

A DEVOTED REPORT  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
1978



Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations

UNITED NATIONS



the Heart-Home  
of the World-Body

A DEVOTED REPORT  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
1978



## DEDICATION

The members of Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations are grateful to be able to present again our annual *Devoted Report to the Secretary-General*, outlining our programmes and activities during 1978.

We humbly dedicate our efforts to serve the United Nations community to our dear Secretary-General, whose unflagging devotion to the cause of world peace stands as a constant inspiration and example to each of us.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations . . . . .	1
January	World Day of Peace 1978 . . . . .	2
	Special Concert for Accounts Division Staff . . . . .	2
	A Concert Highlighting India's Music . . . . .	3
	Programme in Honour of Australia's Foundation Day . . . . .	4
	Music of Sri Lanka . . . . .	4
	Mr. Donald Keys Honoured . . . . .	5
	U.N. Painting Completes World Tour . . . . .	6
February	Abraham Lincoln: The Emancipation Consciousness . . . . .	7
	Presentation of "O My Australia" Banner . . . . .	8
March	Dinner in Honour of International Women's Day . . . . .	9
	A Visit to the Riverdale Country School . . . . .	10
	Peace Corps Anniversary Celebration . . . . .	11
April	Eight Years of Service to the United Nations . . . . .	14
May	Musical Lecture-Demonstration by C. V. Narasimhan . . . . .	15
	First Prize in 24-Hour Bicycle Marathon . . . . .	16
	UNESCO Festival Concert in Paris . . . . .	16
June	A Meeting with Indian Prime Minister Desai . . . . .	17
July	Meetings with the Consuls-General of India . . . . .	18
August	Memorial Service for Pope Paul VI . . . . .	19
	Sri Chinmoy Honoured by New York City . . . . .	20
September	Receptions at the Jharna-Kala Gallery . . . . .	21
	Prayer Ceremony for Pope John Paul I . . . . .	23
October	United Nations Day Observed . . . . .	24
	Participation in the New York City Marathon . . . . .	25
	U.N. Day Celebrated Around the World . . . . .	26
	A Meeting with the Secretary-General . . . . .	27
	India Honoured . . . . .	29
November	Norman Rockwell: Artist of Americana . . . . .	29
	"Liberia Day " Celebration . . . . .	30
	Programme for "Panama Day" . . . . .	30
	Devotional Concert at the Hindu Temple Society . . . . .	31
	International Thanksgiving 1978 . . . . .	32



December

Eleanor Roosevelt: Dedicated Server .....	34
Benefit Runs for UNICEF and UNESCO .....	35
Japan and Italy Honoured .....	36
Human Rights Day Programme .....	37
Happy Anniversary, Austria; Happy Birthday, Secretary-General .....	39
A Visit with Ambassador and Mrs. Zenon Rossides .....	41
Publications available from Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations .....	42
Index .....	43

This information is presented as a service and does not necessarily represent the official views of the United Nations or its Agencies.

(V 1)



## Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations

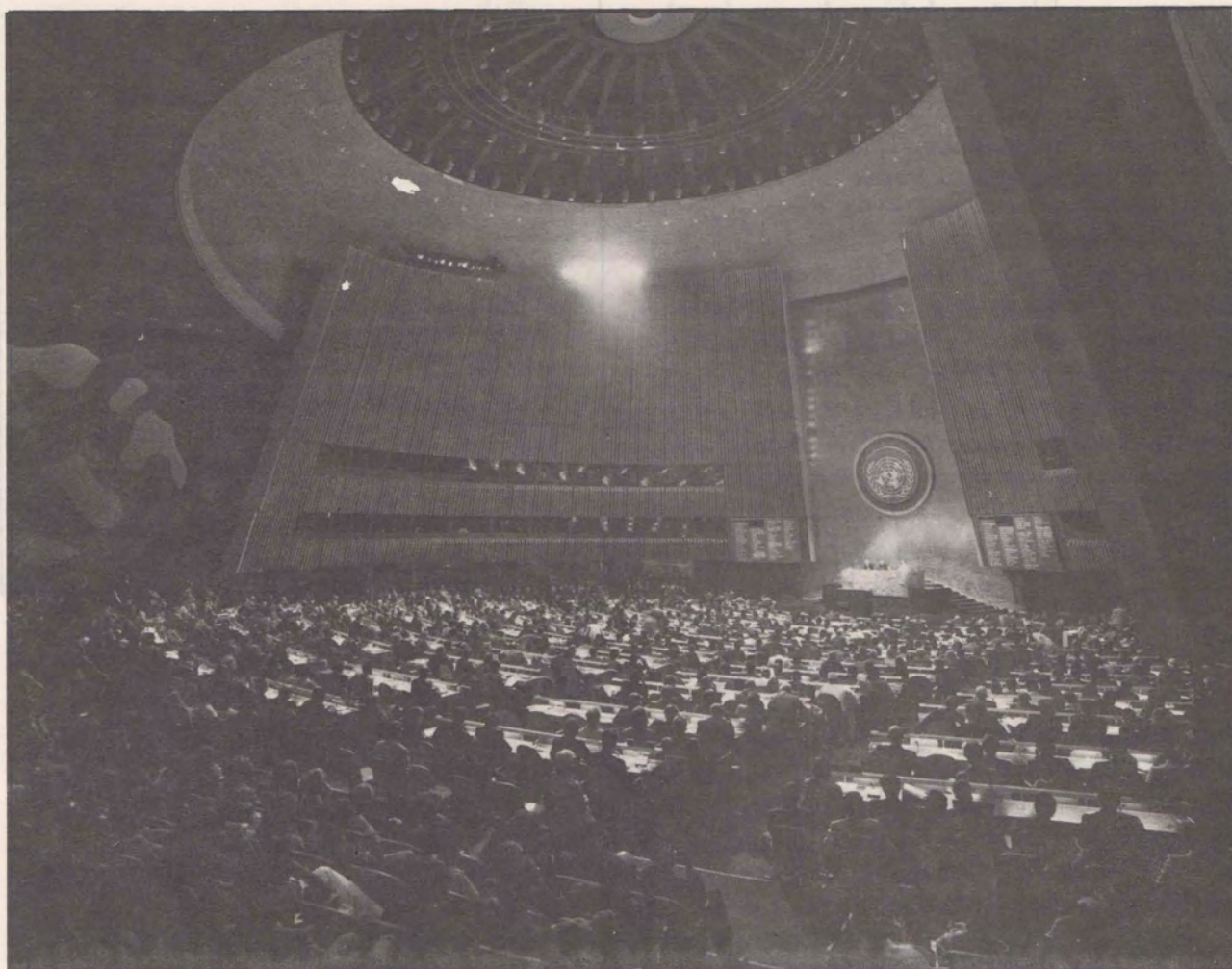


Photo: United Nations

*Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations is an association of U.N. delegates, staff, NGO representatives and accredited press correspondents, who believe that inner reflection and meditation can bring us in touch with the founding spirit of the United Nations and inspire renewed dedication to its ideals.*

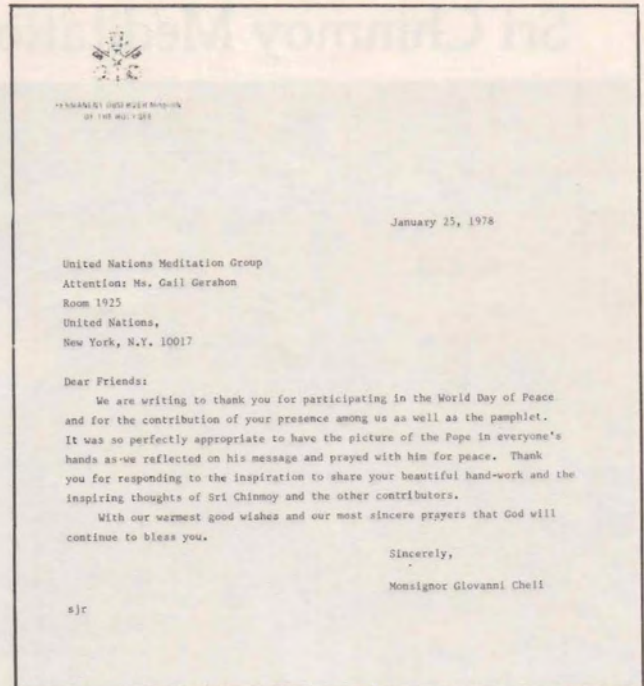
*The main focus of its activities, both in New York and in Geneva, is its twice-weekly meditations, which provide an opportunity for quiet, spiritual renewal in an atmosphere reflective of the highest purposes of the world organisation. In addition, through an ongoing series of conferences and symposia, it provides forums where ambassadors, Secretariat officials and staff, religious leaders and other world-minded individuals can share and reinforce their spiritual vision for the United Nations.*

