



Baba Virsa Singh Ji Maharaj, beloved spiritual teacher to millions of people around the world, quietly passed out of his mortal frame on December 24, 2007. Since childhood, he had devoted his life to God's mission, emphasizing the oneness of God and all of God's prophets. In his communities, he demonstrated the practical value of Guru Nanak's programme: Work hard, share with others, and always remember God, who has no form, no particular country or religion, but whose Power is everywhere present throughout the cosmos.

Babaji's body was reverently cremated on December 25th at Gobind Sadan in Delhi, his central community. The final rites were performed on January 6th by Giani Iqbal Singh (Head Priest of the historic gurdwara in Patna, where Babaji's beloved Guru Gobind Singh was born), who had paid many loving visits to Babaji. Since then, many people have seen Babaji in dreams and some have seen him with open eyes. His followers have discovered that although he has passed out of his physical body, he is very powerfully present and actively empowering people to carry on his mission of serving, inspiring, and uniting people of all

faiths and all social levels.

All Religions Claim Babaji

People of all religions and all social levels felt that Baba Virsa Singh, revered teacher from Sikh background, belonged to them. Ever since he left his mortal frame, they have been spontaneously coming to Gobind Sadan to honour him in their own ways.

On 28 December, after their Friday prayers at Gobind Sadan's mosque, the Muslims from the surrounding area went to offer a special prayer for Baba Virsa Singh at Gobind Sadan's assembly ground where his body had been cremated. The imam, Jabar Ali, explained, "Maharaj's love is so deep-seated in our heart that it is very difficult to express it. But it is our duty, our work to show that love before God. Maharaj has put us on this path, has showed us the way. This path has great importance in our life, because in this world people only listen to these things but nobody had the initiative to do them as our Baba Virsa Singh Maharaj did."

Hindus at Gobind Sadan read the Ramayana and Bhagavad Gita at Maharaj's Place. Dr. and Mrs. Syed M. Hussain, who live at Gobind Sadan, organized a reading of the Holy Qur'an by orphans from Jamia Usmaan Ibne Affan. Afterward, Dr. Hussain preached to them about Baba Virsa Singh's great message of the oneness of all religions.

Beginning on 4 January, the entire Guru Granth Sahib was read in 48 hours, followed by the last rites for the revered teacher on 6 January. Thousands of people of all castes and creeds, including eminent figures from India, Russia, and the United States, came to pay their respects. Babaji's devotees do not regard that event as an end, but rather the beginning of a great effort to spread his universal teachings around the

world.

International Tributes



Loving tributes to Babaji have poured in from around the world. Many are posted on <http://www.gobindsadan.org>. Those who want to add their tributes may send them to info@gobindsadan.org.

Some excerpts:

International Association for Peace through Culture, Moscow: "All of us, and the whole world, have become orphans today with the departure of this great sage and the kindest person, one of the Greatest Teachers of

humanity today. With his spiritual sight, Maharaj Ji directed a person on the path of his destiny in accordance with his aspirations and aims of life and on the path of labour for the common good.

The Great Sage loved Russia, foresaw for her a bright future if the people there adopt the path of meditation and hard work. Believing in the high predestination and spiritual leadership of our two countries, he poured this strength into each of us as well, urging us to engage in positive activities and inculcating in us our responsibility for the fate of the world.

During His last visit to Russia, Maharaj Ji rendered Russia spiritual help by teaching the true path to a large number of people from different corners of the country. In recent years He had started establishing a branch of Gobind Sadan in the outskirts of Moscow and, in accordance with his instructions, the cleansing fire of [havan](#) was lighted there, that illuminated the whole of Russia and showed it the path of community living. In the hearts of thousands of people of Russia, Maharaj Ji was, and will always continue to be, their Great Spiritual Teacher."

Sri Ashok Singhal, International President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad: "If we want to strengthen the fabric of Indian society, then we should all adopt the teachings of Baba Virsa Singh. Babaji has had a great role in uniting our nation. He was a Divine Incarnation in human form, and these Divine Incarnations never leave. First he showed us a path and then he motivated us to go on that path. He had faith that all religions are one. Not only did he have faith in this, but he also worked for it. I never found any other saint who is working so zealously and openly for this cause. Babaji has given us a very great vision. We should keep following whatever guidance he gave us. I bow my head before him."

