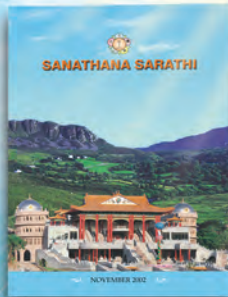
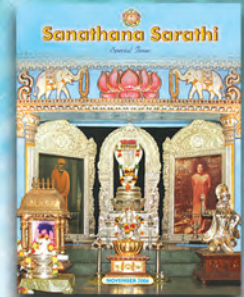
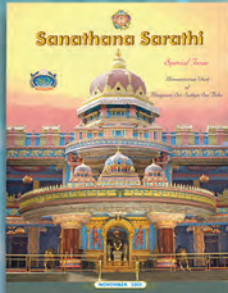




Sanathana Sarathi

Fifty Glorious Years



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Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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"Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema
and Ahimsa are like our Pancha
Pranas (five life-breaths). When you
have Prema in your heart, Dharma
will manifest there. Therefore, fill your
heart with love and adhere to truth.
Truth is permanent. Truth is God.
Truth remains unchanged in all periods
of time, in all countries, at all places."



CONTENTS

- **Bhajans Give you Peace and Happiness 38**
Sankranti Discourse
- **Annual Sports and Cultural Meet of
Sri Sathya Sai Educational Institutions 45**
A Report
- **Grand Sankranti and
Prize Distribution Function 49**
A Report
- **Love is My Biggest Property 52**
New Year Day Message
- **Celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam 59**
A Report
- **News from Sai Centres 63**
- **The Director and Actors 67**
Chinna Katha

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Editor

G.L. ANAND





BHAJANS GIVE YOU PEACE AND HAPPINESS

King Harischandra, who strictly followed the path of truth, had to leave this world ultimately leaving behind his vast kingdom and riches. Emperor Nala, who reigned over a great empire, could not take with him anything when he passed away. Did King Mandhata, who adorned the Krita Yuga, carry any wealth with him when he left the earth? Even Lord Rama, who built the bridge across the ocean, is not to be seen on the earth today. Many kings have ruled over the earth, but none of them could carry even a fistful of dust with them. Oh noble one! do you think you can carry the kingdom and its riches on your head when you leave the world?

(Telugu Poem)

MAN DOES NOT BRING anything with him at the time of his birth. He accumulates everything during his life-sojourn on earth. All the money, property and bank balance that you have was neither with you at the time of your birth nor would it go with you after your death. Then, where is the cause to weep and wail when you lose your wealth, property and bank balance?

Remember God Every Moment of your Life

Man is not born to weep and cry. He should lead a happy life and also leave the world happily. Why should people worry for worldly possessions which are temporary and ephemeral? This does not behove a human being. Consider everything as God's gift. Understand the relationship between Vyashti, Samashti, Srishti and Parameshti (individual, society, creation and God). Creation emerges from God and society is a part of creation. There can be no society without individual. Therefore, individual is most important. Everything in this

creation is the gift of God. But, do we ever aspire for God and shed tears for Him? It is not the mark of a human being to shed tears over worldly things which are temporary and impermanent. All these are like passing clouds which come and go. Sometimes, thick clouds



All of you have come together to participate in Bhajans. We should learn to sing Bhajans unitedly. First you should sing yourself and then enjoin others also to sing with you. Then only will you get real peace. "Jap Dhyam Bina Samyog Nahin" (without reciting the name of God and contemplating on it, there can be no union with God). It is Bhajan that is most important. If you have any hesitation in singing aloud, you may sing within yourself. But even this much people are not doing. This is not good.



cover the sun or the moon and you cannot see them. There is no need for any worry. If you wait for some time, the clouds would move away and the sun or the moon will become visible again. What is required is a little patience and forbearance.

Do not waste your time merely in gathering information. You study day and night, even foregoing sleep. You may spoil your health also in this manner. You should study only in the prescribed hours. Read all that is necessary. Do not waste your time in reading all that is unnecessary. People pick up books from all sorts of places. They buy all sorts of trash in the name of books from roadside also. This is not what you should read. You should first rid yourself of all the rubbish that has got accumulated in your head by reading trash material like cinema stories.

Forbearance is the real beauty in this sacred land of Bharat. Of all the rituals, adherence to truth is the greatest penance. The nectarine feeling in this country is the feeling of love towards one's mother. Character is valued far higher than the very life itself. People have forgotten the basic principles of this great culture and are imitating Western culture. Alas! The Bharatiyas are not aware of the greatness of their cultural heritage just as a mighty elephant is not aware of its own strength. (Telugu Poem)

Man is endowed with great power and there is none in the entire creation who has as much power as man possesses. That is why God also incarnates in human form. *Daivam Manusha Rupena* (God is in the form of a human being). There is none greater than God. Therefore, to forget God is nothing less than



a sacrilege. In fact, we should remember Him every moment of our life. Man pursues various tasks in this world. Whatever task you may be engaged in, you should not forget God at any time. That is true humanness. The reason for all the troubles that prevail in this world is that man has forgotten God due to his delusion. He undergoes so much suffering only because of his delusion. God does not give difficulties and sorrows to man. He always gives bliss and happiness. But due to our delusion, we consider even happiness as sorrow and undergo many types of sufferings. Your own feelings are the

cause of your suffering. When you bring about a change in the way of your thinking and fill your heart with divine feelings, you will have no suffering at all. Man, in fact, lives in delusion. Today captains of sports teams are wearing black coats and white shirts. When Anil Kumar saw that all of you have come wearing black coats, he also has put on a black coat. It is this type of imitation that is prevalent in this world. But this is not good. It gives only temporary happiness which comes and goes. Imitation can never give everlasting happiness to man.

All the kings and emperors who ruled over earth left the world empty-handed. They could not carry even a blade of grass with them. So long as we are alive, we maintain relationship with worldly things and people. But all these relationships come to an end when we leave this world. In fact, all these relationships are of our own making. We should not be carried away by these relationships. We should lead a happy and blissful life. Human life is a festival of joy. This joy does not refer to Joy ice cream, but to the feelings of joy that are immanent in human heart. We should lead our life experiencing this joy at all times.

Renounce the Fruits of your Actions

The human body is made of five elements and is bound to perish one day or the other. People feel happy when a child is born but become sad when somebody dies. You should never give room to sorrow at all. Face all difficulties with courage. Have firm conviction that you are an aspect of God and would not shed tears.

*“Sreyohi Jnanamabhyasath,
Jnanaddhyanam Visishyathe,
Dhyanath Karmaphala Thyagah,
Thyagath Santhiranantharam.”*

(Sanskrit Verse)

(Better indeed is knowledge than practice. Better than knowledge is meditation on God. But, better than meditation is renunciation of the desire for the fruits of actions. For, there follows peace immediately.)

True humanness lies in renouncing the fruits of all our actions. It is the expectation of fruits that brings suffering to man. Prior to marriage, man is alone, and he walks straight on his two legs. After the marriage, he gets two more legs. When a child is born, he virtually becomes a six-legged creature. As his legs increase, his sorrows also go on increasing. All these sufferings that he undergoes are not given by God. This is the result of his own foolishness. You should consider that everything which happens is for your own good. When you lead your life with such positive feelings, there can be no scope for sorrow.

