HH Mukunda Maharaja. They also performed other valuable services. Apart from the daily cleaning of the temple room, Visnujana dressed Srila Prabhupada twice a week. Another two days were set aside for garland-making and whenever possible, the family went out together on *harinama sankirtana*, often up to three times a week.

Describing people in Australia as leaning more to the mode of goodness, Visnujana acutely noticed the difference in the mood and quality of life here. He comments, "Where I come from, conditions are crowded and somewhat dismal, so there is a tendency for everyone to be more stressed and easily angered. However, this material dissatisfaction has resulted in huge success for the Soviet preaching. Moscow temple hosts as many as 10,000 people during the Janmastami festival, and many Nama Hatta programs are flourishing. My 84 year old mother and Syamamrta's parents follow our lifestyle and chant *japa*."

"As a former flight attendant, I travelled the world and have found Australia to be the best place. I always look forward to returning here to serve my guru, but at the end of the day, I am happy to be anywhere that is conducive to spiritual development."

BUILDING A DEVOTIONAL COMMUNITY (PART 1)

Damodara Pandit dasa & Mandakini devi dasi

Throughout the world we often hear of devotees talking about how to build a devotional community. Srila Prabhupada created an international society of *vaisnavas* and in his books, letters and conversations, he gives information about how we should work together in Krishna Consciousness. Srila Prabhupada helped us by establishing spiritual and managerial structures in ISKCON, (including the Governing Body Commission, initiating gurus, *sannyasis* and temple presidents). We have also heard that Srila Prabhupada said, "Your love for me will be shown by how well you can work together". However, around the world we see some temple communities are thriving, whilst others are dwindling. In this article we will look for the core ingredients for building happy *vaisnava* communities.

In Chowpatti, India, Radhanath Swami was determined to create a community based on love and trust, wherein every devotee is provided with physical, emotional and spiritual care. The strategy was to facilitate an environment where the ISKCON leaders take care of devotees who have dedicated their lives for Srila Prabhupada's movement.

It is said that a community is the shadow of its leaders, whatever they give emphasis to, becomes the model the devotees strive to achieve. Radhanath Swami: "Although the foundation of a building cannot be seen, it holds up the entire building. Without a strong foundation, in time, even the most glorious palace will crumble. The foundation of our communities is in our spiritual practices, our moral values and in our personal relationships. When I was serving in a previous ISKCON community, the priority was given to projects with little vision toward sustaining a quality spiritual life for the people giving their lives to build the project. There was little priority given to educating, or encouraging, healthy family relationships. Everything was focused on work and *sadhana*. Any other consideration was labelled as *maya*. I began to realize that our so-called

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

DAILY DAIRY TREATS AT NEW GOVARDHANA

by Damodara Pandit dasa

One of the side benefits of the New Govardhana cow protection program is all the delicious dairy treats being lovingly prepared for Their Lordships.

Venu Gopal dasa and Nikunja Seva dasi have been busy making butter, ghee, yoghurt, buttermilk and *paneer*. We all know about the delicious *mangala arati maha prasadam* milk sweets, including, *burfi*, *rasagulla*, *rasamalai*, *sandesh* and *kheer*.

Pictured at right, are *rasa kadamba* milk sweets. This sweet has a *rasagulla* in the centre, which is surrounded by a layer of *burfi* and then rolled in toasted poppy seeds. *Rasa kadamba* is a speciality sweet preparation, famous in the Navadvipa/Mayapur region. It is interesting to note that our *Kadamba* tree, (next to the Temple), was grown from a seed from a *Kadamba* tree in Mayapur.

Milk products are available at the Goshala shop on Sundays.



Rasa kadamba sweets

ON THE WAY TO KRISHNA

by Govardhana Seva dasa

Steve was raised as a ward of the State and had no type of family life, which he believes contributed to his feeling of anger about life in general. In his own words he was not a 'nice' person. This feeling of despair and searching, wondering if there was anything better, continued for many years. Then one day he was introduced to Krishna Consciousness and immediately felt as though, at last, he had something to which he could relate to. He also felt that a great weight had been lifted off his shoulders. Other things began to happen. Regularly, every year, he always became sick with tonsillitis, but this stopped altogether. All the negative traits which had controlled his life, like anger, frustration, procrastination, fear, mistrust and suspicion slowly disappeared, to be replaced by happiness, tolerance and friendliness.