Sri Moti Lal Vora, Treasurer of Indian National Congress Party, Former Governor of Uttar Pradesh: "We thank Baba Virsa Singh for his vast contribution to the development of our nation. His shining example and teachings have shown us how to overcome both the scourge of poverty and religious conflict that have stood in the way of our progress."

Jitender Singh Badhwar, Norway: "You always pretended to be a simple human being, but the truth is that you are a Great Magician. Whoever came in front of you became naked, an open book for you. You changed the entire person from inside, transformed human consciousness, without uttering a single word."

You looted our heart without giving a single gesture. You developed countless acres of wastelands into productive farm lands. You built a 'God's House Without Walls.' You have practically demonstrated how to transform those we consider terrorists into productive citizens. You have provided the spiritual enlightenment to the scientists and the dervish. We always came with tons of questions to your court, and you loaded us with as many answers in seconds. And much much more And you still pretend to be a simple farmer. That's why you are what you are!!!!"

Liliya and Yuriy Kluchinikov, on behalf of the Russian Club of Novosibirsk, Siberia: "Babaji was one of the few people on our planet who clearly understood the essence of events going on in the world today, who selflessly worked beyond races, peoples, governments, and religions for the sake of the common well-being of the earth. He took so much care in strengthening the spiritual union between India and Russia. In this union he saw a firm centre which would gather around itself the peoples of the world in a new cycle of the planet."

Sister Maureen Goodman, Brahma Kumaris, UK: "The great work of His Holiness will carry on through all of you and also through his own subtle form. When a great soul passes, it always leads to a new impulse in the world. God has a plan for all of us."

Glenn Paige, Director of the Center for Global Nonviolence, Hawaii: "What a glorious legacy Baba Virsa Singh has bequeathed to the world! Our sincere condolences to all of you who shared lives closely with him-but also congratulations for the keen understanding you have of his teachings to pass them on as he would wish."

MPK Kutty, Journalist, New Delhi: "During my career with The Times of India, it was my privilege to cover the religious aspects of life and the doings of religious teachers in this nation as it pertained to the north of the country. In the course I came across several men and women who preached their particular philosophies, but there was something extraordinary about this teacher (He never claimed to be a Guru) whose insights into coming events and human nature were amazing. The touch of the divine in his life was evident to anyone who listened to the words he spoke and the love he expressed. Whenever I visited the ashram, I could feel the tranquility and peace so characteristic of the person who set it up and with hard labour nurtured it to be a sanctuary for seekers of the Truth."

Sardar Prakash Singh Badal, Chief Minister, Punjab: "I have been a sevadar of Gobind Sadan for a long time, ever since I was very small and Baba Virsa Singh was living in Sarawan Bodla. Ever since then, I had taken blessings from that Great Soul, and with his blessing, God has given me everything. I cannot say that I became Chief Minister by my own efforts. This is the grace of the Almighty. Baba Virsa Singh Ji always placed his hand on my head, and I always received his blessings."

Emil Bagirov and Lora Fusu, Emil Bagirov School of Cosmo-energy Healing in Moscow: "We are very grateful to Babaji for his limitless love and the inextinguishable Light of his soul. We first met him in 2000, and we loved him for life. We still love him and he will always be with us. Our school expresses its endless gratitude to him for his love to us and all living beings."

Rev. Marcus Braybrooke, founder of the International Interfaith Centre, Oxford, UK: "I know that Babaji's spirit is as much with us as ever, but you will sadly miss his physical presence. I am grateful for his

loving concern when I have had the privilege of being received by him and am grateful for the hospitality that I and others have received at Gobind Sadan. We all need to rededicate ourselves to the search for peace and interfaith friendship and care of the poor which he taught and showed by his example."