Your Annual Sports and Cultural Meet has just concluded. All that you have performed in sports has come from within you and not from any outside source. Your happiness and sorrow depend on what comes from within you. Everything in this world is the creation of your own feelings. How long can you remain here? You remain in the world till you finish the role assigned to you. After that, you will have to leave everything and go. Therefore, it is imperative for you to recognise this truth and conduct yourself accordingly. There is nothing permanent in this world. Hence, there is no need to worry about such temporary things which come and go. We need not grieve over the death of somebody nor should feel elated at somebody's birth. Someone is born today, but it is not known what will happen to him tomorrow. In fact, yesterday, today and tomorrow, all are the same. There is no difference between them.

Similarly past, present and future are the same but our experiences in these three periods of time vary. We should not worry about the past. Past is past; it will not come back. Future is not certain. But the present is not merely present; it is omnipresent. This omnipresent contains both the past and the future. Therefore, we should consider past, present and future as one and experience bliss.

Free yourself from Worries

Dear Students!

All that you experience at the worldly level is temporary and unreal like passing clouds. You should have no worry due to all this. You have to march forward on your life journey. Having marched forward, where is the need for you to look back? All that is past has been seen by you already. In this way, past, present and future come and go. Hence, you should never worry about anything in this world. But there are some who worry a lot. Many of you are worried about your education. There are others who worry about their family. For example, there are many women who grieve over the death of their husbands, thinking that they were there with them earlier and now they have left them alone. One who is born is bound to die some time or the other. It is only God who is present at all times – past, present and future. Due to their imagination, people are deluded by the diversity of names and forms. Get rid of this imagination and understand the principle of oneness. You are thinking that the new year has begun. But wherefrom has this new year come? Without old, how can there be new? It is old that becomes new and new becomes old with the passage of time. Old and new are like the object and its image. Therefore, one should not worry about



You should develop the power of your senses. It is possible only when you have control over them. But today self-control is nowhere to be seen. We are using the senses without any restraint.

We look at everything when we go to the bazaar. Sense control is very essential not only for the sake of your studies, but also for ideal conduct in life. God has given you senses so that you make proper use of them.



these matters. Drive away all worries, sorrows and difficulties.

Some students start worrying when their examinations draw near, thinking, “Oh! What will happen to me as the examination has come near?” You should not get worried in this manner. Whatever you have studied, you can write in the examination. Face your examination with courage. Never worry about what is to happen in future. Everything can be achieved with courage. If you are devoid of courage, you will lose everything. Hence, you should never lose courage. This courage is energy. It is the energy that constitutes the five elements which form the basis of the entire creation. The same five elements are present in you. In fact, everything is in you; nothing comes from outside. Then, where is the need for you to search for anything outside? Man suffers due to the six evil qualities, viz., Kama (desire), Krodha (anger), Lobha (greed), Moha (delusion), Mada (pride) and Matsarya (jealousy) which overpower him.

You have many desires.





Whatever task you may be engaged in, you should not forget God at any time. That is true humanness. The reason for all the troubles that prevail in this world is that man has forgotten God due to his delusion. He undergoes so much suffering only because of his delusion. God does not give difficulties and sorrows to man. He always gives bliss and happiness. But due to our delusion, we consider even happiness as sorrow and undergo many types of sufferings. Your own feelings are the cause of your suffering.

Why should you desire for something when everything is within you? You should understand this truth on your own. Never think that you lack anything. Everything is present in you. What is present inside is reflected outside. What you see reflected outside is actually present in you. Therefore, you should maintain inner purity. Only then will you be successful in all your endeavours. It is a great mistake to crave for outer worldly objects, forgetting your inner reality.

Embodiments of Love! Students!

You are pursuing various

types of education. But, what is the use of all your education?

Modern education leads only to argumentation, not to total wisdom. What is the use of acquiring education which cannot lead you to immortality? Acquire the knowledge that will make you immortal. (Telugu Poem)

Real Knowledge Comes from Within

Your education should be reflected in your conduct and life. You should, moreover, impart this knowledge to those who lack it. It should help your fellow human beings also to tread the right path. Whatever you have learned, share it with all. Only then will your humanness find expansion.

You should develop the power of your senses. It is possible only when you have control over them. But today self-control is nowhere to be seen. We are using the senses without any restraint. We

look at everything when we go to the bazaar. Sense control is very essential not only for the sake of your studies, but also for ideal conduct in life. God has given you senses so that you make proper use of them. You cannot attain Pushti and Santushti (strength and happiness) without sense control. God has given you senses not merely to enjoy the objects of the world in an arbitrary manner like other living beings. Even birds, animals and small insects do the same. Ants too can procreate and raise their family. Man



need not hoard so much money just for the sake of looking after his family. One should have faith that One who has created all beings will also provide sustenance to them. Hence, you need not worry so much for the sake of your food and daily needs.

People go abroad just to earn a high salary. They may earn five thousand dollars a month there, which converted into Indian currency become lakhs of rupees. But five hundred rupees have much more value in our country than five thousand dollars in an overseas country (*loud applause*). You may earn a lot of money outside, but what you lose is much more than what you gain. Many people go abroad with many desires. But, what is there abroad? In fact, you lose your broadness when you go abroad. Therefore, there is no need for you to go abroad. Stay here, serve your parents and bring up your children in a nice way, teaching them the great principles of Indian culture. This is real education. What is education? Can you call all those who can read and write as educated? No, not at all. Without practical knowledge, all your education is a big zero. All the knowledge is within you. It is not outside. Teachers impart merely bookish knowledge. But real education is in your Mastaka (head) and not in Pustaka (book). Books help you only to gather information.

Develop the Power of Discrimination

Do not waste your time merely in gathering information. You study day and night, even foregoing sleep. You may spoil your health also in this manner. You should study only in the prescribed hours. Read all that is necessary. Do not waste your time in reading all that is unnecessary. People pick up books from all sorts of places. They

buy all sorts of trash in the name of books from roadside also. This is not what you should read. You should first rid yourself of all the rubbish that has got accumulated in your head by reading trash material like cinema stories. You will lose your respect and reputation when you read such useless books. Open any newspaper and see; it is full of cinema pictures and advertisements. There is nothing one can gain from it. Real education comes to you from your inner voice. That is what you should follow. You will attain real humanness if you follow the voice of your conscience.

You cannot be called a human being merely because you have a human form. One does not become a human being only because one has feet, hands, eyes, nose, mouth, etc. Even small insects have all these limbs. Should we lead our life like them? No, no. We should set high ideals in life. Your conduct should reflect your true humanness and culture. Your true culture is to become ideal. Culture teaches us what to do and how to do it. It is culture which tells us what is good and what is bad. Remember that you belong to the caste of humanity. Your real caste is not what you acquire at the time of your birth. Your real caste is the caste of humanity. This can never be changed. Treasure this truth in your heart and follow the culture. Along with caste and culture, you must have discrimination power also. Without the power of discrimination, you may do what you are not supposed to do. Your intellect and power of intelligence are not that important. It is discrimination that is most essential. You should acquire that which is necessary for you. You should have light when you are in darkness. You need not carry any light with you



in broad daylight. Acquire only that which is essential for you to lead your life in a proper way. What you are supposed to learn and develop is not merely bookish knowledge or physical strength. They may come and go. You should develop the power of discrimination which remains with you permanently. Whatever you see, you should be able to judge, "Is it good or bad? Is it useful or useless?" In this way, you should develop your humanness. You must think before performing a task, "Should I do this or should I not?"

