

## New Year Celebrations at Anaikatti

January 1, 2012 found Anaikatti in a jubilant mood as Pujya Swami Dayananda Saraswathi was personally present to bless more than 1000 disciples who had assembled at Anaikatti Gurukulam.

New Year Celebrations started at 4 AM with Ganapathi Homa at Lord Dakshinamurti temple. It was followed by nithya puja. At 8 AM puja was done at Lord Subramanya temple.

At 8.30 AM Pujya Swamiji taught Kenopanishad Bhasyam. After the class, Pujya Swamiji released volumes 6 and 7 of Bhagavad Gita Home Study in Kannada. Brahmachari Shankar, Teacher of Samaskrutum at the long term course, received the first copy. Swamini Varadananda of Mysore, who translated this work from English to Kannada thanked Pujya Swamiji for the opportunity given to her. She said that she took five years to complete this work. Head of Sringeri Mutt Sri Bharathi Theertha Swamigal had given a foreword for this work.

A special abisheka and new year puja was performed at Lord Dakshinamurthi temple at 10 a.m. At 11 a.m., Pujya Swamiji delivered his anugraha bhasanam. He said:

“New year puja at a temple is a good way to start the new year. One need not brood over the past and suffer from a hangover. One should positively begin each day with a prayer. It requires Isvara’s grace to have



a new beginning at every stage. Then one can celebrate every day as a new year’s day.

One has free will to pray. But anger, sadness, depression, agitation and fear all happen. One should acknowledge that it all happen without their effort.

One does activities for welfare of the community or reaching out karma, out of a degree of free will. But a sense of guilt and wretchedness also make one do that. So it is not totally out of free will. Prayer is the only karma that is totally out of free will.

You have started this year with prayer. Let 2012 be a good year to you. You should say next year that 2012 was a wonderful year and I want a repeat of that year. I wish you all a happy new year 2012.”

The disciples had an auspicious start of the New Year with Ishvara’s grace and Guru’s blessings.

*Report by N. Avinashilingam*