*The Meditation Group was founded in 1970, when interested staff members invited the distinguished spiritual leader Sri Chinmoy to conduct non-denominational meditations at New York Headquarters. Since then, the Group's membership has grown considerably and its expanded activities have been warmly received by the U.N. community. This brochure offers highlights from these activities during the calendar year 1978.*



# World Day of Peace 1978

Members of the Meditation Group were invited to participate in this year's World Day of Peace Ceremony, a celebration held each year for the U.N. community by the Office of the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations in honour of Pope Paul VI's World Day of Peace message. For the ceremony, held on 23 January 1978 at the Holy Family Church, the Meditation Group reprinted the transcript of the September 1977 programme held at U.N. headquarters in honour of Pope Paul's 80th birthday, subsequently published in Meditation at the United Nations. The reprint, which contained speeches by Monsignor Cheli and Father John Donohue of the Holy Family Church, as well as excerpts from Sri Chinmoy's book about the Holy Father, was offered to each guest along with the official programme for the evening. Reproduced here is a letter of thanks from Monsignor Cheli.



## Special Concert for Accounts Division Staff

On 6 January 1978 Ms. Anupadi Sumper invited staff from her department to a concert and luncheon hosted by Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations. About one hundred staff members from the Office of Financial Services' Accounts Division heard vocal and instrumental music performed by members of the Group in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium, before being served a seven-course meal. Sri Chinmoy opened the meeting with meditation and music on the Indian esraj, and then gave the following comments on serving the United Nations.



Sri Chinmoy: O soul of the United Nations, we wish to serve you more soulfully and more devotedly, and for that what we need is more peace. Do tell us where peace is in abundant measure.

"Where is peace? Peace is in joy."

Where is joy?

"Joy? Joy is in love."

Where is love?

"Love? Love is in oneness."

Where is oneness?

"Oneness? Oneness is in vision."

Where is vision?

"Vision? Vision is in aspiration."

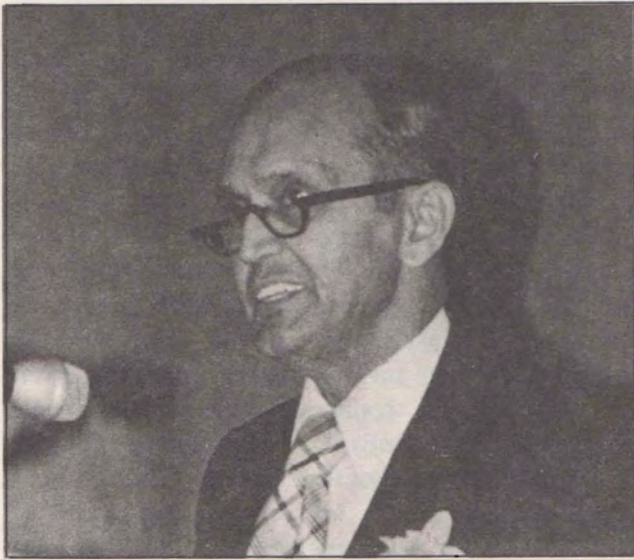
Where is aspiration?

"Aspiration? Aspiration is in self-giving; aspiration is in truth-becoming, in light-becoming, in life-becoming and, finally, in God-becoming."



