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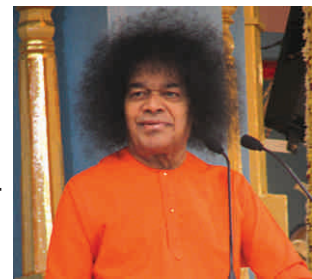
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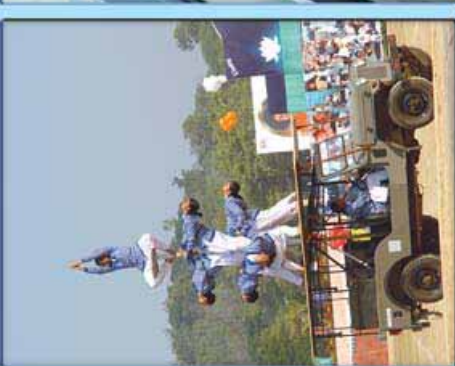
"If the inner feelings are good, your
speech and actions will also be good.
The essence of all knowledge is
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lack purity of heart."

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ANNUAL SPORTS AND CULTURAL MEET - 11TH JANUARY 2006

REALISE THE SACREDNESS OF HUMAN BIRTH

God is love and love is God. True spiritual discipline lies in developing love to love relationship with all. Dear children! Hold on to this principle of love and demonstrate the ideal of unity.

(Telugu Poem)

Dear Students – Boys and Girls!

HUMAN LIFE IS HIGHLY sacred. God incarnates in the form of a human being. *Daivam Manusha Rupena* (God is in the form of a human being). Divinity is not different from humanity. It is immanent in humanity. The human form is a combination of five elements, namely, earth, water, fire, air and ether. It is the divine power of the Atma which makes the five elements function. What is the form of the Atma? Many people often ask this question. In fact, it transcends all names and forms. Do not entertain the mistaken notion that God is confined to a specific form.

Educare is Transformation-oriented

One does not become a human being merely because one is endowed with a human form. It is the conduct and behaviour that make one a real human being. In the same manner, mere acquisition of bookish knowledge does not make one truly educated. Such worldly education is



With prayer to God, you can achieve anything in life. I want you to pray. I want you to stand united like brothers and sisters and earn a good name. Only then will our purpose of establishing educational institutions be fulfilled. I am always with you, in you, above you, below you, around you. Develop unwavering devotion to God and make efforts to instil such faith and devotion in your fellow human beings. That will make Me very happy.

negative. Who is a Vidyarthi (student)? One who pursues educare is a Vidyarthi in the true sense of the term. One must understand the distinction between education and educare. Whereas education is information-oriented, educare is transformation-oriented. Education is limited to physical and mental levels. Just as the rivers like Krishna and Godavari have a source from which they originate, the source of all knowledge is the heart. Physical and worldly knowledge corresponds to education. Educare is related to our inner feelings and purity of heart. Our Maata, Paata and Baata (speech, song and way of life) originate from the heart. If the inner feelings are good, your speech and actions will also be good. The essence of all knowledge is educare. Even though you may acquire a number of degrees, you cannot be called truly educated if you lack purity of heart. Very few today make efforts to understand what educare is. Only those endowed with practical knowledge and wisdom can understand and appreciate the concept of educare. Others are deluded by their high academic degrees. They are interested only in acquiring bookish knowledge and disseminating the same. Such vain pursuits will not entitle them to be called really educated.

Students today acquire various academic degrees such as B.A., M.A., C.A., Ph.D., etc. Acquisition of these degrees relates to worldly education. It is Bahya (external) learning while educare relates to Bhava (inner feelings). However, those who understand the real purpose of education and its inner significance are rare. Once you understand the purpose of education and act accordingly, your life will be redeemed. You should utilise your knowledge and intelligence for the



You may study the Bhagavadgita and learn all the Slokas (verses) by heart. But that does not make you a scholar. It is enough if you are able to put at least one Sloka into practice. With the help of letters a,b,c,d ... of the alphabet any number of books can be written, like the Ramayana, the Mahabharata or the Bhagavata. Likewise, the Atma is the basis for everything. Once you understand the principle of the Atma, you would have understood everything else. It is to impart such knowledge that we have established educational institutions.

benefit of society. Keep your emotions under check. Do not fret and fume over every trivial issue. Do not lose your temper. A true human being is one who has complete control over himself. You learn many things from books and your teachers in the classroom. But it is essential that you should also understand the nature of your body, mind, intellect, Chitta (mind-stuff) and Antahkarana (inner motivator) so that you are able to realise your inner self.

God is the Source of Everything

Every individual has three Gunas (attributes), namely, Sattwa, Rajas and Tamas. Sattwa Guna reflects our inner purity. Rajo Guna is the basis of our actions. Tamo Guna signifies sloth and ignorance. However, the fundamental truth is that it is the Atma which controls the functioning of the human body. You perform various actions. You participate in sports and

games. All these represent Rajo Guna. These days people talk about Parartha (welfare of others) without giving up Swartha (selfishness). This is a grave error. You should give up Swartha in the first instance and consider Parartha as the basis of all your endeavours.

What is most essential is the purity of inner feelings and faith in God. God is the Adhara (support) and everything else is Adheya (supported). Divinity is one. The Vedas therefore declare: *Ekoham Bahusyam* (the One willed to become many). Names and forms may vary, but the inherent divine principle is one and the same. For example, this hall is illuminated with a number of bulbs, but the electric current that flows through them is the same. Similarly, sweets may be many, but the essential ingredient of sugar that imparts sweetness to them is the same. Quite often, we merely go by names and forms, forgetting the reality.

A human being should essentially have three qualities – Nischalatwa, Nirmalatwa and Nirmohatwa (steadiness, purity and detachment). One who has these three qualities is verily God Himself. You do not need to enquire from others whether you are good or bad. Your conscience is the judge. You should think of God always. There have been many divine incarnations in the past, but the divine principle in all of them is one and the same. Just as sugar assumes the form of a variety of sweets, divinity is manifested in various forms. People worship God, sing His glory, thinking that He is present at some distant place. Your heart is the temple of God. Hence, fill your heart with love. One bereft of love cannot be called a human being. In fact, the Panchabhutas (five

elements) are the very manifestations of God. Consider the five elements as divine and make proper use of them.

Who has given you life? What is the source from which it has originated? Have you acquired it by some spiritual practice? No! God gives you life and He is the one who sustains it. He is present in every living being in the form of the Atma. Students study a number of books and acquire high academic qualifications. What is the source of all their knowledge and learning? They consider various factors as the sources of their learning. But the reality is that the source of all knowledge is God. Everything has originated from God. But man is unable to realise this truth due to his delusion. First and foremost, develop firm faith that God exists. When He incarnates in human form, He conducts Himself like a human being so that man can understand divinity and sacredness of human birth.

The Atma represents the oneness of all beings. Ultimately, everything merges in the Atma.

Religions are many but goal is one.

Clothes are many but yarn is one.

Jewels are many but gold is one.

Cows are many but milk is one.

(Telugu Poem)

Unfortunately, today instead of visualising unity in diversity, man sees diversity in unity. That is the cause of all his suffering. The principle of the Atma is the basis of all creation. You may forget anything but not the Atma. The five elements that are immanent in you are nothing but the manifestations of the Atma. Merely counting the beads of the rosary does not constitute Japa.



One should forget all that is worldly and mundane, and remember only God. That is true Japa. One who realises the source of his being is truly human. You may study the Bhagavadgita and learn all the Slokas (verses) by heart. But that does not make you a scholar. It is enough if you are able to put at least one Sloka into practice. With the help of letters a,b,c,d ... of the alphabet any number of books can be written, like the Ramayana, the Mahabharata or the Bhagavata. Likewise, the Atma is the basis for everything. Once you understand the principle of the Atma, you would have understood everything else. It is only to impart such knowledge that we have established educational institutions. In our schools and colleges, character, virtues and conduct are given utmost priority. One should have the yearning to tread the right path in life and attain God. One should accept everything as the Will of God. When you develop purity of heart, you will be successful in all your endeavours.

Overcome Delusion with Atma Vidya

In the name of meditation, people sit cross-legged with closed eyes. How can such practices lead you to Divinity? When you close your eyes, you cannot see even the person standing in front of you, leave alone God. In fact, God is present in you. A true Vyakti (individual) is one who manifests the Avyakta (latent divinity). If you contemplate on the principle of the Atma and make sincere efforts, you can certainly have the experience of the Atma. You may do Japa or Tapa, but if you lack purity of heart, all your spiritual practices will prove futile. There are different types of flowers like rose, jasmine and chrysanthemum. But the honey bee collects honey from all flowers.