Dr. Sheldon Isenberg, University of Florida, USA: "May you all be blessed that the continuing awareness of Baba's presence fill you completely with plenty to share. Your continuing teaching of the meta-religious truth that God is One and therefore we are already rooted in that oneness as brothers and sisters-that is Baba's continuing gift to all of us. Ever since meeting Baba, his picture has graced our mantel, right next to that of our beloved friend and teacher, Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi. That God is One perhaps also teaches us that, in our devotion, the Recipient of the myriads of types of devotion is nevertheless One-and we, all devotees, are One."

Udita Panconcelli, a founder of the Peace University in Berlin: "The red rose for Maharaj. . . Just as I have read the message about His changing of dimension, I am very deeply touched. Every time when I remembered Him, He smiled. His smile I loved very much, and I know it was the smile from heaven. And just now, at this moment, the beautiful, great, and very, very, very blessed holy man Baba Virsa Singh Ji entered my room, and laughed at me. I admire, honor, and love Him for ever and I am very thankful for the luck to meet Him in my earthly life."

Vinnie and Bhupinder Dhillon, India: "We offer our humble homage at the lotus feet of this great Saint. It is now time to experience His Omnipresence and realize that His now unseen hand will chart us through the difficult terrain of life with ease and comfort. He will always respond to the heart call of all Devotees."

Rev. Bob and Karen Hanson, USA: "Babaji in his humble way never wanted to be called a guru, or teacher, just a human being serving others, especially the poor, those caught in violence and anger. Living in his midst and in a village where prayer, chanting, meditation, and singing go on 24/7, eating with the village, experiencing a calm and a spirit that does not leave you, we are sad yet celebrate Babaji's life and death."

Karma Lekshe Tsomo, founder of Sakyadhita, Daughters of the Buddha: "Please accept my heartfelt condolences on Babaji's passing. Such a tremendous loss, such a great teaching. May he continue to guide living beings to peace! There is hardly any task more important in this day and age than interreligious dialogue and understanding."

Dr. Robert Carter, Trent University, Canada: "Of the many people I have encountered in my lifetime, he alone I have allowed myself to describe as a saint. I shall miss him."

Dr. Azad Shamatov, Uzbekistan: "I am confident Babaji's brilliant endeavours wouldn't die, but shall be kept continuing by all of us! His deeds will inspire all of us throughout every walk of our life!"

Rev. Dr. Charles R. White, North American Interfaith Network: "I was deeply moved by being with Babaji and experiencing his understanding of Truth and how Truth is mediated through various religions. Babaji taught that we should celebrate holidays of all religions, regardless of our own religion, something that happens at Gobind Sadan. In many ways he promoted justice throughout the world, and he encouraged people to be in service to their community, often quoting from the scriptures of diverse religions. Thus, in my mind, Babaji through the development of Gobind Sadan has given expression to many of the values

that are central to the interfaith movement."

Father John Van Vreckem, Brussels, Belgium: "Baba Virsa Singh's passing is definitely a great loss for many spiritual seekers the world over. His belief beyond sectarian faith, his faith in unity in diversity is also my only faith, now more than ever. Knowing you are a spiritual community, I imagine you are confident that Babaji by leaving his temporal form has returned to our timeless Source."

Rabbi Tzipi Radonsky, Florida, USA: "I remember so vividly my visit more than ten years ago and his wise teachings to me as I prepared to travel to Israel. Being at Gobind Sadan changed my whole life by offering me a perspective of the holy. Blessings of joy to all the hearts and may his message ripple through the universe."



Dr. Harvey and Gertrude Sindima, Colgate University, USA: "At every period in history, God raises up an individual with a special insight into the height and depth of God's love, to teach us by personal example how to walk with God. Those who knew His Holiness Babaji saw in him a very deep devotion to God, such as could only be possible by the Spirit of God working in him as one chosen and appointed by God to teach us how to walk with God and how to be truly human. Babaji showed us practical ways of building a community, a world of unity and fellowship of all God's people. As Africans going to meet Babaji for the first time, my wife and I did not know what to expect, or what he would say, but in his presence we found genuineness, no pretence whatsoever, but a wonderful comforting smile. We found him to be a gracious man. We found that in Babaji's presence each individual's humanity was fully embraced with tenderness and love. Babaji embodied in himself the love of God for all humanity regardless of status, gender, class, or race. We thank God for his servant and celebrate Babaji's wonderful life."