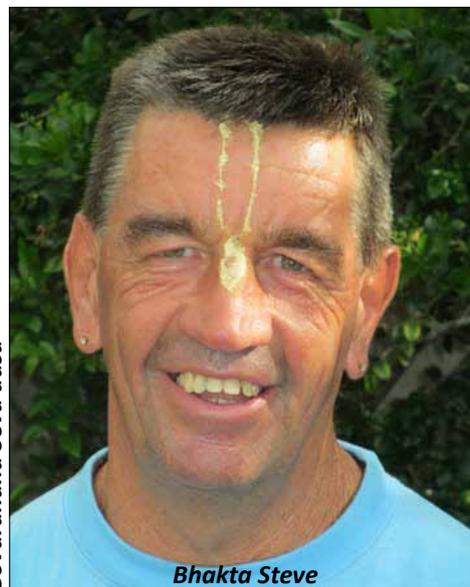
Steve now lives out of a van. It contains his few material possessions, the most important of which is his Bhagavad-gita. He sleeps with all the doors and windows open. Many people comment on this, thinking he has forgotten. On one occasion, two police officers came to check on him, concerned about his safety. This finished up as a 30 minute session, ending with Steve giving them each a copy of 'On the Way to Krishna'. He has purchased 20 more

of these for similar occasions.

With regard to his diet, he goes to the local markets and buys enough seasonal fruits and vegetables to last a week, which he eats raw. He also prasadam after his service at the Gold Coast Bhakti Centre and the four times a week he spends at New Govardhana.

He also enjoys the 3.30 am wake-ups, starting with a shave and a wash. He prays to Krishna and meditates on Him for an hour and then chants 16 rounds of the maha mantra. He also chants during the day and, by nightfall will have chanted 20 to 30 rounds. Sometimes, when focussed on Krishna, he finds himself crying tears of joy.

Every day, he mentally thanks everyone for their help along his path to Krishna Consciousness.



Bhakta Steve

Govardhana Seva dasa

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2) BUILDING A DEVOTIONAL COMMUNITY (PART 1)

hard work and strong *sadhana* is superficial, if we are neglecting or causing pain to Krishna's beloved devotees. It appeared that the devotees were seen as disposable tools to build the project. Grand accomplishments were achieved in that place, but without a healthy, caring community, it was a building without a solid foundation".

In his book, "Taking Care of Krishna's Devotees", Niranjana Swami explains how he has helped develop ISKCON communities in Eastern Europe by introducing a system where senior devotees guide or counsel younger devotees. He says, "Counsellors should be able to give balanced advice according to time, place and circumstance. They should have a nice understanding of the philosophy and practice of Krishna Consciousness". This system is similar to the model used in Chowpatti and has proved very successful in giving support to the devotees.

(To be continued in upcoming issues)

NEW PROMOTION VIDEO FOR THE GURUKULA

by Govardhana Seva dasa

The New Govardhana Gurukula is featured in a recent article posted on ISKCON News in the form of an excellent video, written and produced by Deva Gaura Hari dasa.

There are interviews with the Principal, Vinod Bihari dasa and teacher Premavati devi dasi about the structure and aims of the school. There are also interviews with some of the students, who talk of their experiences and feelings while attending the Gurukula. These are complemented by many beautiful shots of the surrounding countryside, particularly in the introduction. There are many scenes of the students in the classroom and the outdoor areas where they are engaged in lessons, *kirtana*, sports and games. Altogether it is well produced and interesting, with excellent photography. The video can also be found on the Gurukula web-site www.krishnaschool.org

At the present time Deva Gaura Hari dasa is back in Australia from Mayapur to study film production at the SAE Institute, and Masters of Museum Studies at University of Queensland, to assist in his service with the Exhibition Centre of the Temple of Vedic Planetarium, Mayapur.



Clockwise: Baby Sadhu Seva, Karuna, Ramakeli, Malini, Bhava with Deva Gaura Hari dasa (centre)

LORD NITYANANDA'S CHILDHOOD PASTIMES (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

help enact the divine lila of the Lord. His father's name was Hadai Oja and his mother's name was Padmavati. He appeared in the village of Ekachakra within the land of Gauda. From infancy he was sober, highly intelligent and supremely qualified. The baby boy was millions of times more beautiful than cupid.