Similarly, whatever may be the practice you undertake, you should always focus your mind on the Atma only.

Man is called Manava. What is the meaning of this term? 'Ma' means Maya (delusion), 'Na' means Nasti (without) and 'Va' means Varthinchuta (to conduct oneself). A true human being is one who overcomes delusion with the help of Atma Vidya (knowledge of the Self). Man is also called Manishi, one who is endowed with Manas (mind). But one who transcends the mind is a Paramahansa (a realised soul). We are not simply Manavas (human beings). We are verily the embodiments of Madhava (Supreme Being). We should have faith in God and face the challenges of life with courage and fortitude. Only then do we deserve to be called human beings.

The mind is meant to contemplate on God. One who knows the value of a diamond will preserve it safely and make proper use of it. Likewise, one who realises the power of the mind will not dissipate it. One should strive to attain the state of 'die mind' (annihilation of the mind). It is possible only by contemplating on God incessantly. It is said, *Mano Moolam Idam Jagat* (mind is the basis for the entire world). If you do not control your mind and get carried away by its vagaries, what will be your fate? It is only through Mano Nashana (annihilation of the mind) that one can become a Paramahansa. Never follow the mind. What is the use of going through voluminous books without understanding the nature of the mind? When you learn the alphabet from a to z, you should also learn the meaning of words.

What is the use of reading words without understanding their meaning?

Know your Reality

When you read the Bhagavadgita, you should make efforts to understand its teachings and put them into practice. Otherwise, there is little meaning in going through the Bhagavadgita or giving lectures on it. No benefit accrues from merely repeating the Slokas like a parrot without understanding them. Here, students learn the

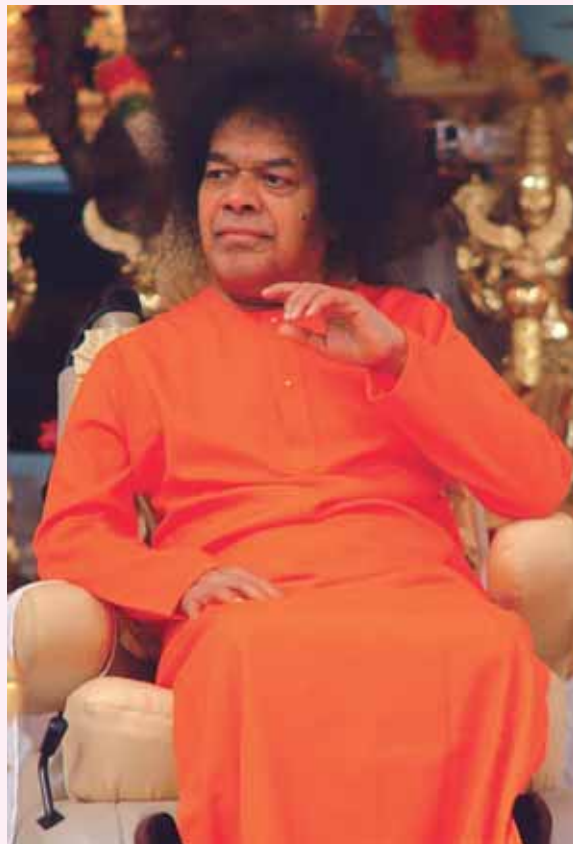
One does not become a human being merely because one is endowed with a human form. It is the conduct and behaviour that make one a real human being. In the same manner, mere acquisition of bookish knowledge does not make one truly educated. Such worldly education is negative. Who is a Vidyarthi (student)? One who pursues educare is a Vidyarthi in the true sense of the term. One must understand the distinction between education and educare. Whereas education is information-oriented, educare is transformation-oriented.

Vedas. It is said, *Ananto Vai Veda* (the Vedas are infinite). They are endowed with infinite power. The Vedas have been passed on from one generation to another by noble souls. They contain eternal truths. But in the name of modern education, people are neglecting them. One may like it or not, the Vedas are meant to be studied deeply. It is not enough if you merely read the Vedas, you should also understand the teachings contained in them. Man today tries to acquire

education without knowing his own reality. This is the weakness of man. As a result, he reposes faith in everything else except God. Therefore, never forget the fundamental principle of divinity.

Dear Students!

You are able to understand and acquire worldly and secular knowledge. But it is not



easy for all to understand the inner reality. The names and forms of individuals may appear to be different, but essentially all are one. The innate reality is Adhara and the external names and forms are only Adheyas. Knowing the Adheya without understanding the Adhara will serve no purpose. Even while dealing with physical matters, we should have spiritual outlook. Hence, develop faith in God in the first instance. Anything can be



achieved with unflinching faith in God. Discharge your duties with a sense of surrender to God. That is the essence of true education. Education does not mean mere acquisition of bookish knowledge. True education is beyond it. What is the use of reading books without knowing that transcendental principle?

Students! Embodiments of Love!

First of all, you have to realise that God is present everywhere. Perform all actions to please God. You have come from God and are sustained by Him. All your actions should therefore be dedicated to God. When you follow such a sacred path, you will ultimately reach God. God is Bhavapriya, not Bahyapriya (lover of inner feelings, not outward appearances). He sees the feelings behind your actions. The world is interested in Bahyam, but God is interested in your Bhavam. Hence, purify your inner feelings in the first instance.

You ask others, "Who are you?" But, have you ever enquired, "Who am I?" True education lies in knowing the answer to this question. What is the use of knowing about others if you don't know your own reality? That is not true education at all. A true spiritual aspirant is one who understands and experiences the principle of oneness. You say, "She is my mother", "He is my father", so on and so forth. Such physical relationship is related to the mind. If you take the physical relationship to be real, you will never understand the truth. You say, "I am Ramaiah." It is the name given to the body. But you are not the body. You should say with firm conviction, "I am I." However, when you call yourself Ramaiah, you should act according to your name. Once you understand your reality, you

will experience everlasting bliss. Many students have gathered here. But not all are studying the same subject. You are pursuing various courses. But everybody should acquire one degree, that is, M.A. What is the meaning of M.A.? M.A. means master of Atma Vidya. If you understand the meaning of this degree, you will understand the purpose of education. Nowadays many students aspire to go abroad after acquiring their degrees like B.A., B.Com, etc. In fact, they forget the very purpose of education, and expose themselves to worldly temptations.

Love Unites All

One should have single-minded devotion towards God. Your faith should be total and unconditional. If your faith is unsteady with 'bumps and jumps', you will be confused and will become restless. Keep your desires under control. Limitless desires will take you away from divinity. Annihilation of desires will lead you to the principle of unity. You should develop virtues and lead a good life. Understand the purpose of education and act accordingly. Only then will your birth as a human being be meaningful. One electric bulb can provide illumination to many people. Likewise, a heart filled with love can illumine many lives. It is the same love that is present in all. The educated people should not look down upon the uneducated. One who is truly educated will treat everyone equally and develop unity. Where there is unity, there is purity. When we have purity, we can experience divinity. Love is the basis for unity. It is the lack of love that causes differences.

Students! Having joined our institution if you merely acquire degrees without developing virtues, we will not be happy. You should have internal as well as external purity.



Only then can you earn a good name in society. People will praise you, saying, "So and so is a good boy; he minds his own business and does not involve himself in unnecessary activities." Such good persons can bring about transformation in society. Being students, you should follow the code of conduct prescribed for the state of Brahmacharya (celibacy). On the contrary, if you succumb to the vagaries of the mind and move about without any restraint, people will call you a rowdy. When you are good in thought, word and deed, everyone will talk high of you.

Embodiments of Love!

There is love in one and all. There is none bereft of love in this world. But some people criticise others instead of sharing love with them. However, you should not be perturbed by criticism. If someone criticises you loudly, it goes into thin air; if he criticises within, it is only he who will be affected by it. Unperturbed by the criticism of others, the students should cultivate Sattwic qualities and develop their character. Only then can they earn a good name in society. It is not enough if you have good command over language and speak eloquently about divinity. You should also put into practice what you speak. You may be able to attract people with powerful speech, but what is the use if you do not translate your words into action? There should be harmony between your thoughts, words and deeds. It is said, *Manasyekam Vachasyekam, Karmanyekam Mahatmanam; Manasyanyath Vachasyanyath, Karmanyanyath Duratmanam* (Those whose thoughts, words and deeds are in perfect harmony are noble ones; those who lack harmony of these are wicked). Never think that you are different from God. You should transcend duality and realise your oneness with divinity. Whatever may

happen, do not deviate from the path of unity. You should have unwavering faith. Install these teachings firmly in your heart and put them into practice in your daily life. Ruminating over what is being taught here after you go back to your room.