Make your Parents Happy

Never hurt the feelings of your parents who have given you birth and brought you up. That is why the Vedas give this injunction: "*Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava*" (revere your mother and father as God). But these days children do not take care of their parents; they consider their wife as most important. They forget their mother who carried them in her womb for nine months, gave birth to them, nursed and nurtured them, bearing all hardships. You may love your wife, but you should treat your parents with humility and respect. Parents should be given foremost importance. All other relationships come thereafter. First and foremost, you should love your mother and follow her command. Your life will be happy and peaceful only when you make her happy. If she sheds tears, you are bound to suffer in life. When you make your mother happy, all your life will be filled with happiness. Unfortunately, there are many today who do not recognise the love of their mother. When their mother tells them something, they ask her to shut up, saying that they know everything. They tell her, "I have acquired many degrees. Do you think that I do not know even this much after acquiring so many degrees?"

You may have acquired many degrees, but the knowledge they impart is limited only to a few subjects. Where does the degree for general life come from? It comes only from your parents (*loud applause*). Whatever high degrees you may be having, first of all you must serve your mother and make her happy. Then only can your life become happy. You should learn all that you are supposed to learn and perform all your duties earnestly in your daily life. This message is My present to you.

Recite the name of God constantly. What is that which recitation of God's name gives you? It gives you peace and happiness. "*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin ...*" (one can have no peace and happiness without singing the glory of God). When you participate in Bhajans, how happy and peaceful you become! Other songs and poems cannot give you this peace and happiness. Therefore, Bhajan is most important. All of you have come together to participate in Bhajans. We should learn to sing Bhajans unitedly. First you should sing yourself and then enjoin others also to sing with you. Then only will you get real peace. "*Jap Dhyan Bina Samyog Nahin*" (without reciting the name of God and contemplating on it, there can be no union with God). It is Bhajan that is most important. If you have any hesitation in singing aloud, you may sing within yourself. But even this much people are not doing. This is not good. You may forget anything but never forget God. Everything comes and goes but Bhajan neither comes nor goes. It is eternal and everlasting. Therefore, never forget to contemplate on God.

**– From Bhagavan's Sankranti Discourse
in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam
on 15th January 2008.**



COURAGE AND CONFIDENCE AT DISPLAY IN HILL VIEW STADIUM

THE ANNUAL SPORTS AND Cultural Meet 2008 of Sri Sathya Sai University was held on 11th January 2008 in Hill View Stadium, Prasanthi Nilayam in the Divine Presence of the Revered Chancellor of the University, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The event brought to the fore the qualities of courage, confidence and dexterity of the students of Sri Sathya Sai institutions and delighted the mammoth gathering of spectators with amazing feats of daredevilry of the students and fine quality of their rhythmic dances.

The vast Hill View Stadium started reverberating with Vedic chants at 7.45 a.m. on the beautiful sunny morning of 11th January 2008. The Revered Chancellor of the University, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba arrived in the stadium at 8.00 a.m. in an open car in His sparkling yellow robe. On His entering the northern end of the stadium, the band of Anantapur Campus offered welcome to Him. From there, Bhagavan came to Santhi Vedika in a grand procession led by the brass band of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus, motorbikes, flag bearers and horse riders squads of selected students. As Bhagavan's motorcade came near Santhi Vedika, the flag bearers squad made a canopy of flags in His honour. On arriving at Santhi Vedika, Bhagavan was offered a reverential welcome by the Vice Chancellor and senior faculty members of the University.

Impressive March Past

Bhagavan inaugurated the function by lighting the sacred lamp at 8.15 a.m. The first

item of the programme was the March Past of the students of all Sri Sathya Sai institutions. While the brass band of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus played the marching tunes, smartly marching and immaculately dressed squads of Sri Sathya Sai Primary and Higher Secondary



The sports and cultural events of Sri Sathya Sai institutions began with an impressive March Past by the contingents of all the institutions.

schools, Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music and those of Anantapur, Brindavan and Prasanthi Nilayam campuses of the University came to the Santhi Vedika and offered their salutes to the Revered Chancellor. At the rear of this grand March Past was the contingent of athletes of all the campuses of the University.

After witnessing the March Past, Bhagavan ceremoniously hoisted the University flag, lighted the sports torch and released balloons and white pigeons amidst a thunderous applause of the spectators. This year's mascot was a unicorn which carried the sports torch

to the top of the hill where it lighted the Sports Urn. The participants in the sports events were, in the meantime, administered the customary oath to take part in the sports events in fair competition for the glory of sports, the nation and the Revered Chancellor of the University.

Daredevilry of the Anantapur Campus Students

Anantapur Campus students were the first to present their sports and cultural events. At the outset, a motorbikes squad of students came before Santhi Vedika and offered their salutes to the Revered Chancellor. Meanwhile, a group of dancers started performing a dance item in the performing area, making many



The students of Anantapur Campus of Sri Sathya Sai University performing an impressive rhythmic dance.

formations with colourful fans in their hands which also turned into umbrellas. After this, the students presented rhythmic exercises in the form of the games of hockey, tennis and volleyball, displaying various postures and movements in playing these games. The accompanying commentary and music brought these games alive in the performing area. But the daredevilry of the Anantapur girls was seen in the motorbike stunts which they displayed at the end of their presentation. The spectators held their breath when they performed the ramp jump through a fire ring and over 20 girls. Their display ended at 9.20 a.m. when



A daring feat of ramp jump being performed by a student of Anantapur Campus of the University.

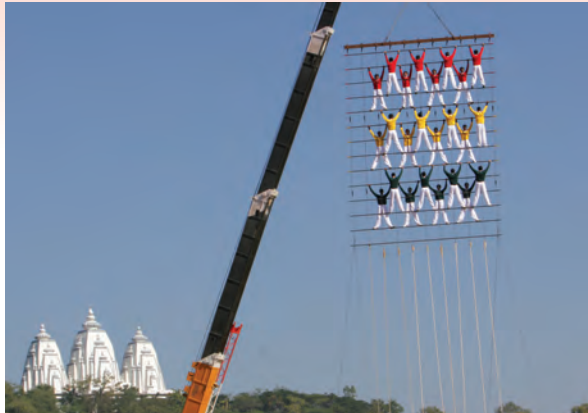
they came before Santhi Vedika and made a beautiful formation, expressing their reverence for Bhagavan.

Grand Display of Brindavan Campus Students

The students of Brindavan Campus began their performance with equestrian events when their four horse riders displayed their skill by crossing various obstacles flawlessly. Their next item was a display on giant wheels which showed their dexterity and coordination. Other attractive events of their display were aerobics with skipping rope and formations with colourful planks. In the end, they performed marvellous feats on a grid more than 25 metres above the ground which displayed their balance and



Brindavan Campus students showed spectacular feats in their equestrian events.



Display of courage, confidence and symmetry on a 25-metre-high grid by the students of Brindavan Campus of the University.

dexterity. The wonderful formations made by them at such a great height earned them a series of loud applauses of the spectators. In the end, they all came before Santhi Vedika to express their reverence and love for their Beloved Chancellor, Bhagavan Baba and made a beautiful formation. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.00 a.m.