His Holiness Babaji was a spiritual father and a model in holiness. In February 2005, His Holiness taught about holiness in these words: 'One becomes one's ultimate reality, that to which one devotes one's life. A

person of faith becomes holy and everything else around him or her becomes holy. One's own shadow becomes holy, the shadow of the tree under which one stands becomes holy too, and even the tree itself becomes holy. Why? Because one's life is transformed by the ultimate reality to which one's life is directed.' May God transform our lives so that we may live the life of holiness as Babaji himself showed us. Babaji's belief is echoed in the Nam which we now hear him sing before God, and in which we shall for ever join him in praising God: 'Ek Onkar Sat Nam Siri Wahe Guru.'"

Carrying on the Mission

Harvinder Singh, Secretary to BabaVirsa Singh, has disclosed that Babaji left a will in which he stated, "I wish that my mission into which I have put my heart and soul should be carried on in the same spirit after my demise. Nam simran (repetition of God's Holy Name), [Akhand Path](#) (continuous reading of the scriptures), daily recitation of prayers and spiritual texts, seva (volunteer service), [Langar](#) (free community meals), havan (sacred fire), and worship of all religions should continue forever. The message of interfaith should continue to be sent from this place after me. Kirat-kamai (working hard to support oneself), for which I established Shiv Sadan as a practical example, should continue. Similarly, seva, Nam simran, and preaching should continue in my native village, Sarawan Bodla. Apart from the above, Shahi Data Durbar in Delhi, Navala Sahib in Sector 39C in Chandigarh, Chaltua Farm in Uttar Pradesh, Gobind Sadan USA in Syracuse, and Russia should carry on programs for the mission with great fervor and strength. For this purpose I am hereby constituting a committee of my confidant disciples who will promote my mission and manage my properties properly."

According to the will, Babaji named a group of eleven disciples to manage Gobind Sadan's affairs but forbid them from selling or mortgaging any of his properties. The Committee members are S. Prakash Singh Badal (Chief Minister of Punjab), Sri Moti Lal Vora (Treasurer, Indian National Congress Party [I]), Sri Ashok Singhal (International President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad), S. Rai Singh I.A.S., S. Harinder Singh Dhillon, Churchill Singh Chadha, Advocate Ranvir Singh Khanna, S. Karnail Singh Badauli, Hardip Singh, Gurdev Singh, and Harvinder Singh, who has been named as Secretary of the Management Committee. The Gobind Sadan Management Committee has been working very hard to organize events and procedures for continuation of Babaji's mission. In addition to the Committee members, in all of Babaji's communities, everyone is faithfully carrying on the duties that Babaji had given to them, so that there is no interruption in his programme.

[Dasam Granth Seminar](#)

In celebration of the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh, the Gobind Sadan Management Committee organized a seminar on Dasam Granth, the collected writings of Guru Gobind Singh, on January 15th, 2008. Babaji had several times earlier sponsored academic conferences on Dasam Granth, to help explore its treasures and to authenticate its authorship by his beloved Guru Gobind Singh. The chief speaker on this occasion was Dr. Harpal Singh Pannu of Punjabi University, Patiala. In part, he said, "Guru Gobind Singh's life is nothing short of a great miracle. In his short lifespan, he not only led and fought valiantly in various battles, but was also at the vanguard of great literary figures, and he himself created the voluminous Dasam Granth. Unlike Sri Guru Granth Sahib, which is characterized by simplicity of verse, the Dasam Granth is highly stylistic and covers a wide range of pacific and militant subjects, such as how to lead the life of an ideal citizen and human being, policy and planning of wars, and political life. Like a skilled artisan, Guru Gobind Singh Ji has also described in detail the arts of music and poetry, and even goes into depth on how to go about acquiring these talents."