From the moment of his birth there appeared within the Radhadesh, all-auspicious symptoms. All varieties of famine, poverty, and unhappiness immediately disappeared. On the day that Sri GauraChandra made his advent in Sridhama Nabadwipa, Nityananda Prabhu shouted with joy. The vast universe was pervaded with the sound of his cries and the whole world became astonished. Some said, "The thunderbolt has descended to Earth." Many could understand that the mightily disturbance was the result of some divine power. Some said, "We know the cause. The master of Gauda has spoken in a voice of thunder." And in this way, everyone gave their different opinions. But by the power of the illusory energy of Krishna, no one could recognize the transcendental position of Nityananda Prabhu.

In this way, keeping his divine nature unmanifest, the supreme Lord, Nityananda Prabhu delighted in the company of children. In all the games that the Lord played with the children, Krishna was the center. Indeed, their play was nothing but the lila of the Lord. Nityananda Prabhu would hold an assembly of the gods with one of the children acting the part of the Earth presenting the petition of the demigods to the supreme Lord Vishnu. All of them would go along with the Earth to the banks of the river where together they would pray to the hidden Lord of the universe, Ksirodaksayi Vishnu. Unseen by all, one of the boys would loudly proclaim from his hiding place, "I will shortly be born in the cowherd village of Mathura."

Another day, Nityananda Prabhu and his childhood friends would gather in the village to celebrate the marriage of Vasudeva and Devaki. Once, having made their playhouse into the prison of Kamsa, he re-enacted the pastime of Krishna's divine appearance in the dead of night. Nityananda Prabhu built a cowherd settlement and took Krishna there, deceiving Kamsa by substituting Yogamaya for Krishna within the prison.

Another time he dressed up one of his childhood friends as Putana, while another boy, climbing his body pretended to suck his breast like the baby Krishna. Once, having built a cart made of reeds with the help of the children, Nityananda Prabhu broke it. Nityananda Prabhu would bring his childhood friends to the house of the local milkman and steal milk and yogurt, following in the footsteps of Krishna. His friends never left his company, nor would they return to their homes, but day and night they would play in the company of Nityananda Prabhu.

Nor did their mothers and fathers complain, but all loved Nityananda with their hearts and souls. He would hold his relatives and friends in affectionate embrace. Upon beholding his amazing childhood pastimes, everyone would say, "We have never seen such wonderful playing. How is it possible that this child has learned all these activities of Krishna."

GOSHALA GOSS

by Urvasi devi dasi

There has been a lot happening in "Cow Town" recently.

The most exciting news is that we welcomed the latest edition to Lord Govardhanadhari's herd on the anniversary of the installation of Sri Sri Gaura Nitai and Sri Sri Krishna Balarama. He is an adventurous and independent personality and we have named him Nitai Gaura Krsna Balarama. His working name will be Nitai.

On the morning of his birth, Freisan mother Malika came down with milk fever, and it took an all day vigil by the cowherds, and a visit from the vet to ensure that she recovered. Now both mother and son are doing very well.

We are also awaiting another baby by Rukmini in the coming weeks, and Nitai's older sister Kishori is pregnant.

December and January saw a number of our younger bovine residents come down with "three day sickness". It is like having a very bad flu, but if not attended to can be fatal in about 5% of cases. Fortunately the cowherds remained vigilant, and as the various younger cows and bullocks came down with the virus they were given

a once only injection of an anti-inflammatory which helps them to feel well enough to continue grazing and drinking. Rasa, one of the younger bullocks, was the first to show symptoms of the virus and got hit the hardest. He was unable to stand and was refusing food and water. The vet was called and he was given an intensive course of injections and an intravenous drip before he started to show signs of improving. He has made a full recovery, as have all the others.



Nitai Gaura Krsna Balarama

NEW GOVARDHANA UNDER ATTACK

Parramatta grass is a clumping grass that can invade pastures and replace more useful types of grass. It has been noticed on New Govardhana of late and your assistance in eradicating it is requested.