Colourful Display of Primary School Students

In the afternoon, Bhagavan was ceremoniously led to Santhi Vedika by the motorbikes squad of students when He came to Hill View Stadium at 3.20 p.m. in an open car, donning a beautiful red robe. After Bhagavan was seated on Santhi Vedika, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School made their presentation of beautiful dances to the tune of sweet songs and thrilling music. The children in their colourful dresses enraptured one and all by their smart rhythmic movements and excellent formations, displaying their perfect sense of symmetry and synchronisation. Their dance with Ganesh masks and another with



Colourful display of rhythmic rainbow dance by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School.

a rainbow in the background were specially very charming. Besides dances, the students performed wonderful feats of gymnastics and



A spectacular show of basketball match on monocycles by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School delighted the mammoth gathering of spectators.

presented a delightful show of lion dance. However, their basketball match on monocycles was most fun-filled and spectacular. At the end of their performance, they came before Santhi Vedika and released bunches of colourful balloons while a sweet song expressing their love for Bhagavan was played on the public address system.

Display of Power and Grit by Prasanthi Nilayam Students

After this, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School and those of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of Sri Sathya Sai University presented their programme. At the outset, they danced to the tune of a beautiful song expressing their love and reverence for Bhagavan and made many attractive formations with colourful discs in their hands, concluding it by making the words “We Love You” to the delight of all devotees. This was followed by their gymnastic feats on three moving lorries, on a 12-metre-high stand and on vaulting horse. Their most spectacular performance on the vaulting horse was their jump over a van and a lorry which displayed



A courageous feat of jumping over a van by a student of Prasanthi Nilayam.



Wonderful feats on skates were performed by the students of Prasanthi Nilayam.

their courage, confidence and dexterity. Thereafter, their skaters displayed marvellous manoeuvring skills and showed their grit and courage by jumping from a ramp over four boys and a van. This was followed by a gun drill by 40 boys dressed as soldiers with guns in their hands, displaying perfect symmetry, coordination and quick reflexes. Their last item was a show of martial arts – first they showed their skill in handling sticks for self-defence and then displayed their power in feats of Karate. In the end, they came before Santhi Vedika and made a beautiful formation. This spectacular and thrilling show of sports and cultural events of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions came to a happy conclusion with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 5.35 p.m.

If only you surrender your wish and will and your fancies and fantasies to God, He will lead you on the right path and give you peace and joy. You must not run after diverse ends and fleeting pleasures. Leave everything to God; accept whatever happens as His Will.

— Baba



Cups and trophies displayed on the beautifully decorated dais in Sai Kulwant Hall.

GRAND SANKRANTI AND PRIZE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION

THE JOYOUS FESTIVAL OF Sankranti and prize distribution function of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions were held on 15th January 2008 in Sai Kulwant Hall which was beautifully decorated on this occasion. Special decorations with plantain leaves, tender coconuts and sugarcane were put up on the gates of the Hall and other prominent places as a mark of auspiciousness. Cups and trophies meant for distribution to the winners of sports events in the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet were displayed on the dais of the Hall. On the eve of Sankranti, music and cultural programmes were presented by the students of the three campuses of the University. On the morning of 14th January 2008, Bhagavan distributed blankets to thousands of needy and old people in Sai Kulwant Hall. After blessing the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall with His Divine Darshan, Bhagavan went round the entire Hall for nearly an hour and a half and showered His love and blessings on the beneficiaries. On Sankranti day, Bhagavan blessed the students and devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall with His Divine Discourse

and distributed trophies, cups and medals to the winners of sports events of the University.

On the morning of 15th January, the Revered Chancellor of the University, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba came to Sai Kulwant Hall in a grand procession led by the flag bearing squad of athletes and brass band of Sri Sathya Sai University. As Bhagavan came in the centre of the Hall, the flag bearing squad made a canopy of flags in His honour. After reaching the dais, Bhagavan inaugurated the function by lighting the sacred lamp at 8.25 a.m. amidst a thunderous applause of students and devotees. At the outset, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Sri Anil V. Gokak offered gratitude to Bhagavan whose guidance and inspiration, he said, made the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet 2008 a grand success. Sri Gokak also dwelt upon the importance of healthy body for man's spiritual journey and stressed the significance of sports for the all-round development of students. Before the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, Sri K.B.S. Dilip, a student of 2nd year M.Sc. (Maths) of Prasanthi



Nilayam Campus, made a brief speech in which he narrated how Bhagavan blessed and inspired him to write the script of the drama “Veera Anjaneya” enacted by the students on 12th January 2008. After this, Bhagavan blessed the devotees and students with His Sankranti Discourse (full text given elsewhere in this issue).

Thereafter, Bhagavan distributed trophies to the principals and wardens of all Sri Sathya Sai institutions, gave cups to the captains of all teams and blessed the medals and certificates for awarding to winners of individual sports events. Thereafter, Bhagavan blessed the Prasadam. As the students distributed Prasadam to the entire assembly of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall, the brass band of the University played joyous notes to the delight of the entire congregation. On this joyous note, this grand function came to a happy conclusion. At 10.20 a.m., Bhagavan accepted Arati and left for His abode.

Veera Anjaneya: A Drama

The students of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of Sri Sathya Sai University performed a very illuminating and educative drama “Veera Anjaneya” (valiant Hanuman) in Sai Kulwant Hall on 12th January 2008, illustrating symbolically the journey of man to the Godhead by portraying some selected incidents from the life of Hanuman, an ideal devotee of Lord Rama.

The drama started at 5.20 p.m. after Bhagavan’s arrival in Sai Kulwant Hall. The story of the drama was enfolded through a dialogue between Sage Narada and Sant Tulsidas, the author who wrote the immortal story of the Ramayana in Hindi and also composed the life story of Hanuman in verse entitled “Hanuman Chalisa”. The drama



The drama “Veera Anjaneya” enacted by the students of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of Sri Sathya Sai University in Sai Kulwant Hall on 12th January 2008 portrayed the life story of Hanuman as an ideal devotee.

depicted how Hanuman chose Rama as His Master, performed the challenging journey to Lanka, faced the demon king Ravana in his court and earned the grace of Lord Rama by performing His task as His egoless instrument. Excellent acting of the students, judicious selection of episodes, elevating theme, good direction, perfect choreography and appropriate make-up and costumes made the drama an outstanding presentation. Bhagavan witnessed the entire drama, blessed the students at its conclusion and posed for group photos with them. He also materialised a gold chain for the student who wrote the script of the drama. The programme came to a close at 6.50 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

Sant Kabir: A Drama

The students of Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai University presented the drama entitled “Sant Kabir” in Sai Kulwant Hall on 13th January 2008, portraying the life and teachings of this poet saint of 15th century who was one of the greatest social reformers, an architect of the highway of unity of all faiths and a true messenger of God.