Sarawan Tribute

On January 26th, members of the Gobind Sadan Management Committee paid a visit to Sarawan Bodla, Babaji's childhood village, to pay rich tribute to Babaji. Speaking on behalf of all the members of the Management Committee, Sardar Rai Singh IAS explained, "Although Babaji could neither read nor write, he learned to love and revere the Guru Granth Sahib for its spiritual teachings. Babaji used to say, 'Wherever Guru Granth Sahib is worshipped, all religious conflicts are eliminated.' Therefore people who came to Gobind Sadan, be they Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, or Christian, all felt that they had come to their own place."

"Life and Times of Baba Virsa Singh Ji"

The India Habitat Centre was the venue for a special event honouring Baba Virsa Singh on 17th February, as part of the celebration of Babaji's birthday.

Dr. Surjit Kaur Jolly, Principal of SGM College of Delhi University, opened the discussion by saying, "The Light, our father, has gone. Now there are more responsibilities, more work to be done, more to give. Maharaj Ji has initiated a great movement, which is absolutely distinct and different. People do talk about interfaith and they meet once or twice in a year at some five-star hotel, and then they disperse to meet again the next year. But Maharaj has raised and expanded this movement by setting a living institution in the form of havan, mosque, gurdwara, and Jesus' Place, which is going to spread."

Ranjit Kalha, Member of the Human Rights Commission, recalled his association with Maharaj for the past 45 years, during which "Maharaj taught me many things-things about day-to-day life, things about human beings, things about religion, spirituality, our nation, the world, and how we as human beings should make our contribution. He was a great believer not only in saying, but in actually doing things. His life was the life of a practical man. If you look at the many things that he had left behind, whether Gobind Sadan or the farms, anybody who knew what the situation was before would say that it was an impossible dream. Anybody who can see these places will see it's a reality. When he said, 'Work hard,' he meant it, and he demonstrated how it could be done."



Former Mizoram Governor S. K. Chibber brought forth details of Maharaj's historic visit to Mizoram in 1977 when it was in the grip of a powerful separatist movement. He recalled, "How Maharaj and his people got through nobody knows. The law and order situation was out of control. The government didn't run. Nobody could disobey the orders of the underground militants. No non-Mizo could go out of his house without escort. My predecessor was ambushed and shot. All Indian Police Service officers were shot in broad daylight in their office. There was no police officer left in the whole of Mizoram except one local officer. The situation was that if an officer went to his office in the morning, his family wasn't sure if he would come back alive at night. In that atmosphere, Maharaj's talks, his get-togethers, his [Kirtan](#) particularly, had a terrific morale-building effect.

Babaji went around. He went around to the troops, pickets, talking to the people in uniform, talking to the people in the churches. The overall impact was acceptability. Babaji made us [the non-Mizo government] acceptable in Mizoram. [After that] We were nearer to the people. We were no longer confined to the campus and boundaries of our very heavily armed government offices and houses. We could go out and visit the bazaar, do some shopping.

Babaji's main line was that there is no such thing as a terrorist. It is a creation of the mind in fear, and it breeds fear. I have no doubt that Babaji's visit and stay in Mizoram-his interactions with security forces, civil officers, the Church, Mizo leaders-helped absolutely in going for reconciliation and peace between us and Mizoram."

Architect of Communal Harmony

On February 18th, Baba Virsa Singh Memorial Lectures were organized by the Gobind Sadan Management Committee around the theme "Baba Virsa Singh: An Architect of Communal Harmony."

Bhai Kirpal Singh, Gobind Sadan's head granthi, spoke passionately about Maharaj's visionary power. Gobind Sadan mosque's imam, Jabar Ali, told the audience filling the auditorium, "Guru Maharaj has showed us all the path, and has lifted up the poor. In him is the same Nur of all the prophets. We want to dedicate our life to spreading his mission."

Dr. J. S. Rajput, former Director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, related how only Babaji had supported him in his effort to eliminate an "historically incorrect, derogatory, and humiliating" passage about Guru Teg Bahadur from an NCERT textbook. **Rai Singh, IAS**, former Secretary of the Uttar Pradesh government, said, "India is divided into thousands of castes and subcastes. People talk a lot about communal harmony but don't do anything about it. The revolutionary steps taken by Babaji-for instance, performing havan in a gurdwara, as well as having a mosque, Jesus' Place, and mandirs-I have never seen anywhere else."