## A Concert Highlighting India's Music

As part of a series of programmes highlighting the national music of individual countries, on 25 January Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations was pleased to offer a concert coinciding with the National Day of India. Guest speakers were Mr. C.V. Narasimhan, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination, and Mr. Salman Haidar, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations. Excerpts from their remarks follow.



Mr. C.V. Narasimhan, Under-Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination: (speaking on Indian culture) In the Southern Indian classical system, music is used mainly as a means of achieving communion with the Lord. When the music reaches a supreme moment, when you are on the same wavelength, so to speak, with the Lord, then you are in absolute communion with Him. . . . All these great composers and poets had one thing in common: the complete surrender of the individual ego to the Lord. And unless you have that kind of surrender, you cannot produce that kind of music. It is all very well for you to just shut yourself up and say you are going to write a composition. But you cannot be inspired unless you are absolutely in a spirit of surrender to the Lord, in a spirit of *Bhakti*. And this is what these great people have done. . . .

Mr. Salman Haidar, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations: Tomorrow is the twenty-eighth anniversary of our Republic Day. Those, like myself, who have come to consciousness during this period of independence and development at home, recognise it as a time of renaissance and effervescence in diverse fields. . . .



One cannot have lived through this period in India without feeling a sense of economic, social and cultural advance, of new patterns and new horizons opening for all of us who have been growing up with independent India.



Guests join with Meditation Group members in the singing of India's national anthem.



# Programme in Honour of Australia's Foundation Day

*On 27 January 1978 the Meditation Group hosted a programme marking the anniversary of Australia's admission to the United Nations, which also coincided with Australia's National Day. Ambassador Ralph L. Harry of Australia spoke, and members of the Group performed traditional Australian folk songs as well as Aboriginal music. Below is an excerpt from Ambassador Harry's talk.*



*His Excellency Mr. Ralph L. Harry, Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations: Long before Captain Cook found the east coast of Australia and long before Europeans came to Australia, the Australian people had developed a most interesting music for their rituals and for their life in general, and that Australian aboriginal music is still alive today. Of course, that tradition has an influence on our contemporary music. But the main stream of musical development in the last 190 years has come from Europe—from England, Scotland and Ireland—and more recently from Germany, Italy,*

*Greece, Spain and practically every part of Europe.*

*At the same time that Australians like Dame Nelly Melba, John Brownlee, Marjorie Lawrence and Joan Sutherland have become world opera stars, a very vigorous folk music tradition has developed with themes and poetry from our own culture. Along with that, there has been a new stream in our music. Young composers have been traveling to Asia and the Pacific, bringing back new musical ideas, while at the same time in Australia we have been receiving musicians from our neighbouring countries and drafting their ideas and concepts into Australian compositions.*

*Perhaps the samples that you will hear today will give you an idea of some of the music of Australia. You will remember that we are reaching back into the past and reaching out to our friends. We believe that these trends are fully in accordance with the ideals of the United Nations, which we in Australia, as well as your Group, are seeking to foster.*

## Music of Sri Lanka

*On 3 February 1978 Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations held a programme on the musical heritage of Sri Lanka as part of a cultural series highlighting the music of individual countries. Mr. Nihal Radrigo of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations spoke, and members of the Meditation Group performed some of the country's national music. An excerpt from Mr. Radrigo's talk follows.*

*Mr. Nihal Radrigo, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations: The United Nations is meant to bring countries together, to make them understand each other better and to work out some practical means of avoiding a lot of strife and conflict in the world, and at these conferences we are trying to bring about some sort of peace or security. But this is not so easy. When you are in the very genteel and highly diplomatic world of the conference room, very often tempers do tend to get frayed. And even though people may be polite, they may be sitting with feelings of anger or suspicion and so on. So, for me personal-*



*ly, it has been a most wonderful surprise to find that within the very same building, there could be found an atmosphere like this. I thank the Meditation Group for a most pleasant programme.*



# Mr. Donald Keys Honoured

*On 31 January 1978 the Meditation Group honoured Mr. Donald Keys, President of Planetary Citizens, for his five years' support of and participation in the Meditation Group. Following are excerpts of remarks by Sri Chinmoy and Mr. Keys.*

*Sri Chinmoy:* Dear Mr. Keys, dear brother, dear friend, dear fellow traveler along Eternity's Road, your loving concern for and sympathetic oneness with the Meditation Group can only be felt and treasured, not described.