The drama captured the true spirit of Kabir’s immortal teachings and conveyed his



The life and teachings of Kabir came alive in the drama "Sant Kabir" presented by the students of Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai University in Sai Kulwant Hall on 13th January 2008.

message of love, unity, peace and brotherhood to mankind most effectively by narration through dialogues, portrayal of important episodes from his life and excellent rendering of his lyrics and couplets depicting the essence of his teachings. More importantly, all the teachings of Bhagavan on unity of faiths with dictums like "Love All, Serve All", "See Good, Do Good, Be Good" came alive in the drama. Fabulous sets, smart stage management, appropriate costumes, perfect choreography, superb direction, excellent acting of the students and thrilling music and dances made the drama a landmark performance in the history of dramatic presentations at Prasanthi Nilayam. Bhagavan watched the entire drama, blessed the students and posed for group photos with them. He also materialised a gold chain for the student who played the role of Kabir in the drama. The drama which began

at 5.20 p.m. came to a close at 6.45 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

A Soul-stirring Musical Presentation

On the afternoon of 14th January, the students of Anantapur Campus of Sri Sathya Sai University presented a soul-stirring music programme in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Commencing their programme with a prayer song to Lord Ganesh, they enraptured the audience for nearly 40 minutes with classical and semi-classical devotional songs, providing a rich feast of divine music which was exquisite in taste and lively in melodic vitality. A very well-worded and meaningful commentary which introduced each song added to the value of the presentation. This musical treat



The music programme presented by the students of Anantapur Campus of Sri Sathya Sai University in Sai Kulwant Hall on 14th January 2008 was exquisite in taste and lively in melodic vitality.

was followed by an enriching Bhajan session in two parts. In the first part, the students of the Anantapur Campus led the Bhajans and in the second, the students of Prasanthi Nilayam. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.35 p.m.

The desires that cling to the mind are the blemishes that tarnish man's inner consciousness. Control the senses; do not yield to their insistent demands for satisfaction.

— Baba



LOVE IS MY BIGGEST PROPERTY

MANY THINGS ARE ESSENTIAL for man to lead his life. But everything in this world is temporary and impermanent like passing clouds. The things that he considers permanent are, in fact, ephemeral. The only way to acquire what is eternal, real and everlasting is to recognise the truth that all

Let your Love Shine in the Mirror of Truth

I am in you, with you, around you, above you and below you. *Easwara Sarva Bhutanam* (God is the indweller of all beings), *Isavasyam Idam Jagat* (the entire world is permeated by

Being the students of Sathya Sai College, you should lead an ideal life and achieve success in all your endeavours. When people speak high of you as students of Sathya Sai College, it gives Me great happiness. There is nothing more than this that you can give Me. When you earn a good name, I will be very happy. This is the greatest property that I expect from you.



are an aspect of God as declared by Lord Krishna in the Bhagavadgita: *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). The Bhagavadgita teaches that all are a part of the Supreme Being who is present in all.

God). There is no place in this world where God is not present. Similarly, there is no object or name which does not belong to God. But man is not able to realise this truth and feels “wherever I see, I find only human beings;

God is nowhere to be seen.” *Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavathi* (as are the feelings, so is the result). If you stand before a mirror wearing a particular dress, you will see the reflection of the same dress in the mirror. Whatever good or bad thoughts and feelings we have inside us, the same will be reflected outside. Everything is reaction, reflection and resound. The way you lead your life, it will come back to you in the same way.

It is our own sound that comes back to us and we hear what we speak. But we think that this man is speaking or that man is talking. But there is nothing like this or that. All are one. *Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti* (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). *Ekoham Bahusyam* (the One willed to become many). Whatever we see is our own reflection. Whomsoever you see, it is, in fact, your own form. Even the illness you get is the reaction of your own actions. So many people have gathered here. When you count them, you will find that their number is in thousands. But the divinity present in the heart of all is the same. It is not the physical heart that is being referred to here. It is the spiritual heart. But many people do not believe in spiritual heart due to their wrong education. You are studying and acquiring many types of education.

In spite of his education and intelligence, a foolish man will not know his true Self and a mean-minded person will not give up his evil qualities.
(Telugu Poem)

This is not the type of education we should acquire. It is only worldly education. All this is learnt from books taught by a teacher. Not only our education, but our speech and conversation have also become artificial today. There is one thing that is the fundamental basis of everything. It is the principle of

truth. Where is truth? How can you see it? It is present in the heart of man. To manifest this truth outside with self-effort is what connotes educare. Educare is that which brings out what is within us. Education is worldly and external. But educare is not like that. It is immanent in our heart though it cannot be seen. Where is peace? Is it outside? No, no. Outside there are only pieces. Peace is within you only. Similarly, you cannot see love. It is also present in your heart. *Love is God, Live in Love*. It is also an aspect of educare. In the same way, Ahimsa is not there in the outside world. Today we find restlessness and agitation everywhere because people are fighting with each other. Peace cannot be found outside, it is within us. Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa are like our Pancha Pranas (five life-breaths). When you have Prema in your heart, Dharma will manifest there. Therefore, fill your heart with love and adhere to truth. Truth is permanent. Truth is God. Truth remains unchanged in all periods of time, in all countries, at all places. Let your love shine forth in the mirror of truth.

Understand the Principle of Love

You may consider someone as your enemy from the worldly point of view. But he is not different from you. If you show anger towards him, it amounts to showing anger to yourself only. If you harm him, it means you are harming yourself. There is no second entity in this world. There is only one. First and foremost, we should follow this truth. Today truth is not to be seen in anyone, be it students, politicians or common people. That is why so many people are going to courts. What do they say in the court? There also they resort to untruth. Wherever we see, we find only untruth; truth is not to be seen anywhere. But it is only the truth that triumphs. People spend a lot



of money for establishing truth, but no money is needed for this. If man has love in his heart, it is enough. Even if your enemy comes before you, you should offer salutations to him. Then, he will also do the same. Whatever are your feelings, others will also have similar feelings towards you.

Today peace is not to be seen anywhere. When four people come together, they indulge in quarrel and argumentation. This quarrel is seen everywhere, be it a market, a bazaar or a shop. If you go to a hotel, there also you will find people quarrelling and shouting: "This Idli is not good, this Dosa is not good, this Vada is not good." Everything is not good, not good, not good! There is no place where you do not find such quarrels. You cannot even hear the word 'peace' anywhere.

The boys who have studied in Brindavan and Puttaparthi have gone to many countries. But they could not get peace of mind anywhere. You can see in this Hall. Peace is only here. You cannot find such peace and love anywhere else. Why do you pray to God? You pray for peace, happiness, love and bliss. Truly speaking, peace is within you. It is useless to search it outside. Similarly, truth and love are within you. If you have love, you can attain everything. Love is Swami's biggest property. To impart this love to one and all is My duty. If you understand the true meaning of this love and make proper use of it, you will make great progress in life. Except love, nothing can protect us. Therefore, all of you should understand this principle of love. You are all brothers and sisters. But sometimes, there may be differences among brothers and sisters also. What is that we have to know? If you know the principle of love, you would have known everything. Keep smiling at all times. Never put on a



Man should always conduct himself like a human being. Even if somebody causes harm to us, we should not bother about it. We should see to it that we do not cause harm to anyone. This is My message to you. Now this body is 82 years old. I have not caused any harm, injustice, loss or difficulty to anybody even for a second during all these years. I always adhere to truth and never indulge in falsehood. Telling a lie is very painful. Therefore, we should always speak truth. Then, we will surely achieve victory in life.



'castor oil face'. Only then will your life become noble and ideal. You should always be in a state of bliss. What is that you lack? Everything is within you. You are unable to bear even a small difficulty. But if you face difficulties with patience, this itself will lead you to happiness. You are not one person, but three – the one you think you are, the one others think you are, the one you really are. The one others think you are is Dvaita (dualism). When you have dualism, then you will see differences and diversity everywhere. What you really are is the truth.

Focus your Mind on God

You read many books. You may read any number of Pustakas (books) but if your Mastaka (head) is not proper and upright, then everything is useless. Mastaka is very important. Educare is related to Mastaka and not to Pustaka. Today we see a large number of books everywhere on various subjects, written by many great writers.