Natasha Schenova, one of the many Russian devotees present at the function and a member of the International Association for Peace through Culture, which has been steadfastly dedicated to Maharaj's mission for 17 years, read out her beautiful tribute to Maharaj: "The Masters of Light Never Pass Away!" In part, she said, "It was a great happiness for us to have an opportunity to work together with the great Teacher, to listen to His divine talks, to rejoice with Him, laugh with Him, communicate with Him, enjoy the divine peace that was outgoing from Him, and to help Him pass His mission by means of our human might. Every blade of grass and every tree, every heart of those who live in Gobind Sadan and the sky are filled with Maharaj's love. But not only communities of India established by his spiritual power are visual proof of embodiment of the spiritual teachings of Guru Nanak. Currents of his fiery heart are nourishing the biggest country of the world-Russia. He put a lot of strength and energies and love for the spiritual revival of our country. And we want to believe that the path pointed by the Teacher will be followed by His devotees in Russia. Then many real wonders and miracles in the communion and work with our dearest and beloved Baba Virsa Singh Ji are awaiting us."

Prem Swaranjit, widow of Swaranjit Singh, former President of Gobind Sadan Institute for Advanced Studies in Comparative Religion, and CEO of Escorts Tractors, recalled, "Whenever Maharaj ji spoke, he tried to show us that all prophets said the same thing. He blessed everyone, but didn't reveal it. We began to see how our difficulties could be removed-but we cannot think that we were doing, by reciting Nam or Jaap Sahib. He was doing it all."

Dr. Syed M. Hussain, renowned kidney specialist, related his first meeting with Maharaj. "His Nur (divine Light) was so extraordinary that for five minutes I couldn't even speak. He never went to any school or college, but was such a great personality with the mission for the whole world. He taught me that no religion is bad. He taught that in all religions there should be love among us all. We should show the world that Gobind Sadan is not a place-It is a mission for the world. Babaji may not be physically present, but his mission must spread through the world, and we must do it. May it go on for thousands of years."

Dr. Raj Wadhwa, founder-principal of Vivekanada College, Delhi University, recounted how Babaji had given her strength to stand up against dangerous faculty strikes, on behalf of the students' welfare. She recalled, "Maharaj teaches us to pray for our enemies."

Mary Pat Fisher, author of college textbooks on the world's religions, noted that nowhere else in the world had she seen any community like Gobind Sadan, where people of all religions and social levels live, work, and worship together as members of one human family. She cited the story of Nitin, a young Hindu man who had become totally blind; doctors had told him his optic nerves would never work again. Someone had led him to Gobind Sadan's mosque, where the Imam Jabar Ali said a prayer for him from the Holy Qur'an and then blew on his eyes. He began to feel something. Then the Muslim imam took this Hindu boy to Gobind Sadan's Jesus' Place and splashed the holy water from Jesus' feet on his eyes, telling him, "Jesus is very powerful. I'm sure he will heal you." Then Nitin was taken to Baba Virsa Singh Ji, who blessed him and told him he would regain his sight. Slowly he did so, and now he is doing dedicated work at Gobind Sadan's guesthouse.

Dr. Azad Faruqi, Director of the Centre for Civilizational Dialogue, and Director of the Department of Islamic Studies, Jamia Milia University, said, "People like us who study books to understand different religions do it only intellectually-these are only words for us. People like Baba Virsa Singh know personally that it is the same truth. Baba Virsa Singh came to say that God belongs to everybody. Rumi gave the same idea in the thirteenth century. There is a tradition of such personalities who come to remind us of this forgotten message. The dress is different, but the Prophet is the same. From the same Source, the Light appears and reappears."

