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WORLD VISION 2000 & UNIVERSITY SEMINARS: PURPOSE AND SCOPE
By Gokul Kunnath, Atlanta, GA.

The thunderous echoes of Swami Vivekananda's message in America will finally find their full expression in 1992 and 1993 as we launch WORLD VISION 2000 - a series of programs that will ultimately transform the cultural foundation of this nation. It is a great fortune of the Hindus in the U.S.A. to be part of such a historic mission. But, the most fortunate of all are we, the Hindu Youths. Although Swamiji shook the religious and intellectual establishments of 19th century America, at that time there was no effective medium to propagate his message to the nation as a whole. America has witnessed a century of profound changes within its borders as we focus our attention to this great man and his universal message.

One of the most important changes that has taken place in America is the presence of more than one million Hindus. When Swamiji came to the United States in 1893, there were very few Hindus who called America their home. This presence of Hindus in such large numbers by itself has facilitated a great role for Hindus in the making of America's future. What is more gratifying is the fact that apart from the Hindu immigrants from several nations, America has produced many great men and women who accept and propagate the spiritual message of ancient Bharat. The great work done by these Americans have gone unnoticed by the Hindu community. For example, today, a large segment of the American populace believe in the idea of life after death or rebirth. Millions of people have started practicing Meditation and Yoga. Even the food habits of Americans are changing fast to the extent that people are not only concerned about what they eat but how much food they should eat. All these are welcome news. However there are more fundamental and lasting changes that have been brought by these great Americans in every sphere of human activity .

The world of ours is going through profound changes even as we meditate on this beautiful subject of change. Humanity has witnessed the emergence, acceptance, and demise of many ideas and concepts that could enhance and enrich humanity. Hundreds of wars have been waged to gain the supremacy of one idea over the other. Many nations and cultures have been subjected to so much of pain and suffering, death and destruction. When we look at the history of the Holy Land of Hindus - Bharat, we see that our ancestors were victims of so many invasions and they were subjected to undescrivable suffering. Millions of our forefathers were killed in the process. But, thanks to the enduring spirit of our people and our unshakeable faith in the Truth, we have emerged from a millennium of darkness, death, and destruction. But, if all that happened to us (Hindus) as a people, and to people around the world in their own nations, is to be avoided, then, humanity needs to recognize certain universal ideals that will bring all nations, cultures, and religions closer. Humanity can experience peace, harmony, and progress through friendship, fellowship, and cooperation. It is in this context the message of the late Swami Vivekananda assumes great relevance for the modern world. We are at the dawn of a new age, a new world view, and a new human order.

All of us can ask ourself a pertinent question. What do I have to do with this new age and the future of humanity? Well, to be fair, the world will have to enter into a new age if we are to preserve our species and this planet. Hence, the global transformation has begun. We, the Hindu students in America, can act as a catalyst to accelerate the pace of this change. We have a historic opportunity to be a part of this noble endeavor as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the advent of Swami Vivekananda to the West. It is with this view that Hindu Students Council has decided to undertake a historic mission of presenting World Vision 2000 to scores of college campuses across America.

World Vision 2000 is a project being initiated by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America, Inc. This project constitutes a series of programs up to the year 2000 to educate the world on an alternative vision

based on Vedanta. Acceptance of this vision by the global community will enrich and enhance our lives at every level of existence. This vision can offer new perspectives on family life, religious life, socio-economic-political systems, industrial and technological development, and education. Vishwa Hindu Parishad intends to hold a global conference in 1993 at Washington on the theme of World Vision 2000. The conference will be attended by great thinkers, philosophers, spiritual, social, political, and business leaders, scientists, and educationalists. The delegates will discuss how Vedanta can offer new perspectives and solutions to global issues and challenges. VHP is also planning to organize mass gatherings in large metropolitan areas of the United States to present the message of Swami Vivekananda - the message of Vedanta. Hindu Students Council has taken up the responsibility of presenting the message of Swami Vivekananda and the concept of World Vision 2000 to the students and faculty members at one hundred of academic institutions in U.S.A.

So, here we are with a great task and great aspirations for a better world. In the coming months ahead, HSC volunteers across America will work hard to realize this noble mission. We must educate ourselves about the teachings of the great saint and visionary - Swami Vivekananda and share these ideas with our fellow American brothers and sisters.

Arise! Awake! And Stop Not Till The Goal Is Reached!

For more information about how you or your group can participate in the WORLD VISION 2000 series, and the university seminars, call 404-447-1893 or 617-227-3023, email to: Hindu.Students.Coun..@um.cc.umich.edu, or write to Hindu Students Council, 43 Valley Road, Needham, MA 02192