Every writer writes in his



own particular way. Whatever be the views of the writers on the subjects dealt with by them in their books, all writers should recognise the underlying divine principle of unity of mankind. Only then can there be true unity in the world. It is one's way of thinking which brings about a change in one's mind. Sometimes, your own mind may turn against you. Everything, good or bad, is there in your mind only and not in the world outside. If your vision is bad, you will see bad everywhere. On the other hand, if your vision is good, everything will appear good to you. One does not see differences at the stage of childhood. For example, children of primary school do not observe any differences. However, many differences crop up in one's mind when one grows up. These differences are temporary and are caused by the delusion of the mind. You will see differences when you forsake love and truth. Therefore, you should focus your mind on divinity which is unshakeable and eternal.

Students, Embodiments of Love!

You are working in many far off countries. Yet you remember Swami and have all come here. This is your great good fortune. It is due to your love for Swami that you have all come with your families, incurring a huge expenditure and bearing all difficulties. You may have studied in Brindavan or Prasanthi Nilayam. But if someone asks you, "Where have you come from?" you should not say that you have come from Brindavan or Prasanthi Nilayam. You should recognise that Brindavan and Prasanthi Nilayam are always with you and in you. Everything is in you. It is just for the sake of identification that you say, "I am from Prasanthi Nilayam, I am from Brindavan." You say this only for your satisfaction.

If you want to attain Atma

Tripti (self-satisfaction), you should recognise the oneness of all.

Religions are many but goal is one.

Clothes are many but yarn is one.

Jewels are many but gold is one.

(Telugu Poem)

Earrings adorn the ears, necklaces, the neck and bangles, the hands. But all these jewels are made from the same gold. Similarly, the colours of the cows may vary, but the milk they give is white only. It is possible that the thickness of the milk may vary due to the kind of fodder eaten by each, but the colour of their milk remains the same. In the same way, the outer form of human beings may be different, but the bliss they experience in their heart is the same. We should aspire for bliss without observing any individual differences.

The individual differences among people are temporary and ephemeral. Only God is permanent and eternal. The same God may assume different forms in different Yugas (Ages). In Treta Yuga, He assumed the form of Rama. In Dwapara Yuga, He incarnated as Krishna. In spite of His different forms at different times, God is only one. Similarly, Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara are the three forms of the same God. That one God is present in you also. That is, 'I'. When someone asks you your name, you tell the name given to you by your parents. But that is not the name you are born with. That is the name given to you by your parents for the sake of identification. At the time of birth, you were either a boy or a girl, that is all. Name was given to you later on. Names are not by birth. Due to our mistaken thinking, we even observe differences in the various names of God and think that one name of God is different from the other. Whomsoever you see, consider him as God.

Suppose you go to the



bazaar and see a beggar, consider him also as God. See God in his form and offer your salutations to him also. There is no mistake in doing it. Offer your salutations to one and all. *All are one, be alike to everyone.* We should love all, be they poor or rich. Everything is bound to change with the passage of time. Whatever we are destined to get, we will get.

In this new year, many changes may occur at the physical level. But there can never be any change at the spiritual level. At the worldly level, there may be many conflicts and quarrels. There may be many parties. Parties, parties, parties ... For tea only! Observe the

Why do you pray to God? You pray for peace, happiness, love and bliss. Truly speaking, peace is within you. It is useless to search it outside. Similarly, truth and love are within you. If you have love, you can attain everything. Love is Swami's biggest property. To impart this love to one and all is My duty. If you understand the true meaning of this love and make proper use of it, you will make great progress in life. Except love, nothing can protect us. Therefore, all of you should understand this principle of love.

principle of unity. That only can give you real happiness. All your sorrows and difficulties are temporary only. In the end, everything will turn out to be good. Your difficulties are meant to give you happiness ultimately. *Pleasure is an interval between two pains.*

There is both good and bad

in this world. To look at both these with equal mindedness is the primary duty of man. Many changes occur in the mind of man due to his food, conduct and habits. Mind is like a mad monkey. Not an ordinary monkey, but a mad monkey! However, we belong to mankind. Hence, our mind should be filled with kindness. But we are changing it into a monkey mind.

Man should always conduct himself like a human being. Even if somebody causes harm to us, we should not bother about it. We should see to it that we do not cause harm to anyone. This is My message to you. Now this body is



82 years old. I have not caused any harm, injustice, loss or difficulty to anybody even for a second during all these years. I always adhere to truth and never indulge in falsehood. Telling a lie

is very painful. Therefore, we should always speak truth. Then, we will surely achieve victory in life. We should always follow the path of truth and treat everybody with love. You may say it is very difficult for you, but, in fact, it is a very easy path. Loving others is easy, hating them is very difficult.

When man follows the path of love, there will be unity and equality in the world. Unity and equality will lead us to divinity. Therefore, to attain divinity, we should first have unity. And to attain unity, we should give up our narrow-mindedness. (Swami showing His handkerchief). Here is a cloth which is made from threads. If you remove the threads, there will be no cloth. Therefore, for cloth threads are necessary and for making threads, cotton is necessary. Without cotton, there can be no threads and without threads, there can be no cloth. Similarly, there can be no human existence without humanness and human values. These human values will gradually transform man into divine. When you have divinity, you will be endowed with divine power. This divine power is present in all of you. There is no human being without divine power. But man does not give any thought to it, because his mind is always focused on his mundane human existence. Instead, man should focus his mind on the divinity within him.

Many people ask Me, "How can unity be achieved?" Unity is your very nature. If you observe differences between man and man, then you cannot realise your divinity. Think that all are one. You say, so and so is your father, so and so is your mother and so and so is your sister. But these relations exist only at the physical level. In reality, nobody is your father, nobody is your mother and nobody is your sister. The relationship of wife and husband comes into existence only after marriage. Prior

to marriage, who is the husband and who is the wife? All these relationships are only of your own making. But, in reality, there is no relationship. So long as these relationships exist, you have to observe and follow them. Never cause any harm to anyone at any time. Never abuse or beat your wife. If she makes a mistake, you can tell her, "You have made this mistake." But to beat and abuse your wife is a demonic act. If you contemplate on God and adhere to the principle of unity, you will attain purity. Swami will then surely grant you Darshan wherever you are. I am yours (*loud prolonged applause*). You are all Mine! I don't observe any differences. It is a great mistake to observe differences. At the worldly level, we may say "this is mine and that is yours," but in our heart of heart, we should not observe any differences.

Earn a Good Name as Sai Students

Dear Students!

You have come here with great love for Swami. Fill your heart with love. Speak only the truth under all circumstances. You may have to face certain obstacles when you speak truth. Come what may, you should always speak truth even at the cost of your life. Only then will you be successful in all your endeavours. Here is a small example. This incident happened in Bangalore. A thief snatched away the gold chain of a woman. It was a double chain. The police caught the thief, showed the chain to the woman and asked her, "Amma, is this yours?" She replied, "Yes, it is mine." Then the police did not do what they were supposed to do. The police officer asked her, "How many rings are there in the chain?" She said, "I never counted the number of rings in my chain though I wore it in my neck." Then, she asked the police officer if he could tell the number of hair in his beard.

He could not give any reply to this. Then, she said, "You



shave your beard everyday but do not know the number of hair in it. Similarly, I do not know the number of rings in my chain though I wear it everyday.” She spoke the truth boldly and the police officer had to give the chain back to her. She had no fear in speaking the truth.

