

Sanathana Sarathi

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*"Do not pray to God for
the fulfilment of your
worldly desires. Instead, leave
everything to God's Will.
Have full faith that He
will do what is good for
you. Pray to Him, "Oh
God, please take care of us every
moment of our life."*



CONTENTS

- **My Power is the Power
of Love** 1
Christmas Message
- **Golden Year of 80th Birthday
of Bhagavan** 5
A Report
- **Experience Divinity within
in Total Silence** 7
**Benedictory Address:
23rd Convocation of SSSIHL**
- **Drinking Water to Chennai
through Sri Sathya Sai
Ganga Canal** 15
- **Celebrations at
Prasanthi Nilayam** 18
A Report
- **News from Sai Centres** 22
- **As the King, so the People** 29
Chinna Katha



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Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba blessing devotees with His Divine Darshan on Christmas Day (25th December 2004)

MY POWER IS THE POWER OF LOVE

How is it that the sun rises in the morning and sets in the evening with utmost regularity everyday? How is it that the stars twinkle beautifully in the sky at night and hide themselves during the day? How is it that the wind blows incessantly and sustains the living beings without taking rest even for a moment? How is it that the rivers flow perennially making gurgling sounds?

(Telugu Poem)

Embodiments of Love!

JAGAT DENOTES THAT WHICH IS subject to creation, sustenance and dissolution. God, who is responsible

Food and Water are the Gifts of God

In man, these elements connote the faculties of Sabda, Sparsha, Rupa, Rasa, Gandha (hearing, touch, sight, taste, smell),



Love is the quintessence of My teachings. My power is the power of love. There is nothing greater than love. When you develop love, you can easily face the challenges of life and emerge victorious. God will always be with you, in you and around you and will take care of you.

Any mighty task can be accomplished through prayer. However, your prayer should be sincere. Say what is there in your mind. Swami is within you; He knows your thoughts and feelings. Develop unity of thought, word and deed.



for these phenomena, has no specific form. He pervades the entire world in the form of the five elements, namely, space, wind, fire, water and earth.



respectively. There is no place where these five elements are not present. *Sarvatah Panipadam Tat*

Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Sruthimalloke Sarvamavruthya Tishthati (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, He permeates the entire universe). That is why it is said that all hands, feet, eyes, heads, mouths and ears are His. The elders in the past therefore declared that God is present everywhere; there is no place where God is not present. How can we comprehend the principle of this

specific name to God who is all-powerful and all-pervasive?

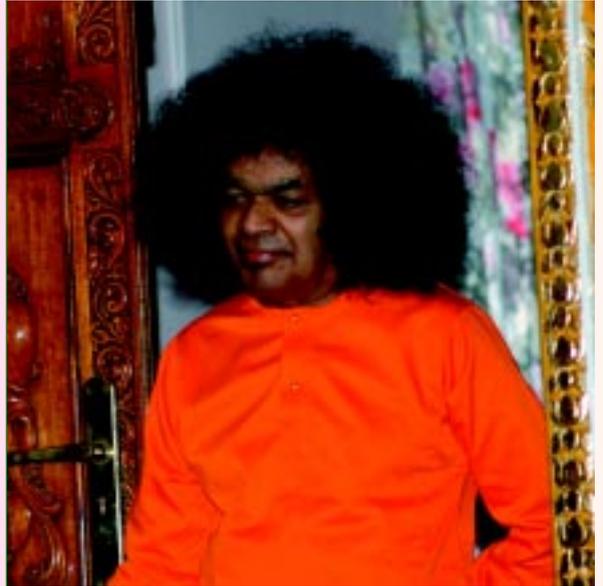
God is eternal without birth or death. He has no beginning, middle or end. He is omnipresent and is the eternal witness.

(Telugu Poem)

When a child is born from the womb of its mother, it starts crying. However, it stops crying the moment you put a drop of honey or milk on its tongue. From this, we can deduce that everyone is born with hunger.



Any mighty task can be accomplished by prayer. Hence, pray to God silently. Do not pray for the fulfilment of your petty desires. Give up all desires and pray to God wholeheartedly with love. You will certainly find fulfilment in life. You can understand and experience divinity only through love. Nothing can be achieved without love. Love makes all your tasks successful.



all-pervasive divinity? People attribute various names and forms to God. They celebrate the birthdays of their chosen deities, worship them and derive joy therefrom. But it is not possible for anyone to fathom fully the nature of divinity. It is not possible to attribute any form to God. He is beyond all names, forms and attributes. God has neither birth nor death. How can anyone give a

What type of hunger is that? Is it worldly or spiritual? It is difficult to judge who is born with what type of hunger. Though food is of various kinds, hunger is common to all. Food is essential to satisfy one's hunger. So, every individual has to eat food. It is also his duty to share it with others.

It is the earth which provides food to man. It absorbs rainwater and supplies it to the crops. In this way, we grow crops. Thus, mother earth sustains our life



by providing food to us. Water is also very essential for our survival. One may live without food for a few days, but not without water. Water is very necessary for growing food also. It can be acquired only through prayer and not by any other means. People perform worship and offer special prayers to invoke divine grace for water. Everyone should pray to God whether one is a pauper or a millionaire, for it is God who provides food and water to man. Food and water are the gifts of God. Man cannot create food and water by himself. He does not even know what type of food is essential to lead a healthy life. He should, in fact, make efforts to understand this.

Anything can be Achieved through Prayer

Whatever God does is for the welfare of the world. You must understand that world is the very form of God. The Creator and creation are not different from each other. We should not worship God for the fulfilment of worldly desires. We should pray to God to attain Him. He showers His grace on all. It is God who gives us everything. He alone knows what is good for us. Everything that we need is provided by Him. However, it is not the quality of a true devotee to feel disappointed and blame God if his desires are not fulfilled. It is our duty to find ways and means to earn God's grace and make efforts to attain Him. Nobody can understand or explain divine plans. God alone knows His plans and He only can reveal them. No one can comprehend the ways of God as stated by Thyagaraja:

*Not even a blade of grass will move
without divine Will,*



*Right from an ant to Brahma, God
pervades everything,
But some people do not understand this
and take pride in their intelligence,
But no one however mighty knows what
is going to happen in the next moment.*

(Telugu Poem)

No one can predict when God will shower His grace on an individual. Only God knows the answers to the questions like who, when, where, why and how. If one forgets God and gets carried away by ego and sense of doership, one will not meet with success in one's endeavours. Anything can be achieved through prayer. There is nothing greater than prayer. Hence, everyone must necessarily offer his prayer to God. However, one should not pray for worldly gains. "Oh God! I want Your love and nothing else." This should be your constant prayer. Once you become the recipient of God's love, you can conquer the entire world.

Do not pray to God for the fulfilment of your worldly desires. Instead, leave everything to God's Will. Have full faith that He will do what is good for you. Pray to Him, "Oh God, please take care of us every moment of our life." When you discharge your duties surrendering everything to God's Will, you will certainly achieve success in all your endeavours. But God's Will takes shape at the appropriate time without any prompting or planning.

All are the Children of God

Any mighty task can be accomplished by prayer. Hence, pray to God silently.

Do not pray for the fulfilment of your petty desires. Give up all desires and

pray to God wholeheartedly with love. You will certainly find fulfilment in life. You can understand and experience divinity only through love. Nothing can be achieved without love. Love makes all your tasks successful. Some people complain, "Swami, we are making fervent prayers but our prayers are not fruitful." I tell them, "The mistake lies in your prayer and not in God." If your prayers are sincere, they will certainly be answered. There is nothing that God cannot accomplish.

The stories of the Lord are most wonderful and sacred in all the three worlds. They are like sickles that cut the creepers of worldly bondage. They are most ennobling and elevating. They confer bliss on the sages and seers doing penance in forests. (Telugu Poem)

Today we are celebrating the sacred festival of Christmas. We should celebrate it in the true spirit without entertaining petty desires. Jesus was the son of God. While he was being crucified, he said, "Oh Father, Let Thy Will be done." When you surrender yourself to God's Will, He will take care of you. Do not develop pride. Give up ego and ostentation. Pray silently and sincerely. Then your prayers will surely be answered. God is not confined to a place somewhere in a distant corner. He always resides in your heart. He can accomplish anything. He is ever ready to perform any task, big or small, for His devotees. All are His children. Hence, He will certainly answer your prayers. Jesus taught, "All are the children

of God." When you have such firm conviction, you can accomplish any task. You need not read voluminous books. Fill your heart with love and leave everything to His Will. You will certainly achieve success in all your endeavours.

