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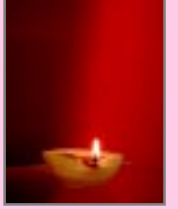
TEMPLE WITH A VISION

“A centre for religious, cultural, social and educational enhancement of all Indians in Singapore”

*~ Sri Muneeswaran Temple’s
Vision Statement*

Sri Muneeswaran Temple at Queensway lives up to its Vision Statement, and is an excellent example of a Hindu temple addressing the needs of the community not only at the spiritual level but also at the social, cultural and educational levels.

The Temple has an impressive array of programmes designed to reach out to different segments within the community. These programmes include free legal counselling services, music, dance, yoga & Hinduism classes, publication of a community newsletter, operation of a naturopathic clinic, planning of social activities for singles, and screening of devotional movies on special occasions. Two of the programmes are highlighted in this article.



Prison Counselling Service

To help Hindu prison inmates between the ages of 16 and 21 years find self worth, meaning and morality, Muneeswaran Temple began prison counselling services as early as 1990. The service first introduced at the Reformatory Training Centre in Bedok presently includes Moon Crescent and Admiralty West Prisons. As a special feature, yoga was initiated to help inmates gain better control of their bodies, minds and temperaments. At the Queenstown Remand Prison, individual counselling for serious offenders was launched as part of a customized rehabilitative action. The success of this Temple founded counselling service is largely credited to the dedication shown by its team of selfless volunteers.

Student Care Service

Recognising the importance of educating and caring for the young, Muneeswaran Temple Society embarked on yet another project of social benefit and impact. In association with Tanjong Pagar Community Development Council, Top Marks Student Care Centre was established under the auspices of the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports. Top Marks, a before and after school care service located at Block 143 Mei Ling Street presently has an enrolment of 50 students from the various ethnic groups. The care service is open to students between the ages of 7 and 14 years. A creative teaching methodology coupled with comprehensive enrichment activities makes Top Marks a preferred place for before and after school care. Home work supervision and guidance are the focus of the programme which hopes to develop creative, confident and motivated students. To help students who are unable to afford the care service, government subsidies are also available.

Temples and the Community

Today's temples no longer function solely as places of worship and religious festivities. They provide a service to the community at large and in doing so give an opportunity to Hindus, especially young Hindus, to enrich their lives by service to others. Temples such as Sri Muneewaran Temple are fast becoming cornerstones of the Hindu community, as they should be.