For more information visit www.daff.qld.gov.au/4790_7333.htm

Impacts

- invades pastures and replaces productive grasses
- known to dominate in wet, swampy areas

Description

- a perennial grass up to 50 cm in height with fibrous roots
- has green seed heads, up to 20 cm long
- leaves are blue-green, up to 5 mm wide, 6-18 cm long erect or spreading
- seeds are brown and about 1 mm in diameter
- has dark-green flowers, 2-20 cm spike-like panicle, 1.5cm - 2 cm spikelets



EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Articles submitted to the Conch must contain 200 words or less and must be supplied in either MS Word format or typed directly into the body of an email. Photos must be submitted in JPG format.

All articles and photos must be sent to newgovconch@gmail.com by the 14th of each month. Articles and photos must include the names of the author and photographer. Your name will appear exactly as you submit it.

EDITORIAL BOARD:

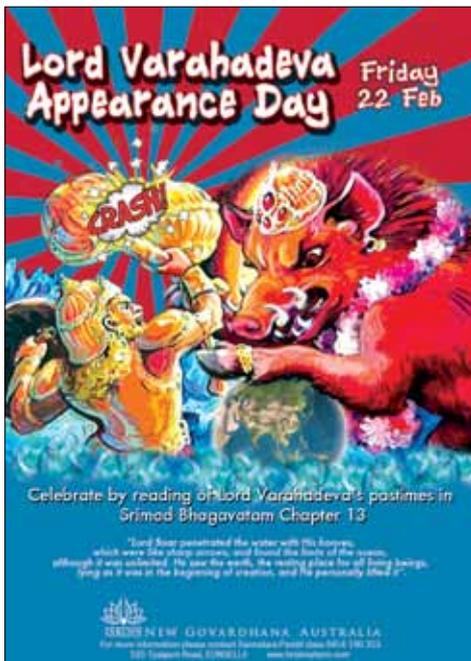
Damodara Pandit dasa, Mandakini devi dasi, Govardhana Seva dasa, Urvasi devi dasi (Layout and Graphic Design)

For enquiries, comments or suggestions please contact www.theconchnewsletter.org

Parramatta Grass

If you spot this grass anywhere please remove and dispose of. If you want further information please contact Venu Gopal dasa or Madreya dasa.

UPCOMING EVENTS ...



There will be a Srimad Bhagavatam class devoted to the pastimes of Lord Varaha on Friday 22 February. Deity Greeting is at 7.00 am and class is at 7.30 am.

HARINAMA SANKIRTANA KI JAYA



Wednesdays 10.30 am

Byron Bay Hari Nama at the park opposite the Post Office. For further details and transport information

Parama Karuna dasa
0439 280 362

Friday Evenings 6.30 pm

Bhakti Centre Surfers Paradise
bhakticentregoldcoast.com.au

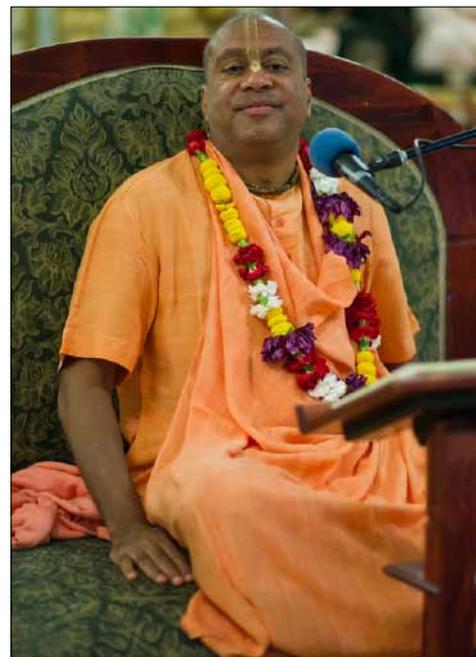
Sunday Mornings

Northern NSW & Gold Coast
folkkrishna.com/program.htm
Isvara dasa 0411 825 549



You are invited to join us celebrate Lord Nityananda's appearance day Saturday 23 February 2013.