Dr. S. A. Ali, founder member of Hamdard University, said, "I knew Babaji from 30 years ago. You have listened to many discourses on religion in theory, but Gobind Sadan is a place where there is much less theory and much more practical action. The real meaning of religion is 'to unite.' But we are making a mockery of religion. Babaji tried to bring communities together, and created all places of worship, in action. Babaji never liked to convert anybody to his religion. He never wanted to dilute anyone's faith. He felt that each should stick to his own religion and imbibe its spirit."

Shaheed Bhagat Singh Memorial

Shaheed Bhagat Singh was a great martyr in the Indian struggle for independence. Born on September 27, 1907, he was hanged by the British on 23 March, 1931 in Lahore, along with his two colleagues. He had been an atheist, but when another famous prisoner, Bhai Ranthir Singh, visited him in prison, he became a faithful Sikh. Bhagat Singh said to Bhai Ranthir Singh, "Please bless me-God is not in my heart." Bhai Ranthir Singh blessed him and affirmed, "This body is not Bhagat Singh. Bhagat Singh is inside you, and that Bhagat Singh will never die. You will take birth again and you will complete your mission."

On 23 March 2008, on his martyrdom day a century after his birth, Shaheed Bhagat Singh was commemorated by a statue placed in Parikshat Garh, Uttar Pradesh, near Shiv Sadan by the Gobind Sadan Management Committee. Muslims, Sikhs, and Hindus gathered for a special function in his honour organized by the Committee, in which Shri Ashok Singhal, a member of the Committee and International President of Hindu Vishwa Parishad, gave the dedication speech. Wall clocks with pictures of Shaheed Bhagat Singh were presented to good students, area leaders, eminent scholars, social workers, and elderly freedom fighters.

Delphis tribute in Moscow

Delphis, a Russian magazine on science and spirituality which has often carried articles by and about Baba

Virsa Singh, organized a conference on March 24-26 on the subject "Ethics-The Science of the Future." The main speaker was Yuriy Ageshin, a member of the Presidium of the International Association for Peace through Culture, President of the Bar Association of Central Russia, and appointed leader of Babaji's mission in Russia. In his address he referred to Baba Virsa Singh as "a saintly person of Biblical scale, the greatest humanist and peace-maker of our days, widely honoured in Russia." He vividly recalled his meetings with Babaji, "lively, piercingly pure, and extremely important for me. Once I asked him, 'Teacher, as long as there exist nationalism and economic oppression, there are reasons for extremism and terrorism. How to eliminate these reasons?' Baba Virsa Singh smiled and said, 'It is a very difficult task but still it must be solved, and most importantly, it must be solved without violence. Possibilities to solve it are many more than you think. You can do it by persuasion as well. If you have not been able to persuade your rulers to take the saving path of social responsibility, then it is not only their fault but also yours, as it was you who did not find the necessary words and convincing arguments, who did not prove to them that it is to their benefit to carry on socially responsible policy. The other equally important thing is that you meet the requirements you want to place on others. It often happens that a person demands that others should change but has no intention of changing himself, thinking himself already good enough for this life. Once you change, then the people around you will start changing, and the rulers will inevitably become involved in this purifying whirlpool. In this is the whole wisdom, the whole art of working with people. We should wish not defeat but transformation for those whom we consider wrong. This is the art of convincing. Work, share the fruits of your labour with those who suffer, pray, and meditate.'"

Gurmatt Samagam in Nissing

On March 31st a five-hour programme of kirtan and talks, was organized "in sweet memory of Baba Virsa Singh Ji" at Gurdwara Rori Sahib in Nissing, Karnal District, Haryana, by the Gurdwara Prabandak Committees of Gurdwara Rori Sahib and Gurdwara Manji Sahib, Karnal and their congregations. Thousands came to pay their respects, for many people had experienced miracles in this area during Babaji's stay there in 1961. Bhai Kirpal Singh, Gobind Sadan's venerable head priest, recalled many stories about Babaji in Karnal. Among them was the story of Mihan Singh. Major Sahib recounted, "Mihan Singh was from Nissing. He was suffering from advanced tuberculosis. The doctors told his family, 'At this stage, there is no treatment. Take him home.' Instead, they brought him on a rope bed to Maharaj, who was at Sarawan Bodla. Maharaj told him, 'Run to Kabarwala Railway Station and come back running.' The people sitting around him said, 'He can't even rise from his bed, and you're asking him to run? He will die within a few minutes.' But Mihan Singh ran. He ran to the Kabarwala Railway Station several kilometers away, touched the railway station, and ran back. He was cured."

