



Annual General Meeting 2nd April 2023

President's Report

Dear Friends,

Welcome to GTB AGM of 2023. Our last AGM was 29th January 2022. Luckily, we had just come out of the Pandemic and almost in one piece without any major incidents directly involving our temple. Regrettably some of us did lose close family members and other relatives due to Covid and other causes both here and abroad including India. With the grace of Lord Guruvayurappan most of us were able to handle the situation reasonably well. Our thoughts and prayers are with those families who suffered losses and hardship in different ways.

I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all the devotees and their families, supporting communities, volunteers and the temple staff for their co-operation, understanding and sacrifices during the difficult times caused by the pandemic. I also want to record my special gratitude to all the members of the Medical Advisory Committee who helped the temple management immensely in handling the situation and making urgent policy decisions relating to frequent changes in Public Health Recommendations.

With the blessings of the LORD we were able to keep the temple open and fully functional every day and meet other pooja needs of our community.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE LAST AGM

I will briefly touch upon some of the important projects completed since the last AGM. Our Executive Director Radhakrishnan Padiyath will be offering more details in his report and the financial statements.

- Construction of the fence and gates - almost completed.
- Poonthanam Kalavedi – improvements and audiovisual system installation almost completed. Number of dances and other music performances have increased especially after the pandemic.
- Even though slightly restricted we have celebrated the Prathishta Dinams and festival on due dates
- Last year we conducted 252 Parayeduppu between April and June.
- Also launched “Krishnarchana” an E.magazine (with provision for printed copies if needed). We have published two issues already and the third one is planned for VISHU.



The Management Advisory Committee has done an amazing job. Board had appointed one Liaison member for each area for easier coordination. The sub committees were formed as needed to discuss and finalize various aspects of the temple's operations and projects.

The Board and Management Advisory Committee met regularly on virtual basis to discuss the activities of the temple and take appropriate decisions based on changing circumstances. It has been a team effort that has worked well and smoothly.

Religious Team, under the leadership of Unni Kainila and Ram Vattompadam as the Board Liaison have done an admirable job in planning, organizing and promoting the temple poojas and special events. They have continued to conduct almost all the important events at the temple and stream it live on zoom and face book for the benefit of devotees. Public interest as well as the temple income have increased during the year. We also notice that the number of *choroons*, *thulabharams*, weddings and other activities are gradually increasing.

Media and Marketing team led by Madhav Kochunni and Shaji Krishnan with Gopinathan Menon, as the Board Liaison, have updated the website, maintained the online booking system and launched *Krishnarchana* magazine this year as mentioned early.

- 2023 Calender. This year the calendar was completely redesigned and printed from India. It was well received, and we could include different photos of the temple in the calendar.
- Social Media platforms, especially *Kshetra Vijnanam* and *Whatsapp* Group have done well. We completed the fifth year of *Prabhodhanashtakam* which has been a popular and successful series. This was coordinated by Shaji and VP Divakaran as the Board Liaison. Several prominent and worldrenowned speakers were arranged. This helped us to expand the devotee base and promote the temple at National and International level. We have excellent feed back and support from these well attended sessions. It helps to fulfill the spiritual needs of our devotees to some extent. Our Priests also have contributed significantly.

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“Yuvathma” team led by Anjana Rajendran and Rudra Krishnan is growing and inventing its wheels; new horizons are opening. This is our channel and medium to get our youth to leadership roles. Our youth are our hope and dream. Our teachers and leaders are visionaries who can mould them to be world leaders of tomorrow.

Community and Volunteer Team, led by Vinitha Radhamma with VP Divakaran as the Board Liaison maintained a volunteer pool. The team organized multiple food drives to help the local food banks. This was well appreciated by the local community organizations. Also, they have



continued other community projects such as “city park cleaning”. Our Volunteers are our backbone.

Facilities & Maintenance Team, led by Anil Ambat, Rajendran Thalappath and Sushil Parapurat, with Trichur Viswanathan as Board Liaison, have completed many projects during the year.

- Construction of the security fence and gates almost completed. Final work of the sliding gate on north side will be completed in May 2023.
- Works of restructuring of the *Poonthanam Kalavedi* and updating of the audio-visual system have concluded. We have had several dance and music performances.
- Facilities support for *Parayeduppu* and *Prathishta* events.
- Regular maintenance of all the temple facilities.

Fund Raising Team led by Dr. Anilkumar Menon as Board Liaison with Satish and Sushma has continued to work to promote monthly pledges and donations for the temple. This has been a challenge during the past year due to economic conditions.

Accounting team led by Murali Maneeram and Presanna Kumar, with RK Padiyath as the Board Liaison, supported by the Manager, Viji Vattompadam, and support staff helped us manage all transactions and ensure that they are completed correctly and on time. We have added more part time staff to the roster to ensure that there is sufficient coverage throughout the temple hours.

Thanks to Bindu Dinesh for her support as the Assistant Manager and to Appukuttan Nair for taking care of monthly pledge processing with the added help of Shoba Padiyath .

Narayaneeyam group has performed their chanting throughout the year on Sundays and broadcasting on zoom to allow others to join remotely. I admire their dedication and punctuality in spite of occasional bad weather! These sessions are well attended and appreciated. They are well planned. Thank you all.

Annadanam group is now arranging *annadanam* every weekend; this has been well appreciated by the devotees.

Mr. Asokan Sadasivan offered free tax clinics – remotely – to help students, newcomers and others in need with their annual tax returns.