For schedule details, and if you would like to participate in preparations for the festival please contact Damodara Pandit dasa 0415 190 313 or our website: www.krishnafarm.com



HH Devamrita Swami is a travelling preacher whose profound dedication to Srila Prabhupada's mission spans four decades. He will be visiting New Govardhana Sunday 12 May 2013. Further details will be posted on our website www.krishnafarm.com as they become available.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

(from the online Vaisnava calender www.vaisnavacalender.com)

- 1 Fr Sri Ramacandra Kaviraja -- Disappearance
Srila Gopala Bhatta Gosvami -- Appearance
- 2 Sa Sri Jayadeva Gosvami -- Disappearance
- 3 Su Sri Locana Dasa Thakura -- Disappearance
- 7 Th Dvadasi (suitable for fasting) Fasting for Sat-tila Ekadasi
- 8 Fr Trayodasi Break fast 06:23 - 10:47
- 15 Fr Vasanta Pancami
Srimati Visnupriya Devi -- Appearance
Sarasvati Puja
Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura -- Disappearance
Sri Pundarika Vidyanidhi -- Appearance
Sri Raghunandana Thakura -- Appearance
Srila Raghunatha Dasa Gosvami -- Appearance
- 17 Su Sri Advaita Acarya -- Appearance (Fast today)
- 18 Mo Bhishtami
- 19 Tu Sri Madhvacarya -- Disappearance
- 20 We Sri Ramanujacarya -- Disappearance
- 21 Th Ekadasi (suitable for fasting) Fasting for Bhaimi Ekadasi (Fast today for Varahadeva)
- 22 Fr Dvadasi Break fast 10:42 - 10:51
Varaha Dvadasi: Appearance of Lord Varahadeva (Fasting is done yesterday)
- 23 Sa Nityananda Trayodasi: Appearance of Sri Nityananda Prabhu (Fast today)
- 26 Tu Sri Krsna Madhura Utsava
Srila Narottama Dasa Thakura -- Appearance

FAREWELL ANANDA KIRTANA (ARIEL)

by Mandakini devi dasi

Enthusiastic young devotee, Ananda Kirtana, (*aka* Ariel), showcased his talent and love of *bhajana* at an invigorating farewell party held at the home of Padma devi dasi on Saturday 5 January.

Many devotees offered their benevolent wishes to our dedicated musician who said he is looking forward to relocating to Sri Mayapura Dham on Friday 11 January.

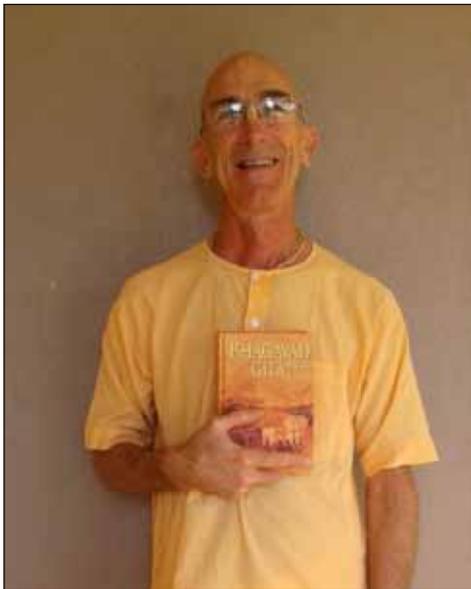
Says Ananda, "I will miss very much the association of New Govardhana devotees. I came here from Perth when I was not quite 13 years of age. Now I am almost 17. I discovered *kirtana* here and it has changed my life. After my education has been completed, I would like to come back to Australia and travel the country distributing books and performing *harinama*. I have a five year visa for India and before that expires, I would like the opportunity to visit Vrindavana Dham and join in the 24 hour *kirtana* there. I listen to Aindra Prabhu's *kirtanas* every day. He is such a big inspiration to me."



Urvasi devi dasi

Ananda Kirtana

BOOKS ARE THE BASIS



Urvasi devi dasi

by Mandakini devi dasi

Los Angeles based devotee, Vijaya dasa travels the world most of the year for the purpose of preaching and distributing Srila Prabhupada's books.

Arriving at New Govardhana on 24 December 2012, he quickly joined the catering crew at the Woodford Festival. His resolute intention being to administer the antidote for ignorance in *Kali-yuga* to as many souls as possible, in the form of Vedic knowledge. Vijaya was most victorious. In only 6 days, this empowered devotee distributed a whopping 300 Bhagavad-gitas!

Before leaving New Govardhana on 18 January for Sydney, he commented on his life's goal, "We are on a mission to increase wisdom around the world. It's a big challenge, so we need lots of help. Please distribute books."