With prayer to God, you can achieve anything in life. I want you to pray. I want you to stand united like brothers and sisters and earn a good name. Only then will our purpose of establishing educational institutions be fulfilled. I am always with you, in you, above you, below you, around you. Develop unwavering devotion to God and make efforts to instil such faith and devotion in your fellow human beings. That will make Me very happy.

Today is Sankranti, which marks the commencement of Uttarayana, the auspicious and sacred time. At least from today onwards, develop noble feelings. Follow the sacred path. Then your future will certainly be safe and secure. I hope I am not causing inconvenience to you by speaking at length. When I see all of you, My heart overflows with Ananda (bliss). True happiness lies in union with God. Hence, contemplate on God incessantly. Never give scope for anxiety or worry, thinking, "Examinations are approaching. How am I going to face them? Will I pass in the examination?" Have faith in God. Do your duty and face any situation with courage. Then, the result is bound to be good. Whatever be the circumstances, I always perform My duty. Love is everything. Love is God. Live in love.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin ...*")

– From Bhagavan's Sankranti Sandesh in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 14th January 2006.





A MEMORABLE SPORTS AND CULTURAL EVENT



The Annual Sports and Cultural Meet of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions held every year on 11th January in Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium, Prasanthi Nilayam is one of the most significant events which showcases the talent and qualities of the students of these institutions, especially their courage, enthusiasm, balance, skill and valour, and above all their love for their Revered Chancellor, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. This year's celebrations had added significance as these were held in the silver jubilee year of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning.

ALL THE GALLERIES IN THE stadium were full to their capacity with eager spectators when the programme began with sacred chants on the public address system at 7.45 a.m., spreading sacred vibrations in the entire stadium which was brilliantly shining in the early morning sun with all its decorations. The Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba entered the northern end of the stadium at 8.00 a.m. where the brass band of Anantapur Campus offered Him a respectful welcome with sonorous notes. A squad of motor bike riders escorted Bhagavan as His car proceeded towards the Santhi Vedika. Dressed in a sparkling yellow robe, Bhagavan was led to Santhi Vedika in a grand procession led by richly caparisoned Sai Geeta, Bhagavan's dear elephant, followed by the brass band of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus, flag bearers squad of captains of various sports and cultural events and lion dancers of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus.

Inauguration and March Past

When Bhagavan reached Santhi Vedika, He was offered a hearty

welcome by the Vice Chancellor and senior staff of the Institute. Bhagavan lighted the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate the Sports and Cultural Meet at 8.15 a.m. At 8.20 a.m., the ceremonial March Past commenced in which contingents of various campuses of the Institute took part. The squads marched majestically in their brilliant dresses to the marching tunes of the brass band of Prasanthi Nilayam and offered salute to their Revered Chancellor at Santhi Vedika. After the March Past, the Institute Flag was hoisted by Bhagavan and the Sports Meet oath was administered to the participants of the sports and cultural events by the Institute captain. Thereafter, Bhagavan lighted the sports torch which was first carried by two students. This year's mascot peacock then carried it onto the hilltop where it ignited the Sports Meet Urn. Meanwhile, Bhagavan released white pigeons and colourful bunches of balloons to the delight of one and all.

Sports Events by Prasanthi Nilayam and Anantapur Campus Students

The sports events began with the presentation of Prasanthi Nilayam



Campus students. Making their entry into the performing area in a grand manner, they displayed the theme of their presentation on a giant rotating pillar which carried the words Duty, Devotion, Discipline, Purity, Patience and Perseverance written on its various sides. On top of this pillar was the figure of a swan which



A grand display of dexterity, balance and skill on giant wheels by the students of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the Institute.

displayed the number “25” shining on a disc, marking the silver jubilee of the Institute. On either side of this pillar were huge cut-outs of Bhagavan’s photographs behind which were two giant banners depicting the two important sayings of Bhagavan, “The End of Education is Character”, and “The End of Knowledge is Wisdom”. Huge figures on stilts added grandeur to this display. What followed in front of this beautiful background was a spectacular show of grit, courage, skill and harmony in the sports items which included breathtakingly beautiful lion dance, symmetric movements on poles,

display on two 35 feet high giant wheels, marvellous gymnastic feats and jumps through a ring of fire and over a Maruti van. Another attractive item of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus was rhythmic beat on 25 Chinese drums along with movement of three giant flags to the beats of drums. Spectacular display by the students who climbed up smooth slippery wooden poles and performed various yogic postures also showed their grit and skill. There was another display of yogic postures in a coordinated manner which the students performed effortlessly while Siva Tandava dance was enacted in the background. The last item of the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus was fun-filled game “Fun on the Run” involving a number of items between two teams which included shooting balloons with catapults, basketing balls after running through an obstacle course and forming pyramids, etc. The presentation came to a close with staff and students coming

into the performing area to pay their obeisance to their Revered Chancellor as the closing song was played on the P.A. system.



Breathtakingly beautiful and flawless acrobatics which formed part of display of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus students.



The next presentation of the morning programme was made by the students of Anantapur Campus of the Institute. The theme of their presentation was Unity, Purity, Divinity. Entering the performing area, the students displayed the symbols of all the religions of the world while the song of unity was played on the P.A. system which conveyed: "Let us all move together, let us all grow together, let us stay united and grow in intelligence together, let us live together with friendship and harmony." What followed this was a series of spectacular daring feats of the students on six moving jeeps, which showed their dexterity, skill and balance. Their next item was a group dance with red and yellow flags. This was followed by a beautiful butterfly dance in which more than one hundred girls took part with



Daring feats on moving jeeps by the students of Anantapur Campus of the Institute.

butterfly wings which turned silver white and bright gold when they made rhythmic movements. The last item of the morning programme was another beautiful group dance with colourful rings in the hands of the students who rotated them to the tune of music. At 10.25 a.m., the

students concluded their beautiful presentation and moved into the performing area for the closing ceremony. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.30 a.m.

Colourful Display by Primary School Students

In the afternoon, Bhagavan came to the stadium at 4.00 p.m. Motor bike squad of students escorted Bhagavan to Santhi Vedika, the leading motor bike among them carrying the flag bearing the logo of the silver jubilee of the Institute to highlight this significant event.

The first presentation in the afternoon was made by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam who displayed the theme of Unity, Purity and Divinity in a very meaningful way

through the words: "Serve with Unity", "Love All with Purity" and "Merge with Divinity". Their first item was a group dance. As the P.A. system played the welcome song "Prasanthi Vaasa Swagatam, Puttaparthi Pureesha Swagatam ...", the students danced to its tune in their colourful costumes. Soon after this, hordes of Vanaras (monkeys) swarmed the entire performing area, and danced to the tune of a fast beat song. There were not less than hundred boys with perfect make-up of Vanaras holding a mace in

their hand and delighting the entire gathering with their rhythmic movements. The climax of this presentation was entry of Rama and Lakshmana for whom they made the bridge over the Indian ocean in the Ramayana story. Visual depiction of this scene on a giant canvas in the background





Every item presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam was a piece of art, rich with bright colours, beauty and aesthetics.

enhanced the beauty of this presentation. Their next item showed their skill and agility through marvellous feats of gymnastics. Christening themselves as Sai Wheels, a group of students made a wheel formation by interlocking themselves together. What followed this was a grand display of captivating dances in colourful dresses by the children. And then came a wonderful performance of feats on roller skates by the students who made various formations and performed daring jumps over ramps and over a group of boys. Another item which earned them the appreciation of the spectators was their acrobatics on top of sliding poles. The items kept coming one after the other in quick succession. Dexterous balancing and somersaulting on ropes was the next item. The last item of their presentation was a dance by Primary School girls who

enchanted the spectators by their performance in colourful dresses. In fact, every item of the Primary School was a piece of art, rich with bright colours, beauty and aesthetics. This beautiful performance ended with final formation of all the students offering obeisance to their Beloved Bhagavan while a sweet song was played in the background.

As the Primary School students were leaving the performing area, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Deenanodharana Pathakam were getting ready with their performance. This particular project was initiated by Bhagavan to help destitute children. Bhagavan has given them food, raiment and shelter and also deposited one lakh rupees for each boy.

They are given training even in computers. Their performance was christened Chadarang. The students



dressed as black and white chessmen like king, queen, knight, pawn, etc., made movements on a giant chessboard as appropriate commentary on the P.A. system described their movements. This play ended with the defeat of the black army, culminating in the friendship of the two opponents. At the



A delightful game of chess on a giant chessboard being enacted by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Deenajanodharana Pathakam.

end of this innovative item, one of the students made a brief speech describing how Bhagavan's compassion and love were transforming their lives.