Embodiments of Love!

Love is the quintessence of My teachings. My power is the power of love (*loud applause*). There is nothing greater than love. When you develop love, you can easily face the challenges of life and emerge victorious. God will always be with you, in you and around you and will take care of you. Any mighty task can be accomplished through prayer. However, your prayer should be sincere. Say what is there in your mind. Swami is within you; He knows your thoughts and feelings. Develop unity of thought, word and deed. Have faith that Swami is in you, and He always listens to your prayer. If you think that Swami is outside, how will your prayer reach Him?

Embodiments of Love!

It is only love that will help you to achieve success in your life. Hence, develop love. That is the true prayer God expects from you.

Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "*Prema Mudita Manase Kaho ...*"

– **From Bhagavan's Christmas Message in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 25th December 2004.**

DIVYA SARATHI DIARY 2005

Due to unexpected demand, diaries are exhausted. Kindly note that no further orders will be entertained.

Convener

GOLDEN YEAR OF 80TH BIRTHDAY OF BHAGAVAN

1ST JANUARY 2005 was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam not only as New Year Day but also as the beginning of the 80th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Soulful musical offerings were made to Bhagavan on this occasion in Sai Kulwant Hall which was beautifully done up for the celebration of this joyous and spiritually significant event.

Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.10 a.m. amidst chanting of Vedic hymns by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. The celebrations began with lighting of the sacred lamps by Bhagavan amidst a thunderous applause of a mammoth gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall. At the outset, Sri Indulal Shah, International Advisor, Prasanthi Council greeted the devotees on this auspicious day and exhorted them to make their life ideal so that it should radiate the Divine Message of Bhagavan Baba. Sri Shah emphasised that the year of 80th Birthday of Bhagavan Baba should be celebrated in a befitting manner throughout the world.

The programme of devotional music began at 7.30 a.m. First, the Indian contingent consisting of 102 gents and 98 ladies representing all the States of India made its musical presentation of devotional songs in Hindi and Telugu. Sung in perfect rhythm with deep devotional fervour, the musical



Bhagavan's 80th Birthday celebrations commence at Prasanthi Nilayam on New Year Day with singing of the glories of the Lord.

offering touched every heart. This programme was directed by Sri Girish Atre. This was followed by devotional songs by the world choir consisting of 146 ladies and gents from 41 countries. The world choir presented 8 beautiful songs directed by Ms. Alma Badings of the Netherlands.

To add joy to the occasion, the youth of California (USA) rendered Bhajans after the devotional songs of national and overseas choirs. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.15 a.m. In the end, Prasadam was distributed to all the devotees.

After the national and overseas musical presentations, it was the turn of old students to pour out their hearts in devotional music and express their love for their Beloved Lord in their musical compositions. The old students made their musical offering to Bhagavan on the afternoon of 1st



GOLDEN YEAR OF 80th BIRTHDAY OF BHAGAVAN

January 2005. In his introductory remarks, Sri S.V. Giri, Vice Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning explained the relevance of celebrating the 80th Birthday of Bhagavan in the spread of Bhagavan's Mission of ushering in an era of peace, love and unity in the world. The scintillating programme of devotional songs of the old students kept the audience spellbound for nearly one hour. This was followed by a musical presentation by the Institute orchestra group. This lively presentation earned the repeated applause of the audience and profuse blessings of

Bhagavan. Bhagavan materialised a gold bracelet for the student who directed the orchestra programme.

In the end, a lively talk was given by Sri Ajit Popat of the UK. Dwelling on the significance of New Year Day and the beginning of Bhagavan Baba's 80th Birthday celebrations, Sri Popat observed that this was the day of reflection, contemplation and introspection for all. On this day, he said, we should resolve that we would never forget Bhagavan Baba and His teachings. The celebrations came to a close at 5.45 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

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Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music

Admission Notice

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning offers the following courses under the auspices of the Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music, Prasanthi Nilayam (for boys). The admissions will be made for the Academic Year commencing from June 2005.

FULL-TIME COURSES

- 1) **FOUNDATION COURSE:** (Carnatic, Hindustani) Vocal, Veena, Mridangam, Sitar, and Tabla.
-- (Duration 2 years)

ELIGIBILITY: Candidates should have passed 7th Standard of study, and be 13 to 20 years of age.

- 2) **DIPLOMA COURSE:** (Carnatic, Hindustani) Vocal, Veena, Mridangam, Sitar, and Tabla.
-- (Duration 3 years)

ELIGIBILITY: Candidates should have passed 10th Standard of study and also a Course in Music equivalent to the Foundation Course from any recognised College/Institution, and be 16 to 23 years of age.

Application forms will be available from **2nd December, 2004 to 28th February, 2005.**

Admission to the above Courses will be on the basis of Admission Test and Interview which will be held in May 2005 at PRASANTHI NILAYAM, Andhra Pradesh.

Interested candidates may apply to the **Registrar, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134, Anantapur Dist., A.P.** along with Indian Postal Order or Bank Draft for Rs.50/- for the above courses. The Indian Postal Order or Bank Draft should be drawn in favour of **Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning**, payable at **Prasanthi Nilayam / Puttaparthi. The name, postal address and phone number** of the candidate should clearly be mentioned in the requisition letter.

Registrar



EXPERIENCE DIVINITY WITHIN IN TOTAL SILENCE

Embodiments of Love!

YOU ARE VERY WELL AWARE OF the present condition of the world. There is no scope for talking about God. Today Dhanam (money) is considered as Daivam (God). In such a situation, how can Dharma (righteousness) prevail in the world?

Principle of Love is Changeless

Embodiments of Love!

There is no other path except that of love to attain God. Love is God,

God is love. But people do not understand what love is. They consider attachment to all that is worldly and material as love. Out of their selfishness, they love worldly objects and materials. So, man's love today is tainted with selfishness. There is selfish motive behind whatever he does. How can then man have the vision of God who is the very embodiment of selfless love? Love is present in all beings, right from a Pamara (ignorant person) to a Paramahansa (realised person). How can one describe such a principle of love?



Ego and pomp have become rampant today. Desires have become limitless. Man's heart is filled with selfishness, and compassion has no place in it. That is the reason why he is unable to have the vision of the Atma and experience bliss. I always speak about the principle of love. I do not know anything other than love (*loud applause*). When divinity is uniformly present in all, how can you share your love with some and deny it to others? How can anyone say, "Love this and not that"? God has no specific form. But if you firmly resolve to see God and make sincere efforts, God will assume a form and manifest before you.

There is love in everyone of you. What is the form of love? What is the nature of love? When we analyse carefully, we will realise that love is not limited to human beings alone but is present in all living beings. Every being is endowed with the quality of supreme divine love. One has to give up enmity and cultivate unity and purity in order to understand this truth. Love cannot be explained in words. How can you describe it? It can only be experienced and enjoyed. The experience of love confers bliss on us. Hence, we can say that bliss is the form of love.

Embodiments of Love!

Everything in this world is bound to change except the principle of love. Love is the only true and eternal path which will lead you to divinity. Divinity pervades each and every limb of the human body. It can be visualised only when we understand the principle of oneness. People attribute various names and forms to God. In fact, God should not be confined to a particular name and form. God is beyond all attributes




You should make efforts to understand the underlying principle of unity of five elements, five senses of action, five senses of cognition and five life sheaths. If you make sincere efforts, you will certainly be able to experience the principle of unity. Among all the living beings, only man is endowed with the ability to understand and experience unity and divinity. In fact, the very purpose of human birth is to experience unity in diversity.


and transcends all names and forms. Divinity is present in all in the form of love but each one experiences it in his own way. People imagine a particular form of divinity. They think divinity is limited to a specific name and form. That is why they are unable to experience it.

One whose heart is filled with love will see the manifestation of divinity everywhere. It is a mistake to think that Nature is different from God. People give various names to divinity based on their own experience. Jewels are many but gold is one. Likewise, names and forms are different but divinity is one. Where does gold come from? It comes from the earth. Similarly, God manifests in human body. *Daivam Manusha Rupena* (God incarnates in the form of a human being). Hence, consider

everyone as divine. *Sahasra Seersha Purusha Sahasraksha Sahasra Pad* (The Cosmic Being has thousands of heads, eyes and feet). All heads, all eyes and all feet are His. Such transcendental divinity can be experienced only in absolute silence and in solitude. There lies hidden sacred divine power in the depth of total silence. The tongue is given to you not to indulge in vain gossip. That is why the ancient sages and seers practised Mounam (silence). It is possible to experience God only in the depth of silence. However, we should understand the true meaning of silence. Silence does not mean merely refraining from speech. It is much higher than that and includes the mind also. The transcendental nature of divinity cannot be described in words. It is beyond the grasp of the mind.

Focus your Mind only on God

Whatever you see in this world is the manifestation of truth. When divinity is all-pervasive, how can there be untruth? But you are unable to realise all-pervasiveness of divinity. Turn your vision inward and observe absolute silence. Only then can you realise all-pervasive divinity. Mere intellectual exercise will not help you in this regard. Whatever you see, hear and experience is the manifestation of divinity. Only God exists everywhere. Such being the case, is it possible to attribute a particular name and form to Him? He is present in all forms. When we experience the principle of oneness, we will be immersed in bliss. Hence, we can say that bliss is His form.



Hold on to the principle of love firmly and you can achieve anything. When you fill your heart with love, you will be protected wherever you go. Love is the reality and everything else is only reaction, reflection and resound. In order to experience the reality, you have to cultivate steadiness of mind in the first instance. How can you make your mind steady? You have to contemplate on one name and one form. Be firm in your chosen path.



Nityanandam, Parama Sukhadam, Kevalam Jnanamurtim, Dwandwateetam, Gagana Sadrisham, Tattwamasyadi Lakshyam, Ekam, Nityam, Vimalam, Achalam, Sarvadhee Sakshibhutam (God is the embodiment of eternal bliss, He is wisdom absolute, beyond the pair of opposites, expansive and pervasive like the sky, the goal indicated by the Mahavakya Tattwamasi, the one eternal, pure, unchanging, the witness of all functions of the intellect).

Embodiments of Love!

When God is all-pervasive, where is the need to go in search of Him? You should make efforts to experience your innate divinity by observing total silence and turning your vision inward. You can

experience divine bliss only in absolute silence. That is why it is said, "Silence is golden".

God is present in all forms. All names and forms are His. The Vedas state the same principle when they declare: "*Sahasra Seersha Purusha...*" Various types of jewels are made out of gold. Likewise, God has assumed all the names and forms that we find in the world. Hence, you should develop faith in the existence of God. If you make sincere efforts, you can certainly realise Him. Many spiritual aspirants in the past could have the divine vision by their intense Sadhana and by going into total silence. One has to annihilate the mind in order to have the vision of God. You cannot experience divinity until and unless you transcend the mind.

Today people conduct enquiry and research into various aspects of the world. But divinity cannot be experienced with such enquiry and research. Select a divine form of your choice and contemplate on it. When you focus your mind on the divine form, your mind gets transformed completely and becomes one with divinity. Today man's mind keeps wavering from moment to moment. Do not rely on such a wavering mind. Instead, rely on divinity which is steady and changeless. Once you fix your mind on a divine form of your choice, never change it. Close your eyes and contemplate on it. Only then can you experience divinity.

Understand the Principle of Unity

People use the word "divinity" without really knowing its meaning.



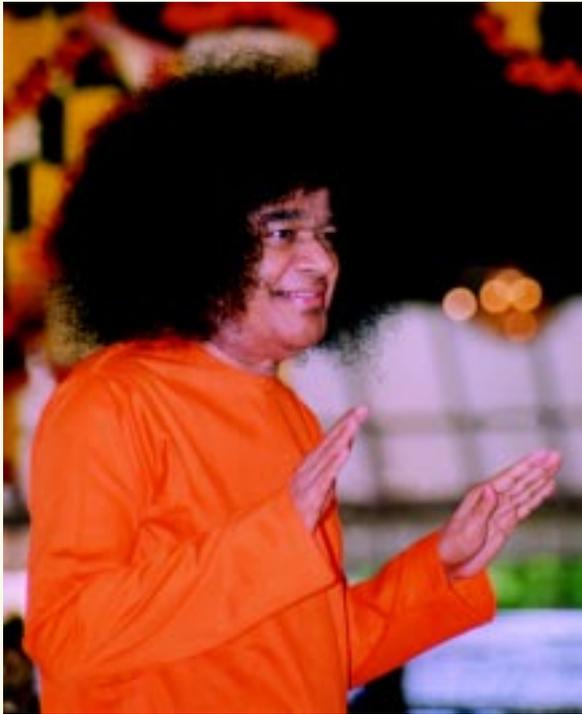
Body attachment is the cause of all differences. You will understand and experience unity in diversity only when you give up body attachment.

Once you are free from body attachment, you can experience God in a moment. Whatever you see is the manifestation of God. The principle of unity in diversity is divinity. But you are unable to understand and appreciate this truth. In order to understand this truth, there should be total transformation in your feelings.

The Vedas declare, *Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma* (God is one without a second), *Ekatma Brahma* (Atma is Brahman). You may call Him by any name. He has thousands of heads, hands and eyes. Wherever you see, there is God only and no one else. The same primordial principle pervades everything. Contemplate on Him with single-minded devotion.

Nirgunam, Niranjanam, Sanathana Niketanam, Nitya, Shuddha, Buddha, Mukta, Nirmala Swarupinam (God is attributeless, pure, final abode, eternal, unsullied, enlightened, free and embodiment of sacredness). Divinity is present within you. Unable to realise your innate divinity, you waste your time searching for God outside.

Whatever you see and experience in the world is only the reaction, reflection and resound of your feelings. Do not get deluded by the reaction, reflection and resound. Turn your mind inward and contemplate on the reality within you. You will certainly be able to experience divinity. You should have divinity as your goal and nothing else. Divinity is one without a second, and is all-pervasive.



Understand the principle of oneness and install God in your heart. Without the principle of unity, there can be no multiplicity. If you do not understand unity, you cannot understand the multiplicity of Nature. Nature is the best preacher. Follow the ideals demonstrated by this preacher with Preeti (love). The more you develop love, the sooner you can

see God. Body attachment is the cause of all differences. You will understand and experience unity in diversity only when you give up body attachment. Once you are free from body attachment, you can experience God in a moment. Whatever you see is the manifestation of God. The principle of unity in diversity is divinity. But you are unable to understand and appreciate this truth. In order to understand this truth, there should be total transformation in your feelings. As is the colour of the glass, so is the colour of



Today people conduct enquiry and research into various aspects of the world. But divinity cannot be experienced with such enquiry and research. Select a divine form of your choice and contemplate on it. When you focus your mind on the divine form, your mind gets transformed completely and becomes one with divinity.



the scene outside. Remove the colour glasses of body attachment and see the reality.

Make your Mind Steady

Embodiments of Love!

Hold on to the principle of love firmly and you can achieve anything. When you fill your heart with love, you will be protected wherever you go. Love is the reality and everything else is only reaction,



reflection and resound. In order to experience the reality, you have to cultivate steadiness of mind in the first instance. How can you make your mind steady? You have to contemplate on one name and one form. Be firm in your chosen path. Do not get deluded by what appears to the physical eyes. Open the eye of wisdom and see the reality.

Embodiments of Love!

Consider everyone as the embodiment of divinity. God is the mother and father of all. That is why, we pray: *Twameva Mathascha Pitha Twameva, Twameva Bandhuscha Sakha Twameva, Twameva Vidya Dravinam Twameva* (Oh God! You alone are our father and mother, friend and relation, wisdom and wealth). Have firm faith that God is your everything. Do not entertain any doubts in this regard. It is because of doubts that man's mind is in a confused state. Many people ask Me about the proper way of meditation. I always tell only one thing, "Meditation does not mean merely closing your eyes and imagining anything and everything. Choose one form, install it in your heart and see that it is steady. Have total faith in one name and one form and contemplate on it incessantly. That is true meditation. If you follow this practice earnestly, you can experience divinity."

Embodiments of Love!

There is no greater Sadhana than following the path of love. Your love should flow only in one direction, and not in many directions. Your love should constantly flow towards God. Only then can you have the vision of God, who is

the very personification of love. If you are unable to visualise God, it only means that you have not directed your love towards Him.

Make your mind steady and fix it on God. Mind is the cause of everything in this world. Mind by itself does not go anywhere. It is we who direct it and divert it in different ways according to our whims and fancies. We are responsible for its unsteadiness. When you keep your mind steady and focus it on God, you will find the brilliant and blissful form of God wherever you see. You are unable to see and experience God because you doubt His existence. First of all, develop unwavering faith in God. Your faith alone will protect you. Do not follow the vagaries of the mind. You should be the master of your mind and not its slave.

Embodiments of Love!

People talk about meditation. Meditation is very simple. Meditation is not mere concentration. Concentration can never be equated with meditation. With unflinching faith and unwavering mind you should let your love flow towards God. If there is unsteadiness in your mind, it is reflected outside. All unsteadiness comes from within you. I am rather surprised to note that man's mind is wavering every moment. Why should the mind waver? It has no such power. Manas (mind) and Manishi (man) should be one. When you achieve this oneness, you can experience the principle of unity.

Embodiments of Love!

You must firmly resolve to hold on to the principle of unity and divinity. What is the purpose of human birth? Is it to spend your time in eating and



drinking? No, no. You should make efforts to understand the underlying principle of unity of five elements, five senses of action, five senses of cognition and five life sheaths. If you make sincere efforts, you will certainly be able to experience the principle of unity. Among all the living beings, only man is endowed with the ability to understand and experience unity and divinity. In fact, the very purpose of human birth is to experience unity in diversity. Hence, make every effort to experience unity and sanctify your lives. It is possible only by following the path of love. There is nothing superior to love in this world.

(Bhagavan sang the Bhajan, “*Prema Muditha Manase Kaho...*” and continued His Discourse.)

Today I have awarded the gold medal for all-round excellence to a girl student from Anantapur Campus. She has been a diabetic right from her childhood. Her parents and doctors have been trying their best to control her diabetes but all in vain. However, she has unflinching faith in Swami. That is why she had no problem at all in spite of her blood sugar level being very high. She is not worried at all. In fact, when her parents get worried, she infuses courage in them, saying, “Don’t worry. God is with me.” In this manner, she has spent sixteen years. She has studied in Puttapparthi school and Anantapur college. Sometimes, her blood sugar level is very high. No medicine can control it. Her father becomes anxious. But she is protected by her steady faith. Swami told her firmly, “This disease cannot harm you. Have total faith in God. Do not pay heed to what others say.” She forgets her Badha (suffering)




Make your mind steady and fix it on God. Mind is the cause of everything in this world. Mind by itself does not go anywhere. It is we who direct it and divert it in different ways according to our whims and fancies. We are responsible for its unsteadiness. When you keep your mind steady and focus it on God, you will find the brilliant and blissful form of God wherever you see.


remembering Swami’s Bodha (teaching). She has followed Swami’s words implicitly and has remained steady in her faith. That is why she has come up in life.

She devotes all her time to studies. She will pursue higher studies. She has absolutely no worry even if her blood sugar level shoots up. She says, “It comes and goes. I have nothing to do with it.” She has faced her health problem with fortitude. In this manner, one should never be afraid of problems. This body is a storehouse of dirt and a den of diseases. One should never rely on such an ephemeral body. The body may have to undergo suffering on account of some diseases. But whatever may be the problem, one should not worry about it.

Her father is teaching in Puttapparthi college. Sometimes, he gets phone calls from his daughter’s teachers in

Anantapur Campus, telling him, "Your daughter's blood sugar is very high today. She is unable to attend the classes. What should we do?" He comes to Me for guidance and I tell him not to worry. I infuse courage in him, saying she would be all right. Because of her devotion and steadfast faith, she is maintaining her health and carrying on her studies without any hindrance.

Having resolved, what ought to be resolved, hold on to it till you have succeeded. Having desired what ought to be desired, hold on to it till your desire is fulfilled. Having asked what ought to be asked, do not leave the hold till you get it. Having thought what ought to be thought, hold on to it till you have succeeded. With heart mellowed, the Lord must yield to your wishes or forgetting yourself, you should ask Him with all your heart.

Persevere, be tenacious, and never give up, for it is the quality of a devotee never to retreat, abandoning his resolve.

(Telugu Poem)

She is leading her life with such unflinching faith and determination. Sometimes, she becomes very weak because of anaemia. Even in such a condition, she continues to do her work. That is true devotion. She is leading her life with total faith in Swami. She has stood first in her studies and has also achieved excellence in co-curricular activities. That is why she has been given the gold medal for all-round excellence.

– From Bhagavan's Benedictory Address on the occasion of the 23rd Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 22nd November 2004.

SRI SATHYA SAI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, PRASANTHI NILAYAM

Admission to Class I (Boys and Girls) and Class XI (Boys only), of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Vidya Giri, Prasanthi Nilayam Post., (Anantapur Dist., A.P.), 515134 will take place in June 2005. It is an English medium, wholly residential school.

Prospectus and Admission Forms can be had from the Principal from 01-12-2004 on cash or payment remittance of Rs. 50/- through D.D. drawn on SBI, Prasanthi Nilayam (code no: 2786) in favour of the Principal, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, with a Self Addressed Rs. 20/- stamped cover of 15 cm x 24 cm.

Last date for issuing the forms from the Principal's office is 15th February 2005 and last date of receiving the forms in this office is 1st March 2005.

Only students coming from English medium classes should apply.

Principal

DRINKING WATER TO CHENNAI THROUGH SRI SATHYA SAI GANGA CANAL

THOUSANDS of Tamil Nadu devotees came to Prasanthi Nilayam on 11th and 12th December 2004 to express their gratitude to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba for providing water to Chennai through Sri Sathya Sai Ganga Canal which was commissioned on the auspicious day of the 79th Birthday of Bhagavan on 23rd November 2004.

A function was organised in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on the morning of 12th December 2004 to celebrate this great event. The programme started after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan. Sri G.K. Raman, Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Tamil Nadu introduced the speakers who

scarcity. Outlining the auspiciousness of the day, Sri Raman informed the gathering that water in Sri Sathya Sai Ganga Canal was released on 23rd November 2004 which was the Birthday of Bhagavan according to English calendar and it reached Poondi reservoir near Chennai on 27th November 2004 which was Bhagavan's Birthday as per the Indian calendar.

The first speaker, Sri Arjuna Raja, conveyed to Bhagavan the gratitude of hundreds of thousands people of Chennai whose long-felt need for water was met by Bhagavan. He also prayed to Bhagavan to visit Chennai and shower His blessings on all the people there.



*Part of Kandaleru-Poondi Canal
before concrete lining.*



*The Canal (now christened Sri Sathya
Sai Ganga Canal) after concrete lining.*

were blessed by Bhagavan to speak on this occasion. In his introductory speech, Sri Raman said that this was a most joyous occasion for the people of Tamil Nadu as Bhagavan had provided water to Chennai relieving them of their prolonged suffering due to water

The second speaker was Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Delineating the historical background of the Project, Dr. Venkataraman said that Chennai had been facing shortage of drinking



DRINKING WATER TO CHENNAI THROUGH SRI SATHYA SAI GANGA CANAL



Concrete lining of Sri Sathya Sai Ganga Canal was a huge task.



An Escape Regulator constructed on Sri Sathya Sai Ganga Canal.

water since long. The problem had become acute due to the influx of heavy population and non-availability of adequate water resources to cater to 6 million population of the city. Realising the suffering of the people of Chennai, Bhagavan in His immense grace and compassion declared of His own accord on 19th January 2002 at the First Anniversary Celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospital, Whitefield that He would provide potable water to the people of Chennai at any cost. Accordingly, this Divine project was taken up by Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust with the wholehearted co-

operation of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to improve the infrastructure of the Kandaleru-Poondi canal now christened as "Sri Sathya Sai Ganga Canal". Major works which covered this project were: (a) Strengthening of the bund so as to enhance the storage capacity of the Kandaleru reservoir, (b) strengthening of approach channel, (c) concrete lining of the vulnerable reaches of Sri Sathya Sai Ganga Canal and (d) construction of escape structures at various places for discharging flood waters from the canal in cases of emergencies. This work involved concrete lining of the bed of



Water released from Kandaleru reservoir on 23rd November 2004.



Water reaching Poondi reservoir on 27th November 2004 through Sri Sathya Sai Ganga Canal.

DRINKING WATER TO CHENNAI THROUGH SRI SATHYA SAI GANGA CANAL

the canal with hi-density polythene sheets imported specially to prevent seepage. The canal sides were lined with concrete and paved with mechanical equipment according to the most modern technology over a distance of 65 km. The project employed about 4000 dedicated workers in three shifts and the work was done in more than 30 areas simultaneously to complete it in just eleven months, said the learned speaker.

The last speaker of the session was Dr. Mohan Krishna, Advisor to Tamil Nadu Government for Water Resources and former Chief Engineer. Tracing the history of chronic scarcity of water in Chennai, Dr. Mohan Krishna said that it was the Divine grace of Bhagavan Baba that this project was completed in such a short time and the work done was so satisfactory that the water which took 8 to 10 days to reach Poondi from

Kandaleru now reached in just 4 days. Never in the history of Kandaleru-Poondi canal had water reached Poondi reservoir in so short a time with least wastage of water, told the learned speaker. "Sri Sathya Sai Ganga Canal for augmenting the drinking water supply to Chennai city is a boon to the 6 million population of the city of Chennai whose acute need for drinking water has been largely met through the compassion, grace and benevolence of our Beloved Bhagavan," said Dr. Mohan Krishna.

After these speeches, Sundaram Bhajan Group of Tamil Nadu added joy to the occasion by leading Bhajans which all the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall followed in chorus. In the end, Prasadam was distributed to all the devotees. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.00 a.m.

FESTIVALS / EVENTS IN THE YEAR 2005

11th Jan. .. Annual Sports and Cultural Meet of SSSIHL	27th Aug. .. Sri Krishna Janmashtami
14th Jan. .. Sankranti	7th Sept. .. Ganesh Chaturthi
9th Mar. .. Sivarathri	15th Sept. .. Onam
9th Apr. .. Ugadi (Telugu New Year Day)	12th Oct. .. Vijaya Dasami
14th Apr. .. Tamil New Year Day	1st Nov. .. Deepavali
14th Apr. .. Vishu (Malayalam New Year Day)	12th Nov. (6 p.m.) -
18th Apr. .. Sri Rama Navami	13th Nov. (6 p.m.) Global Akhanda Bhajan
6th May .. Easwaramma Day	19th Nov. .. Ladies Day
18th Jul. .. Ashadi Ekadasi	22nd Nov. .. 24th Convocation of SSSIHL
21st Jul. .. Guru Purnima	23rd Nov. .. Bhagavan Baba's 80th Birthday
	25th Dec. .. Christmas

CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

Bhagavan Inaugurates Quarters for Nurses Sri Adi Sankaracharya: A Drama

Sai Manonmani Nurses Residential Complex constructed in Sri Sathya Sai

Vikas, Singapore presented this drama on the life of Adi Sankaracharya on the evening of 9th December 2004 in Poornachandra Auditorium, Prasanthi Nilayam in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The drama comprehensively covered through commentary, acting and dialogues all the main events of the life of Adi Sankara, from his birth in Kaladi village (Kerala) to his final ascent to the seat of omniscience. It also effectively brought out his main teachings through his interaction with his Guru and his disciples as also through his



*A view of Sai Manonmani Nurses Residential Complex.
(Inset) The plaque unveiled by Bhagavan.*

Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prashanthigram, Puttaparthi was inaugurated by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on the morning of 9th December 2004. Bhagavan was offered a reverential welcome amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras when He arrived in the Institute at 8.15 a.m. After arrival at the site of the Campus, Bhagavan pressed the button to unveil the plaque of the name of the building. He also cut the ribbon and lighted the sacred lamp to inaugurate the quarters for nurses and other technical staff of the hospital. He showered His blessings on Dr. V.K. Pillay and his family who built these quarters consisting of 8 blocks with 12 apartments in each block. Bhagavan also materialised a Navaratnamala for Dr. V.K. Pillay. The function came to a close with offer of Arati to Bhagavan.



*A scene from the drama Sri Adi Sankaracharya.
(Inset) Adi Sankara with his disciples.*

debate with Mandana Misra. Locations of the main story, like Kaladi and Varanasi were well presented with the

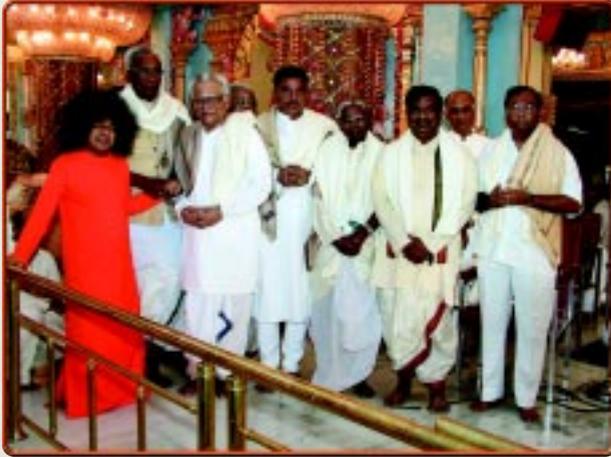


CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

help of props and cut-outs of the places to make the setting of the story realistic and natural. Similarly, beautiful cut-outs of four places, Sringeri, Dwaraka, Puri and Badrinath, where Adi Sankara established four Mutts imparted realism to the story. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance and blessed the cast at the end of the drama. The programme came to a close at 6.20 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

Telugu Kavi Sammelan (Poets Meet) at Prasanthi Nilayam

A very delectable programme of poetry recitation was held in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on the afternoon of 13th December 2004 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Twelve



Some of the poets who participated in the Kavi Sammelan with Bhagavan Baba in Sai Kulwant Hall.

renowned Telugu poets took part in this meet and enthralled the audience by reciting their thrilling poetic compositions. They were: Dr. Utpala Sathyanarayanacharya, Dr. Garikapati Narasimha Rao, Sri

Rallabandi Kavitha Prasad, Prof. Bethavolu Rama Brahmam, Sri Movva Vrishadripathi, Dr. M.S. Reddy, Dr. Undela Malakonda Reddy, Dr. Jandhyala Mahathi Sankar, Dr. J. Bapu Reddy, Dr.T.V. Narayana, Sri Jonnavitthula Ramalingeswara Rao, Prof. G.V. Subrahmanyam, Vice Chancellor, Potti Sri Ramulu Telugu University. The main theme of their compositions was the Glory of Sri Sathya Sai Avatar. At the end of this delightful programme, Bhagavan blessed all the poets and honoured them with shawls. He also posed for group photos with them. At the conclusion of this programme, Sri Y. Sriranganatha Raju, a student of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning expressed gratitude to the poets for giving joy to all by their scintillating poetry. This programme was followed by Veda chanting by Institute students. In the end, Prasadam was distributed to all. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.15 p.m.

Divine Blessings on Christmas

A mammoth gathering of devotees of all religions, nationalities and countries participated in Christmas celebrations held on 24th and 25th December 2004 at Prasanthi Nilayam in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Baba. A variety of festoons, wall

hangings, pictures, models, Christmas trees and other creative decorations gave the look of wonderland to Sai Kulwant Hall, which was the venue of these celebrations. The dais was adorned with idols of Mother Mary, Joseph and



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

baby Jesus on one side and three wise kings on the other. Bhagavan's residence, Ganesh Mandir and other surrounding areas were also beautifully decorated. Another attractive decoration was in front of the North Indian Canteen where a miniature village of Bethlehem was created with beautiful lights at night.



Nativity scene which adorned the dais in Sai Kulwant Hall.

The programme began after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan Baba on the afternoon of 24th December 2004 in Sai Kulwant Hall. Bhagavan inaugurated the programme at 3.20 p.m. by lighting the candles placed on the dais. The first item of the programme was singing of Christmas carols by children. The children's choir consisted of 86 children from 21 countries. Among the beautiful Christmas carols rendered by this choir under the direction of Ms. Radha Reyes of the USA were: 'Amen', 'Come All Ye Faithful', 'We Three Kings', 'We Wish you a Holy Christmas', 'O Christmas Tree'.

After this excellent programme by the children's choir, adult choir constituted by about 400 ladies and 200 gents sang wonderful songs under the direction of Ms. Sylvia Alden of the USA. They started their programme with chanting of Omkar and Vedic prayer to Lord Ganesh, "Gananaamthwa ..." in Sanskrit. Their songs included 'In Moments like this', 'Almighty God', 'I am I', 'Sweet Lord

your Love is so Great', 'Sathya Sai Baba Grant All the Beings Happiness', and 'We Come into the Lord's Presence'. After these Christmas carols, they sang Hindi Bhajans to the delight of all the devotees. The most remarkable feature of both these choirs was that they sang in one voice with purity and unity though they came from different countries speaking different languages. The programme on 24th December 2004 came to a close with this excellent presentation.

The programme on 25th December 2004 began with usual early morning Omkaram, Suprabhatam and Veda Parayanam in Sai Kulwant Hall at 5.20 a.m. Singing of Christmas carols by overseas devotees began soon after this in Sai Kulwant Hall while Nagar Sankirtan by ladies and gents groups started in the periphery of the Hall. Thus, the Christmas day programme began with singing of the glories of the Lord with devotion and love.



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

Bhagavan Baba showered the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the devotees when He came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.30 a.m. After Bhagavan took His seat on the dais, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning presented a scintillating programme of orchestra music. This was followed by violin recital by a group of students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School. Some students dressed as Santa Claus came on the dais with their bags full of sweets which were blessed by Bhagavan. They went in the rows of devotees and merrily distributed the sweets among them while violin music presentation continued. After this beautiful violin music, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School and the Institute presented an excellent programme of carol singing. This was followed by Bhajans in which all the devotees took part. After the conclusion of the Bhajans, Bhagavan went to the verandah of the Mandir and performed the cake cutting ceremony amidst a loud applause of devotees. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.10 a.m.

The programme on the afternoon of 25th December 2004 started at 4.00 p.m. with the introductory speech of Sri Arthur Hillcoat of Australia who offered Christmas greetings to the huge concourse of devotees and introduced the speakers who were blessed by Bhagavan to address the gathering on this auspicious occasion. The first speaker was Ms. Rita Bruce of the USA, writer, speaker and an ardent devotee of Bhagavan for nearly 30 years. Underlining the importance of the role

of the mother in the home, Ms. Bruce said, "Mother is the fabric of the home." Deploring the drastic changes in the role of women in modern times, the learned speaker reminded the women of today their responsibility of moulding the character of their children and inculcating values in them. Beginning his talk with a beautiful prayer, the second speaker, Dr. Keki Mistry of Mumbai, referred to a Discourse of Bhagavan published in "Sanathana Sarathi" (1998) and observed that we should consider God as our old friend. Narrating a personal experience, Dr. Mistry said that Bhagavan cured his cancer which the medical experts considered as incurable.

The last speaker of the programme was Sri John Bedner, Chairman of Sai Organisation of Latin America. Sri John thanked the devotees and Seva Dal volunteers who helped in the decoration and other tasks of the celebrations and expressed his gratitude to Bhagavan for His inspiration and blessings. Referring to an incident of 1979, Sri John narrated how Bhagavan Himself distributed food to thousands of devotees and on enquiry told that that was His duty. This, he said, had a great impact on him and it became a turning point of his life. After these talks, Bhagavan gave His Christmas Message, full text of which has been given elsewhere. After Bhagavan's Discourse, the devotees experienced the joy of singing Bhajans which were led by Institute students.

The programme came to a happy conclusion with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 6.15 p.m.



80th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS: THE WORK HAS BEGUN

THE OVERSEAS Sri Sathya Sai Organisations, with love, humility and reverence, offer these Seva flowers of worship at the Divine Lotus Feet of our loving Lord.

1. MEDICAL CAMPS

Dominican Republic: A medical camp was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Organisation in the Las Guamas community of the city of Santiago de los Caballeros on 17th October 2004. Held in a Catholic church, the camp saw a total of 577 patients who were provided loving care by a team consisting of 8 doctors, 8 nurses, 2 pharmacists, 12 social workers, 2 nutritionists and 6 volunteers.

Abu Dhabi: A medical camp was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Abu Dhabi in the industrial town of Mussafah on 1st October 2004. The clinic was set up in a car workshop belonging to a devotee. Three doctors and several Sai volunteers provided medical care to 77 patients. Blood pressure measurement, glucose monitoring and treatment of minor illnesses was provided in the camp. The loving care provided by the doctors brought joy to the recipients.

United Kingdom: On 28th March 2004, the Sathya Sai Service Organisation of UK organised a medical camp at Brent Town Hall in Wembley. 900 people received medical services at the camp, where 75 medical and non-medical volunteers worked harmoniously in a spirit of dedication and compassion. Cabinet

Minister and Mayor, Mr. Paul Botang, and two Ministers of Parliament representing Harrow East and Brent attended the opening ceremonies. They were impressed by the use of modern technology in the camp and promised their unstinted support for such future ventures.

Argentina: On 27th March 2004, the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Argentina organised a medical camp at Villa La Tela in the province of Cordoba. After a tornado, this shanty town in one of the poorest communities of Cordoba faced large-scale destruction, prompting the national government to declare a state of emergency. The army erected six big tents for the different specialities in the Sai medical camp, which served over 1500 patients. The day began with singing of the National Anthem and reading of passages from the Holy Bible. 42 medical professionals and 45 nursing students, along with many volunteers, provided a host of specialised services including paediatrics, dental care, gynaecology, dermatology, phonoaudiology, psychological counselling, ultrasound, screening for cervical cancer, high blood pressure and diabetes. Free medications were dispensed to all patients through the pharmacy.

2. COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMMES

California (United States): On 17th July 2004, eight centres of the Sathya



Sai Organisation of Northern California participated in a 'Day at the Beach' event for 165 participants with varying degrees of physical impairment and special needs at the Cowell Beach in Santa Cruz. The 'special needs' individuals, including many paraplegics, were treated to a fabulous picnic with a number of scuba, kayaking, surfing, or outrigger canoeing organisations taking them out into the ocean waters and giving them a thrilling experience. Swami's quotes such as "Love Reveals God in All" were easy to spot everywhere and served to gently reiterate the true nature of service. Sai volunteers provided food to approximately 800 people who attended this event. There were touching scenes of people in wheelchairs eager to assist in serving others – truly the spontaneous spirit of 'giving' enveloped one and all.

Oregon (United States): Once a month, members of Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Oregon City participate in a Seva at a Correctional institution (prison) near Portland Oregon. This is a releasing facility for inmates with 6 months to 2 years of sentencing still left. Centre members and inmates meet for two hours in a designated room. The sessions start with recitation of three OM's. Each person present in the room is requested to pick a Prema card (cards with quotes from our beloved Swami) and share the quote with all in the room. Following this, each person shares the impact of Swami's words on their life. The members and the inmates have noticed a remarkable thing which happens each time. As these randomly picked cards are read, a common theme is

recognised and this has allowed everyone to focus on a particular teaching every month. The inmates are open to deep spiritual discussions and have expressed positive changes in their lives since they joined the class. The session ends with singing of one or two devotional songs (Bhajans) and/or silent meditation. The Centre members feel that it has been a very holy and sacred experience for all, filled with Swami's light and guidance. The Seva is once a month for two hours and has been going on for more than 18 months.

3. PUBLIC MEETINGS

Canada: More than seven hundred people attended the public meeting held at the Bloor Street United Church in downtown Toronto on Saturday, 9th October 2004. Spelling out the purpose of the meeting and introducing the other speakers, Dr. Peter Hacker, a Toronto dermatologist, reminded the audience that despite all the material progress humanity is making, turmoil and conflicts around the globe continue to rise. The five universal human values of Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love and Non-violence, which form the basis of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's teachings, if put into daily practice offer hope for resolving the strife around us. An impressive multimedia presentation was shown on Bhagavan Baba's teachings and humanitarian works by Dr. David Gries of Cornell University, where he is currently Associate Dean of Engineering. He described how the uniqueness of the educational institutions established by Bhagavan Baba lies in the academic environment being suffused with pure love and students



being moulded in a spirit of sacrifice and service to the community. Dr. Yassin Sankar, Professor of Management in the School of Business Administration at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, stressed how misused and misunderstood the term “ethics” was till Bhagavan shed clear light on the topic and revitalised its significance to solve world problems. Describing Bhagavan as an exemplary educator, Dr. Sankar said that in his entire teaching career, he found Bhagavan Baba as the greatest living expert on ethics and moral education of our times. The presentations were followed by a poignant and powerful short film titled ‘His Work’.

United States: On 30th October 2004, a public meeting was held on the life and

Conference Centre on the campus of the University of California at San Diego, USA. Colourful flags from many nations hung from the ceiling set the mood for the message of unity in diversity. Nearly 300 people attended the programme which started with welcome remarks by Dr. Samuel Sandweiss, who spoke of Swami’s blueprint for bringing peace to the world through love. Dr. Michael Goldstein, Chairman of the Prasanthi Council gave a moving talk with emphasis on man’s divine nature and need to manifest it in daily life. He also described how Swami’s humanitarian works promote love in society and bring about inner transformation. Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Member of the Prasanthi Council, spoke of Swami’s divine love and the purpose of human existence – to expand in love and share love with fellow human beings. He also spoke of the need to put spiritual teachings into daily practice and to march forward till the goal of life was reached.

The talks were followed by an uplifting film entitled ‘His Work’ that documented the magnificent and awe-inspiring service programmes inspired by Bhagavan. The free world-class hospitals, schools, water projects, and rural outreach programmes seen in the film are shining examples of how people can be inspired to serve with love, humility and compassion the suffering and the needy community. Many first time visitors were inspired and bought books on Swami. One professor of religion and philosophy who is teaching for the last 25 years at the University shared how she was inspired by the public meeting.



A section of the audience in the Copley International Conference Centre at San Diego.

teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in the Copley International



Guatemala: Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Guatemala held its first public meeting on 29th October 2004 at the Hotel Camino Real in Salón Los Lagos. 800 people attended this event. The featured speakers were Dr. Héctor Castaneda from El Salvador and Leonardo Gutter from Argentina, both of whom gave moving and inspiring presentations on the life, teachings and humanitarian works of Bhagavan Baba. The meeting concluded with the screening of the film "His Work".

Italy: On 5th December 2004, the Sathya Sai Central Council of Italy hosted a public meeting at the Hotel Serena Majestic in the city of Montesilvano located in the province of Pescara. More than 700 people attended the event. Marco Pesce, President of the Central Council of Italy, welcomed everyone and introduced the speakers. Dr Thorbjörn Meyer, Zonal Chairman and President of the European Sathya Sai Education Institute, spoke about the spiritual transformation achieved through Swami's message and teachings. Dr. Alberto Caratti, director of cardiology at the San Giuseppe Institute of Asti, reflected on his experiences of working at the Super Speciality Hospital in Puttaparthi for five years and spoke about the impact of Swami's humanitarian projects in alleviating the suffering of millions. The film 'His Work' received spontaneous applause from the audience.

By His grace and blessings, may we redeem and sanctify our lives by taking active part in His Divine Mission with dedication and devotion!

– Prasanthi Council



B H A R A T

Andhra Pradesh: Anantapur district carried out Swami's car festival at Hindupur on 17th November 2004. 750 devotees took part in the function. On this occasion, 22 selected poor families were given food provisions (10 kg rice, 2 kg wheat, 2 kg Dhal, 2 kg Ragi flour, 1 kg sugar, 1 kg jaggery, 1 kg oil, 1 kg tamarind, 1 kg salt and ¼ kg dry chillies) along with new Saris and blouses, Dhotis and towels. This district arranged reception counter at Sri Sathya Sai Prasanthi Nilayam Railway Station on 20th, 21st and 22nd November 2004 to receive devotees coming for Swami's 79th Birthday celebrations. The incoming devotees about 7200 in number were served with coloured rice, curd rice, sweets and snacks on all the three days. On 23rd November 2004, this district distributed sweet Pongal, coloured rice and curd rice to about 7000 devotees, pedestrians and poor people at Puttaparthi near BSNL office. On 13th November 2004, 79 selected poor women were given Saris at Anantapur.

As part of Bhagavan's 79th Birthday celebrations, Visakhapatnam district carried out Narayana Seva for 26,535 people, distributed blankets to 1505 old people, new Saris to 1028 selected poor ladies, new Dhotis to 149 men, new towels to 343 persons and new dresses to 193 poor children. It distributed fruits to 1780 persons and sweets to 8895 people and planted 172 saplings. It gave food provisions to 230 poor families. It conducted a medical camp treating 319 patients and

distributed clothes to 50 newly born babies in Victoria Government Women's Hospital, Vizag.

Srikakulam district gave 5 kg of rice, pulses, oil and tamarind (1 kg each), cloth beds, 1 blanket and 2 Saris to each of the 47 fire victim families at Srikakulam. This district conducted medical camps in 8 villages treating 1345 patients. It distributed 821 blankets in the district to selected poor and honoured 21 Veda Pandits as part of Bhagavan's 79th Birthday celebrations. The district conducted Sri Sathya Sai Divya Padhuka Jyothi Ratha Yatra in the entire district covering 452 villages. During the Ratha Yatra, Sri Sathya Sai Vratams were performed, Amruta Kalasams consisting of food provisions were distributed and cultural programmes were carried out.

West Godavari district conducted a medical camp in the rural area of Eluru, treating 935 patients of different ailments and 53 cataract cases. New clothes were given to 79 selected poor people on 23rd November 2004.

Hyderabad district selected 18 critical cases of different ailments from Bejgam village of Medak district and got them operated in different Nursing Homes. The entire cost – transport, laboratory test, food, accommodation, medicines, etc., was borne by the Sai Organisation. This district constructed a school building with all facilities at Dharmavaram Pedda Thanda of Nalgonda district as part of Sri Sathya Sai Gurukula Seva Yajnam. This district gave Saris and Dhotis to 100 people in leper colony in Mallikarjuna

Nagar of Hyderabad. It carried out 7-day celebrations at Sivam including daily Narayana Seva in different asylums and daily cultural programmes from 17th to 23rd November 2004.

Kurnool district carried out medical check-up and Narayana Seva in Bharat Seva Orphanage for 58 people, carried out Narayana Seva for 600 people on 21st November 2004, distributed 79 blankets to poor people on 22nd November 2004, provided food provisions (2 ½ kg rice, ¼ kg Dhal, ¼ kg Bengal gram, 1 kg jaggery) to 252 houses in Nandamuri colony of Nandyal town and distributed clothes to 40 people at Bethamcherla.

Assam, Manipur and N.E. States: A two-day Zonal Sai Devotees Meet was organised by the Jorhat Samithi on 9th and 10th October 2004. Participants from many places of upper Assam like Golaghat, Sivasagar, Digboi, Tinsukia, Nagaon, etc., took active part in the deliberations. Various speakers highlighted the need to practise Sri Sathya Sai Educare in day-to-day life. Many organisational aspects were also discussed and guidelines were given by the State President.

Apart from the general upheaval in day-to-day life, parts of Manipur were affected by natural calamities resulting in loss and distress to many villagers in outlying areas. On 22nd August 2004, a team of Sai devotees reached Toribari, a remote village inhabited by Nepali speaking people and offered relief to the victims of severe mud-slide. Assistance including foodstuffs were



also given to the villagers of Keithelmanbi, Gopibung and Kalapahar in Senapati district affected by similar disasters.

A State-level conference of Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas ex-students was held at the Rotary Club Auditorium, Guwahati with a daylong programme on 15th November 2004. The conference deliberated at length on the importance of Bal Vikas in nation building and also in the day-to-day life of individuals. Ex-students of Bal Vikas paid heartfelt homage to their respective Gurus. The past students narrated how the course helped them when they were at the formative stage of life. To conclude the conference, all the participants took a pledge to radiate the light of knowledge and love to all.

On the occasion of Bhagavan's 79th Birthday, devotees of Imphal organised Narayana Seva which included 85 visually challenged children, 55 hearing and speech impaired children and 12 old destitute women. Warm shawls and sweets were also distributed on this occasion. Participated by a large number of devotees, the function was pervaded with Sai Love. A thrilling experience enlivening the atmosphere of the celebration was the devotional songs presented by the visually challenged children.

Kerala: Sri Sathya Sai Deenajanoddharana Projects have been extended to 4 more districts.



Visually challenged children presenting devotional songs as part of 79th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Baba in Imphal.

Now 10 out of 14 districts are having this noble activity. Sai Organisation is taking full care of old people and children in these centres. Sai Neethi (lawyers forum of the Sai Organisation) conducted a two-day camp for lawyers. 47 lawyers participated. Training was given on how to conduct classes on parenting, legal awareness programme, etc. "Sai Neethi" also organised the inauguration of a counselling centre to help the needy.

On 19th December 2004, a one-day camp was organised for Bal Vikas diploma holders. 128 participants attended. It was a very happy occasion for all to come together. The participants narrated how the Bal Vikas programme was helping them in their personal and official activities. Future course of action was also planned.

79th Birthday of our Lord was celebrated all over the State with a variety of programmes on each and every day. 79-hour Bhajan in all districts, one month relay Bhajan, Seva activities, etc., were some of the programmes.



The year 2004 witnessed a unique achievement in the expansion of the Sai Organisation in the State. Under the programme "Mandali" - 2004", Mandalis were adopted by many Samithis for upgrading them as Samithis in 2004. By this, nearly 30 new Samithis were formed. This will help the Organisation to take Bhagavan's message to every corner of the State.

Maharashtra and Goa: A grand Rath Yatra was organised by Bandra - Khar - Santacruz Samithi of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Mumbai to celebrate 79th year of the Advent of our Beloved Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and to create awareness of the Bal Vikas programmes and other activities of the

Sai Organisation. The Rath Yatra started from the Laxmi Narayan Temple, Santacruz (West) at 5.05 p.m. with the melodious chanting of verses from the Vedas by Bal Vikas students. Devotees and Bhajan singers followed the chariot. The youth too participated in large numbers. They distributed pamphlets, highlighting Bal Vikas and other activities of the Sai Organisation. All along the rally, placards and banners of Swami's sayings were displayed, some of which being in the language of the region. The Rath Yatra proceeded slowly, meandering through the inner residential lanes and finally culminated at Dayavanti Hall, Khar at around 6.30 p.m. with Arati.

SRI SATHYA SAI SEVA ORGANISATION, TAMIL NADU RISES TO THE OCCASION

A major disaster caused by Tsunami struck the coastal belt of Tamil Nadu on 26th December 2004. Nagapattinam was

life and property. Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu swung into action immediately on hearing this tragic news



Relief Seva activities being carried out by the Disaster Management Teams and Seva Dal volunteers of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu.

the worst affected area where the massive undersea earthquake caused huge loss of

of large-scale destruction. Disaster Management Teams of Sai Youth, Seva Dal

Continued on page 30 ...

As the King, so the People

Chinna Katha

TN ANCIENT times, even the kings of small kingdoms performed their duty of ruling over their subjects with broad-mindedness and a spirit of sacrifice. One such king ruled over his kingdom, considering the welfare of his subjects as his greatest good fortune. He, therefore, took all steps for the welfare and happiness of his subjects. The people of his kingdom considered the king as their own body while the king considered the people as his heart. Such was the intimate relationship of love between the king and his people. The king worked very hard day and night to do the greatest good of his people.

One day, the king asked his queen to apply oil to his hair. In those days, it was not customary to have too many servants. The wife attended to the personal needs of the husband. Accordingly, the queen personally attended to even the smallest needs of the king as part of her sacred duty. She was a queen for the people of the kingdom but for her husband she was a dutiful wife. So, she applied oil to king's hair. While doing so, she noticed a few grey hair on the king's head. She thought that the king had stepped into old age and that God had already sent the first notice to remind the king that his end was drawing near. God sends a second notice in the form of cataract that blurs the vision. Then the teeth start falling one after the other. That is the third notice. The fourth and final notice comes in the form of wrinkles on the face. Lost as she was in these thoughts, tears started

trickling down her cheeks. On seeing the queen in tears in the huge mirror in front of which he was sitting, the king asked, "What is the matter? Why are you weeping?" The queen stated the truth. The king smiled and said, "My dear, it is good that you have told me the truth. The body is like a water bubble. Sooner or later it is bound to perish. We should, therefore, hand over the responsibility of the kingdom to our ministers and go to the forest to spend the rest of our life in contemplation of God." Both of them decided that they would leave the kingdom the next day.

The king at once called a meeting of all the ministers and told them of his decision. The news spread like wild fire and all the people came running to the palace. The ministers and the people requested the king not to leave them. They told him that if he left them, they would be as lifeless as a body without the heart. The king tried to convince them about the inevitability of death and how man should prepare himself to meet it, by leading the life of an ascetic in the forest.

The people said, "Oh king, we will go to the forest and pray to Lord Siva to grant you a long life. Until we return, please do not leave the kingdom." The people went to the forest and offered sincere prayers to Lord Siva. When He appeared, they prayed, "Oh Lord! Please grant our king a life-span of a hundred years more." The Lord was pleased with their love and loyalty to the king and granted two hundred





Lord Siva appeared before the queen and granted her noble wish.

years to the king. The people returned with great joy to the palace and informed the king of God's boon. The king was very much pleased.

The queen however got ready to go to the forest and took leave of the king and the

... Continued from page 28

volunteers and Sai devotees from Thanjavur, Tiruchi, Salem, Chennai, Kancheepuram and other nearby places reached the affected areas on the same day and helped in rescue and relief work including the removal of dead bodies. They also distributed food materials, clothes, utensils, cooked food, water sachets, bed sheets, etc., in the affected areas. Apart from these items, a large quantity of provisions like bags of rice, pulses, cooking oil, salt, etc., were also distributed to the needy people. All the work was carried out with discipline and

people. The people thought that the queen must be angry because they had secured the boon from the Lord only for the king.

The queen went into deep meditation and God did appear before her. The queen questioned the Lord with all humility, "Is it true, oh Lord, that you have granted two hundred years of life to the king?" The Lord said, "Yes". Then the queen asked, "Oh Lord! Of what use is this long life for the king unless the people who love him so much are also granted long life?" The Lord said, "Be it so. I grant long life to your people also. Not only to your people, I am granting long life to you also, even though you have not asked for it."

The queen returned and informed the king and the people of God's blessings and boons. Such was the spirit of sacrifice of the people, of the kings and queens in ancient India.

dedication while chanting the Divine Name of Sai by all the Sai workers. The work of Disaster Management Teams and Seva Dal volunteers was commended by one and all including the Collector and the police authorities.

As commanded by Bhagavan Baba, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu is helping the affected people in Andaman and Nicobar Islands also. It immediately sent 477 cartons of relief materials to Port Blair by air on an urgent call from Andaman Sai Samithi.

SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(A Deemed University accredited by NAAC at A⁺⁺ level)



Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam-515134, Anantapur Dist., Andhra Pradesh, India

Ph: (08555) 287191, 287239 Website: srisathyasai.org.in e.mail: sssihl@hotmail.com

Admission Notice

**Admission for the Academic Year commencing from June 2005
will be made for the following Courses:**

Prasanthi Nilayam Campus (for Men): B.A., B.Sc.(Hons) in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Bio-sciences, Economics (leading to PG Courses in the respective subjects); M.B.A., M.B.A.(Finance), and M.Tech.(Computer Science).

Brindavan Campus (for Men): B.Com.(Hons), B.Sc.(Hons) in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biosciences (leading to PG Courses in the respective subjects).

Anantapur Campus (for Women): B.A., B.Com.(Hons), B.Sc.(Home Science), B.Sc.(Hons) in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biosciences; M.A.(English), M.A.(Telugu), M.Sc.(Home Science), and B.Ed.

Eligibility for Admission:

Undergraduate Courses: 10+2 pattern of study / Intermediate. Minimum marks required in the X Std. examination is 60% in aggregate and 55% in General English. They should have taken their final year +2 / Intermediate qualifying examination before the date of Admission Test.

Postgraduate Courses: 10+2+3 pattern of study. A First class (minimum of 60% marks in aggregate in all the three years of study) in respective degrees with 50% in General English.

M.B.A./M.B.A.(Finance) and B.Ed.: 10+2+3 pattern of study. A First class (minimum of 60% marks in all examinations of the course) in any first degree or Post Graduate degree with 50% marks in General English in the first basic degree. Candidates of Technical Courses like B.E., B.Tech., B.Pharma., B.Sc.(Agri). etc. are exempted from the minimum requirement of 50% marks in General English.

M.Tech.(Computer Science): A First class (60% and above) both in the first degree and M.Sc.(Mathematics) / M.Sc.(Physics) / M.Sc.(Computer Science) / M.C.A. / B.E. (Computer Science) / B.Tech. (Computer Science) levels of examination with Computer Science background, and the candidates should have formally undergone the following courses - Artificial Intelligence, Computer Networks, Computer Organisation & Architecture and Database Systems.

Note: Eligible candidates will be short-listed by the Institute based on the marks of qualifying examinations. Only such candidates who are on the short-list will be called for Admission Test.

In the case of candidates who have not received the marks statements of the final year of the first degree examination, their marks in the previous years / semesters should not be less than 60% in aggregate and 50% in General English. They should have taken their final year / semester qualifying examination before the date of the admission test.

Admission to all the above courses will be on the basis of Admission Test and Interview which will be held in May 2005, at **Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh.**

Application form along with Information Handbook will be available from **2nd December 2004 to 28th February 2005.**

Interested candidates may apply to the **Registrar, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134, Anantapur Dist., A.P.** along with I.P.O. or Bank Draft for Rs.50/- for Undergraduate Courses and Rs.70/- for Postgraduate Courses / M.B.A./ M.B.A.(Fin) / M.Tech./ B.Ed. Courses. The draft should be drawn in favour of **Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning**, payable at **Prasanthi Nilayam / Puttaparthi**. Since the application forms are different for each programme, candidates must indicate in the requisition letter the details of course/subject of study for which they seek admission. Also, **the name, postal address and phone number** of the candidate should clearly be mentioned in the requisition letter.

Registrar