Dedication of Gobind Sadan USA building

On 10 May, many wellwishers gathered for the dedication of the attractive new temple at Gobind Sadan USA north of Syracuse, New York. The former building had been destroyed by teenage arsonists shortly after 9/11. The ceremony was entitled "Out of the ashes comes the Light."

Giani Iqbal Singh, Jathedar of Patna Sahib in India, traveled to the USA as the chief guest for the dedication. He underscored the essence of Gobind Sadan as "God's House without Walls." He spoke glowingly about how he witnessed the spreading of the universal message of love of Guru Granth Sahib by Baba Virsa Singh Ji in India and also in that rural community in New York state. He said, "When we bow before the Holy Guru Granth Sahib, we bow before the saints and prophets of all religions and we bow before those of low caste, and those of all ages. Guru Gobind Singh Ji, at whose birthplace I have the honour and privilege of serving, taught us to recognize all people as one human race. These words I have seen practically demonstrated by the great Brahmgyani (Enlightened soul) Baba Virsa Singh, and now here before my eyes you have come from all religions to praise the One God and speak of how Babaji and his

message touched your lives." **Gurbachan Singh, President of Gobind Sadan USA**, noted, "This is the first time that a Jathedar of a Takhat has traveled outside India to dedicate a Gurdwara anywhere in the world." Giani Iqbal Singh serves as head of one of the 5 traditional seats of Sikh authority whose orders are recognized by Sikhs worldwide.

Among those present at the inauguration were leaders from many religions, including Christian theologians from Africa, an elder in the Mormon Church, a Christian minister, a Buddhist Abbott, and representatives of the Hindu and Muslim communities of Central New York. **The Rev. Dr. Harvey Sindima, a Presbyterian Minister from Malawi**, said that more than anyone he had ever met, "Babaji had embodied the holiness which is Jesus and truly loved people unconditionally and loved all those who are messengers of God."

Onondaga County Executive Joanne Mohoney shared how she was touched by the openness of the invitation and offered her admiration for Babaji and the Gobind Sadan community's response to the arson. **United States Congressman James Walsh** sent a message addressed to the sangat of Gobind Sadan USA in which he wrote, "Baba Virsa Singh's Ji's message of peace, healing, and love is exemplified in this temple. I greatly admired his powerful statement of forgiveness towards those who committed the arson. Babaji turned this sad story around and used it as an opportunity to educate all on tolerance and the importance of celebrating the commonalities shared by all religions. It is wonderful to see this new temple dedicated so that it once again may serve as a place of spiritual strength and acceptance for all."

The temple was built largely through the efforts of a team of volunteers lead by Paramjit Singh from Canada, who worked day and night to ready it for the dedication. **Ralph Singh, Founding President of Gobind Sadan USA**, who now serves as Director of Publications and Public Relations for the worldwide Gobind Sadan community, captured the essence of the occasion: "As the world celebrates Easter, this building has risen out of the ashes of hatred and offers the Light of God's love to everyone. Just as Jesus forgave those who crucified him, so Babaji forgave the young people who, out of ignorance, burned down the original temple building. Babaji's words created a wave of positive energy that continue to move us forward."

Parting message

Ralph Singh reports that while he was at Babaji's bedside as he was passing on, Babaji gave him this clear message for his followers: "You may want to see a miracle for your faith. But I need nothing. I have lived my faith. I have transformed all of you into Warriors for Truth. I've made heroes out of cowards, and the story has not even begun. You will see such Light and happenings that you could never have believed. As I have said again and again, I will work even greater deeds through you. All will join you in this mission. Do not despair. I am always with you to bring joy. The pain of separation is for those attached to a body. My spirit always has been and always will be with all of you. Recite Nam. Do Jaap Sahib. Love each other, and welcome all who come in my name."

Last Updated (June 29, 2008)