Daring Feats by Brindavan Campus Students

The last presentation of this delectable display of sports and cultural events was made by the students of Brindavan Campus of the Institute. Their first item was dragon dance. The dance requires team work, agility and strength of arms. Swirling the dragons throughout the performing area, they performed the dance with aplomb, winning time and again applause from the spectators.



A spectacular show of dragon dance by the students of Brindavan Campus of the Institute.

Their next performance was a medley of different types of martial arts like Kalaripayattu, Karate, stick fight and fight with mace. Kalaripayattu is the martial art form from the State of Kerala. Efficient swordsmanship is the pinnacle of Kalaripayattu. The artiste requires agility and strength for this martial art. The students displayed various Katas in Karate gracefully. Karate helps in eliminating weakness and indecisiveness in the mind. Then there was display of stick fight, fight with flashing steel and fight with mace. The main emphasis of this performance was how the mind and body reacted in unison instinctively to face the opponent. A wonderful display of blindfolded wielding of Nunchaku followed. The agility of the performers was a sight to watch. The

last item of their performance displayed sheer human power. They jumped through rings, crossed human hurdles of a few boys and broke pots with lethal power. To crown it all, the students smashed blazing tiles with their hands. The Brindavan Campus students' performance ended with final formation and offer of salutations to the Revered Chancellor.

This memorable Sports and Cultural Meet ended at 6.30 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

FOLLOW THE GREAT IDEALS OF THE PANDAVAS

In childhood, one develops absorbing interest in play and enjoys the company of one's playmates. In youth and middle age, one is engrossed in cultivating worldly relations and earning money. In old age, one repents for not having this and that; one still craves for money without contemplating on God even at that ripe age. In this way, man wastes his precious human birth.

(Telugu Poem)

Embodiments of Love!

MAN SPENDS HIS WHOLE LIFE totally engrossed in worldly matters. He undergoes pleasure and pain at every stage of his life. Ultimately,

provide lasting happiness to man. It is mere foolishness to waste precious human birth in such futile pursuits.

God is the Director of the Cosmic Drama

When God takes birth in human form, people doubt whether he is born like any other

The Pandavas set great ideals by their exemplary conduct. They should be held in high esteem. We should emulate their ideals and lead our lives in peace and happiness. We may have to face sorrows and difficulties, but we should remain undisturbed by them. When we control our sorrows, then our strength will increase. The Pandavas left the world long ago but their ideals are eternal and timeless.



he realises that everything in this world is ephemeral and transitory like water bubbles. Worldly pursuits cannot



human being from the mother's womb or assumes the vesture of human body out of His Divine Will. The fact is that

the course of God's Mission is already laid out before His Advent on earth. He takes human form to carry out His Avataric Mission in every Age. In Dwapar Yuga, He came in the human form of Lord Krishna, guided and protected the Pandavas against the machinations of the wicked Kauravas. When they were engaged in the Kurukshetra war with the Kauravas, Krishna assumed the role of the charioteer of Arjuna and led the Pandavas to victory.

After the war ended, Krishna informed the Pandavas that He would leave for Dwaraka. He wanted one of the five Pandava brothers to accompany Him during this journey. Kunti, the mother of the Pandavas, suggested that Arjuna should accompany Krishna to Dwaraka. Accordingly, Krishna took Arjuna to Dwaraka and did His best to serve him during his stay there. Arjuna was a bit embarrassed to avail himself of the service rendered by Krishna. He told Krishna, "Oh Lord! How can I accept service from You?" Krishna replied, "Arjuna! You are mistaken. Whom am I serving? Am I serving your body? I am the indweller of all beings. You should not delude yourself, thinking that you are the body. Even your body belongs to Me. It is not yours."

The body is made up of five elements and is bound to perish sooner or later but the indweller has neither birth nor death. The indweller has no attachment whatsoever and is the eternal witness. Truly speaking, the indweller who is in the form of the Atma is verily God Himself. (Telugu Poem)

Krishna continued, "I am that Devadeva (God of gods). You identify yourself with the body out of delusion and say 'I'. But that is not your real self. You are not the body. As long as you identify yourself with the body, you remain at the level of Jiva

(individual self). Once you get rid of that delusion, you become one with Deva (Supreme Self). Hence, give up attachment to the body. Human body is only an instrument. Man has to use this instrument to perform all Karmas (actions) in this world. He has the right only to perform Karma. Karma, in fact, is instrumental in the conduct of this cosmic drama. I am the Director of this drama."

Final Journey of the Pandavas

The earthly drama of the Yadavas came to an end and they all perished. In the end, Krishna also gave up the human vesture and left for His heavenly abode. Watching these developments helplessly, Arjuna wept inconsolably. Unable to bear the separation from his dear Lord, friend, philosopher and guide, he wailed, "Oh! Krishna! You have been constantly protecting me and guarding me. Now that You have left for Your heavenly abode, in whom shall I seek refuge?"

The city of Dwaraka presented a scene of total destruction. The entire Yadava clan had perished. Arjuna did not know what to do in such circumstances. He remembered the possibility of his mother Kunti enquiring about the welfare of Lord Krishna and the Yadavas. A hundred and one questions cropped up in his mind, but he had no answer to any of them. Arjuna collected the royal retinue and left Dwaraka as Krishna had commanded him before leaving His sojourn on earth. On the way, Arjuna was suddenly attacked by a horde of forest dwelling nomads. But, to his utter dismay and anguish, Arjuna could not even string his bow, Gandiva! The great warrior Arjuna who performed heroic deeds in the Kurukshetra war could not save the consorts of Krishna from the robbers. He lamented at his helplessness and



prayed to Krishna, “Oh! Krishna! What has happened to all my strength? Where is it gone now?” The answer came from within: He who had granted this power to me has now taken it back.

At last, in utter helplessness and agony, he prayed to Lord Krishna “Oh Lord! You have to protect Your queens Yourself. I am helpless.” Finally, Arjuna reached Hastinapur along with some of the queens who could be saved from the clutches of the barbarians by the divine grace of Krishna. The people of Hastinapur were eager to know all that happened in Dwaraka. Yudhishtira enquired from Arjuna about the welfare of Krishna. Their mother Kunti was also anxious to know about the welfare of Krishna. She asked Arjuna, “Son! Is my dear Krishna all right? Please tell me everything that happened during your stay in Dwaraka.” She was very eager to know the facts and Arjuna could not but reveal the truth. Finally, he steadied himself and related everything about the departure of Krishna for His heavenly abode and the subsequent developments. The moment Arjuna told that Krishna had shed His mortal coil, Kunti collapsed on the cot on which she was sitting. Dharmaraja rushed to her side and tried to console her saying, “Mother! What was destined to happen has happened. All this is the Will of Lord Krishna. There is no use grieving over these developments. Please get up.” But Kunti did not respond. It was then that he realised that she had left her body. He put her head on his lap and called all his brothers. The brothers could not contain their grief. They wept bitterly on two counts – one for losing their dear Lord Krishna and the other over the death of their beloved mother. The people of Hastinapur were also

filled with grief when they heard this sad news. Draupadi, who was witnessing these developments, could not maintain her poise any more. She was immersed in grief at the double loss of Lord Krishna’s departure on the one side and the sudden demise of Kunti on the other.

Dharmaraja called Arjuna and instructed him to make arrangements for the cremation of the body of their mother. Arjuna immediately complied with his instructions. At the same time, Dharmaraja gave instructions for the necessary arrangements for the coronation of young Parikshit. Thereafter, he called Nakula and Sahadeva to his side and told them to make arrangements for their Mahaprasthan (final journey) to the Himalayas. Dharmaraja led the funeral procession, carrying the fire in an earthen pot. As the funeral procession was proceeding, the people of Hastinapur were immersed in grief. They followed the funeral procession to the cremation ground. The body of Kunti was placed on the funeral pyre and Dharmaraja lit the pyre. In a few moments, it was engulfed in flames.

The next thing to do was to perform the coronation of young Parikshit. The Pandavas lost their dear mother; they lost their very life-breath, Lord Krishna; yet they were now prepared to perform the coronation of Parikshit with perfect calm and poise! What an amazing equanimity of mind they displayed! Time marches on. And, all things that have to be performed have to take their course. Parikshit, however, was not very happy. He pleaded with the Pandavas, “Oh! My dear grandfathers!