Unlike most of the servers of the United Nations, you not only serve the United Nations most adequately, but also you feel that it is your soul's bounden duty to perfect the United Nations and show the world at large that the United Nations can and will eventually achieve perfect perfection. You want to prove to the world that it can achieve its oneness-goal.

The common run of man may well envy you, for you have achieved something extremely significant in this lifetime. You are the father, inspirer and harbinger of Planetary Citizens. With your momentous aspiration-heart and dedication-life, you have envisioned that East and West and North and South can easily enjoy a free and universal access to one another. Our Father Supreme, who is the Author of all Good, shall crown your supreme effort with eternal success.

*Mr. Donald Keys:* Dear Sri Chinmoy and members of the Group, it has been a constant source of confirmation and support and strength for me to be part of this family, and experience in every word and in every act of Sri Chinmoy the articulation of what the rest of us dimly sense, held forth in full light for deep understanding and for our implementation in our lives and in our actions.

It has been an unfathomable joy to me to come to serve the United Nations, its spirit and its purpose. It has been an unbelievable blessing to find here so magnificent a spokesman, guide, teacher and constant inspiration as we have all found in Sri Chinmoy. I offer you my everlasting and boundless gratitude.



*Sri Chinmoy presents a five-year anniversary rose to Mr. Donald Keys as Mrs. Keys looks on.*

\* \* \*

If you want to see the world with your human eyes, you can never see harmony.

If you want to see the world with the eyes of the world, you can never see harmony.

If you want to see the world with God's Eye, then you will see that this world is nothing but cosmic harmony. How do you see through God's Eye? You see only through constant self-giving to the Source within you.

\* \* \*

Each action of ours affects the world at large. A state of mind can affect the entire being. An individual can affect the entire humanity. An iota of God's Concern can illumine all of mankind.

\* \* \*



# U.N. Painting Completes World Tour

In January of 1978 the painting by Sri Chinmoy entitled "United Nations: Heart-Home of the World-Body" returned to New York after a "good-will tour" around the world. The 6' x 8' work, dedicated to the United Nations' efforts towards world peace, was painted the afternoon of 3 May 1977 and unveiled that evening at a special U.N. reception at the Jharna-Kala Gallery in Manhattan. Two weeks later, on 17 May, the painting was displayed at United Nations Headquarters in New York before being sent on a world tour, which began with showings at United Nations Headquarters in



Geneva starting on 22 May and at Volkshaus in Zürich starting on 29 May. The painting was displayed, beginning 14 June, at McLellan Galleries in Glasgow, first exhibited during a meditation for World Peace. It was exhibited on 22 July at the Ipswich Town Hall in Suffolk, England, on 25 July in London and on 28 July in Surrey, England. It then traveled to Australia where it was on display in exhibitions in Perth, beginning 29 August, Melbourne, beginning 3 October, Canberra City, beginning 21 October, Brisbane, 25-26 November, and Adelaide, beginning the end of November through December, before returning to New York in January.

\* \* \*

Let us become simple. Let us become sincere.  
Let us become pure. If we can become simple,  
sincere and pure, then not only will the dreams  
that we treasure for our own countries soon be  
fulfilled, but also all the dreams that the Almighty  
has for His own Manifestation will be manifested  
in and through us.

\* \*



# Abraham Lincoln: The Emancipation Consciousness

On 10 February 1978 the birthday of Abraham Lincoln was marked by a programme of music and human rights tributes held in Conference Room 4 at the United Nations Headquarters, sponsored by the Meditation Group. Statements were offered by Ambassador Ovadia Soffer of Israel, Ambassador Jorge Enrique Illueca of Panama, Ambassador David M. Thomas of Liberia and Ms. Karyne Jones, Personal Representative of the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. The programme also included the recitation of his poem "Abraham Lincoln" by Sri Chinmoy, two songs by the Meditation Group choir: "All Men Are Created Equal," and "O Human Rights," and readings from the writings of Abraham Lincoln. Excerpts from the tributes follow.