So, never be afraid of speaking the truth. Rather, you should fight for truth. Truth will remain unshaken and make you victorious. *Satyameva Jayate* (Truth alone triumphs). Hence, always speak truth. You should never resort to copying in the examination. If some teacher asks you, tell him, “I have not copied. I have written what came from my heart.” When you adhere to truth in this manner, you will surely get good marks. But you will get bad remarks if you resort to untruth. Therefore, you should always follow the path of truth and love. Love is truth. Truth is love. When you protect both Sathya and Prema like your two eyes, then you will be victorious in all your endeavours. Do not repeat “Bhakti, Bhakti, Bhakti” as an empty rhetoric. You may be highly intelligent and knowledgeable, but if you lack discrimination, then everything will come to zero. So, discrimination is most essential. Before you undertake any task, see whether it is right or wrong. If you feel it is right, you can certainly fight for it.

Today the world is full of troubles and difficulties. Wherever we see, right from a small hotel to a court of law, we find conflicts and quarrels. The people in the world today are full of selfishness and self-interest. Where there is selfishness and self-interest, there is defeat and failure. Being the students of Sathya Sai College, you should lead an ideal life and achieve success in all your endeavours. When people speak high of you as students of Sathya Sai College, it gives Me great happiness (*loud applause*).

There is nothing more than this that you can give Me. When you earn a good name, I will be very happy. This is the greatest property that I expect from you. Earn a good name not for My sake, but for your own good. Oh nuggets of gold! Conduct yourself in this manner. Wherever you may be, never forget to contemplate on the name of God. You may call Him by any name – Rama, Krishna, Govinda, Narayana, Madhusudana, Trivikrama, etc. Names may be different, but God is one. *Sahasra Seersha Purusha Sahasraksha Sahasra Pad* (The Cosmic Being has thousands of heads, eyes and feet). Hence, install God in your heart and adhere to truth. Treasure love and truth in your heart.

(Bhagavan sang the Bhajan, “*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin*”... and continued the Discourse)

There is so much bliss in Bhajans. The bliss you experience in Bhajans cannot be experienced in anything else. Hence, singing of Bhajans is very essential. Do not bother if someone hears your Bhajan or not. You concentrate on the happiness of your singing. Never mind if there are no persons to follow the Bhajans sung by you. You can sing for yourself. Very happy. (Bhagavan addressing the old students) When are you going back? You have different programmes of your departure. Wherever you go, Swami’s grace will be there on you in abundance. Tomorrow, I will give you Prasadam. Return to your places happily.

– From Bhagavan’s New Year Day Message in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 1st January 2008 on the occasion of the Annual Alumni Meet of Sri Sathya Sai University.



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

Annual Alumni Meet of Sri Sathya Sai University

THE ANNUAL ALUMNI MEET 2008 of Sri Sathya Sai University was held at Prasanthi Nilayam on the New Year day, 1st January 2008, in which more than 500 former students of the University from many countries came to participate. On this occasion, the former students presented a music-cum-cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, who showered His love on them and blessed them with a nectarine Discourse. Prior to this, these students performed Grama Seva on 31st December 2007 in village Doopampalli near Puttaparthi. It comprised Nagar Sankirtan, Bhajan, medical camp, temple cleaning, tree planting, defluoridation of water and Narayana Seva.

On 1st January 2008, Bhagavan was ceremoniously led into Sai Kulwant Hall by a group of these students amidst chanting of Vedic hymns when He came to bless the huge congregation in the Hall with His Divine Darshan at 8.45 a.m. On reaching the verandah, Bhagavan performed the cake cutting ceremony by cutting the beautiful cakes placed there after lighting candles on them. The programme began with an excellent musical presentation by the students of Sri Sathya Sai University. They started with a sweet note to welcome the New Year and followed it up with four more pieces on their orchestra, displaying

excellent harmony and synchronisation which delighted one and all. After this, Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University, addressed the gathering. Dr. Venkataraman referred to the silken bond of love between Swami and His students which brought all of them to Prasanthi Nilayam every year and observed that sharing of Swami's love with others by the students in every nook and corner of the world was the greatest hope for the troubled world and a panacea for all its ills. Sri Anil V. Gokak, the current Vice Chancellor of the University, was the next speaker who referred to the service projects undertaken by the former students of the University and expressed his appreciation of the work being done by them to serve their fellowmen in all parts of the world. One of the former students, Sri Sriram spoke next and narrated a few incidents of Bhagavan's omniscience and omnipresence which he experienced during his student days in close proximity with Bhagavan.

After these speeches, the former students commenced their musical presentation at 10.05 a.m. with a beautiful composition in praise of Lord Ganesh. They followed it with a Qawali and devotional songs including a song taught to them by Bhagavan for Ugadi function in 1985. This was followed by a brief Bhajan session. Meanwhile, Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed in the Hall. The morning programme came to a close at 11.00 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

In the afternoon, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall



at 4.45 p.m. After showering the bliss of His Darshan on devotees in the Hall, Bhagavan came to the dais, noticed the Bhangra dance group of former students in bright colours and asked them to perform. The dancers delighted



A colourful display of Bhangra dance by the former students of Bhagavan on the occasion of Annual Alumni Meet of Sri Sathya Sai University held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 1st January 2008.

one and all by their performance of this colourful and vigorous dance. Thereafter, the students played a few thrilling pieces on their orchestra to the delight of one and all. After this, the alumni made brief speeches giving expression to the nostalgic memories of the time spent by them as students of Bhagavan and narrated their experiences of Bhagavan's Divinity. In the end, Bhagavan blessed them with a nectarine Discourse, exhorting them to share love with their fellowmen and adhere to truth and righteousness in their lives. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.) This memorable New Year programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.30 p.m.

Youth Camp of Maharashtra and Goa

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Maharashtra and Goa organised a three-day youth camp at Prasanthi Nilayam on 4th, 5th and 6th January

2008 in which more than 800 youth, both boys and girls, from various parts of these two States took part. The youth experienced the bliss of Bhagavan's Divine Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall and participated in the deliberations of the camp in the Conference Hall where distinguished speakers addressed them. They were also blessed with the opportunity to present music and cultural programmes in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan on all the three days.

The programme on 4th January began at 4.45 p.m. with a grand youth rally, wherein groups of youth holding placards representing various districts of Maharashtra and Goa marched into Sai Kulwant Hall in their traditional dresses and offered their salutations to Bhagavan. Meanwhile, a group of singers sang a thrilling song describing the glory of the sacred land of Maharashtra. The next item of the programme was "Bela Dance", a typical tribal dance of a remote village Allipalli in Gadchiroli



Sai Youth of Maharashtra and Goa performing a typical tribal dance called "Bela Dance" as part of the cultural programme presented by them in Sai Kulwant Hall on 4th January 2008.

district of Maharashtra, which the Sai Youth performed admirably in their tribal costumes to the beat of traditional musical instruments. After this, the youth of Goa showcased the cultural heritage of their State by singing two Arati songs,

one dedicated to Lord Ganesh and the other to Lord Dattatreya true to the ancient tradition of the two famous temples of Goa. The last item of the programme was a Bhajan medley by the youth of Maharashtra and Goa, wherein the singers sang Sai Bhajans in a continuous strain followed by the entire congregation in chorus in Sai Kulwant Hall. Meanwhile, Prasadam was distributed to all. The programme came to a close at 5.55 p.m. with offer of Arati to Bhagavan.