You are all great kings. You are still hale and hearty. Is it proper for me to wear the royal crown in your esteemed



presence? Do I deserve to wear this royal crown? How worthless and insignificant am I! So, one of you should wear this crown and rule the country.” The Pandava brothers tried to convince Parikshit, saying, “Dear child! We will not be here any more to rule this kingdom. There must be someone to look after the welfare of the people as king of this great country. You have to, therefore, shoulder this responsibility. The affairs of the kingdom have to be looked after. You should not shirk your duty in ensuring the continuity of the regal obligations.” Explaining thus, they persuaded young Parikshit to rule over the kingdom. The royal crown was placed on his head amidst the chanting of Vedic Mantras by the priests. Falling at the feet of all his elders, Parikshit prayed for their blessings. All the five Pandava brothers then hugged Parikshit with affection and exhorted him to safeguard the glory of the kingdom and uphold the fair name of his ancestors. Parikshit said that he would obey their command and protect the people of the kingdom like his life-breath.

The Pandavas then started on their great march to the Himalayas, straight from the royal court where the coronation of Parikshit was held. When they reached the bank of the river Ganga, they immersed the ashes of their mother in its sacred water. Thereafter, they continued their march to the

Himalayas, proceeding one behind the other. Dharmaraja, the eldest of the Pandavas, led the march. Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva followed him in that order. And Draupadi walked behind all. In this manner,



You identify yourself with the body out of delusion and say 'I'. But that is not your real Self. You are not the body. As long as you identify yourself with the body, you remain at the level of Jiva (individual self). Once you get rid of that delusion, you become one with Deva (Supreme Self). Hence, give up attachment to the body. Human body is only an instrument. Man has to use this instrument to perform all Karmas (actions) in this world. He has the right only to perform Karma. Karma, in fact, is instrumental in the conduct of this cosmic drama. I am the Director of this drama.

the earthly sojourn of the Pandavas came to an end. Who can understand the mystery of life? None except God can know in what way the events in one's life will



take turn at a certain point of time. One may don ochre robes, but that will not enable one to know what the future has in store for him. The Pandavas symbolised virtues and valour. They led their lives in an ideal manner and sanctified their time in the contemplation of God. They ended their earthly sojourn also peacefully while contemplating on God all the time.

Ideals Set by the Pandavas are Eternal

Parikshit ruled the kingdom with justice and kindness. All the people of the kingdom were happy with his rule. He followed the high ideals set by the Pandavas. Like the Pandavas, Parikshit was also endowed with great virtues. Even while carrying out his royal duties, he spent his time in Namasmara. When he took over the reigns of the kingdom, some evil-minded kings joined hands and waged a war against him, underestimating his strength and valour and thinking that he was young and inexperienced. But some other noble kings came to help him. With their help, Parikshit could vanquish the enemies and assert his supremacy. He could emerge victorious due to his unflinching faith in God.

God is your sole refuge wherever you may be, in a forest, in the sky, in a city or a village, on the top of a mountain or in the middle of deep sea.

(Telugu Poem)

When Parikshit was anointed as king, initially people were apprehensive as to how a young boy could rule the kingdom. However, under the able guidance of Kripacharya's son, Parikshit proved to be a successful king. He followed in the footsteps of the Pandavas and

practised and propagated their ideals. The Pandavas set great ideals by their exemplary conduct. They should be held in high esteem. We should emulate their ideals and lead our lives in peace and happiness. We may have to face sorrows and difficulties, but we should remain undisturbed by them. When we control our sorrows, then our strength will increase. The Pandavas left the world long ago but their ideals are eternal and timeless. We should cherish their ideals in our heart and try to follow the same in letter and spirit. By following the ideals set by the Pandavas, we will have peace, happiness and prosperity in our life.

Students! You are all very young. But Parikshit was much younger than you when he ascended the throne. However, he took up the challenge with admirable courage and faith in God. He stands as an ideal for all young people. You too should develop such courage and fortitude and strive for the welfare of society. That is the true ideal. Pray to God for the necessary strength to hold on to this ideal.

Embodiments of Love! Students!

All of you are good children. You should lead an ideal life and set example to others. Never give room for sorrow. Be always fearless. Face the challenges of the world with courage and fortitude. Have firm faith that God is always with you, guiding you and guarding you. Having God firmly installed in your heart and with the Divine Name on your lips, you should march forward.

– From Bhagavan's Dasara Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 7th October 2005.

Do not walk in front of Me, I may not follow you. Do not walk behind Me, I may not lead you. Walk beside Me and be My friend.

- Baba

FESTIVALS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

New Year Day Celebrations

NEW YEAR DAY WAS CELEBRATED at Prasanthi Nilayam with gaiety and piety on 1st January 2006. Soft and sweet Nadaswaram music by the Nadaswaram troupe of Anantapur Campus students reverberated in Sai Kulwant Hall since early morning to mark the auspiciousness of the occasion. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba came to the Hall at 9.25 a.m. amidst these sweet and melodious notes of music and sacred Vedic chants of Prasanthi Nilayam students of the Institute and showered His blessings on the huge gathering of devotees who had thronged Prasanthi Nilayam to pay their homage to Bhagavan on this auspicious day. The gathering included a large number of former students of the Institute who come to Prasanthi Nilayam on the New Year day every year to experience the bliss of Bhagavan's Divine proximity and seek His blessings after performing Grama Seva in a village near Prasanthi Nilayam on the previous day. This year, these students performed Grama Seva in village Puleru situated at a distance of 45 kilometres from Prasanthi Nilayam on 31st December 2005 and actively participated in the New Year day celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam by providing a musical treat to the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall.

The programme started at 9.50 a.m. with sweet melodies of the Institute orchestra and was followed by

devotional songs which delighted one and all. The morning programme came to a close at 10.35 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Before leaving for His abode, Bhagavan graciously performed the cake cutting ceremony.



Sweet melodies by the orchestra team of the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus students mark the New Year Day celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.

On the afternoon of 1st January 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 4.00 p.m. and showered the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the devotees while listening to the Vedic chants of the Institute students for nearly one hour. Thereafter, the former students of the Institute presented a grand programme of devotional music for nearly one hour. This programme was verily a sumptuous treat for music lovers as the students rendered devotional songs to express their love for Bhagavan and extol His Divine glory with sweet music and love-filled heart. The New Year day programme concluded at 6.00 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to all in the end.

Cultural Programme by Primary School Students

On the evening of 13th January 2005, devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall





A scene from the drama "Sai Prema Dhara" enacted by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam.

were provided an excellent musical and cultural treat by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam. The programme began at 6.00 p.m. in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. First of all, a group of girls students of Primary School enthralled the gathering with an excellent violin recital. Thereafter, the drama "Sai Prema Dhara" was performed, through which the students presented the story of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba by enacting selected episodes from His life to the delight of the entire gathering. Though it was a repeat performance of the drama enacted by them on 23rd October 2005, it was relished by one and all with absorbing interest. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance and blessed the students at the end of the drama. He also materialised a gold chain with locket for the student who played the role of Prof. Kasturi in the drama, and materialised a gold ring for one of the students who enacted the role of child Sathya. Bhagavan also provided to the students the coveted opportunity of group photos with Him. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.15 p.m.

Valedictory Function of Annual Sports and Cultural Meet and Sankranti Celebrations

The sacred festival of Sankranti and the Valedictory Function of the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet 2006 of the Institute were celebrated on 14th January 2006. Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the function, was befittingly done up with various decorations which included banners and portraits of Bhagavan displayed during the Sports Meet on 11th January 2006. The Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba came to Sai Kulwant Hall in a grand procession at 9.50 a.m. The procession was led by the brass band of Anantapur Campus of the Institute followed by flag bearers squad of captains of various sports and cultural events and the brass band of the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the Institute. As soon as the procession reached the middle of the Hall, the flag bearers made a canopy of the flags in honour of the Revered Chancellor. After arriving at the dais, Bhagavan formally inaugurated the function by lighting the sacred lamp at 10.00 a.m.

In his introductory speech, Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak, Vice Chancellor of the Institute extended a hearty welcome to all and observed that sports and cultural events were harmonised in the integral system of education of the Institute. They not only played an important role in inculcating values like perseverance, courage, skill as well as harmony of thought, word and deed in students but also reflected the true spirit of sports as displayed by the participating students in the various sports and cultural events. The valedictory function had added significance



The students receiving trophies from the Reverend Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

because it was being held on the auspicious day of Sankranti and in the immediate Divine Presence of Bhagavan, said Sri Gokak.

After the introductory speech of Sri Gokak, Bhagavan blessed the gathering with His nectarine Sankranti Discourse (full text given elsewhere) exhorting the students to acquire educare. Emphasising the need for inner purity, Bhagavan said that students should earn a good name by imbibing good thoughts and performing good actions. After the Discourse of Bhagavan, trophies and prizes were distributed. The morning function came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 11.40 a.m.