Dr. Sundararajan has continued his annual tuition classes for high school students. Our sincere thanks to Dr. Sundararajan for this fantastic and admirable service to the community.

Krishna Stores gift shop is also attracting crowd and generating income for the temple.

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Devotee Loan Donors I want to take this opportunity to thank some of the loan donors who have converted their loans to donations or to book Udayasthamana Poojas. This is a great help to increase the revenue and reduce the debt load.

Kaladharan Marar and his the wife continue to work in the temple, helping the priests in cleaning pooja dishes etc. Kaladharan Marar’s has been a tremendous resource for many students interested in acquiring skills in Chenda, Maddalam, Kombu.Kuzhal and thalam .

Udayasthamana Poojas: The total number booked is 79. We completed 57 poojas till last year. and 22 poojas are yet to be completed.

Medallions:(Update) We have sold another 11 medallions in 2022 taking the total number to 426. There are still over 1000 available. I have mentioned this before. Please offer the medallions as a gift to your friends and relatives on special occasions like birthdays, wedding anniversary, retirement as well as new births and choroons. This is really one of the best and most powerful gifts and gesture establishing a lifelong bondage with the temple and the LORD

MOVING FORWARD – OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

RELIGIOUS COMMITTEE is planning Parayeduppu starting in April-June 2023. After that Prathishta Dinam will be celebrated at the end of June. They are also planning a Narayaneeya Saphtham / Bhagawatha Saphtham in July 2023. Details will be announced soon. The team will also be promoting engagements, weddings, choroos, vahana pooja, thulabharam, ezhuthiniruthal and other events at the temple.

Our application for registering temple and our Thirumeni as the Marriage Officiant is still in progress. This will allow us to issue Marriage Certificates from the temple and encourage families to hold weddings at the temple.

Fund raising team will continue to promote monthly pledge to reach our goal to > \$30,000.00; They will also be seeking other donations/sponsorships and medallion sales. We will specially request and raise donations to pay back the devotee loans. On that note:

Aging is inevitable! Now that I am completely retired and still kicking, with the grace of the Lord and help from all my teammates in the Fund Raising Team, I intend to visit you all, with a special request for donations particularly to pay back the loans and to make our temple debt free for our children.

Plans are also to promote use of Poonthanam Kalavedi for arangettams and other cultural events, particularly outside the temple pooja hours.



On the system side, integration of online and office systems is a project in progress.

Integration and promotion with other communities The Board is looking for opportunities to attract and welcome members of other communities to this temple, joining in some of their celebrations and festivities and creating an opportunity to interact and work together to promote Sanathana Dharma, Universal Brotherhood, Unity and World Peace. Our temple is open to all.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Thank you all for finding time to attend the AGM today.

We appreciate your suggestions, guidance, participation, and hard work! We are growing and adapting to meet the needs of our children! The world is in need of leaders and visionaries! Let us train our children to lead the world!

My sincere thanks and appreciation to our Legal Counsel, Lata Menon and our auditors, McGillivray and Partners.

I am grateful to all the donors, sponsors and monthly pledge members for their continued support and participation. Our temple is a large facility now and requires increased funding to operate and maintain. Monthly pledges and donations are key to maintain our revenue to cover these costs.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all the cultural and community organizations as well as the local religious institutions for their support and participation in the temple activities, over the years. Our usual support groups including KALA, OHM, NSS, Amma Foundation and KHNA have continued to extend their helping hands from time to time but the circumstances were tough in recent times. We hope to work with them all and benefit from their goodwill.

I want to acknowledge with gratitude the support from our media partners who promote our temple and its events free of charge.

Special thanks to all the Board members especially the Secretary and Executive Director R.K.Padiyath, all the Advisory Committee members, our Priests, Office Manager Viji and Asst Manager Bindu, other management staff and all the volunteers for their unconditional support, trust and hard work which gave me the courage and strength to pull through these various temple activities for another year.

Finally, and most importantly, my sincere thanks to all the members and devotees for their dedication and support to our temple in numerous ways throughout this long journey. It was about nine years ago, frustrated by the inability to obtain a construction loan or mortgage from any of the chartered banks, I came to you along with my co-directors, to raise “devotee loans for



construction”. We had no guarantees to offer! We were in uncharted waters! But you trusted me. You treated me with love and respect! . I remember with gratitude your unconditional and generous support, helping me to raise 3.36 million dollars! With that and loan from a private lender we started the construction. Rest is history. As you heard from our executive director, we have done well. The temple has a net worth of over nine million dollars and remaining debt under four million. Please be generous once more, in your donations. I will be coming to you one more time but soon! I have faith in you. With blessings from our LORD we will make our temple debt free for our children.

You will notice that our temple is now able to meet most of your pooja needs in the most authentic way. We welcome your suggestions. Our priests are willing to adapt and adopt new ideas provided they are in line with the temple’s vision and management principles. We started this temple adopting the practices at the Krishna Temple at Guruvayur, Kerala which continues to be our role model.

Excuse us for any deficiencies or omissions. We are learning and improving all the time. We will endeavor to serve you better. We are all volunteers serving Lord Guruvayurappan. I want everyone to feel welcome and be part of this great temple. This is our dream temple, yours and mine! Introduce our temple to all your new friends and acquaintances. Be a PATRON and an AMBASSADOR of this temple.

OM NAMO NARAYANAYA. MAY THE LORD BLESS US ALL

Dr.P.Karunakaran Kutty

President, GTB