



QSA NEWSLETTER

Sangha Samaggi Togetherness of the Buddhist Sangha

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CONTENTS

PAGE	DESCRIPTION
1	Short sayings of the Buddha (Dhammapada stanza 41)
2	QSA committee meeting number 38 held at the Goodna temple
3	EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
2	Course on Teaching Meditation for Buddhist Chaplains
3	Brief Report on the Research Program on the Self-Idea
5	Eleven New Buddhist Chaplains
5	Assembly of Buddhist Chaplains-Chairperson appointed
6	Executive Secretary of QSA appointed
6	Two new academic departments for the Siddhartha Institute of Buddhism (SIB)
7	Third Buddhist Convocation planned for 25 November 2018

SHORT SAYINGS OF THE BUDDHA SELECTED FROM THE DHAMMAPADA

*Before long alas! This body deprived of consciousness will lie on the earth,
discarded like a useless log.*

(Dhammapada 41)

COMMITTEE MEETING OF QSA



This photograph was taken after the committee meeting number 38 held at the Buddhist Vihara of Queensland in Goodna, Ipswich.

Left to Right: Venerable S. Sugathasara, Secretary of QSA, Venerable Hui Chyuan former committee member, Reverend James Wilson, President of QSA, Venerable Tseten, President of BESS and invitee. Mr. Rahu Sarath-Chandra, Executive Secretary, Mark Chappell, invitee from Bodhi Chan Centre, Jennifer Hassan, Buddhist Chaplain, Dr. Barbara Sullivan, Chairperson of the Assembly of Buddhist Chaplains and Mrs. Vinitha Sarath-Chandra, benefactor.

Tanuja Sarath-Chandra, Buddhist Chaplain and Sanjeewa Morawaka, Executive Treasurer though present were not in the picture.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT ON MEETING MCM 38

Thank you to all who attended the 38th Committee of Management Meeting held at the Queensland Buddhist Vihara, 108 Eric St, Goodna, QLD 4300. We very much appreciated Ven Sugathasara for allowing us to hold the meeting on the verandah overlooking the Stupa and spreading leaves of the Bodhi Tree.

The surrounding trees and the sun slowly lowering in the west provided a peaceful background for our discussions.

Much was achieved. New members and new Buddhist Chaplains were admitted. Even though they were not present it was heartwarming to welcome them and see the steady growth in membership of the QSA. Administrative matters followed and many new initiatives were proposed for areas such as chaplaincy studies, a chat room and establishing contacts with Nan Tien University in NSW. For a detailed description of all matters discussed please see our Minutes.

These meetings produce positive outcomes and we encourage more interested persons to attend and contribute to the development of the QSA.

Rev James Wilson
President

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Meditation & Chanting for Buddhist Chaplains

This one-day course is primarily for Buddhist Chaplains but anyone who is interested in chaplaincy, meditation or chanting may also apply to attend. The course will be taught in a collaborative style with participants sharing their knowledge and experience.

The first section of the course will explore approaches to meditation and chanting in all the main Buddhist traditions. Participants will have the opportunity to teach a short meditation or chanting practice from their own tradition and to experience the forms used in other traditions.

The second part of the course will engage specific case studies in order to explore how meditation and chanting might be used (or not) by Buddhist chaplains in their service/helping work. Buddhist chaplains are involved in a wide variety of volunteer work in Queensland at present including: supporting people who are facing life difficulties (relationship problems, family conflict, bereavement, unemployment and work stress, etc.); caring for the sick, elderly

and dying; providing pastoral care in hospitals and prisons; running meditation practice groups (in workplaces and universities); guiding school children and university students; and supporting communities in times of conflict or natural disaster. The case studies selected will examine a range of scenarios that might be encountered by Buddhist chaplains in these areas, exploring how, why and when to teach meditation or chanting – and when to use other approaches.

In the third part of the course, we will examine together some of the challenges and difficulties that can be encountered in teaching meditation and chanting.

This course will run from **9am to 4pm on Saturday 11th August** (at a venue on the St Lucia campus, Building 38, University of Queensland). Further sessions will be organized after this date if participants want to continue practicing and learning together.

The course is freely offered (there is no fee) although a small donation to the QSA to cover costs is requested for those who are waged. The course convenor is Dr Barbara Sullivan – barbara.sullivan4005@gmail.com. Please contact Dr Sullivan if you have any questions, advice or comments about the course content.

Applications for enrolment in this course can be sent to the QSA – infoqsa@gmail.com. Please include the following in your application: your name and contact details (phone and email); your training and experience in chaplaincy (if any); the group, temple or Buddhist tradition you practice in; your background and experience in meditation and/or chanting.

Research program on the Self-Idea (Sakkaya Ditthi) (based on Theravada Scriptures)-Held on Sunday 1 July 2018

Dr. Sanka Wasalthillake gave a power-point presentation on various aspects of the soul concept. This was followed by a series of questions and discussion.