Adi Kavi Valmiki: A Drama

The joy of celebrating Sankranti became manifold when the students of the Brindavan Campus of the Institute enraptured the devotees at Prasanthi Nilayam by enacting a beautiful drama "Adi Kavi Valmiki" on the afternoon of 14th January 2006 in

Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Starting from the early life of Valmiki, the drama portrayed how a dacoit and murderer like Ratnakara was transformed and became the great epic poet and Sage Valmiki by chanting the Divine Name of Rama earnestly. After hearing the story of Rama from the divine bard Narada, Valmiki not only became the Adi Kavi (first among poets) but earned the honour of writing the story of the Avatar as he earned the grace of God by penance and Namasmarana. One of the most beautiful features of this drama was that as Lava and Kusha sang the story of the Ramayana in sweet lyrics accompanied by enchanting music, the entire story was presented on the stage scene by scene. Excellent acting of the students, sweetness of the Telugu lyrics, beautiful sets and very efficient and innovative stage management made this an outstanding presentation. Bhagavan blessed the cast at



The seven sages show Valmiki the path of his redemption.

the end of the drama and posed for photographs with them. Prasadam was distributed to the entire gathering in the end. The function came to a happy conclusion with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 6.30 p.m.



SERVICE ACTIVITIES OF SAI ORGANISATION IN LATIN AMERICA

John Behner

and

Leonardo Gutter

BHAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA is inspiring millions of people all over the world to become better human beings. By His selfless love, by His example, by His Divine Message and through many other ways, He is touching the hearts of so many people and melting the shields that covered their hearts. He is showing a different way of living and thinking, with a higher purpose, and people so inspired by His Divine touch start to put into practice in their daily lives the love that He ignites in their hearts. They start to expand their concerns and compassion and feel the need to do something for their brothers and sisters in need.

Sathya Sai Overseas Organisation's Zone 2 comprises 23 countries of Latin America. Sai Organisation is present in all of them and it is carrying out its service activities in them. It is impossible to describe here all the different activities rendered by Sai devotees, but we will mention just some of them. The examples set by Bhagavan in India are being emulated in Latin America with water projects, dispensaries, medical camps, educational institutions completely free of charge, and in so many other ways. Since

2004, we have started a very active programme to spread the Divine Message of Bhagavan to our communities in the guidance of the Prasanthi Council. We have held till today about 100 meetings to spread Bhagavan's Divine Message of love and service among people. Nearly 40,000 people attended these meetings. However, many millions learned about the Divine Message and humanitarian work done by Bhagavan through all the media coverage of these meetings. Many TV programmes, radio programmes and newspapers informed about the service activities and the teachings of Bhagavan and the Organisation that bears His Divine name. We mention here some of the service activities done in Latin America.

Mexico

In January 2001, in one of the poorest and most populated neighbourhoods of the Iztapalapa district in Mexico City, a small place was prepared to serve as a dispensary. This is now known as Mexico City Sai Medical Clinic. Presently, the doctor's office has basic and essential medical equipment; the services are provided by a general doctor, a nurse and an orthodontist. The clinic is entirely free of charge and remains open from Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 15:00 p.m. During these four years, there have been more than twenty thousand medical consultations for people with different conditions such as respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases and a high percentage of pregnant women who require medical follow-up. On an average, about 500 consultations are now being provided every month. The clinic was started four years ago and has expanded to become a community centre. In addition to medical consultations, there is



treatment for teeth, a service that the local population would not normally receive. There are classes on hygiene and diet and even human values for children. There are adult reading classes. Refreshments are served for children. Some other services are also rendered, such as:

- Dental care for children
- Lectures on dental care for families
- Promotion of hygiene through cleaning campaigns
- Lectures on nutrition
- Donation of devices for making water fit for drinking
- Supply of medicines during medical sessions
- Supply of clothes for the people who attend the medical sessions and for the people who live in the neighbourhood
- Distribution of basic provisions to the people in the area.

Bolivia

Sai volunteers are helping very poor families who live on the bank of the Rocha River which is a contaminated river. The residents use this water for cooking, washing, and even drinking. They don't have electricity; so, they have to use candles. Their little houses are made with straw and pasteboards. The whole family lives in these houses, which are 2x2 metres. The volunteers of the Sai Centre of Concha Bamba have been providing clothes, food, water and tin cans to these needy people.

Sai volunteers go to the families of straw dealers who come from South of Bolivia. They live in houses made with straw. They survive by collecting straw in Potosí from where they



Sai volunteers providing items of daily need to the straw dealers from South of Bolivia.

come. They don't have electricity, water; sometimes they have no food. They make long journeys with their entire family which usually includes little children and babies. Sai volunteers provide clothes, food, needles, kettles, dishes and supplies to these needy people.

Sai volunteers have donated books and notebooks to the orphans in the orphanage at Concha Bamba. They also organise talks about human values and the teachings of love and peace.

Sai volunteers go to the Sacaba Prison for women and men and provide medical supplies, clothes and food items. They also provide some non-violent toys, cookies and dainties to children.

Sivingani is a small town located in a province of Concha Bamba called Independencia. Lots of children from the surrounding area along with their mothers come there on Christmas. This is a special day for all of them because they know that a Christmas gift is waiting for them. It could be just a ball, a plastic car or a doll but they know





The inmates of the orphanage at Concha Bamba joyfully showing the books and notebooks donated to them.



Sai volunteers distributing Christmas gifts to the children of Sivingani.

these gifts come from the hands of loving people and so, they accept the gifts with love.

Argentina

The Florencia Varela community of Buenos Aires has been provided a dental clinic, fully equipped with free service once a week. The Sai Foundation has built and equipped the clinic and Sai dentists are serving there.

El Salvador

During the last 12 years, there has been medical service for a rural community once a month. In the same community, the Sai Organisation provided water for 350 homes as one of the 12 water projects which have been realised in the country.

A Catholic Church was re-constructed with the help of members of the community by the Sai Organisation after the earthquakes of 2001.

An invalids home was constructed for wheelchair people together with workshops and there is a Sai Centre on the 3rd floor.

Guatemala City

Four years ago, the Sai Centre in Guatemala City started a clinic which provided consultations on Saturday mornings. The local

population was so gratified with the free service that each year another clinic has been added. Now there are four Sai medical clinics and a pharmacy which is open four days a week. One clinic offers Ayurvedic treatment, while the other three are run by allopathic Sai doctors. With the blessings of Bhagavan, this will become a Sai Hospital in near future.

Venezuela

Sai devotees recently organised an eye camp at a private hospital where 10 cataract operations were performed. This brings the total free operations performed here to 80. After the free lens implants are done, the patients are provided transport to go to their home and follow-up treatment is given. This service restored the eyesight of people who would never have been able to afford such treatment.

The Sai Organisation in Venezuela conducts regular medical camps outside the city. Different specialities are covered, and many devotees participate with parallel services such as hair cutting, food, music, and stories for children. Food distribution is also a part of these camps. As many as 10 Sai doctors offer their services together with 30 devotees.



Uruguay

Narayana Seva began in 2000. The frequency has been changing, but it has been definitely a service which makes us realise each time we have to face people in the street that we are not different from them.

Service to animals takes place once a week. One of our devotees is a veterinary doctor and with a group of devotees takes care of homeless animals by feeding them and by taking care of their health.

A Manual for Sai Groups has been prepared. This project began three years ago as an idea for helping the groups that start their activities. So many people participated, so many people identified themselves with this project that the outcome of people's love in action was this Manual. And today it has spread to all Latin American groups.

At the Montevideo Sai Centre, a blood donation club was started. Here the devotees can give "liquid love". The name of the club that is registered at the National Blood Service is Sai Baba.

In the year 2005, the first course of Education in Human Values – Educare was organised for a group of elementary school teachers. The response was so great that we had to create two groups of 40 persons each.

Colombia

The "Rainbow" programme is one of the Oasis Social Institution programmes, which have been working during the last 10 years in "Paraíso", a neighbourhood in Ciudad Bolívar, one of the most deprived areas in Bogotá, capital city of Colombia. Rainbow is oriented towards the children's population of this suburb. Its main objective is to develop



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human values following the method of educare, under the postulate that the only activity to be carried out is to lay a bridge to enable love and truth to come out from within us. Development of human values arises from the need to offer this population, overtaken by violence, poverty and abandonment, the key to real education. Real education brings about a change in us so that we are moved to care for our fellowmen, to cultivate our heart and to develop our own abilities and intelligence to be able to help and use them within our own society and the world.

Brazil

The following are the main activities of the Sai Organisation in Brazil: Medical camps are organised in several locations in Brazil as a mark of active love in the health area. Medical services in paediatrics,



ophthalmology, dentistry, dermatology are provided. Besides, diabetes and blood pressure tests are conducted. Youth group service in the community is also organised.