*Ambassador Ovadia Soffer of Israel:* It is only natural that Jews everywhere have felt especially attracted to Abraham Lincoln as the emancipator of the Negro slave, as a victim of violence, as a dreamer of peace and as the spokesman of a way of life "with malice towards none, with charity for all," which matches the idealism of our prophets. . . . This doctrine of equality among men and among nations is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and bestows upon us an obligation to strive so that men can live as equals.



*Ambassador Jorge Enrique Illueca, Permanent Representative of Panama:* To the people of Panama, to the people of Latin America and to the Third World countries in general, Lincoln's teach-

ings, the symbol of Abraham Lincoln and his emancipation consciousness are a permanent source of inspiration, strength and positive action against the anachronistic evils of colonialism, racism and apartheid. After the Civil War, Lincoln proclaimed that the nation would have a new birth of freedom. This right to a new birth of freedom here in the United Nations is not confined to the United States. Every country, the whole of mankind, claims the same rights promoted by Lincoln to ensure change and renewal towards the legitimate aspirations for the common goals of freedom, prosperity and peace.



*Ambassador David M. Thomas, Permanent Representative of Liberia:* Abraham Lincoln was a good man—and because he was good, he was great. His noble words and deeds have made him immortal. He was honest, compassionate and just. He was charitable and philanthropic. His spirit of humanity and love went beyond the boundaries of his own country and embraced the world. The spirit of freedom and justice for all was exemplified in the life of Lincoln and his passionate desire to see all men emancipated. This spirit of his made such an impact that it has inspired generations, and today this great world community is committed to the cause of peace for all mankind.





*Ms. Karyne Jones, Personal Representative of the Permanent Representative of the United States: Ambassador Young wanted me to tell you that there is a modern slavery now in South Africa, about which he feels as Abraham Lincoln did about slavery in the United States. These people, he feels, also need an emancipator to help them*

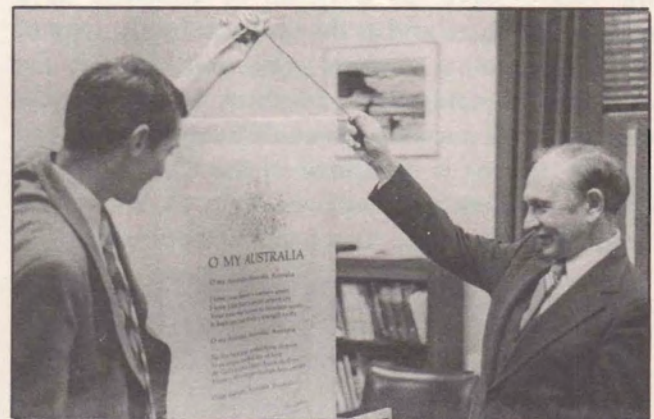
break away from slavery. . . . America still has that commitment to civil rights, human rights, social rights and freedom of all peoples.



*Ambassador Illueca comments to Sri Chinmoy after the programme: "I have deep admiration for what you are doing at the United Nations. It was a very nice atmosphere, very nice spirit and inspiration."*

## Presentation of "O My Australia" Banner

*On 10 February 1978 Australian members of the Meditation Group presented a banner to Australian Deputy Consul-General Mr. Rex Harris, who accepted it on behalf of the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, Mr. Ralph L. Harry. Ambassador Harry had expressed his appreciation of a song entitled "O My Australia," which was composed by Sri Chinmoy and sung at the United Nations during the concert highlighting the music of Australia on 27 January 1978. The banner was emblazoned with this song and the Australian emblem.*



*Mr. Rex Harris, Deputy Consul-General of Australia, receives "O My Australia" banner from Mr. Ray Harrington, one of the Australian members of Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations.*

\* \* \*

Where joy is wanting, love is wanting.  
Where love is wanting, everything is wanting.  
Where Truth is, Fulfilment there.  
Where Fulfilment is, God is there, there alone.