

# A Special Life

Abhay Charan Gaura das (or bhakta Adrian, as many devotees remembered him) got the opportunity for initiation because of his dedication to Birmingham and Leicester Rathayatras. He didn't have difficulty with following the principles or chanting his rounds, but it was how he saved the day at those Rathayatras when they were just fledgeling events that made the Temple President of ISKCON Birmingham, Nitai Charan



**Abhay Charan Gaura das**

das, determined that he should get the opportunity for initiation before his physical situation got any worse, an opportunity Bhakta Adrian took up. Within three years his health rapidly deteriorated such that he could not even make the journey to Rathayatra, and just after Christmas 2006 he left his body.

His sister, brother-in-law and Mum were very supportive, and stayed for several weeks at the hospital. putting on Srila Prabhupada's tape when he asked, and letting devotees read Krishna book – anything for Adrian.

Here is an abridged version of his life story as told by his sister at the funeral:

*By: Julie, sister of Abhay Charan Gauru das, during his funeral ceremony*

Adrian was born on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1949 of Arthur and Doris Gibson. He was raised in Irlam, a small town in Manchester with his younger sister Julie. As a young child he was more interested in reading books and learning than in playing sport. After college he became an analytical laboratory technician, enjoying various outdoor sports. He always loved the great outdoors! And his love of photography led to a job as a reporter. A very caring man, he spent many years donating pints of blood.

He attended the Samantha Centre in Manchester where he learned about the Buddhist Faith. Strong-willed enough to give up what he enjoyed in life for what he believed in, Adrian moved "South", living in Buddhist centres at Watford and Amravati, where he was training to become a Buddhist monk. However, he left before the final commitment.

Adrian never forgot his family and returned to Manchester several times a year to see his Mom and always at Christmas to enjoy our special time – until his M.S. prevented him from doing so.

He spent time in Stedham, Guildford, Petersfield, and in Bognor he worked as a Samaritan for some time trying to help others. At this time Adrian was discovering more about Krishna consciousness – which he found more complete to his beliefs than Buddhism.

Adrian was then initiated into the Hindu faith, he had a spiritual grandfather Srila Prabhupada, and Adrian was given the name "Abhay Charan Gaura das" after him.

In December, whilst in hospital, he received his last e-mail

sent from his spiritual father Jayapataka Swami – this lifted his spirits – it was sent to help remember both Krishna consciousness at this sensitive time and Lord Sri Krishna, which Adrian was doing. The time spent staying at the hospital with Adrian was extremely special. On Boxing Day in Hospital we were joined by his three nieces and grandnephew who got together on his bed for a family photograph.

This very special man has now moved onwards and now walks in a different time. He was a very special son, brother and Uncle and will always be remembered with a smile!

Forever in our thoughts, Adrian.



**Abhay Charan Guara prabhu with His Holiness Jayapataka Swami at Birmingham RathYatra**

My Dear Spiritual son Abhaya Caran Gaura das,

Please accept my blessings. All glories to Srila Prabhupada your dear spiritual grandfather.

I heard you got MS and it is increasing at a very rapid rate. Also that devotees are helping you remember Krishna consciousness and Lord Sri Krishna at this sensitive time. Try to surround yourself with Krishna consciousness things to help you remember Lord Sri Krishna at the time of leaving. Recently one of my disciples left her body in Mayapur from MS and it was very auspicious. If you have friends to help you there that is also auspicious. Leave your will that your remains will be cremated and some should be put into the Ganges. I will be happy to do that for you.

Having said that I also pray that you may have some miraculous recovery and be with us to help spread Lord Sri Krishna's message if that is Lord Sri Krishna's desire.

Your well wisher Always,

Jayapataka Swami

*Abhay Charan Gaura prabhu sponsored a feast at ISKCON Birmingham on his departure, and sponsored prasadam for several thousand devotees at the Sree Mayapura Festival on the day his ashes were consigned to the Ganges.*