Water project of Sai Organisation deploys a water distribution network in a needy neighbourhood in Rio Grande do Sul, which reaches each household through their faucets.

Professional courses in computer science, basketry, beauty school, cooking, hotel monitoring in Amparo, Rio de Janeiro are organised. Disarmament campaign in a community of 500 children has been organised. Distribution of meals in an impoverished community has been continuing for 14 years in São Paulo.

The Brazilian Sai Organisation conducted Grama Seva at the Santa Rosa village, a rural settlement located 60 km near the City of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The services offered were: blood pressure control, lectures on contagious diseases and on dental care, blood testing for cholesterol, adult and children vaccination, enlisting of elders for further distribution of medicines, as well as clinical, dental and physiotherapeutic consulting. There was even a veterinary post for pets, with vaccination and clinic. EHV teachers offered classes to the children and a theatre to all the participants of the community. There were also services as haircut, distribution of food and clothes for adults, children and special kits for the newborn. The service team offered a vegetarian meal for all the people there. The

project reached a total of nearly 400 people, served by approximately 140 volunteers from the Sai Organisation. The event began and ended with group devotional singing, enthusiastically followed by all. The Divine Love of Swami permeated every action, and it could be sensed by the reactions from the people served as well as from the representatives of the Sai Organisation.

Costa Rica

- ❖ The members of the Sai Centre of San Jose provided emergency relief for people affected by the floods on the Caribbean coast. 85 families were helped with food and emergency items such as soap, candles and matches.
- ❖ Over 1000 bedding items have been delivered to homes for old and physically challenged people.
- ❖ Trees were planted in a municipal park with permission of the authorities in a afforestation drive by the Sai Centre.
- ❖ Breakfast is served to the homeless on Sundays in downtown San Jose.
- ❖ Every Saturday the members of the Centre help a group of elderly from a home in San Jose.
- ❖ Talks on human values are imparted to student groups.

In this way, the Sai Organisation of Latin America has been serving needy people in different countries and spreading the Divine Message of love and service taught by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

*My entire being, from head to toe, is dedicated to the service of people. I wish to do many things for the good of people. I do not wish to talk about them.
Action must speak for itself.*

- Baba

BHAGAVAN'S DIVINE LOVE CONTINUES TO INSPIRE SELFLESS SERVICE

It has been said in "Ramakatha Rasavahini" that after the celebration of Sri Rama's coronation, every devotee of Sri Rama was immersed in loving service and compassionate deeds. In the same tenor, the recent celebrations marking the 80th year of the Advent of the Avatar, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba have inspired many to devote their lives to the compassionate service of their fellowmen. Such selfless service and love can only stem from the eternal life-spring of Divine Love. Some global activities of loving service and devotion are described here.

U. S. A.

On 29th August 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall in the State of Louisiana as a category 4 storm. Its swath of destruction was the worst in American history over the last 100



A scene of devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in the U.S.A.

years. It devastated the central Gulf Coast States of the U.S.A. Cities such as New Orleans, Mobile and Gulfport bore the brunt of Katrina's force. Its impact was far reaching which caused human and property

destruction, disease, destruction of vital oil and water pipelines to the national economy. Devastation by Katrina was immediately followed by Hurricane Rita that made landfall on 24th September 2005 causing widespread damage to Southern Louisiana and South-eastern Texas.

In response to these national tragedies, Sai devotees quickly prepared themselves and began rendering immediate aid. Several Sai devotees underwent Red Cross training. Refugee families were adopted by local Sai Centres and were provided food, clothing, shelter, utensils and transportation. Bal Vikas children packed 500 toiletry bags and, along with adults, helped take care of children. Family counselling services were also provided. Hurricane Rita had caused extensive damage to Jasper, St. Augustine, Newton, Sabine, and Tyler counties in Texas. On 3rd December 2005, Sai devotees visited these areas to deliver 636 care packages consisting of bottled water, blankets, fruits, gloves, socks and other essential items. Personal visits were

made to 140 homes on that day. On the same day, Sai doctors visited several homes to examine children and the elderly. As part of the relief efforts, devotees have provided refrigerators and freezers to a food pantry and more than 300 school children have received shoes, socks and winter coats. In addition, assistance has been given to rebuild homes devastated by the hurricane. Sai devotees are continuing disaster relief support.

Inspired by Bhagavan's messages for Ladies Day, the lady devotees of Northern California and Nevada organised the first Regional Ladies Day retreat on 22nd October 2005 in Palo Alto, California. The event was attended by more than 200 Sai sisters. Inspiring talks were given by Smt. Sharon



Ladies Day retreat in California to focus on bringing Sai values into families.

Sandweiss, Smt. Berniece Mead and Smt. Renee Choudhuri. There were also skits, devotional singing and spiritual discussions in breakout sessions on bringing Sai values into families.

MIDDLE EAST

A medical camp was conducted in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E on the premises of the Indian Embassy on 23rd December 2005. Preventive



Medical camp held in Abu Dhabi on the premises of the Indian Embassy provided counselling in preventive healthcare and free health screening.

healthcare and free health screening were conducted for 105 patients. Presentations were made in four different languages on stress management, balanced diet, hygiene, smoking and alcoholism. In addition, 470 lunches were distributed to labourers in suburbs of Abu Dhabi on the same day. In order to help roadside labourers and construction workers who perform their jobs under severe heat, 7,000 litres of pure drinking water was distributed over 32 days during inclement weather until September 2005. In the same period, 10,056 litres of cold buttermilk was distributed to workers at another location in the city of Abu Dhabi. The Sathya Sai Centre of Abu Dhabi distributed fresh juices, apples and dates to people in a remote mosque.

In Oman, a health screening was conducted on 13th January 2006 in which 140 patients were seen in one day. Another medical camp was conducted on 30th December 2005 in Qatar and 80 patients were screened.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

A public meeting was held by the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 29th October 2005 to foster



Interfaith Meeting organised by the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in progress.

loving discussion of Bhagavan's teachings among people of many faiths. The meeting was attended by 150 people in the Sveti Anto Church. The invited speakers representing Islam, Judaism, Christianity and Hinduism underlined the importance of unity of all the religions of the world and emphasised the need for promoting human values in society as taught by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Sai devotees also visited a nursing home and sang Sarva Dharma Bhajans for the residents who were refugees in this long war-torn country.

FIJI

A public meeting was held in Suva on 24th August 2005 and another was held in Lautoka on 26th August 2005. The Suva meeting was attended by about 300 people and the one in Lautoka had 100 attendees. Both meetings were addressed by Sri Vishnu Deo, Chairman of Sai Organisation in Fiji. He spoke on Bhagavan's teachings that unify all faiths, His mission to re-establish righteousness and to inspire love for God through service to humanity. Sri Arthur Hillcoat, senior advisor to the Prasanthi Council spoke of Bhagavan's

message of universal love and His global educational works.

In addition, 350 people attended a national convention on "Unity, Purity, Divinity" that was held in the Ba province of Viti Levu on 20-21st August 2005. The convention was highlighted by inspiring talks on the silent spiritual revolution of Bhagavan Baba and His teachings. A devotee from the U.S.A., inspired by Bhagavan's love, sent 1,650 wheelchairs to Fiji for the physically challenged and poor.

KENYA

The Sainet project to distribute insecticide-treated mosquito nets and maize meals to the disease-vulnerable and the poor in Kenya has expanded to include more villages. To date 64,400 Sainets and 56.8 tons of maize meals



Sainet Project has so far benefited 266,800 people to save them from the menace of malaria.

have been distributed with love to cover a population of 266,800. The project has drawn appreciations from Hon. Joseph Kingi, the Assistant Minister for Provincial Administration and Dr. P. Maasulo, the District Medical Officer for Health.

MALAWI

Five cataract camps were conducted in Malawi from July to November 2005 in which

a total of 5,295 patients were examined and 516 cataract operations were performed.

PHILIPPINES

On 19th November 2005, a programme was held to inform the public about Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and to inspire young adults and parents to serve society with love. The events for the evening were performed by the students of The Institute of Sathya Sai Education, San Pedro, and the Sathya Sai School, Pililla and attended by a large gathering including Dr Pijano, Executive Director, Philippine Accrediting Associations of Schools, Colleges and Universities and Smt. Navrekha Sharma, Ambassador for India to the Republic of the Philippines. The keynote speaker was Dr. Bhanoji Rao, Professor Emeritus at NUS, Singapore. He spoke on the role of students and youth in today's society. There were also performances of songs, skits and parables based on Bhagavan's teachings. On 23rd November 2005, Sai devotees delivered 124 bags of food, milk and rice to destitute children as part of 80th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan.

