

Back to the path of Christ

I met Swami Vishwananda in Mauritius in 1997. At that time I was repelled by the idea of following a *guru* because I had read some unfavourable experiences of people writing about such matters. When I tried to picture myself as the follower of a *guru*, I disliked the picture very much.

Swami Vishwananda taught me many things, among them, he showed me what it really means to follow a master, a true *guru*. At the time I was completely opposed to the word *guru* because I thought that it had a negative aspect and that society interprets the *guru* experience in a fanatical way. I thought that in our western society the *guru* was linked with danger, suspicion, manipulation and brainwashing. Thus I was very sceptical and I viewed Swami Vishwananda in a highly critical way. But in a most loving way, he guided me step-by-step until I realised a different understanding of a *guru*.

Swami Vishwananda lived at my home for some time and it was then that I opened my heart and began to appreciate the *guru*. He helped me develop a greater openness towards all religions. He clearly delineated for me that religion is based on love, tolerance, and the spirit of Christ. Since I have known Swamiji, my capacity to love and to forgive has expanded. I learned to forgive myself which, in turn, allows me to forgive others. I will always be grateful for Swami's teaching and loving guidance. Swami Vishwananda has the greatest capacity to love I have witnessed in my life. He does not preach anything - HE IS! He is love, just love. His look, his way of acting, his presence, everything is continually reflecting love.

For ages I had been trying to find a remedy that would make it possible for my wife to walk again. He taught me to develop patience. He asked me to create a more positive attitude by watching my thoughts, words and actions. Swami said that by

doing that, my long-cultivated negative thoughts and actions would not darken my life or the life of my closest relatives anymore. And he was right!

Swami helped me physically. Some years ago I had to have surgical treatment for an inguinal hernia, being fixed with plaques. During a recent doctor's appointment I was told that I needed another operation. Swami Vishwananda told me to wait for three months before going ahead with the operation. Three months later I went to have an echography [test]. The doctor's report indicated there was no need for a further operation. In addition, the doctor told me that there were no traces of the old treatment and not a trace of the plaques!

*Thank you Swami. Thank you for helping me develop more tolerance and humility every day. Thank you, most of all, for showing me how to appreciate the silence where God can be found.*

Paritoshia - Pierre B. – France