

Friends of Moral Re-Armament (India)

Asia Plateau, Panchgani 412 805, Maharashtra, India.
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Wishing you a peaceful and quiet new year. The last days of 2008 were spent at Asia Plateau in reflection and the last hour was spent in silence and prayer. The new dawn of 09 was welcomed on the table land with the first rays of sun in hope that each day God will give us a chance to rise like a rising sun.

Planning for the Youth Conference does not take too much of my time, but writing a thoughtful letter takes more time. The year 2008 has been a good year as far as Mra IofC activities are concerned. In the month of March we did a resident training programme in Baramati for three days and we had more than 225 participants and it was a new learning for most of us to encounter rural youth, their innocence and willingness to surrender to learn were encouraging. Later in the year the Indore team invited us to their city for a day workshop on Mra IofC and more than 250 students attended. The show put up by the Indore team was remarkable, personally I learnt a lot. During the Durga pooja holidays' annual Savera camp was held in Jamshedpur and we ended the year at Asia Plateau with a small group. I want to encourage each one of you to take such initiatives in whatever way you can, and I assure you full support and will stand by you in your initiative.

Since I am talking about the year 2008, there has been a burden on my chest from the last day of the 08 Youth Conference, and I need to apologize to each one of you with my folded hands for the breach of trust between the participants and the coordinators. On the last day when I had asked all my coordinators to leave the auditorium and go to the Australia room for their own discussion, they did not go to the Australia room but instead they went in the Big Dining room, switched the speakers on so that they can listen to what we were speaking in the auditorium, first of all they were not supposed to listen to what was spoken by the participants, which was for and against them and secondly the most disturbing part was none of them had courage to come and tell me that we have been dishonest and were listening to what was spoken in the auditorium. When I came to know about it, the only thought that crossed my mind was, my coordinators had let me down and the teachings of Mra IofC got lost somewhere, and personal selfish motive was more prominent. I take this responsibility for the breach of trust and ask for your forgiveness and I am sure such a mistake will never be repeated.

I am aware that a difficult time is ahead for us as far as finance, job and economy is concerned. Mra IofC trust is facing a similar problem and due to unavoidable circumstances we have raised the conference fee to Rs: four thousand for this year Youth Conference 09. In spite of the rise in the fee we on our own have to raise Rs: five hundred for each participant towards picnic, diary, souvenir, group snap and other unforeseen expenses. I will need help from each one of you through your thoughts, prayers and if possible contribution. There are many who come for the Youth Conference who cannot pay and if they can pay then they cannot pay the full amount and many also need financial help for traveling. We have always supported every individual who has shown an inclination to come for the Youth Conference and God has been kind and HE has provided us with all the help. In true Mra IofC spirit I want to encourage every soul who desires



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to come to Asia Plateau where thought is important and not money. If you have suggestions to raise money, then please express, it will help us in our cause.

Looking forward to having you with us at Asia Plateau on 1st June 09 for let's make a difference.

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