

# South Zone TOS conference at Bangalore

by K. Sivaprasad



*TS seal that they have made of flowers and other natural materials on the grounds of the lodge*

First day was scheduled for TOS Karnataka region Annual conference. Bro. Sanat Kumar and Bro. Nataraj welcomed and gave a brief background of the TOS programmes in the region. In his keynote address Br. Reddappachar spoke very well on the youth involvement. He placed emphasis on the moral values in the education. In the current system of education, the focus is more on commercial aspects – ignoring the value of character building in children.

The South Zone TOS Conference was held at City Lodge in Bangalore on the 17th and 18th August 2019. The TOS regions of Telugu, Rayalaseema, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Chennai, India make up this Zone. Brother S. U. Mahesh, National Committee member of TOS in India took the major role of organising this workshop. Fifty-six members participated.

The meeting started with the lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries and devotional prayers. All the delegates gathered observed silence for the departed soul of late Bro. Krishnaiah Chetty, who passed to peace, just a week before this event. Members spoke of his remarkable work as Secretary of Karnataka TOS region until his last breath. He laid a good foundation for TOS work in the region by shaping the service activities into permanent programmes by networking all the groups.



*Nancy Secrest getting ready to speak*



*Notebooks that are given to school children with Annie Besant's picture on them*

Sr Nancy Secret, International Secretary of TOS, addressed the gathering on the historical background of TOS and the foundation laid by Dr Besant and H. P. Blavatsky. In her speech she covered the need for empowering women, youth involvement and the establishment of theosophical schools as priority themes to be undertaken.

theosophical link with the TOS and the need for strengthening methods adopted for making theosophy more practical in day-to-day life.

Bro. Dakshina Murthy, Vice President of KTF, gave the

Karnataka region TOS groups narrated their service activities performed during the year. The distribution throughout the State of notebooks, with Madam Annie Besant's picture on the cover page, to all groups, is a significant activity of this region. School bags, uniforms and prize distributions are done by all the groups in this region with lots of enthusiasm.



*Public garden that was having a special show at that time*

Fellowships given to deserving students is an encouragement to the poor students who are otherwise unable to continue their studies.

The second day of the meeting commenced with the garlanding of the statue of Dr Besant and all the delegates offered flowers with prayer for her noble contribution to theosophy. Bangalore city lodge's TOS group reported the distribution of sewing machines to women, notebooks to school children and other items for poor, local, community citizens.



*Public garden that was having a special show at that time*

Sr Veena from Chennai presented the annual report of that region with various service activities happening at Adyar on a permanent basis. The work of the Medical Camps, Social Welfare Centre and animal care are significant.

Bro. Sivaprasad, National Secretary of TOS in India, conveyed best wishes from Bro. Bhattacharya, National Director to this workshop. He shared his experiences with different TOS regions in India with encouraging work towards suffering during natural calamities, such as cyclones, floods and drought. He expressed sincere thanks for all the supporters during disasters, including international support extended through generous donations.

Sr Parvathamma, KTF shared her views on the service actions and their involvement in recent Karnataka floods.

Amarapuram in Rayalaseema region is an active group with the unique service activities of providing artificial limbs for the physically challenged, regular medical camps, Bharat Samajwadi puja by school children and helping the deprived farming communities. Bro. Basavaraj is an inspiration in the Amarapuram for their continuing service, with real, selfless motive. Bro. Srinivas Murthy, a teacher by profession, spoke with conviction about their multifarious actions.

Tamil Nadu regional Secretary, Bro. Nagappa, presented the activities of that region and its groups. They were successful in enrolling the maximum Life and Patron members in the region.

Bro. Sunil, Regional Secretary, Rayalaseema region, presented the Bellary group, Secunderabad and Hyderabad group reports. Bro. K. V. Raju from Guntur gave the detailed active work of Guntur group.

Bro. P. V. Narasimha Rao from Kakinada represented Telugu region and shared his innovative ideas on moral values for youth.

All the members participated in discussions of opportunities and obstacles sessions, much of which focused on the involvement of youth in the TOS and its activities.

Sr Triveni and Bro. Nagaraj of City lodge, along with other members, took care of all delegates, by providing healthy, organic food cooked by members and enabling comfortable stay at the beautiful premises of the city lodge during the two days. Other members of the city lodge were taking part in the voluntary work during the two days. Overall it was an interesting experience sharing of South Zone.