In Theravada Buddhism Sakkaya Ditthi is very important as this is one of the three Fetters that need to be surmounted by one who wishes to attain the first stage of Enlightenment or Sotapatti.

It the presentation it was stated that the soul-concept was a View according to the teaching of the Buddha. As a lot of people hold on to this view that a soul exists and because they hold on to this view tenaciously, it can be classified as a strong view. As such the more ignorance one has the stronger is the soul-concept and vice versa.

There is another related factor. The stronger your belief in the soul concept the greater is your craving. Enlightenment harder to attain because of the craving. In the Cula Vedalla discourse it is clarified that craving and clinging on to the five aggregates go with the self-idea. The body-mind combination treats itself as an entity and that entity clings to various objects.

When you sustain and strengthen your idea that this body is mine or that you are within this body and so on the soul-idea becomes stronger.

How do we use the self-idea for spiritual progress? Until enlightenment is reached, the soul-idea flourishes and indeed it can be used to get closer to enlightenment. There is no contradiction here as one needs a boat to go to the other side of a river but only a fool want to carry it on the shoulders after the goal is reached.

Sakkaya Ditthi cannot be destroyed simply by thinking and intellectual understanding. One needs to get established in practice. The practice is defined in some discourses. Very briefly the practice is gradually nurtured by the development of Virtues. These are very simple and capable of being practiced by anyone.

A discussion followed the presentation. It is planned to conduct research into other important aspects of the Dhamma in the future. Please indicate your interest by sending an email to QSA.

WELCOME TO THE NEW BUDDHIST CHAPLAINS

The management Committee of QSA has approved the following new batch of Buddhist Chaplains. All of them had completed the Qualifying Course in Buddhist Chaplaincy except Dr. Wasalthillake who had prior training acceptable to the Buddhist Chaplaincy Services Board:

- 31 Petra Depalo
- 32 Lyna Chen
- 33 Anoma Pullen

- 34 Arno Hess
- 35 Anna Nolan
- 36 Andrew Hamblin
- 37 Dr. Sanka Wasalthilake
- 38 Dhammika Pereira
- 39 Elaine Redford
- 40 Dr. Malcolm Brown
- 41 Natarsha Marr

ASSEMBLY OF BUDDHIST CHAPLAINS (ABC) GETS CHAIRPERSON

Dr. Barbara Sullivan, Buddhist Chaplain was appointed as the first Chairperson of the Assembly of Buddhist Chaplains. Barbara will also hold the position of head of the Buddhist Chaplaincy Services Board (BCSB) of the Queensland Sangha Association Inc.

Barbara recently retired from the University of Queensland where she was a lecturer. She will lead the entire group of Buddhist Chaplains registered with the QSA now numbering forty one. All Buddhist Chaplains have completed the Qualifying Course in Buddhist Chaplaincy and some have completed advanced courses too. Some chaplains have had training as Buddhist monks and nuns.

The BCSB is the governing body of the Assembly. Best wishes to Barbara in organizing the ABC and BCSB.

POSITION OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF QSA

Mr. Rahubadde Sarath-Chandra was appointed as the Executive Secretary of the Queensland Sangha Association Inc. From inception Rahu has served the association in various capacities.

TWO ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS FOR THE SIDDHARTHA INSTITUTE OF BUDDHISM (SIB)

The Siddhartha Institute of Buddhism, the educational division of the Queensland Sangha Association Inc will now have two academic departments as follows:

1 Department of Pali and Theravada Studies, headed by Dr. Sanka Wasalathillake

2 Department of Buddhist Chaplaincy Studies, headed by Dr. Barbara Sullivan.

Mr. Rahu Sarath-Chandra will be responsible for all administrative duties.

A handbook setting out essential details of SIB will be available soon. It will replace the prospectus issued from 2015.

THIRD BUDDHIST CONVOCATION

The third Buddhist Convocation is planned for Sunday 25 November 2018. Individuals who have given services to the community and others may be nominated to receive awards. Please send your nominations to infoqsa@gmail.com

QSA NEEDS MORE HELPERS

The positions of Assistant Editor and Assistant Registrar for the Chaplaincy Board need to be filled. Please email infoqsa@gmail.com if you need more details.

BUDDHIST COORDINATORS FOR DIFFERENT AREAS

It is expected to engage a number of volunteers throughout Queensland to disseminate information about Buddhism and Buddhist organisations in various areas. Mr. Mark Chappell from Gold Coast has chosen to help in this way.

Best wishes to Mark in this venture. Anyone interested is invited to send an email to QSA and ask for particulars. Mark can be contacted via infoqsa@gmail.com

END OF THE 8 PAGE QSA NEWSLETTER FOR AUGUST 2018

Issued by the president of QSA, Reverend James Wilson

**YOU ARE WELCOME TO FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER
TO A FRIEND WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT**

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