REDISCOVERING THE SCIENCE OF NATURAL LIVING

by Ranadhir dasa

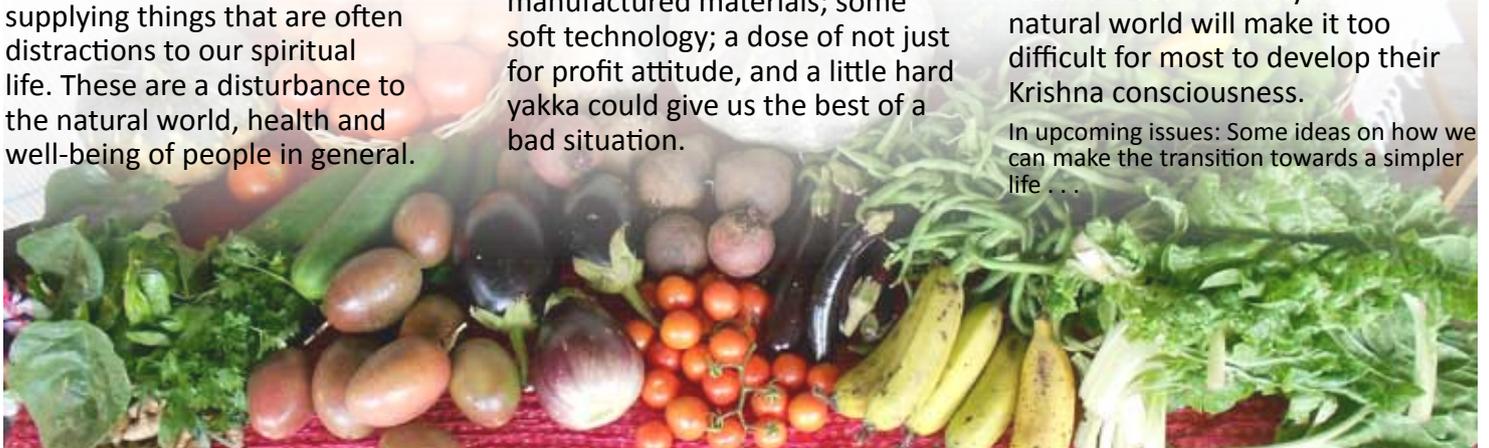
Since the start of the industrial revolution, many methods of natural living have been gradually abandoned and lost to most of us. Now we have a global economy supplying things that are often distractions to our spiritual life. These are a disturbance to the natural world, health and well-being of people in general.

However, all this activity has left us with some knowledge.

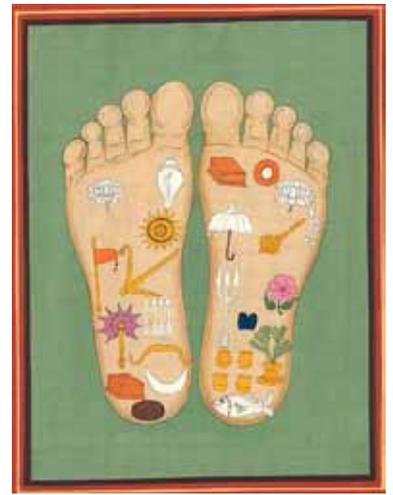
We have access to an amazing variety of useful plants. When combined with locally occurring manufactured materials; some soft technology; a dose of not just for profit attitude, and a little hard yakka could give us the best of a bad situation.

To get the maximum number of souls off the wheel of karma and on the road back to Godhead, we need two things – high thinking and simple living, otherwise avoidable disturbances in society and the natural world will make it too difficult for most to develop their Krishna consciousness.

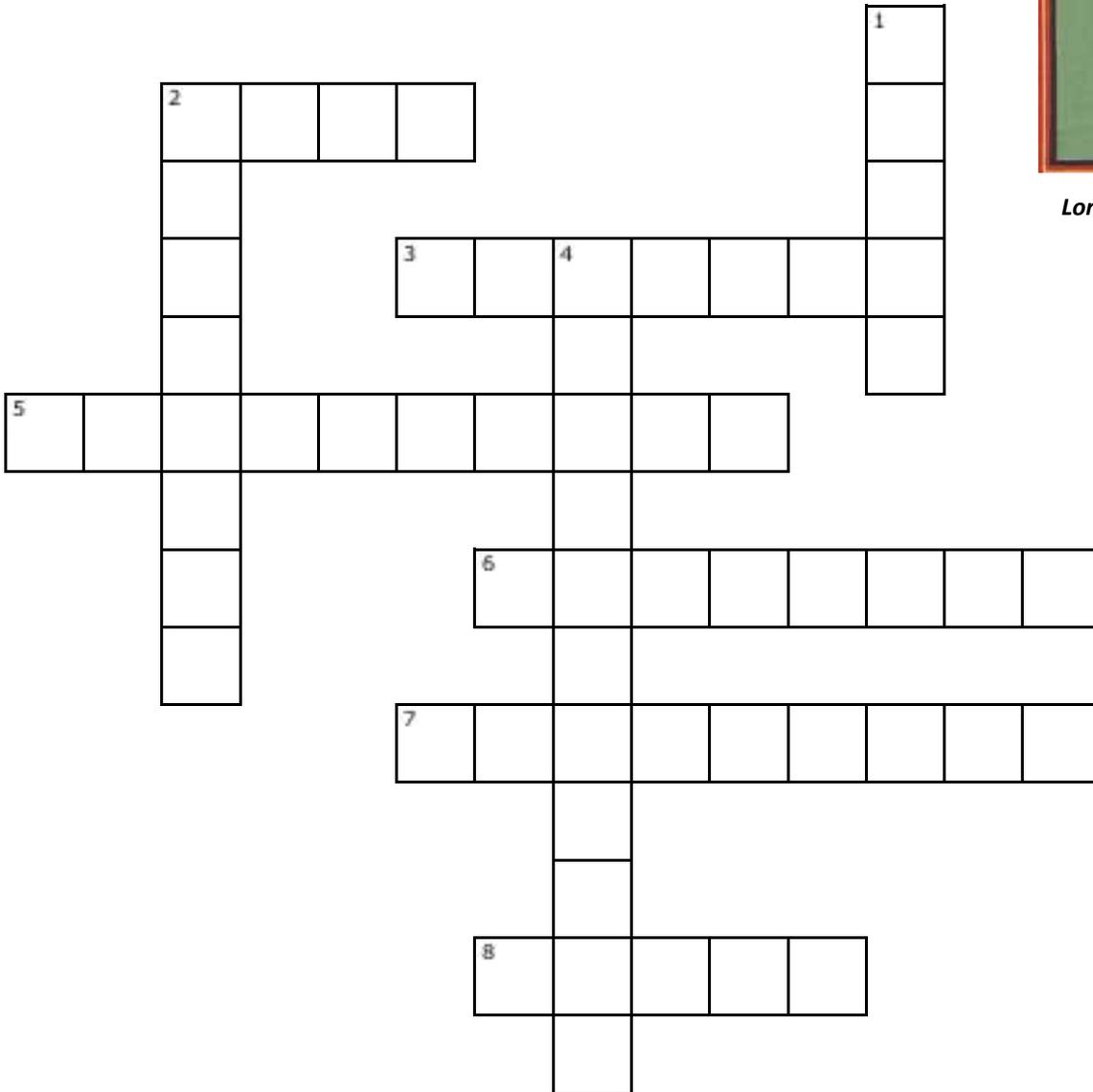
In upcoming issues: Some ideas on how we can make the transition towards a simpler life . . .



Lord Nityananda Crossword Puzzle



Lord Nityananda's Lotus Feet



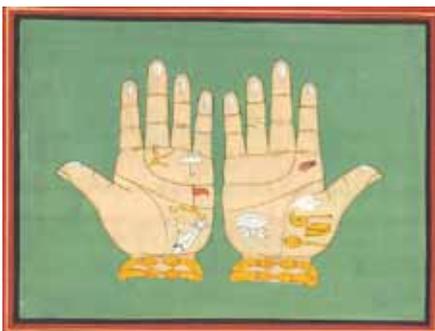
Across

2. What colour dhoti does Lord Nityananda wear
3. What is the name of Lord Nityananda's wife
5. Who is Lord Nityananda's brother
6. What is the name of the chipped rice festival started by Lord Nityananda in Panihati
7. In which village did Lord Nityananda appear
8. What is another name of Lord Nityananda

Down

1. Who was one of the miscreants that attacked Lord Nityananda
2. Who is Lord Nityananda in Krishna lila
4. What is the name of Lord Nityananda's father

Answers in next Conch issue



Lord Nityananda's Lotus Hands