

MATA AMRITANANDAMAYI



Embracing The World
For Peace and Harmony



AMMA



Known simply as 'Amma' (Mother), to the millions of people around the world who love her, Mata Amritanandamayi is working tirelessly for the well-being and upliftment of humanity.

Since her birth in 1953, into a humble fishing community in Kerala, South India, Amma has been a shining example of compassion and love.

Amma's teachings are universal. Whenever she is asked about her religion she replies, "My religion is Love." She does not ask anyone to believe in God or to change their faith, but only to inquire into their own real nature and to believe in themselves.

Revered in India as a Mahatma (Great Soul), Amma is a source of spiritual inspiration and practical humanitarian aid, accepting all

who come to her irrespective of race, creed, colour or class.

For the last 36 years through the simplest of gestures, a hug, she has personally blessed 26 million people.



Respectful of all religions and ways of life, Amma's message is one of love, peace, and selflessly serving others.

Reaching out to the suffering world, through her vast and ever-growing aid programmes for the disadvantaged, Amma has dedicated every moment of her life to helping others.



“Love is the
only medicine
that can heal the
wounds of the
world.”

—Amma



DISASTER RELIEF WORK



MATA AMRITANANDAMAYI MATH (MAM)—N.G.O. WITH SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS TO THE U.N.

On July 24, 2005, the United Nations granted formal consultative status to Amma's organisation for outstanding disaster-relief work and other humanitarian activities. MAM is among only 30 Indian NGOs (non-governmental organizations) to ever receive this distinguished designation.

Above: Amma comforted thousands of victims after the tsunami disaster of December 2004

- *The Bihar Flood Relief* started in September 2008, and MAM pledged Rs 20 million (313,596 euros). AIMS hospital despatched a teams of medical specialists and paramedics who treated 50,000 patients over 2 months. 7 shelters were erected for the homeless.

- *Vidyamritam and Amrita Sree* are two projects launched in 2007 to help curb the growing problem of farmer suicides in the India. These projects aim to alleviate the severe distress of farmers by assuring education to the children, and employment to the women of the affected families.

- *The Amrita Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation Project* was one of MAM's largest welfare projects. The amount of aid pledged by the Math reached \$46 million. The construction of 6,200 new homes in India, Sri Lanka and on Andaman Island is nearing completion.

- *In the aftermath of natural disasters*, MAM's Disaster Response Team and volunteers rushed to provide medical aid to the victims of the Gujarat earthquake (2001); the floods in Mumbai (2005); and the Kashmir/Pakistan earthquake (2005).

HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

- *Healthcare*: includes the internationally recognized super-specialty, hospital, AIMS, which gives free care to the poor; free medical clinics and an AIDS hospice
- *Free Food*: Two million people are fed every year by Amma's ashrams and organizations.
- *Free homes*: 30,000 homes built as of September 2007, with the goal of building 95,000 more.
- *Lifetime Pensions*: 100,000 stipends are offered to cover the essential needs of handicapped people and widowed or abandoned women.
- *Education*: includes 53 schools, an orphanage, and a university with schools of medicine, engineering, management, biotechnology, computer sciences, and journalism.
- *Economic Self-Reliance* and vocational training programmes for the poor and tribal peoples.



Earthquake-proof houses in Gujarat





INTERNATIONAL VOICE

Amma is regularly invited to address major international organisations.

2007: In Paris, Amma is awarded the Cinema Verite Award for her humanitarian activities and work for peace.

2006: Amma received the James Parks Morton Interfaith Award from the Interfaith Center of New York in honour of her efforts to foster peace and harmony between religions.

2004: Amma gave the keynote address at the Parliament of World Religions in Barcelona.

2003: Amma received a commendation from the City and County of Los Angeles 'For her humanitarian endeavours throughout the world.'

2002: At the U.N. in Geneva, Amma was presented with the Gandhi-King Award by the World Movement for Non-violence for her work towards world peace.

2000: Amma addressed the Millennium Peace Summit at the U.N. General Assembly, New York.



2004 Barcelona



2002 Geneva



WHAT THEY SAY

“What I most cherish about Amma is that she not only *talks* the talk, and is an embodiment of unconditional love, but she expresses that love in action. She *walks* the talk. Mahatma Gandhi urged us to ‘be the change we wish to see in our world.’ Amma *is* the change she wishes to see in our world. She is a profound living example for all of us.”

The late Ms. Yolanda King

Daughter of Martin Luther King at the opening of the Women’s Peace Conference during Amma’s 50th birthday Peace Celebrations in Cochin 2003



“I want to share with you what I have learned from Amritapuri: Giving. Go on giving. You can give...Everyone of us—the rich and poor—can give. That is the message I get from Amritapuri. There is no greater message than Amma’s giving to all the people of this region, and Kerala and India, and to the world”

***His Excellency,
A.P.J. Abdul Kalam***

President of the Republic of India, speaking at Amritapuri, Amma’s international centre, Kerala, India, December 2006.



“The world today needs proof that our human values are useful, that such qualities as compassion, selflessness, renunciation and humility have the power to create a great and prosperous society. Amma’s work provides us with the much-needed proof”

Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee

former Prime Minister of India





“May the tree of our life
be firmly rooted in the soil of love,
let good deeds be the leaves on that tree,
may words of kindness form its flowers,
and may peace be its fruits.”

—Amma

Contact:

