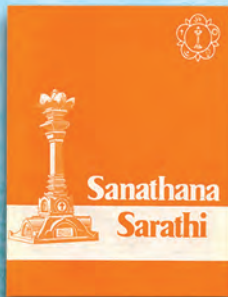
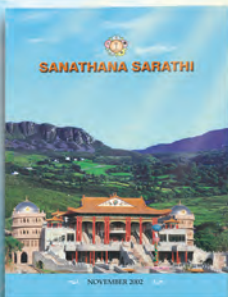
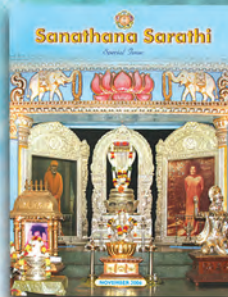
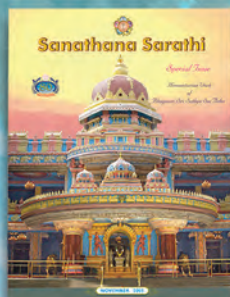




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Fifty Glorious Years



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SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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today is not merely for your benefit; it
is for the benefit of your fellow human
beings and even animals, birds and
other creatures. You should help each
and every living being. Only then can
you call yourselves truly educated."



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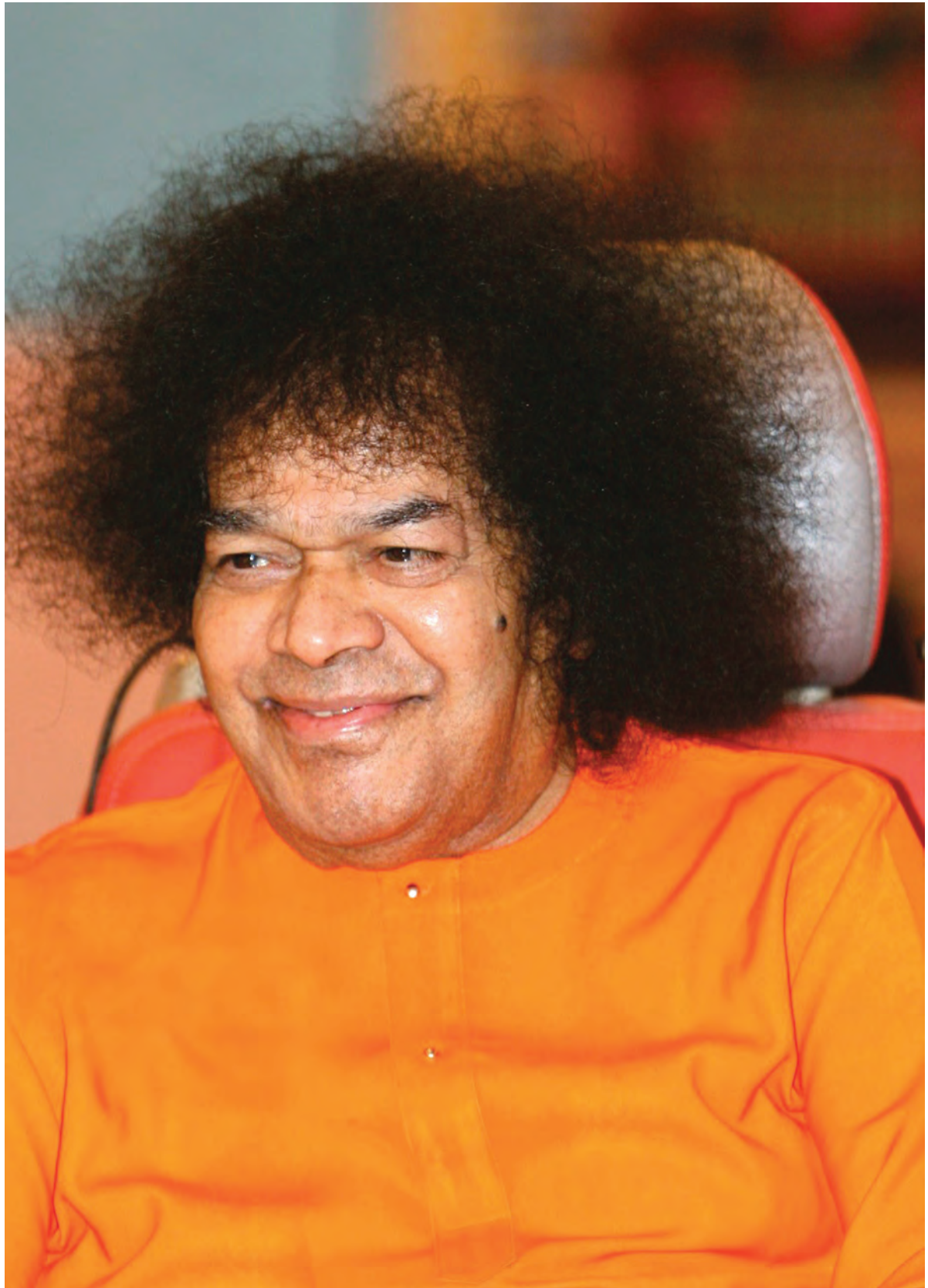
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Editor

G.L. ANAND





UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF AKHANDA BHAJAN

WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND what is meant by Akhanda Bhajan. Bhajan can be of two types – Khanda Bhajan and Akhanda Bhajan. To contemplate on God when we get up in the morning and do Bhajan for certain short periods of time during the day is only Khanda Bhajan. But Akhanda Bhajan is not like that. *Sarvada Sarva Kaleshu Sarvatra Hari*

contemplate on God constantly at all times, morning, evening and night, in all the three states – waking, dream and deep sleep.

Akhanda Bhajan is of Immense Spiritual Significance

You see the clock. There are three hands in the clock indicating seconds, minutes and hours. The second hand is the longest, the minute hand is shorter than the second hand



Whoever chants any name of God anywhere, his life will become sacred and sanctified. He will be free from sin. Do not bother too much about Raga and Tala (tune and rhythm). There is only one Raga, i.e., Hridaya Raga (Raga of the heart). That is 'Soham, Soham' (That I am), which comes from your heart. Never leave it. Attune your life to this Raga. Once your life is attuned to it, then your success in all your endeavours is ensured.

Chintanam (everywhere, at all times, under all circumstances contemplate on God). That is to say, Akhanda Bhajan is that wherein we

while the hour hand is the shortest of all. When the second hand completes sixty places, the minute hand moves forward by one place.

Similarly, when the minute hand crosses sixty places, the hour hand crosses one place. Which of the three is most important? It is the hour hand that is important because an hour has much more importance than a minute or a second. In the same way, doing Bhajan only in the morning and evening and spending rest of the time in food and sleep is like the second hand which has little significance. But constant contemplation of God at all times is like the hour hand which is most important. Every name of God is endowed with power. In order to have this power eternally with us and derive benefit from it, we should do Akhanda Bhajan.

Once Sage Narada approached Lord Narayana and prayed to Him to explain the efficacy of Rama Nama. "Narada! Look, there is a parrot on the tree. Go and ask the parrot to chant Rama Nama once," said Narayana. Obeying His command, Narada went to the parrot and asked it to chant the Name of Rama. The moment the parrot heard the Divine Name of Rama, it dropped down dead from the tree. Narada went back to Narayana and said, "Oh Lord! As per Your command, when I asked the parrot to chant Rama Nama, it breathed its last." Then Narayana said, "Oh Narada! Do not worry about the death of the parrot. Just now, a cow has given birth to a calf. Go and ask the calf to chant the Name of Rama." Narada was afraid lest the calf should also meet the fate of the parrot. However, obeying the command of Narayana, he asked the calf to chant the Divine Name of Rama. As soon as the newborn calf heard the Name of Rama, it also dropped down dead.

When Narada informed the matter to Narayana, He again commanded him to go to the palace of a king who was blessed with a son and ask the prince

to chant the Divine Name of Rama. Narada was fear-stricken, but Narayana insisted that Narada should obey His command. Narada went to the palace and asked the newly-born prince to chant Rama Nama once. The prince saluted Sage Narada and informed him that by the mere listening to Rama Nama just once, he was transformed from a parrot to a calf and from a calf to a human being as a prince. He expressed his gratitude to Sage Narada for initiating him into Rama Nama. Thus, Divine Name confers human birth, which is considered a rare gift.

Chant the Divine Name with Faith and Love

Man is the embodiment of divinity. When you see pictures of God, you will find them all in human form. *Daivam Manusha Rupena* (God is in the form of a human being). Divine name is the basis of human birth. Even birds and animals can attain human birth by merely listening to the divine name just once. But how is it that there is no transformation in man even if he chants the divine name repeatedly? It is so because man today chants the name of God mechanically without love in his heart. Some people do Bhajan with a wavering mind. They keep looking here and there. Their mind is engaged in finding whether the singer's Sruthi and Raga (pitch and musical mode) are correct or not. There can be no transformation in such people even if they chant the divine name a number of times. *Satatam Yoginah* (attain permanent yogic state). If we contemplate on God with full concentration even once, that can bring about a great change in us. When one singer is singing a Bhajan, other singers keep on thinking which Bhajan to sing next. As we chant the name of God without focusing our mind on God, we are unable



to achieve any transformation. However, in whatever way we chant the divine name, we attain purity to some extent. This purity is not visible to others. Only the individual concerned can experience this as the change occurs within him. Therefore, man should constantly chant the name of God so that it gets imprinted on his heart. You may perform all your tasks. But whatever you do, and whatever you speak, you should always have the feeling that it belongs to God. Then your life will be sanctified. In the house, women do the cooking. They mix salt, pulses and spices in a certain proportion to prepare various food items. When they do all this as an offering to God, the food they prepare will be sanctified. On the other hand, if they do the cooking with the feeling that they are doing so for the sake of their family members, it will not acquire that sanctity. Therefore, whatever work you may do, you should consider that it is God who is doing it.

God is present in every atom and every cell in subtle form. Every step you take forward, you should associate with chanting of “Ram Ram Ram”. Then every step will take you closer to God. Without understanding this truth, if you say “I have come walking, I have walked so many miles,” it will be only a physical activity and not the spiritual one. All the words that you speak and all the actions that you perform should be suffused with divine feelings. With such a sacred feeling if you chant the divine name in the morning and evening, that is enough. It may be any name of God. If you chant it wholeheartedly even once, that will bestow great benefit on you. It will be significant like hour hand in a clock. But if you chant the divine name with a wavering mind, it will have little significance and value like the second hand.



Do not follow all that is fleeting and temporary, leaving the changeless and eternal principle of the Self. Unfortunately, man today is leading his life holding on to all that is ephemeral and temporary and is getting deceived. Therefore, do not catch the ephemeral objects. Instead, catch the Divine Lotus Feet firmly and never leave them. Then, God will be with you wherever you go. On the contrary, if you hold on to temporary and fleeting objects, your mind also will become wavering and unsteady.



Do not bother about what others say. You should chant the divine name constantly from the depth of your heart. But very few people chant the divine name wholeheartedly today. They keep on making excuses such as “I have a sore throat, I have a bad cold; therefore, I am not able to sing the divine name.” Even if you have a cold or cough, you can chant within you. Chanting of the divine name will bestow on you all types of powers. The name of God is full of immense sacredness and its chanting can bring even a dead person back to life. Savitri became grief-stricken when she lost her husband. With the power of her prayer, she could bring her husband Sathyavan back to life. It is only in Bharat that we find such women who can bring their dead husbands back to life. Though the power of God is all-pervasive, it manifests in a greater measure in the sacred land of Bharat. A pure-minded person will succeed in all his endeavours wherever he may be. Pray to God with purity of mind and He





Some people do not give due importance to chanting of the divine name. This is a great mistake. Only those can realise its value who have experienced it, not all. Do not mistake a stone to be a diamond merely because of its glitter. A diamond is different from a stone. What is the real diamond? 'Die-mind' is the true diamond. Chant the divine name to attain it. Once you attain it, keep it safe and secure with you. You may have to face any number of hardships, troubles and sorrows, but do not bother about them. They will come and go just like the clouds that move about with the pressure of the wind. They do not belong to your true Self which is eternal and everlasting.

will protect you. When you pray with purity of mind, you can derive great benefit. Mira also prayed in the same way. She prayed, "Swami! I have delved deep into the ocean and found the precious pearl of Your divine name. Kindly see to it that it does not slip from my hands, and fall into the ocean again." Having been born in this world, let us make our life worthwhile by singing the glory of divine name constantly.

Never Forget your Divine Origin

Krishna says in the Gita, *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). All of you are an aspect of My divinity. Therefore, you should lead your life in the same way as I am doing. Your love should be as sacred as Mine. Then only can you attain purity. Everything in this world is reaction, reflection and resound. Since eternity, you have been My Amsa (part). You should never forget this. If you imbibe this truth in your heart, this alone will bestow on you the merit of studying the whole of the Bhagavadgita. This is the main teaching of the Bhagavadgita.

Every human follows certain principles of Dharma. From where has this Dharma come? It comes from sacred feelings.

Sacred feelings originate from faith. Where there is faith, there is Dharma. Faith is truth. Truth is God. Faith is God. *Love is God. Live in Love.* When we have truth, faith and love, we can achieve anything in this world. You may be confronted with any number of difficulties and hardships, but none of these should be able to perturb you. Your faith and love should remain steady. Difficulties will come and go like waves. But your faith should be steady like the water of the ocean. Your thoughts are like clouds which come and go. They are not permanent. You should hold your faith firmly. When you develop love more and more, there is nothing in this world you cannot achieve. You can achieve anything and everything. You can transform earth into sky and sky into earth. There is no power greater than the power of love.

Some people do not give due importance to chanting of the divine name. This is a great mistake. Only those can realise its value who have experienced it, not all. Do not mistake a stone to be a diamond merely because of its glitter. A diamond is different from a stone. What is the real diamond? 'Die-mind' is the true diamond. Chant the divine name to attain it. Once you attain it, keep it safe and secure with you. You may have to face any number of hardships, troubles and sorrows, but do not bother about them. They will come and go just like the clouds that move about with the pressure of the wind. They do not belong to your true Self which is eternal and everlasting.

Perform all Worldly Tasks with Divine Feelings

Do not follow all that is fleeting and temporary, leaving the changeless and eternal principle of the Self.

Unfortunately, man today is leading his life holding on to all that is ephemeral and temporary and is getting deceived. Therefore, do not catch the ephemeral objects. Instead, catch the Divine Lotus Feet firmly and never leave them. Then, God will be with you wherever you go. On the contrary, if you hold on to temporary and fleeting objects, your mind will also become wavering and unsteady. Install the divine name in your heart permanently. Then you will attain blessedness and your life will become worthwhile. This is your true Bhakti, Sakti and Mukti (devotion, power and liberation).

It is for this purpose that Akhanda Bhajan for twenty-four hours has been devised once in a year. Akhanda Bhajan means chanting of the divine name for full 24 hours. But if you keep getting up in between and keep coming and going every now and then, that amounts to Khanda Bhajan only, because the Bhajan will be intermittently cut. It will be difficult to maintain continuity. We should ensure that there is no break in the Bhajan. If you want to go to your house, you may go. But there also you should continue Namasmarana. Similarly, when you sit for eating your food, there also you should continue to chant the divine name within you. God does not tell you to leave anything. God says, "Do everything but keep contemplating on Me at all times." That is why Krishna said in the Bhagavadgita, "*Maam Anusmara Yuddhyacha*" (remember Me and fight the battle). He told Arjuna, "Fight the battle while contemplating on Me. Then it will not amount to fighting a battle; it will be My Smarana only. You perform the duty of fighting. Those who are destined to die, will die; those who are destined to live, will survive." War does not mean shooting arrows and killing

Continued on page 435 ...



BHAGAVAN'S 82ND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI Baba's 82nd Birthday was celebrated on 23rd November 2007 in thousands of Sai Centres all over the world, and millions of Sai devotees in all parts of the globe paid their tributes to Bhagavan on this most sacred and auspicious occasion. At Prasanthi Nilayam, hundred of thousands from all parts of the world paid their homage to Bhagavan and received His benedictions. Here, the celebrations started with the sacred function of Rathotsavam on 18th November 2007 and culminated in a grand Birthday function on 23rd November 2007.

Rathotsavam

The sacred function of Rathotsavam on 18th of November every year marks the beginning of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Birthday celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam. This year also this function was celebrated with great piety and solemnity on the morning of 18th November 2007. Worship of the idols of Rama, Lakshmana, Sita and Hanuman as well as of Venugopal (Krishna) was performed in the Bhajan Mandir before they were placed in two decorated palanquins to be taken out in a procession on the Rathotsavam day.

Bhagavan was offered a reverential welcome with sweet notes of Nadaswaram music by two groups of students when He came to beautifully decorated Sai Kulwant Hall led by exquisitely decorated beloved elephant of Bhagavan at

9.15 a.m. on 18th November 2007. After blessing the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall with His Divine Darshan, Bhagavan came to the Bhajan Mandir and blessed the idols that were to be taken out in a procession to Pedda Venkama Raju Kalyana Mandapam in Puttaparthi village. Soon after Bhagavan's arrival in the Bhajan Mandir, the idols in two beautifully decorated palanquins were brought out led by Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students. As this grand procession proceeded towards the Gopuram Gate of Sai Kulwant Hall, the entire Hall reverberated with Veda chanting, Bhajan singing and



Beautifully decorated Ratha with the idol of Venugopal ready for Rathotsavam procession outside Gopuram Gate of Sai Kulwant Hall on 18th November 2007.

Nadaswaram music. Outside the Gopuram Gate, a beautifully decorated Ratha (chariot) was already stationed, on which the idol of Venugopal was placed amidst sacred chants. Bhagavan



also went to Gopuram Gate and blessed the start of Rathotsavam procession. Led by Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students, and followed by Nadaswaram groups of students, this grand procession proceeded forward to the delight of thousands of residents of Puttaparthi who came out of their houses, offered worship to the idols and broke coconuts in front of the chariot as a mark of auspiciousness. Meandering its way through the main road of Puttaparthi, the procession culminated at Pedda Venkama Raju Kalyana Mandapam. The sacred function of Rathotsavam came to a happy conclusion with offer of Arati to Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall at 10.05 a.m.

Ladies Day Function

Ladies Day was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam on 19th November 2007 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the function, was artistically decorated on this occasion. Special floral and other decorations were made on the



Beautiful decorations were made in Sai Kulwant Hall on the occasion of Ladies Day celebrations.

Special floral decorations adorned the dais, in the centre of which a beautiful portrait of Mother Easwaramma was installed.

dais, in the centre of which was installed a beautiful portrait of Mother Easwaramma, who was the shining example of ideal womanhood for the women of the world.

Talks by Distinguished Speakers: As per the usual practice, all the programmes at Prasanthi Nilayam were conducted by ladies on this day, starting with Omkaram, Suprabhatam, Veda Parayanam and Nagar Sankirtan early in the morning. Bhagavan was offered traditional welcome with Poornakumbham amidst Veda chanting by girls students when He started from His residence for Sai Kulwant Hall at 9.15 a.m. The Veda chanting group of girls students carrying Poornakumbham followed by the Primary School brass band then led Bhagavan into Sai Kulwant Hall in a grand procession. On reaching the centre of the Hall, Bhagavan blessed 51 milch cows as well as 51 deserving women to whom these cows were gifted. As soon as Bhagavan came to the dais and took His seat there, ladies singers of Sundaram Bhajan Group started Bhajans which were blissfully followed in chorus by the entire assembly of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall, suffusing the entire milieu with sacred vibrations. After the conclusion of the Bhajans, Bhagavan ceremoniously cut the cake placed in the verandah and lighted candles on it. He also blessed the Prasadam which was distributed to all. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.15 a.m.

In the afternoon also, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall in a procession. It was led by Veda chanting students of Anantapur Campus and bagpipers band of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School. For some time, Bhagavan kept listening to the Vedic chants of the girls students after occupying His seat on the

dais. The programme began at 4.35 p.m. with introductory remarks of Smt. Chethana Raju, Managing Trustee of Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust. Smt. Raju gave details of the programme and introduced the speakers. The first speaker who addressed the gathering was Dr. Hymavathi Reddy, an ardent devotee of Bhagavan from the U.S.A. In one of her personal experiences of Bhagavan's Divinity, Dr. Reddy narrated how she saw the form of Bhagavan Baba in place of Lord Venkateswara when she entered the sanctum sanctorum of Tirupati, and remarked that Bhagavan is the embodiment of all gods and goddesses. Referring to the teachings of Bhagavan, the distinguished speaker observed that Bhagavan's dictums like "Love All, Serve All", "Help Ever, Hurt Never", "Work is Worship, Duty is God", etc. are the essence of all the teachings of the Vedas, which should be put into practice to earn His grace. The second speaker was Smt. Sowcar Janaki, a renowned film actress. At the outset, Smt. Janaki expressed deep gratitude to Bhagavan for giving her the opportunity to speak in His Divine Presence on the Ladies Day, which was her fourth such opportunity in the last 12 years since 19th November 1995 when the celebration of Ladies Day was started by Bhagavan. Talking about the film industry in which she worked for 59 long years, the distinguished speaker observed that committed people should make films so that these inculcate values in individuals specially the youth, and improve public morality. In conclusion, she praised the work being done by Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust, specially in the fields of rural development and healthcare.

Devotional Music Concert: The next item of the Ladies Day programme was a musical concert by

the renowned musician, Smt. Nithyashree Mahadevan. Beginning with a beautiful composition in praise of Lord Ganesh, the talented musician enthralled the audience for nearly 45 minutes with devotional songs dedicated to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Sung in her melodious voice, expressing her deep devotion to Bhagavan, the songs had a captivating effect on the audience who expressed their delight and appreciation with a loud applause at the conclusion of the concert.

Sai Leela – A Dance Drama: The last item of the programme was an enchanting presentation on the Divine Leelas of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in the form of a dance drama by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam. Thrilling lyrics set to sweet music accompanied by beautiful dances of the children in colourful costumes captivated each



A dance programme in progress in Sai Kulwant Hall as part of the dance drama "Sai Leela" presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam on the occasion of Ladies Day on 19th November 2007.

heart. Excellent acting of the children, perfect choreography and superb direction added to the charm of this presentation. Bhagavan blessed the children at the end of the drama and posed for group photos with them. Ladies Day function came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.35 p.m.

A Memorable Musical Evening

A very thrilling and enrapturing musical concert was presented by the renowned playback singer Sri Pankaj Udhas in Sai Kulwant Hall on 20th November 2007 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Starting his presentation with the beautiful song “Na Phool Chadhaon Na Mala Chadhaon ...” offering his musical tribute at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan on the eve of His 82nd Birthday, the celebrated singer presented a bouquet of musical compositions in his melodious voice to the accompaniment of an excellent instrumental support by a group of talented young musicians, who also offered a musical treat to listeners in the form of a thrilling Jugalbandi (symphony) at the conclusion of Sri Udhas’s concert. The programme which began at 5.35 p.m. after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall kept the audience spellbound for over an hour and a half. At the end of this presentation, Bhagavan blessed Sri Udhas and the accompanying artistes, posed for group photos with them and distributed clothes to them. The programme came to a close at 7.10 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

An Excellent Programme of Devotional Music

A mammoth gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam was offered a feast of devotional music when a very captivating devotional music programme was presented in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan on the evening of 21st November 2007. This programme of choicest musical compositions was presented by the renowned Carnatic musician of Chennai, Sri Krishnan. Beginning his concert with an invocation song, Sri Krishnan presented some immortal compositions like “Bhaja

Govindam ...” of Adi Sankara in Sanskrit, “Sri Ramachandra Kripalu Bhaja Mana ...” of Tulsidas in Hindi, “Pibare Rama Rasam ...” the Hindi Bhajan which Bhagavan often sings in His golden voice and many other devotional songs, which enthralled the audience for more than one hour. At the conclusion of Sri Krishnan’s concert, Bhagavan showered His profuse blessings on him and his accompanying artistes, offered clothes to them, conversed with them and posed for group photos with them. He also materialised a gold ring for Sri Krishnan. Thereafter, the students of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music, Prasanthi Nilayam presented a couple of equally captivating devotional songs to the delight of the audience. This excellent programme which started at 5.00 p.m. came to a close at 6.25 p.m. with offer of Arati to Bhagavan.

Grand Birthday Function

The entire Mandir complex including Sai Kulwant Hall and Yajur Mandir (Bhagavan’s abode) bore a festive look on the occasion of Bhagavan’s 82nd Birthday Celebrations.



Bhagavan’s abode Yajur Mandir enchantingly lit at night on the occasion of the 82nd Birthday Celebrations of Bhagavan.

On the morning of 23rd November 2007, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of Birthday celebrations, in a grand procession which comprised bagpipers and drummers



A part of the grand procession which led Bhagavan into Sai Kulwant Hall on His 82nd Birthday on 23rd November 2007.

bands of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, brass band of Anantapur Campus of Sri Sathya Sai University, brass band of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the university, Veda chanting group of Primary school students, Veda chanting group of university students and exquisitely caparisoned Bhagavan's beloved elephant. Bhagavan was offered traditional welcome with Poornakumbham by the students and members of Bhagavan's family. After arriving in the verandah of the Hall, Bhagavan performed the cake cutting ceremony. The cakes with various beautiful decorations were arranged by the overseas devotees, students and staff of the schools and colleges and the staff of the hospitals and Ashram departments.

After this, renowned Carnatic musicians Malladi Brothers of Vijayawada offered their musical tribute to Bhagavan. The two brothers, Sri Sreerama Prasad and Sri Ravi Kumar, along with their father and guru Sri Malladi Suri Babu enthralled the devotees with their presentations which included famous compositions of Thyagaraja, Annamacharya and Ramdas, besides some excellent devotional songs specially composed for Bhagavan's Birthday function.

This was followed by the performance of a very sacred ceremony. Sri Anil Kumar explained the details of the ceremony, recalling how Mother Easwaramma and Sri Pedda



Justice P.N. Bhagwati and his wife performing the sacred ceremony of putting oil on the head of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall on the morning of 23rd November 2007 as part of Birthday Celebrations of Bhagavan.

Venkama Raju used to perform the ceremony of anointing Bhagavan in those days as part of Birthday Celebrations. He then announced the names of six couples who were blessed by Bhagavan to perform this ceremony. They came one by one, offered their salutations at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan, put a little oil with a flower on His head and received His blessings.

Malladi Brothers continued their concert after the conclusion of this ceremony. Bhagavan then blessed the Prasadam which was distributed to the entire assembly of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall. The morning function came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 11.00 a.m.

Bhagavan was welcomed with blowing of a conch and sweet notes of Nadaswaram music by the university students when He came to Sai Kulwant Hall in the afternoon at 5.35 p.m. After showering His blessings on the mammoth gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall, Bhagavan came to the dais and occupied His seat there, signalling the beginning of the programme. Malladi Brothers who had given

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GURUDEV VANI

DIVINE DISCOURSE :
26TH CONVOCATION OF SRI SATHYA SAI UNIVERSITY

REALISATION OF ONENESS IS THE HALLMARK OF TRUE EDUCATION

*Man struggles hard day and night just to earn money.
Why should he waste all his time in such futile pursuits?*

(Telugu Poem)

Embodiments of Love!

IT IS NOT PROPER FOR MAN TO neglect what he is supposed to do and engage himself in unnecessary pursuits, and thereby waste his time and effort. Time is sacred and eternal. *Time waste is life waste.* You are students. You have to become leaders of others.

Human Values Signify Man's True Nature

Every human being has desires. It is the duty of students to control their desires. Control of desires is the hallmark of a student. Desires come one after the other in an unending stream. The control of these desires should be the aim of a student. 'Vidya' comes

First and foremost, make your parents happy. If you cannot make your parents happy, how can you make Me happy? When you live happily with your parents in your house, I am also happy. When people say, these students are from Sri Sathya Sai College, then our institution gets a good name and you also earn a good reputation. When you go to Delhi and enquire, you will find that Sathya Sai School and Sathya Sai College are held in high esteem by the government.



from the root 'Vid', which connotes the light of knowledge. Hence, Vidya is that which gives us the light of knowledge and shows us the path where there is darkness of ignorance. Therefore, students! You should become ideal for all. We look after our students with great love so that they grow up to be ideal persons. Enormous amount of money is charged by outside institutions for providing education to students. We do not collect even a naya paisa from our students. Not only do we provide free education, we provide water and healthcare also totally free of cost to millions of people. In fact, we give something to our students instead of taking anything from them, and help all needy students in every possible way. When you understand this truth and conduct yourself accordingly, only then can you become a true student. We treat our students like our children (*loud applause*). Education is your property. Do not consider education as a means of your livelihood and sustenance in this world. Education is not meant only to help you to lead a worldly life. Even illiterate people can lead a worldly life in some way or the other. What is the use of your degrees like M.A., M.B.A., M.Sc., and all your education if you use your education to lead a worldly life like illiterate people? Modern education may be of some help to man to lead an outer worldly life. But there is nothing in it that supports man's inner life. That which supports man's inner life is adherence to truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence. These five values signify the true nature of a human being. Truth is basic to all these values.

The creation emerges from truth and merges into truth,

Is there a place in the cosmos where truth does not exist?

Visualise this pure and unsullied truth. (Telugu Poem)



All are one. Be alike to everyone. You should always remember this. Only then can you be called a true student. Otherwise, you can be merely called a literate person but not really an educated one. There is a lot of difference between an educated person and a literate one.

What is the meaning of an educated person? A truly educated person is one who recognises the unity of all. Modern education gives only bookish knowledge. It is Vidya (light of knowledge) which makes us understand the principle of unity and illumines our path. In the absence of Vidya, we will have to live in the darkness of ignorance.



God is the creator of all living beings of the world right from an ant to an elephant. Nothing can happen without the Will of God. Even the small ants that you see are born out of the Will of God. Therefore, Thyagaraja said, "*Cheemalo Brahmalo Siva Kesavaadulalo Prema Meera Velasi Unde Birudhu Vahinchina Rama Nannu Brovara*" (Oh Rama! In Your pure and unsullied form of love, You indwell all beings from an ant to Brahma as also in Siva and Kesava. Please be my protector too).

Do not Forget Fundamental Principle of Creation

You are aware of the truth of this song. But when an ant comes and bites you, you kill it at once. On the other hand, when Brahma manifests before you, you offer your salutations to him with folded hands. You should understand that the same Atma is present in all the creatures although

they are of different forms. Those who have faith in the oneness of the Atma do not face any troubles anywhere, at any time. Everything becomes available to a person who has self-confidence. All the desires of man serve only his little self. He wants everything for himself. "This is my body, this is my head, this is my mind." Then who is this 'my'? When you say 'my body', it is your body only today and tomorrow. Day after tomorrow, where is your body? You have so much trust in and attachment to this body which does not belong to you! The body is the gift of God. In fact, everything is the gift of God. (Bhagavan showing His handkerchief) This is a handkerchief. Where has it come from? Has it come from the sky? No, no. It has come from cotton. From cotton thread is made and from thread comes the cloth. Hence, there can be no thread without cotton and no cloth without thread. Therefore, if we want a handkerchief, we require both cotton and thread. Just as cotton is the basis of cloth, there is a fundamental basis for everything. We should not forget this fundamental principle of creation. We become the victim of all problems and difficulties when we forget this fundamental principle.

We repeat the name of God. But where do you think He really is? God is with you, in you, around you and behind you. You are God. You should develop firm faith in this truth. God does not leave you and go somewhere else. He is present in the form of Atma in all the crores of people. We see different names and forms. But the principle of the Atma is the same in all in spite of the diversity of names and forms. *Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti* (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). Jewels are many but gold is one. You may have all types of ornaments but if you melt them, all will change into



Love everyone considering him as the embodiment of divinity. Due to the illusion caused by the body attachment, you see individual differences. All your troubles are caused by this delusion only. Therefore, you yourself are the cause of your troubles. Both good and bad originate only from your mind. Mind is only one but it plays all types of tricks on you. All your education and all your degrees are meant only to understand that the principle of the Atma is one.



gold only. Therefore, embodiments of Divine Atma! Try to know the fundamental principle.

My Words, Actions and Life itself is for your Welfare

You may think that you, your mother and your father are different. In fact, all three of you are one. Therefore, you should never think that you are different from each other. *A man with a dual mind is half blind.* Hence, do not have a dual mind. The education that you are acquiring today is not merely for your benefit; it is for the benefit of your fellow human beings and even animals, birds and other creatures. You should help each and every living being. Only then can you call yourselves truly educated. Even if you come across someone who bears enmity against you, you should greet him with love, saying "hello, hello". Love everyone. Do not hate anyone. Nobody bears any hatred towards Swami. You may ask if there is anyone whom Swami does not like. All are recipients of My love. My love is present in all. I neither bear any hatred against anyone nor do I cause any harm to anyone.



I do not betray anyone either. Since the feeling of oneness is firm in Me, everybody loves Me. In fact, the entire mankind loves Me and I love the entire mankind. It is only those who lack faith think that Swami may have the feelings of hatred. It is merely their delusion; there is no truth in it. All My words, all My actions and My life itself is for your welfare (*loud applause*). You should understand this principle and develop faith in it. When you develop faith, love will manifest there on its own. When you have both love and faith, all your aspirations will be fulfilled. Therefore, love and faith are most important in the life of man. All other things which come in between are like passing clouds which come and go. You should not pay attention to them. You should carefully preserve love and faith. Faith is the image of love. Love is the very form of God. *Love is God. Live in Love.* Truth is truth and it never changes. Hence, truth is God. Never think God is separate from you. God is not separate from the world because the entire world is His form. You should constantly remember this principle of oneness.

Understand the Oneness of the Principle of Atma

Dear Students!

You read many types of books. All these books contain the letters of the same alphabet. Voluminous books can be written using only 26 letters. You would have seen lawyers carrying big big books. The same alphabet is the basis of all of them. Similarly, the basis of everything is God, whether it is health, happiness, comforts or conveniences. Only God is the basis of even good and bad. Truly speaking, nothing bad is seen in this world. Wherever you see, it is good only. Since you do not understand the meaning

of goodness properly, you see bad in it. The bad that you see is only due to the difference of time. The good food you eat today becomes waste matter tomorrow morning. What is Phala (fruit) today becomes Mala (excreta) tomorrow. If you understand this relationship, you will understand the unity of good and bad. And unity is divinity. God is present in everything. There is no place where God does not exist. Nobody has the right to say that God is here and not there. Only one thing exists and that is Divinity. We imagine many forms of one Divinity and thereby create confusion in the world. The reason for this confusion is that we consider all individuals separate from each other. We should give up these individual differences to some extent. All the education that we acquire is meant only to help us to do away with these individual differences. When you see the unity in this relationship, then everything will become one.

Religions are many but goal is one.

Clothes are many but yarn is one.

Beings are many but breath is one.

(Telugu Poem)

So many people are sitting here. They are not separate individuals. Only bodies are separate, but the divinity present in all the bodies is one only. Therefore, whomsoever you see, you should consider him as divine. Love everyone considering him as the embodiment of divinity. Due to the illusion caused by the body attachment, you see individual differences. All your troubles are caused by this delusion only. Therefore, you yourself are the cause of your troubles. Both good and bad originate only from your mind. Mind is only one but it plays all types of tricks on you. All your education and all your degrees are meant only to understand



that the principle of the Atma is one. *Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma* (God is one without a second). You should carefully preserve this truth in your heart. You may think that some people have enmity towards you. It is due to your own feelings that you see change in others. Otherwise, there is no change in them. Everything in this world is only reaction, reflection and resound but the reality is only one. If we have such a feeling, we will be filled

Since the feeling of oneness is firm in Me, everybody loves Me. In fact, the entire mankind loves Me and I love the entire mankind. It is only those who lack faith think that Swami may have the feelings of hatred. It is merely their delusion; there is no truth in it. All My words, all My actions and My life itself is for your welfare. You should understand this principle and develop faith in it. When you develop faith, love will manifest there on its own. When you have both love and faith, all your aspirations will be fulfilled. Therefore, love and faith are most important in the life of man.

with immense bliss. You may wonder as to how Swami is always smiling blissfully. I always keep smiling because I consider everyone as one. Your bliss is My food. You should also attain this bliss. The other day, our children performed a drama. I was filled with bliss on seeing it.

All are one. We say, 'I and we'.
Where does 'we' come from?

It comes only from 'I'. Without 'I', there can be no 'we'. Hence, 'I' is only one. When you cut it in the middle, it becomes a cross. What is meant by cross? It means breaking of the individual 'I'. Therefore, we should consider everyone as one. We should cultivate the feelings of oneness and consider all as our brothers and sisters. There is no one other than brothers and sisters anywhere. Moreover, brothers and sisters are not separate; both are one. If you think on these lines, you will see total unity in



this world. You may think, there is diversity in the world. But there is nothing like diversity. It is only unity. When we install the principle of oneness in our heart firmly, we will find unity everywhere. Suppose, you love a girl. But who is this girl? She is not separate from you. It amounts to loving your own self. When you consider her separate from you, you call her your wife. But if you think in terms of unity, both of you are one.

You should clearly understand this principle of oneness. In spite of the diversity of forms, there is the underlying principle of unity.

A Truly Educated Person Recognises the Unity of All

Embodiments of Love! Students!

You should all become ideal. If you become ideal, others will also become ideal. Therefore, do not observe any differences of mine and thine. *All are one. Be alike to everyone.* You should always remember this. Only then can you be called a true student. Otherwise, you can be merely called a literate person but not really an educated one. There is a lot of difference between an educated person and a literate one. What is the meaning of an educated person? A truly educated person is one who recognises the unity of all. Modern education gives only bookish knowledge. It is Vidya (light of knowledge) which makes us understand the principle of unity and illumines our path. In the absence of Vidya, we will have to live in the darkness of ignorance.

Embodiments of Love!

Develop love for God. If you divert your love towards worldly things, it will keep changing from time to time. Love is only one. Focus it on the principle of oneness and experience bliss. Consider all your brothers and sisters whomsoever you come across. Someone addressed a public gathering, saying 'Brothers and Sisters except one.' When someone asked him, he told that the one referred to his wife. It is because you tied Mangal Sutra (sacred thread worn by married women), she became your wife. If there is no Mangal Sutra, there is no husband and no wife. Therefore, all are one. Live in unity without observing any differences. Whatever little you have, share it with your fellow beings.

Arjuna won the hand of Draupadi in a Swayamvara (ceremony to select a groom by the bride). When the five Pandava brothers returned home along with Draupadi, they told mother Kunti that they had brought a wonderful fruit. Kunti did not see anyone and said from inside the house, "My dear ones! Share the fruit among five of you equally." That is how Draupadi became the wife of all the five Pandavas. It is for this reason that Krishna publicly declared:

Draupadi dutifully obeyed the command of her husbands. She would never say to any one of them that she had no time to serve him. She was satisfied with whatever she got in life. She was the supreme example of chastity and none could match her in this respect.

(Telugu Poem)

The relationship between Draupadi and the Pandavas was so intimate as if she was in them and they were in her. That is how she faithfully served all five of them. All the five brothers observed proper discipline. They could live happily because they observed discipline. You should follow the principle of oneness in order to lead a happy life. When you observe this principle of oneness, there will neither be any differences nor any anger or mistakes.

Everything is fine with Me; not only My body, but everything. My mind does not waver hither and thither. Body may undergo changes but I always remain changeless. Some people ask, "Swami! How is it that You are always smiling? Don't You have any sorrow?" No sorrow can ever touch Me. Whatever has to happen will happen at its own time. If you unnecessarily worry about it, can you escape from it? If you start worrying, your worries will become manifold. Therefore, do not allow the worries to come



near you. Once you allow a worry to enter your mind, it will not leave you. When your examinations come near, you start worrying, "How am I going to write my examinations?" Why all this? Whatever you know, you will write. Then why should you have fear? When you stop worrying, you will be able to write your examinations well. Do not have any fear even if someone comes with a gun to shoot you. He can shoot only your body, but can he shoot your mind, intellect or Atma? None can touch the Atma. How far is the Atma? The sky is far away. Nobody can tell how far away it is. That is why it is said 'sky is blue'. How deep is the sea? None can estimate. So, they say 'ocean is blue'. Since nobody can tell the height, width and depth of the sky and the ocean, both are described in the same manner. Similarly, none can describe the form of divinity. Hence, blue colour is ascribed to God. But in reality, God is not blue in colour. If really God were to manifest in blue colour, you would put Him in an exhibition. None can bring about any change in divinity. There may be change in you but not in your Atma. *Nirgunam, Niranjanam, Sanathana Niketanam, Nitya, Shuddha, Buddha, Mukta, Nirmala Swarupinam* (It is attributeless, unsullied, final abode, eternal, pure, enlightened, free and embodiment of sacredness). That is why it is said, *Buddhi Grahymatheendriyam* (the Atma is beyond the ken of the senses and can be understood only by the intellect). Do not make futile efforts to change the principle of Atma.

Students should Bring a Good Name to their Parents and Institution

Earn a good name and bring a good name to your parents and society. Society can be good only when the students are good. From all quarters, I hear that our students have a good name

We look after our students with great love so that they grow up to be ideal persons. Enormous amount of money is charged by outside institutions for providing education to students. We do not collect even a naya paisa from our students. Not only do we provide free education, we provide water and healthcare also totally free of cost to millions of people. In fact, we give something to our students instead of taking anything from them, and help all needy students in every possible way. When you understand this truth and conduct yourself accordingly, only then can you become a true student.

wherever they go. You should live up to this good reputation and maintain it. This is the only desire I have. Whatever you require, I will give. In fact, I have given Myself to you. Be always happy. Do not fight and abuse each other. Live like brothers. Education is meant to foster this equality in you. You can be called truly educated only when you have this equality. What is the use of all this education if ultimately one is going to die? A mean-minded person will not give up his wicked qualities in spite of all his education. You should always remain a good student. First and foremost, make your parents happy. If you cannot make your parents happy, how can you make Me happy? When you live happily with your parents in your house, I am also happy. When people say, these students are from Sri Sathya Sai College, then our institution gets a good name and you also earn a good reputation. When you

go to Delhi and enquire, you will find that Sathya Sai School and Sathya Sai College are held in high esteem by the government. The recognition that our university has received is not attained by any other institution. There are many colleges which have been functioning for a number of years. But they have not been recognised. On the other hand, our college had hardly completed two years when Madhuri Shah (the then chairperson of UGC) came from Delhi and said that it should be made a university. Many people opposed her, "How can we give recognition to an institution which has not completed even two years?" they argued. At that time Bhagavantham, who used to translate My Discourses, was by My side. He was a scientist. He also whispered into My ears, "Swami! This is impossible." But I declared emphatically, "It is possible." During the second year, the committee came and saw everything. They said that it was the topmost college and it should be given the status of a university. Madhuri Shah again came here and inaugurated it. Then she said in public, "Bhagavantham, you said it is impossible. But how has it now become possible?" In fact, this is not possible for others.

All our students are highly virtuous, learned and intelligent. You may not be aware how great name our university has in America. There are 180 students of our university in America. All of them came here some time ago. They wanted to spend their entire vacation here only and did not want to go anywhere else. Goldstein, who is the President of the Sai Organisation in America for the last 20 years, is here with us today. (Bhagavan then called Dr. Goldstein to the dais and asked him to speak).

Dr. Goldstein said, "It has been my experience with many students who have come to America that they have

brought light to the Sai Organisation not only in America but all over the world. The light of Swami's love has conveyed the divine essence to his devotees in almost 200 countries all over the world. These students have brought Swami's message, Swami's love and inspired the devotees to rise and aspire to achieve the realisation of their own divinity. You must realise how fortunate you are to be here at the Divine Lotus Feet, to have studied in this university and to be the ambassadors of divine love and inspiration to the world. Should it be necessary for me to live another life, I pray to Swami that He would let me come and be a student at this university."

Long ago, when Bhagwati was at Ahmedabad, I told him, "Very soon, you will be going to Delhi." I asked him to pack up his luggage. Bhagwati was doubtful. He said, "My name is not there in the panel. How can I go to Delhi?" Very soon, he received the orders. He was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court. Right from that day, he has never forgotten Bhagavan any moment of his life all these years. He is dear to Me.

Justice Bhagwati (former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India) said, "Today words fail me to express what I am feeling within myself. Swami has been so kind and so affectionate all these years that I can never forget. He has shaped and moulded my life. Whatever I am today is entirely because of His divine grace. My prayer to Him is that He may continue to be my Divine Master so long as I am alive. Not only in this life but in all the lives to come, I may always continue to serve Him."

– From Bhagavan's Benedictory Address in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 22nd November 2007 on the occasion of the 26th Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai University.



TRUE EDUCATION SUPPORTS INNER LIFE OF MAN

“Do not consider education as a means of your livelihood and sustenance in this world. Education is not meant only to help you to lead a worldly life. Even illiterate people can lead a worldly life in some way or the other. What is the use of your degrees like M.A., M.B.A., M.Sc., and all your education if you use your education to lead a worldly life like illiterate people? Modern education may be of some help to man to lead an outer worldly life. But there is nothing in it that supports man’s inner life. That which supports man’s inner life is adherence to truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence. These five values signify the true nature of a human being,” said Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Revered Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University while delivering His Benedictory Address on the occasion of the 26th Convocation of the University held in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 22nd November 2007. Value-based quality education was being provided to students in Sri Sathya Sai University while elsewhere education had been made into a business enterprise to earn money, observed Bhagavan.

THE GRAND FUNCTION OF THE

26th Convocation of the university was held in Sai Kulwant Hall which was glittering with chandelier lights and presented an enchanting look with floral and other decorations. The academic procession started from Bhagavan’s abode at 3.25 p.m. It was led into Sai Kulwant Hall by the brass band of Sri Sathya Sai University. When the academic procession entered Sai Kulwant Hall, the students and devotees welcomed it with a loud applause.



Proceedings of the 26th Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai University in progress in Sai Kulwant Hall on 22nd November 2007 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Revered Chancellor of the University.

Vice Chancellor's Introductory Speech

The function commenced at 3.30 p.m. with chanting of sacred Vedic hymns by a group of university students. After this, the Vice Chancellor, Sri Anil V. Gokak prayed to the Revered Chancellor to declare the convocation open. As Bhagavan declared the convocation open, the audience expressed their joy with a thunderous applause. After this, the Vice Chancellor delivered his introductory speech. Extending a warm welcome to all, Sri Gokak delineated the main achievements of the university during the last one year. Sri Gokak informed the august gathering that Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports as well as the multimedia centres at the Prasanthi Nilayam and Brindavan Campuses of the university had been made functional and the one at Anantapur Campus would also become functional soon. Referring to the academic achievements of the students, Sri Gokak said that as many as 43 students of the university qualified in GATE, UGC-NET/CSIR examinations in the last year. Regarding the progress of research projects, Sri Gokak said that 15 research projects of the university were in progress for which a grant of two crore rupees had been sanctioned by the UGC and various ministries of the Government of India.

Apart from the academic excellence achieved by the students of the university, Sri Gokak dwelt on the mental, ethical and spiritual growth of the students. Sri Sathya Sai University, he said, was the spiritual lighthouse to the world and the students of this university were fortunate to have God Himself as their preceptor who is not only the Divine Chancellor and the divine architect of the university, but also the divine sculptor of its students, whom he called the pilgrims of eternity in the quest of Sath, the Ultimate Reality. In conclusion, Sri

Gokak observed that the country desperately needed today the men of vision and character, and that the students of this university had the potential to meet the deficit in the nation's human resource bank. Sri Gokak envisioned that students of this university were well equipped to bring about the spiritualisation of the human race. He advised them to leave the portals of the university with the blessings of its Divine Chancellor as the ambassadors of love and peace and the harbingers of the golden age on this earth.

Award of Degrees and Medals

After the introductory speech of the Vice Chancellor, the Principal of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the University, Prof. U.S. Rao presented the graduands to the Revered Chancellor for the award of degrees, and the Vice Chancellor administered the pledge to them. Thereafter, Prof. Rao announced the names of the meritorious students for award of medals. They came one by one and received the medals from Bhagavan.

Benedictory Address of the Revered Chancellor

After awarding medals to the meritorious students, Bhagavan delivered His Benedictory Address. Explaining the meaning of education, Bhagavan said that real education was Vidya which connoted the light of knowledge. It illumined the path of an individual on his journey to Godhood. Bhagavan advised the students to control their desires and lead an ideal and exemplary life. (Full text of Bhagavan's Benedictory Address has been given elsewhere in this issue.) This grand convocation function came to a close at 5.30 p.m. with singing of the National Anthem by the entire gathering in Sai Kulwant Hall.

Hridaya Vani - Convocation Drama

On the occasion of the 26th Convocation of Sri Sathya University and on the eve of the 82nd Birthday of its Revered Chancellor, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the students of the university presented an excellent drama entitled "Hridaya Vani" in Poornachandra Auditorium on the evening of 22nd November 2007. The drama started at 5.55 p.m. soon after the arrival of Bhagavan in Poornachandra Auditorium.

Through the story of a talented and idealistic student Sudheer whose heart ailment took him to a Sai hospital and to the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the drama depicted how Bhagavan touches the lives of millions of families in the world through His humanitarian projects and brings the sunshine of hope, love, peace and goodness in the world enveloped by the forces of darkness of selfishness, greed and other evil tendencies of modern man. Highly effective dramatic turnings in the story, introduction of the episode of Ramdas and Taneshah, video clipping of the Sudheer's journey to Sri Sathya Sai



A touching scene of the Convocation Drama "Hridaya Vani" performed by the students of Sri Sathya Sai University in Poornachandra Auditorium on the evening of 22nd November 2007.

Super Speciality Hospital and heart surgery in the operation theatre added perfection to the drama and made it totally realistic. Simple but touching story, superb acting of the students, perfect choreography, efficient stage management and highly talented direction made the drama a perfect piece of dramatic art. At the conclusion of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the cast and posed for group photos with them. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.05 p.m.

... Continued from page 411

an excellent performance in the morning, enraptured the audience in the afternoon also with their soul-stirring devotional songs. Their musical presentation which began at 5.50 p.m. came to a conclusion at 6.45 p.m. with the beautiful rendering of the Hindi song of Surdas "Akhiyan Hari Darshan Ki Pyasi". At the conclusion of this presentation, Bhagavan blessed the artistes and posed for group photos with them. Bhagavan also materialised a gold chain for Sri Malladi Suri Babu.

Next to offer his musical tribute to Bhagavan was the famous

playback singer Sri Hariharan. Beginning with a prayer song to Bhagavan, Sri Hariharan sent the audience into raptures by his masterly rendering of devotional songs, Kirtans and Ghazals which concluded with the soulful prayer to Bhagavan "Janani Maa, Sai Janani Maa". Bhagavan blessed the artiste at the conclusion of the programme, posed for photographs with him and also materialised a gold ring for him. The Birthday function came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 8.05 p.m.

CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

Youth Camp of Orissa State

MORE THAN 1,300 SAI YOUTH and Bal Vikas children came from various parts of Orissa to participate in a youth camp organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Orissa at Prasanthi Nilayam from 5th to 9th November 2007. The participants, both boys and girls, experienced the bliss of Bhagavan's Divine Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall and took part in the proceedings of the youth camp held in the Conference Hall where many eminent speakers interacted with them and answered their queries. They also performed Seva at Prasanthi Nilayam and presented cultural programmes in Sai Kulwant Hall during this camp.

On the afternoon of 5th November 2007, a group of these youth and Bal Vikas children presented an excellent cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall. The programme began at 5.10 p.m. with a beautiful song sung by a group of girls. This was followed by a drama entitled "Secret of Happiness" which was presented by the Bal Vikas children and Sai Youth of Cuttack Samithi. Based on the pertinent theme of man's quest for happiness in life, the drama unfolded the secret of happiness through a simple story of a family, the members of which excelled in various professions and tried in vain to derive happiness through success in worldly life. However, the young member of the family who had learnt the secret of happiness in his Bal Vikas class, unravelled this secret through the



One can attain happiness only by giving happiness to others. This was the theme of the drama "Secret of Happiness" presented by the Sai Organisation of Orissa in Sai Kulwant Hall on 5th November 2007.

teaching of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba that real happiness lay in making others happy. Embellished with a beautiful theme song which ran through the entire play at appropriate intervals accompanied by several dance numbers to the tune of sweet music, the drama beautifully unearthed the treasure of man's happiness. Perfect direction, excellent choreography and superb acting of the cast made the drama an outstanding presentation. The next item of the programme was a dance called "Gotipua Dance" which is traditionally performed by boys dressed as girls in the temples of Orissa during important religious festivals, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the State. Six Bal Vikas children of Konark Bhajan Mandali who presented this dance in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan showed wonderful feats





Marvellous acrobatic feats were performed by the Bal Vikas children of Orissa during the presentation of "Gotipua Dance" in Sai Kulwant Hall on 5th November 2007.

of acrobatics with total perfection to win the appreciation of one and all. It was sheer joy to watch the graceful movements and the marvellous formations which they made with perfect ease during the performance of this breathtakingly beautiful dance. Bhagavan blessed the dancers at the conclusion of the dance, distributed clothes to them with His Divine Hands and posed for group photos with them. The dance which began at 5.45 p.m. came to a close amidst the loud prolonged applause of appreciation of the audience at 6.15 p.m. After a brief session of Bhajans led by Orissa Youth, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.30 p.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

On 6th November 2007, the second day of their camp at Prasanthi Nilayam, the Bal Vikas children and Sai Youth of Orissa presented another captivating cultural programme in Sai

Kulwant Hall. The first item of this programme was a play "Bhakta Dasia", which was presented by the Bal Vikas children of Paradip Samithi. The stage of the play was set with a backdrop of the temple of Lord Jagannath of Puri with beautiful idols of Lord Jagannath, His brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra. The drama unfolded the story of a poor devotee of Lord Jagannath, Dasia, who was scorned and ridiculed by society since he belonged to low caste. But his intense longing and deep devotion won the grace of the Lord who personally accepted the coconut sent by him through the village priest, gave him Darshan of His Divine form and invited him to His abode at Puri on a festival. Interspersed with Telugu dialogues, the drama highlighted the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba such as "There is only one caste, the caste of humanity",



God values the devotion and yearning of a devotee, and not his caste or social status.

This was the theme of the dance drama "Bhakta Dasia" presented by the Bal Vikas children of Orissa in Sai Kulwant Hall on 6th November 2007.

“Love All, Serve All”, etc., while depicting the story of this great devotee of Lord Jagannath. Brilliant acting of the children, excellent stage setting and perfect direction were the hallmarks of this drama. At the conclusion of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the children and posed for group photos with them. He also materialised a gold chain for the child who played the role of Krishna. This was followed by a thrilling



Sai Youth of Orissa presented a thrilling folk dance called “Ghumura Dance” showcasing the cultural heritage of the State in Sai Kulwant Hall on 6th November 2007.

folk dance called Ghumura Dance which was presented by the Sai Youth of Ambadala Samithi. The dancers in their traditional dress danced to the tune of simple instruments like drums and cymbals and showed excellent formations and acrobatics to the delight of viewers. Bhagavan blessed the dancers at the end of their dance, distributed clothes to them with His Divine Hands and posed for group photos with them. The day’s programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.10 p.m. Prasadam was distributed to all the assembled devotees in the end.

The Sai Youth of Orissa presented their third and final programme comprising devotional songs on the afternoon of 7th November 2007. They poured out their hearts to their Beloved Swami in these soulful songs sung to the tune of sweet music.

The programme which commenced at 5.30 p.m. came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.00 p.m.

Gujarati New Year Festival

On the auspicious occasion of Deepavali and Gujarati New Year, Bal Vikas children and Sai Youth of Gujarat presented excellent cultural programmes on 8th and 9th November 2007 in Sai Kulwant Hall which was beautifully decorated for these celebrations.

The cultural programme presented on the afternoon of 8th November 2007 comprised two Garba dances and two dramas performed by the Bal Vikas children and Sai Youth of Gujarat. The programme commenced with Garba dances at 5.00 p.m. after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall. The first Garba dance was in the form of worship to Lord Ganesh. While the lyrics sung to the tune of sweet music described the glory of Lord Ganesh, the Bal Vikas children performed Garba dance with lights on their head and lamps on their palm. This beautiful dance was



Bal Vikas children of Gujarat presented beautiful Garba Dances in Sai Kulwant Hall on 8th November 2007 on the eve of Gujarati New Year Day.

followed by another Garba dance offering worship to goddess Durga and Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Dancing in a circle, the Bal Vikas children offered worship to the goddess and expressed



gratitude to Bhagavan in a beautiful Gujarati song accompanied by sweet music. The second item of this programme was a dance drama entitled “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” which described the glory of the sacred land of Bharat as the spiritual centre of the world, radiating the message of love, purity and unity to the entire world. The Bal Vikas children depicted this sacred message through beautiful dances and three theme songs: “Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye ...”, “Voh Bharat Desh Hai Mera ...” and “Sare Jahan Se Achchha ...”. The last item of the programme was a powerful drama which dwelt on integrated rural development and highlighted the message of Bhagavan Sri



Sai Youth of Gujarat performed a drama on the theme of integrated rural development on 8th November 2007 in Sai Kulwant Hall.

Sathya Sai Baba “Grama Seva is Rama Seva” (service to the villages is service to God). The drama unfolded this theme through the story of an egoistic officer who was humbled when he saw the selfless service being performed by the volunteers of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Dal in a village adopted by the Sai Organisation of that area. Bhagavan showered His blessings on the Sai Youth who performed this drama and posed for group photos with them. He also materialised a gold chain for one of the actors. The day’s programme concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.05 p.m.

Bal Vikas children and Sai Youth of Gujarat presented another beautiful programme on the afternoon of 9th November 2007 to celebrate Gujarati New Year Day in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The programme commenced at 5.35 p.m. with a beautiful song of welcome to Bhagavan sung by the ladies group of Sai Youth. This was followed by a Dandia Dance in the form of worship to Lord Ganesh. Sai Youth and Bal Vikas children in their colourful costumes performed this famous dance of Gujarat with sticks in hand, showing beautiful synchronisation and graceful rhythmic movements to the delight of the entire assembly of viewers in Sai Kulwant Hall. The last item of the programme was a drama entitled “God Resides in All” presented by the Bal Vikas children and Sai Youth of Gujarat. Illustrating the true meaning of independence, the drama depicted that man should shed negative feelings of jealousy, hatred, greed and selfishness and achieve unity of hearts to experience true independence. It demonstrated how Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation under the guidance of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was achieving this unity of mankind through selfless service to mankind being performed by its volunteers with pure love in all parts of the world. At the end of this drama, Bhagavan blessed the cast and posed for group photos



A beautiful dance was performed by the Bal Vikas children of Gujarat in Sai Kulwant Hall on 9th November 2007 to celebrate Gujarati New Year Day.

with them. He also materialised a gold chain for one of the Sai Youth who acted in this drama. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.35 p.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

Global Akhanda Bhajan

Global Akhanda Bhajan for 24 hours which is held simultaneously in thousands of Sai Centres of the world is an annual feature of the Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, in which millions of people of all nationalities, religions and races take part unitedly. Bhagavan popularised Bhajan singing as a major spiritual activity of the Sai Organisation, through which His Divine Message of Namasmarana, love, unity, purity and divinity is reaching all parts of the world.

At Prasanthi Nilayam, Global Akhanda Bhajan is held in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan and has therefore special spiritual significance. Like previous years, this year also Akhanda Bhajan at Prasanthi Nilayam was conducted in Sai Kulwant Hall, where thousands of devotees congregated from all over the world to take part in it. On the afternoon of 10th November 2007, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 5.30 p.m. and showered the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the entire assembly of devotees before entering the Bhajan Mandir where all preparations had been made for this important event. Akhanda Bhajan started exactly at 6.00 p.m. with the lighting of the sacred lamp by Bhagavan in the Bhajan Mandir. Bhajans were led alternately by the boys and girls students of Sri Sathya Sai University. Bhagavan kept showering His grace by His Divine Presence in the Bhajan Mandir for nearly an hour and a half after the commencement of the Bhajans and left for His abode at about 7.20 p.m. As a special act of grace, Bhagavan returned to the Bhajan Mandir after about

one hour and blissfully listened to Bhajans for nearly half an hour before returning to His residence. Bhajans led by various groups of Indian and overseas devotees continued all through the night of 10th November with great devotion.

On the morning of 11th November, Suprabhatam (early morning prayer to Bhagavan) was conducted in the Bhajan Mandir as per the daily routine, after which the Bhajans continued. Bhagavan's arrival at 9.45 a.m. and His Presence for nearly an hour and a half enthused the singers and devotees. In the afternoon, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 5.00 p.m. and showered the bliss of His Darshan on the devotees for a long time by going into their rows before returning to Bhajan Mandir to bless the conclusion of the Bhajan. At the conclusion of the Bhajan at 6.10 p.m., Bhagavan blessed the Prasadam and accepted Arati. Prasadam consisting of Pulihora (tamarind rice) and Chakkeru Pongal (sweet rice) was then distributed to the entire assembly of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall. With this, this event of great spiritual significance came to a happy conclusion.

All India Workshop on Parenting

An All India Workshop on Parenting, organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of India, was held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 20th and 21st November 2007. While the inaugural session was held in Sai Kulwant Hall, the deliberations of the workshop were conducted on both the days in the Conference Hall, opposite shopping complex where many eminent speakers addressed the delegates.

On the morning of 20th November 2007, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba inaugurated the workshop in Sai Kulwant Hall by lighting the sacred lamp at 9.30 a.m.

The programme began



with Veda chanting by a group of Bal Vikas girls. Thereafter, Smt. Nimmi Kanwar, Central Joint Convener of the Education Wing of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, welcomed the delegates, prayed to Bhagavan for guidance and introduced the speakers. The first speaker of the inaugural session was Smt. Vidya Srinivasan, Central Joint Convener of the Education Wing of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation. Outlining the issues before the workshop, Smt. Srinivasan observed that transformation in children could be brought about only with the help of parents who should encourage the children to take full benefit of Bal Vikas training. Explaining the objectives of the workshop, the next speaker, Dr. L. Sasi Bala, Deputy National Coordinator, remarked that every house should become a Bal Vikas class and every mother, a Bal Vikas teacher. After a brief Bhajan session, the inaugural session of the workshop came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.30 a.m. Soon after Arati, Bhagavan blessed the Bal Vikas Gurus of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra with Saris.

The proceedings of the workshop were then conducted in the Conference Hall. The topics discussed in the workshop were: "Parenting Today and Tomorrow: Some Challenges", "Parenting: An Indian Experience", "Urban Parenting", "Rural Parenting" and "Sri Sathya Sai Parenting". In conclusion, it was recommended that the Bal Vikas Gurus and parents should pray to Bhagavan to transform the children so that they can realise unity, purity and divinity in all. It was also suggested that all the States of India should conduct a Parenting Workshop before March 2008.

Overseas Devotees' Pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam

A group of more than 400 devotees came to Prasanthi Nilayam in the month of November

2007 from Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia to seek the benedictions of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and take part in His 82nd Birthday celebrations. Bhagavan showered His love and grace on them and gave them the blissful opportunity of Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan (vision, touch and conversation).

On the afternoon of 25th November 2007, these devotees presented an excellent programme comprising Veda chanting, devotional songs and instrumental music in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The programme commenced at 5.15 p.m. after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall. Starting with chanting of Om three times, the devotees chanted Mantras of prayer to Lord Ganesh and Gayatri Mantras



A group of more than 400 devotees came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia. They presented an excellent programme of Veda chanting and Bhajan singing in Sai Kulwant Hall on 25th November 2007.

from Mahanarayana Upanishad with accurate accent and pronunciation to the pleasant surprise of one and all. Thereafter, they started Bhajans with Ganesh Bhajan in Hindi

Continued on page 435 ...

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

MACEDONIA

THE MOUNTAINOUS COUNTRY of Macedonia in South-eastern Europe is the birthplace of Mother Teresa. The Macedonian Prime Minister, Nikola Gruevski, personally invited the Sathya Sai Organisation of Macedonia to the world conference organised by the Government of Macedonia and UNESCO titled “The Contribution of Religion and Culture to Peace, Mutual Respect and Cooperation.” The conference was held from 26th to 28th October 2007 in Ohrid. The Sathya Sai delegation participated along with over 200 delegates from more than 50 countries. The invited participation of the emerging Macedonian Sathya Sai Organisation in such a nationally and globally significant event was welcomed by the Sathya Sai devotees and seen as the grace of Bhagavan.

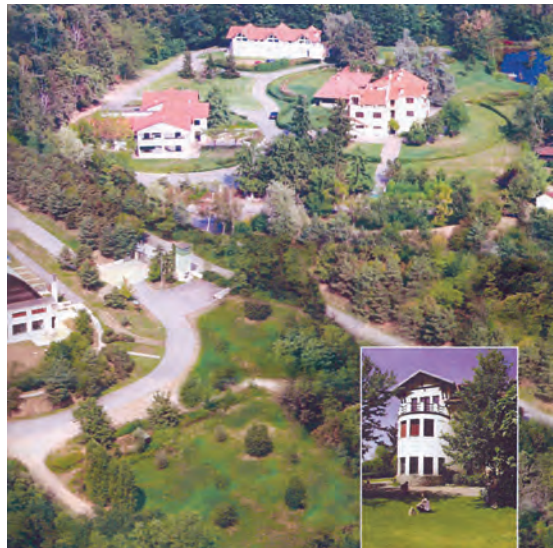


The Sathya Sai Organisation of Macedonia organised its first National Sathya Sai Conference in village Bogomila near Skopje from 28th to 30th September 2007. The delegates to the conference deliberated on the theme of the conference “Divine Bliss”.

The Sathya Sai Organisation of Macedonia held its first National Sathya Sai Conference in village Bogomila near Skopje from 28th to 30th September 2007. The theme of the conference was “Divine Bliss” and the name of the village in the local language means “the village of those who are dear to God.” Several speakers shared their experiences and spoke on Swami’s teachings on human values, individual transformation and sense control. A small workshop was also conducted on “Spiritual Associations” focusing on the importance of discipline, concentration and right timing for spiritual progress.

ITALY

Mother Sai House located near Milan, Italy is the largest Sai complex outside India, covering



Mother Sai House near Milan, Italy provides recreational, therapeutic and sports activities to the physically challenged. It is also used to host conferences, meetings, seminars, etc., of the Sai Organisation.

an area of 33 acres. It is meant to provide recreational, therapeutic and sports activities to the physically challenged. It is also used to host Sai national and European conferences, meetings, retreats, seminars, etc.

From 25th August to 2nd September 2007, 16 Sathya Sai volunteers helped provide a joyful week to 50 physically challenged individuals



Sai volunteers provided a joyful week to 50 physically challenged persons in Vallaro Pombia, Italy from 25th August to 2nd September 2007 by organising recreational activities for them.

in Vallaro Pombia. The week was spent in 'Natura Docet' which is a building consisting of a swimming pool, a gymnasium, showers, sleeping rooms and canteen, all specifically built for physically challenged people. Qualified staff and educators in the sports complex assisted in the activities. During the morning hours, the participants were engaged in artistic activities, the creations of which were collectively displayed in an exhibition on the last day. In the afternoon, there were activities like swimming, table tennis tournaments, chess, archery and treasure hunt. In the evening, activities like music, dancing, theatre and performance by a comedian were organised. The physically challenged guests participated in these

activities with great enthusiasm. The entire week was a celebration of divine love and all participants felt the joy and satisfaction often experienced at Prasanthi Nilayam.

PERU

On 15th August 2007, an earthquake of magnitude 8.0 on the Richter scale hit the coast near Lima killing 514 people and injuring 1,090. Over 35,500 buildings were destroyed. Sai devotees visited the town of Centro Poblado La Garita, 213 kilometres south of Lima, on 1st, 15th and 29th September 2007 in order to render help as the town was completely destroyed by the earthquake. About two tonnes of food, water, clothes and 248 heavy blankets were transported to the town through roads



The Sathya Sai Organisation of Peru organised relief measures for the victims of earthquake which hit the coast near Lima on 15th August 2007. Besides distributing two tonnes of food, water, clothes and blankets, Sai devotees set up five prefabricated homes. Some devotees played with children during construction of these homes.

that were partly destroyed by the calamity. Sathya Sai devotees set up five pre-fabricated homes for the displaced families. During the construction, some of the devotees played with the children

and talked to them to allay their fear and grief from the calamitous event. A workshop on proper nutrition with emergency rations was held, teaching them to use locally grown green vegetables and the donated soya for protein. Personal hygiene kits were distributed to 150 people. In addition, toys were given to children. The local newspaper, La Verdad del Pueblo, reported on the largesse and love which people had received from the Sathya Sai Organisation.

INDONESIA

On the morning of Guru Purnima 29th July 2007, the Sai Study Group of Jakarta carried out Narayana Seva in a poverty-stricken neighbourhood in Tangerang where many of the residents were suffering from leprosy. This neighbourhood was selected by conducting a survey to identify areas in dire need of help. A



Sai Study Group of Jakarta consisting of 68 Sai devotees performed Narayana Seva in Tangerang by distributing food items to 1,300 families on the occasion of Guru Purnima on 29th July 2007.

group of 68 devotees served 1,300 families with food which included rice, sugar, green lentils, cooking oil, salt and biscuits. The devotees shared the love of Bhagavan with one and all.

SRI LANKA

In continued momentum created by Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference 2007, Sai Youth from Sri Lanka initiated and carried out a project to supply food to families in the Jaffna Peninsula. This area in North-east Sri Lanka has been virtually isolated by the civil war. It is



Sai Youth from Colombo arranged for transport and distribution of 9.5 tonnes of food to 750 families in Jaffna affected by the civil war.

inaccessible by land. Sai Youth from Colombo arranged for the transport of 9.5 tonnes of food for distribution to 750 families in Jaffna. The shipment was routed by sea and delivered in Jaffna on 20th September 2007 for immediate distribution. By Bhagavan's grace, the shipping company waived the standard cargo fee and the land transportation agency reduced its charges for the shipment. Sai Youth and elders from Jaffna distributed the food items to the needy families.

MALAWI

From 9th to 15th September 2007, a medical camp was held in Chiradzulu village in Malawi in South-eastern Africa. The country has more than a million children orphaned by AIDS. Using the facilities of



the Amitofo Care Centre and the Chiradzulu Hospital, Sathya Sai devotees from the U.K. and Malawi conducted the camp in which 6,000 patients were seen. Patients were assessed and treated by specialists in general surgery, ENT, ophthalmology, optometry, paediatrics, dental surgery and haematology. In addition, the team had an anaesthetist, pharmacist and nurses. During the camp, 2,500 new prescription glasses were handed out, 10,000 prescriptions filled along with 11 hearing aids and 5 prosthetic eyes. The volunteers from Malawi lovingly served meals to the patients everyday. New clothes for babies, children, youth and adults were given out. Children including the orphaned children at the Amitofo Care Centre were given toys as well as stationery for school. The children had the opportunity to participate in face painting and festive activities. The local hospital's X-ray machine and operating theatre equipment were repaired by an engineer in the group. Patient follow-up was conducted by one of the doctors who stayed back for three months.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

B H A R A T

Gujarat: Surat Samithi of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Gujarat organised a function to distribute Sainets to villagers in village Althan on 28th October 2007. Besides the State President of Gujarat, many eminent persons attended the function which included Additional Director, Family Welfare, Gujarat, Dr. Vikasben Desai and a prominent textile industrialist, Sri Kiranbhai Merchant. In this function, the villagers were briefed about the diseases spread by the mosquitoes and benefits of using medicated mosquito nets which were being provided free to them under the Sainet



Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Gujarat distributed 170 medicated Sainets in village Althan on 28th October 2007 to save the villagers from mosquito menace.

Project of the Sai Organisation of Gujarat. In all, 170 medicated Sainets to save the villagers from mosquito menace were distributed in the village on door-to-door basis by Sai Youth and the guests. The Sai Organisation of Gujarat proposes to undertake this project in all the villages adopted by it for integrated rural development.

Tamil Nadu: “Prema Jyothi” (Effulgence of Love), the photo exhibition on the life and work of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, which was held at Prasanthi Nilayam in July 2007, was set up again at Thiruvanmiyur in Chennai from 22nd September to 2nd October 2007 by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Tamil Nadu for the benefit of the people of Tamil Nadu. More than 20,000 persons including students of schools and colleges, State ministers and other dignitaries of Tamil Nadu and a large number of common people visited the exhibition which comprised more than 600 photographs arranged in 178 panels. On seeing the exhibition, a large number of visitors felt overwhelmed by the humanitarian work of Bhagavan.

God is the only Refuge

CHINNA KATHA

J HERE LIVED IN A VILLAGE A mother and her son. They had hardly any means of livelihood since soon after the birth of the son, his father had died. The mother toiled hard and somehow looked after her son's education as she considered him the only hope of her life. The son also put his heart and soul into his studies and reached 10th Class. As the date of the examination drew near, the son told his mother, "Amma! I have to pay fifty rupees as the examination fee." The mother did not know what to do. She could barely manage food for herself and her son for one time in a day from what she earned by putting in hard labour. She went to the headmaster of the school and acquainted him of her condition. The headmaster expressed his inability to help and said, "Amma! There is nothing that I can do in this matter. These are government rules."

Coming back home, she grieved over the future of her son. His future depended on this examination but she was helpless and did not know what to do. Worrying thus, she sat under a tree and started shedding tears. At that time, her son came running home and asked, "Amma! Why are you weeping?" "There is nothing, my son! Come, let's have food first and then we will talk," she replied. But her son did not remain silent. When he persisted, she told him, "Dear son! I am not able to pay your examination fee. It is very painful for me to think that from tomorrow onwards you will also have to come with me to do the hard work I am doing."

The son replied, "Amma! I will study and write the examination. Presently, you take loan from someone and pay the fee. After the



When the son asked his mother to take loan from someone to pay the examination fee, the mother said helplessly, "Dear son! Who will lend us money? God is the only refuge of those who have no other refuge."

examination, I will do coolie work and repay the loan." "But who will lend us money, dear son? God is the only refuge of those who have no other refuge." Saying this, she went inside the house. The son followed her and asked innocently, "Amma! Where does this God live?" "Dear son! He is all-powerful, master of all wealth. It is He who gives everything to everyone," the mother replied. The son asked her again, "Amma! Please tell me where that God lives. I shall go and catch hold of His feet, pray to Him and get the money." Heaving a deep sigh, the mother said, "Lord Narayana who is the refuge of all lives in Vaikuntha."

Searching his pocket, the boy immediately ran to the post office. He had money in his pocket only to buy one postcard. He bought a postcard, jotted down the prayer, wrote the address, 'To Sri Narayana, Vaikuntha' and went near the postbox to post it. The postbox was fixed at a high pole. Though he tried to post the letter by jumping up, he was unable to do so because he was not tall enough. The postmaster who was watching this situation from the window came out and said to him, "Give that letter to me; I will put it in the box." Giving the letter to the postmaster, the boy requested him, "Sir! This letter is very urgent. I need money to pay my examination fee. Please see to it that this letter reaches the addressee quickly." Seeing the address on the postcard, the postmaster enquired, "Dear son! Who has given this address to you?" The boy replied, "Sir! My mother has given this address to me. I want to study, but I do not have money to pay the examination fee. This Narayana is very wealthy. My mother has told me that he helps those who are without help." "How pure is the heart of this boy! How much trust does he have in the words of his mother!" thought the postmaster. His heart melted by the innocent talk of the boy, and he said to him, "Dear child! I will see to it that this letter is sent urgently. Come here at nine o'clock day after tomorrow in the morning; your money will surely come by that time." The boy was beside himself with joy. He ran to his house and told his mother, "Amma! I will be able to pay the fee and write the examination." His mother just smiled and did not say anything. The boy spent the next two nights in great excitement.

As instructed by the postmaster, the boy went to the post office at 9 o'clock on the appointed day and asked the postmaster, "Sir, I have

to pay the fee at 10 o'clock. Has any money come from there?" The postmaster said, "Yes, the money has come. Take this." Saying this, he gave an envelope to him. The boy ran to his house, gave the envelope to his mother and said, "Amma! Money has come!"

The mother was surprised as well as fear-stricken to see fifty rupees in the envelope. "How has he got the money? Has he committed a theft or begged it from someone? Oh! What a disgrace he has brought to my otherwise clean life!" she regretted. She then asked him angrily, "Who has given you this money? Take me to



The mother caught hold of the boy and asked angrily, "Who has given you this money?" The boy replied innocently, "Amma! As you told me, I wrote a letter to Sri Narayana. It is he who has sent this money."

him." Saying this she came out of her house, catching the boy at his hand. The boy said to her, "Amma! As you told me, I wrote a letter to Sri Narayana. It is he who has sent this money. Go and ask the postmaster." Asking her son to stand outside, she went inside the post office and asked the postmaster, "Sir! Is it true what this boy is telling?" The postmaster said to her, "Yes, mother! It is God only who has sent this money. My heart

melted on seeing the letter written by this boy day before yesterday. God entered my heart and got this money sent through me. Please do not return this money, Amma! It will dent the trust of this child. God surely listens to the prayers of pure-hearted children and helps

... *Continued from page 406*

each other. There does not lie any greatness in it.

Perform all your tasks smilingly. Always have a smiling face. Never put on a 'castor-oil face' (gloomy face). It does not serve any purpose. *Happiness is union with God.* That is true divinity. You may have some worries, but do not ruin your life by thinking, "Oh I have this worry and I have that worry." There are some who are afflicted with the worry of marriage. But everything that you get in life, consider it as the gift of God. If you imbibe such feelings, you will attain highest blessedness.

Whoever chants any name of God anywhere, his life will become sacred and sanctified. He will be free from sin. Do not bother too much about Raga and Tala (musical mode and rhythm). There is only one Raga,

... *Continued from page 428*

"Vinayaka Vinayaka ..." and followed it up with devotional songs in their native languages and Hindi. Significant among the Hindi songs were: "Manasa Bhajare Guru Charanam ...", "Siva Siva Sankar ..." and "Jai Jai Janani Sai Janani ...". The devotional songs and Bhajans were followed by instrumental music, playing tunes of Bhajans. Meanwhile, Bhagavan went into the rows of these devotees, gave them the rare opportunity of Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan, distributed clothes to

them in one way or the other. I am a mere instrument."

What is the lesson which we should learn from this story? When we pray to God with a pure heart and total faith, God gives us what we pray for in some way or the other.

i.e., Hridaya Raga (Raga of the heart). That is 'Soham, Soham' (That I am), which comes from your heart. Never leave it. Attune your life to this Raga. Once your life is attuned to it, then success in all your endeavours is ensured.

It is your great good fortune that you are getting this opportunity of Namasmarana every now and then. Here Bhajans are being conducted everyday both in the morning and evening. This is a great opportunity for you. Do not waste this opportunity. If you make proper use of this opportunity, then your life will become worthwhile. It is for this reason that we hold Akhanda Bhajan every now and then.

– **From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Bhajan Mandir, Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 13th November 2007.**

them and posed for group photos with them. Bhagavan thereafter blessed Prasadam which was distributed to all the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall. The programme came to a close at 7.00 p.m. with offer of Arati to Bhagavan. Subsequently, Bhagavan called many of these devotees for interview in the interview room. The entire group was called again on 28th November 2007 to the verandah, where Bhagavan distributed watches to all of them and showered love and bliss on them.





SRI SATHYA SAI UNIVERSITY

(Established u/s 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, Accredited by NAAC at A++ level)

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Admission Notice

Admission for the Academic Year commencing from June 2008
will be made for the following Courses:

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

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

Anantapur Campus (for Women): B.A., B.Com.(Hons), B.Sc.(Home Science), B.Sc.(Hons) in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biosciences; B.Ed., M.A.(English), M.A.(Telugu), M.Sc.(Home Science) with specialisation in (a) Food Science & Nutrition and (b) Food Technology.

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. Candidates 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 and in case of M.Sc.(Home Science) – B.Sc.(Biosciences) and B.Sc.(MPC) candidates are also eligible to apply.

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 Postgraduate 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.

M.Tech.(Applied Optics): A First class (60% and above) both in the first degree and M.Sc.(Physics)/B.E./B.Tech. levels of examination with a background in Optics and Electromagnetic Theory.

Note: Eligible candidates will be short-listed by the University based on the marks of qualifying examinations. Only such candidates 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.

Admissions are made as per the guidelines issued by the Govt. of India and UGC with regard to Reservation of seats. Candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes are entitled to a relaxation of 5% marks.

Admission to all the above courses will be on the basis of Admission Test and Interview which will be held in May 2008, at **Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh.**

Application form along with Information Handbook will be available from **1st December 2007 to 28th February 2008.**

Interested candidates may apply to the **Registrar, Sri Sathya Sai University, Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134, Anantapur Dist., A.P.** along with I.P.O. or Bank Draft for Rs.70/- for Undergraduate Courses and Rs.100/- for Postgraduate Courses/M.B.A./M.B.A.(Finance)/M.Tech.(Computer Science)/M.Tech.(Applied Optics)/B.Ed. Courses. The Bank draft should be drawn in favour of **Sri Sathya Sai University**, 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, phone number, and Email ID** of the candidate should be mentioned clearly in the requisition letter.

Alternatively, candidates may visit the website www.sssu.edu.in for downloading the application form and Information Handbook and fulfil the necessary requirements.

Registrar



SRI SATHYA SAI UNIVERSITY

(Established u/s 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, Accredited by NAAC at A++ level)
Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam-515 134, Anantapur Dist., Andhra Pradesh, India
Ph: +91 8555 287239 Fax: 286919; Website: www.sssu.edu.in E-mail: registrar@sssu.edu.in

Admission Notice

Admission for the Academic Year commencing from June 2008
will be made for the following Courses:

Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music

Sri Sathya Sai University offers the following courses under the auspices of the Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music (for boys) in Prasanthi Nilayam. The admissions will be made for the Academic Year commencing from June 2008.

FULL-TIME COURSES

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

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

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

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 **1st December 2007 to 28th February 2008**.

Admission to the above Courses will be on the basis of Admission Test and Interview which will be held in May 2008, at Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh.

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

Alternatively, candidates may visit the website www.sssu.edu.in for downloading the application form and Information Handbook and fulfil the necessary requirements.

Registrar

SRI SATHYA SAI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134, (A.P.)

Admission to Class I and Class XI of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134, Anantapur Dist. (A.P.), will take place in **June 2008**. It is an **English medium, wholly residential school**. Prospectus and Admission Forms can be obtained from the **Principal** from 01-01-2008 by paying Rs 50/- either by cash or through Demand Draft drawn on State Bank of India, Prasanthi Nilayam Branch (code no.: 2786) in favour of the **Principal, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School**, along with a self-addressed cover size 15 cm x 24 cm with Rs 20/- stamps affixed.

Last date for issuing the forms is **15th February 2008** and the last date for receiving the filled in forms at this office is on or before **1st March 2008**.

Only students coming from English medium classes should apply.

Phone: 08555-289289

E-mail Address: sshss@gmail.com

Principal

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– *Baba*

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