U. K.

An interfaith public meeting was held in Plymouth on 10th December 2005 which was



A speaker addressing the gathering in Plymouth, U.K. where an interfaith meeting was held.

attended by 70 people. This meeting brought together Sai devotees and the Plymouth Islamic Educational Trust. The meeting began with the movie "His Work" and was followed by talks from Hindu, Christian and Muslim speakers on how faith helps us in our daily lives and a panel discussion. It was concluded by unified singing of Islamic prayers.

BRAZIL

The first Sai School in Brazil was started in 1994 in a poor neighbourhood of Rio De Janerio. At present, there are five schools in Brazil which take children from these neighbourhoods and teach them the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values programme. Recently, a large audience of 350 Sai devotees was touched by the stories shared by a four-year-old girl from the Sathya Sai School in Minas Gerias State.

– Prasanthi Council

BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh: Karimnagar district carried out 80-hour Akhanda Bhajan, cultural programmes, exhibitions, etc., all over the district as part of Bhagavan's 80th Birthday celebrations. Moreover, it carried out three veterinary camps vaccinating 900 animals, two medical camps treating 425 patients, Narayana Seva to 10,000 people all over the district.

Nellore district distributed 750 food packets to cyclone and flood-affected people in Kavali and Nellore areas. This district distributed 9 kg of rice, one blanket and dates packets to each of the 45 cyclone-affected girijan families besides giving Saris and other dress material on 10th November 2005. This district distributed 10 quintals of rice to

cyclone-affected girijan families in 11 different villages in the district.

Khammam district conducted 55 free marriages at Sattupalli town on 10th October 2005 giving the couples all the material needed in the marriage and providing sumptuous lunch to 2,000 people. The district also gave Amruta Kalasams to 80 needy families, each containing 10 kg rice, 1 kg Dhal and one blanket.

West Godavari district carried out Narayana Seva along with Nama Sankirtan in orphanages and Homes for physically, mentally and visually challenged people in Eluru, Tadepalligudem, Tanuku, Palakole, Jangareddygudem and Kovvur towns. In sub-jails also, Narayana Seva was carried out.

Anantapur district distributed food sent by Bhagavan to about 20,000 devotees coming to Prasanthi Nilayam to attend Bhagavan's 80th Birthday celebrations from 18th November 2005 to 22nd November 2005 by erecting Shamianas at Sri Sathya Sai Prasanthi Nilayam Railway Station.

Srikakulam district carried out Grama Seva (service to villages) from December 2004 to November 2005 in 1008 villages by performing spiritual, educational and service activities in these villages. On the completion of this village welfare programme for 1008 villages, nearly 2000 devotees visited Prasanthi Nilayam from 3rd to 5th December 2005 and received the blessings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. A special programme was held on the afternoon of 5th December 2005 in Poornachandra Auditorium where Bhagavan addressed these devotees and commended their service activities to villagers. Bhagavan also gave them the opportunity to sing Bhajans and perform a cultural programme in His Divine Presence.

Assam, Manipur and N.E. States: The recent ethnic strife in Karbi Anglong Hill District of Assam caused deprivation and disease to a large number of poor hill tribals living in interior and even inaccessible areas. Sai workers distributed clothes and other essential articles in the relief shelters at Tumpreng, Domkamakum, Longphermukh and other interior villages.

Sai Organisation also set up three free medical camps from 18th to 20th December 2005 in the affected villages of Borkak, Dalimbari and Borgoan of Hamren sub-division of the district in close collaboration with Autonomous District Council officials where thousands of people were treated and medicines were distributed. Warm clothing for men, women and children offered by nearby districts of Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Jorhat and Golaghat and collected by local Diphu Samithi were distributed. Medicines for influenza, skin ailments, cough, malaria and stomach diseases along with pamphlets on basic healthcare and sanitation and prevention of diseases were distributed among affected people.

Tamil Nadu: Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Tamil Nadu celebrated the silver jubilee of Sundaram (Bhagavan's abode in Chennai) with great enthusiasm in grateful remembrance of that golden moment when Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba entered it and graciously inaugurated it on 19th January 1981.

Daily Nagar Sankirtan, Homam, Abhishekam to the idol of Shirdi Sai Baba, Sahasranama Archana, video show, music concert and Bhajans were held as part of the celebrations from 13th January to 19th January 2006. On 16th January 2006, Bal Vikas children of Chennai Metro



presented a value-oriented drama on Sathya and Prema at the Sivagami Pethachi Auditorium which was followed by the video show “Advent of the Avatar”. Both programmes kept the audience spellbound, consisting mostly of non-members.

A mega public event as part of the celebrations was held on 18th January 2006 at the historic Music Academy where Bhagavan had addressed a huge gathering on an earlier occasion. The programme commenced with Bhajans followed by Veda



*Silver jubilee celebration of “Sundaram” held in Chennai.
(Inset) Chief Guest of the function, Sri Surjit Singh Barnala,
Governor, Tamil Nadu addressing the gathering.*

recitation and welcome address by Sri G.K. Raman, Convenor, Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Tamil Nadu. Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation delivered the keynote address. Justice A.P. Shah, Chief Justice of Madras High Court then addressed the gathering. He was all praise for Bhagavan’s humanitarian projects in the fields of medical care, education and sociocare that he felt were unparalleled in providing benefits to the poor. In his address, the Chief Guest, Sri Surjit Singh Barnala, Governor of Tamil Nadu recalled how on seeing Bhagavan’s water project that brought

water to the water-starved Anantapur district, he went to see Bhagavan who graciously granted an hour-long interview to him and blessed him with a ring and Vibhuti Prasadam which he still deeply treasures. He praised Bhagavan’s mega water projects that cover many areas in Andhra Pradesh and Chennai as the largest undertaken anywhere in the world, and also the totally free services of the super speciality hospitals and educational institutions set up by Bhagavan. Despite tight security regulations, the 1,600 capacity auditorium was packed with about 2,500 people. The function came to a close with the vote of thanks by the State President, Sri N. Ramani followed by singing of National Anthem.

On the anniversary date on 19th January 2006, many programmes were held at Sundaram starting with Nagar Sankirtan followed by Homam, Abhishekam to Shirdi Sai Baba idol, Sahasranama Archana and a melodious music concert

by Smt. P. Susheela. A notable event was the presentation of sewing machines and household articles to the needy. The programme in the forenoon concluded with Vastradan and Narayana Seva. In the afternoon, there were musical concerts by Bombay Sisters, Sundaram Mahila Singers, Veda chanting by Mahilas and Bhajans. Prasadam with Swami’s picture and a key chain embossed with the picture of Sundaram as a souvenir were offered to all the devotees. With the blessings and grace of Bhagavan, the weeklong celebrations concluded with Mangalarati to Bhagavan.



ONCE WHEN A HUSBAND AND HIS wife were sleeping in their house, a thief started making a hole in the wall of their house at midnight. Hearing that sound, the wife woke up her husband and said, "Perhaps a thief is making a hole in the wall." The husband replied even without opening his eyes, "I know, I know. The thief is making a hole. It is in the southern wall of our house." Saying this, he continued to lie down in his bed. After some time, the thief collected all the utensils of the house and kept them in a corner. The wife said again, "Please get up. There is the sound of utensils. The thief is tying all our belongings into a bundle." Immediately, the husband replied, "I know, I know. Not only has he tied everything into a bundle, he has carried them near the wall of the house." Saying this, the husband turned to the other side in his bed. After some time, the sound of jumping over the wall was heard. Once again, the wife said, "At least get up now. The thief is taking away all our things after jumping over the wall." The husband said, "I

know, I know. What to talk of jumping over the wall? The thief would have already gone quite far away from our house." Enraged at hearing this, the wife exclaimed, "What is the use of saying 'I know, I know' without doing anything when a thief is running away after plundering our house! Is this the sign of wisdom?"



"What is the use of saying 'I know, I know' without doing anything when a thief is running away after plundering our house! Is this the sign of wisdom?" Lamented the helpless wife.

There are many so-called spiritual seekers who spend all their life reading many spiritual books and listening to discourses. Spiritual practice lies in living up to at least a few of those precepts that you read and listen. Those who merely say, 'I know this, I know that' after reading a number of books are like the husband in this story.





*Teacher :
The Beacon Light*

The teacher moulds the rising generation into self-confident, self-reliant, Atma-conscious persons. He is the architect of happy homes, prosperous communities and peaceful nations. He has not only to equip himself with knowledge and skills to inform and instruct, but also the vision and insight to inspire and transform. Children absorb from the teacher and elders their habits and manners, behaviour and beliefs. Therefore, the teacher has to be a constant example of the ideals he has to implant in their hearts.

- Baba

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