On the afternoon of 5th January 2008, the Ladies Wing of the Sai Youth of Maharashtra and Goa presented the life story of Mira Bai in their programme “Chalo Man Ganga Yamuna Teer”, portraying the saga of Mira’s unparalleled devotion to Lord Krishna. It was embellished with soulful rendition of immortal Mira Bhajans. This was followed by an excellent presentation of devotional songs by the renowned singer Sri Raviraj Nasery, who enraptured the audience with his melodious songs and concluded his presentation with a beautiful Qawali. The day’s programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.15 p.m.

On the concluding day of their camp, i.e., 6th January 2008, the Sai Youth of



Sai Youth of Maharashtra and Goa enacted an excellent drama on the life of Shivaji in Sai Kulwant Hall on 6th January 2008.

Maharashtra and Goa enacted an inspiring drama “Raje Shivaji” on the life of Shivaji who carved out a Maratha kingdom in the face of great challenges, presenting an example of a great youth leader endowed with courage, conviction, self-confidence and adherence to human values. Superb acting of the youth, appropriate costumes, fabulous sets and excellent direction painted a realistic picture of Shivaji’s life and times, and made the drama an apt historical production. The drama also beautifully exemplified the inspiring dictum of Bhagavan: “Follow the master, face the devil, fight to the end and finish the game.” Bhagavan witnessed the entire drama, blessed the youth at its conclusion and posed for photographs with them. He also materialised a gold chain for the youth who performed the role of Shivaji. The programme came to a close at 6.40 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

Thus ended the youth camp of Maharashtra and Goa inspiring one and all to make a new beginning in the New Year towards a life of human excellence by following the ideals of selfless love, self-sacrifice and service to mankind as exemplified by Bhagavan.

Sarva Dharma Sai Gitanjali

Before the start of the programme of the Sai Youth of Maharashtra and Goa on the afternoon of 5th January 2008, Bal Vikas children, both boys and girls, and devotees from the North-east Region of the U.S.A. made an excellent musical offering to Bhagavan entitled “Sarva Dharma Sai Gitanjali” by singing the prayer songs of all major religions of the world. Before the commencement of the programme, two small children came to the dais and offered flowers to Bhagavan to seek His blessings. Bhagavan showered His love and blessings on the children and also materialised a gold



Bal Vikas children and devotees of the North-east Region of the U.S.A. presented an excellent music programme entitled "Sarva Dharma Sai Gitanjali" in Sai Kulwant Hall on 5th January 2008.

chain for one of them to the delight of the entire assembly of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall who expressed it with a loud applause. This kind gesture of Bhagavan inspired the children and devotees of the U.S.A. who made their presentation with great enthusiasm and dedication. Starting with the Sanskrit prayer "Ganapati Prarthana" to Lord Ganesh followed by the traditional peace chant, the children sang melodiously prayers of all major religions to the accompaniment of sweet music to the delight of one and all.

Youth Camp of Delhi

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Delhi organised a youth camp at Prasanthi Nilayam from 25th to 29th January 2008 in which more than 300 youth from Delhi came to participate. During this period, the youth took part in the proceedings of the camp conducted in the Conference Hall and interacted with many distinguished speakers who came to address them. They also presented music and cultural programmes in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba during this camp.

On the afternoon of 26th January 2008, a group of these youth presented a drama entitled "Seva – A Precious Boon from Sai" portraying how selfless service done with love was leading



The drama "Seva – A Precious Boon from Sai" enacted by the Sai Youth of Delhi portrayed the importance of selfless service as a means of man's transformation.

the youth to Bhagavan Baba and bringing about transformation in the lives of the youth as well as the beneficiaries of this selfless service. The drama which began with a characteristic Delhi scene in the background at 4.40 p.m. came to a close with a colourful Bhangra dance at 5.25 p.m. At the conclusion of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the youth and distributed clothes to them. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.45 p.m.

Their next programme held on the afternoon of 28th January 2008 comprised devotional songs and Bhajans. The devotional songs programme entitled "Prema Arpan" (an offering of love) presented by Sai Youth (gents) expressed the love and devotion of the youth for Bhagavan and described His glory. In all, the youth sang nine group songs including a Qawali. This was followed by Bhajans which were led by Sai Youth (ladies) and followed in chorus by the entire assembly of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall, saturating the entire milieu with divine vibrations. There was another brief session of Bhajans led by the students during which Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed. The programme came to a close at 6.55 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.



NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

U. S. A.

THE SATHYA SAI CENTRE OF Memphis, Tennessee celebrated Bhagavan's 82nd Birthday with a medical camp and a nursing home service activity. The medical camp was held on 3rd



Sai devotees of the Sathya Sai Centre of Memphis, Tennessee distributed quilts to 125 inmates of a nursing home and entertained them with instrumental music and Christmas carols on 24th November 2007.

November 2007 in one of the poorest areas of Memphis. Patients were screened for high blood pressure and cholesterol abnormalities. In addition, patients were given counselling for disease prevention and health maintenance. On 24th November 2007, Sai devotees distributed quilts to 125 residents of a nursing home and entertained them with Christmas carols and instrumental music. All the residents enjoyed the programme and were thankful to the Sai devotees for their generosity and love.

Shrewsbury is an idyllic town located in the State of

Massachusetts. In recognition of the long-standing volunteer services of Sathya Sai devotees, the Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services (SYFS) awarded a plaque to the Sathya Sai Centre of Shrewsbury. During the award ceremony, the Executive Director of SYFS noted: "The Sai Baba Centre's group of volunteers has been ready and able to help those in need, on repeated occasions, all the while performing professional work and without wanting any spotlight or acknowledgements for their wonderful efforts."

U. A. E.

The Sathya Sai Centre of Abu Dhabi celebrated 82nd Birthday of Bhagavan for 82 days, beginning 3rd September 2007 until 23rd



The Sathya Sai Centre of Abu Dhabi, where several devotional programmes were organised to celebrate Bhagavan's 82nd Birthday for 82 days, from 3rd September to 23rd November 2007.

November 2007. The multi-day event included the chanting of Vedas, variety programme by Bal Vikas children, music, speeches of devotees sharing



their personal experiences with Bhagavan, interactive sessions on the life and message of Bhagavan, and the publication of Sathya Sai Education in Human Values newsletter “Sathya Sai Educare” with contributions from Bal Vikas children. The devotees lovingly served food to 820 workers in labour camps, distributed winter jackets to the needy and visited a Special Care Centre for children. The programme concluded with the energetic singing of Bhajans that were attended by about 500 devotees.

CANADA

A presentation on Sathya Sai Education in Human Values was made on 19th October 2007 at the request of the Mayor of Coquitlam, British Columbia. The Mayor was presented with information on the various selfless service activities undertaken by the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Canada, the Sathya Sai



The Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Canada made a presentation on Sathya Sai Education in Human Values at the request of the Mayor of Coquitlam, British Columbia on 19th October 2007.

Education and Human Values programmes in Canada and Bhagavan’s magnificent humanitarian activities in education, healthcare and social service.

The presentation was well received by the Mayor.

In Richmond, British Columbia, 150 Sathya Sai devotees attended a regional workshop on Bhagavan’s nine-point code of conduct on 27th October 2007. The facilitator of the workshop explained the importance of practising the nine-point code of conduct.

FIJI

From 15th to 26th October 2007, Dr. Nadana Chandran, the National Medical Coordinator, Sai Medical Unit, Australia along with his medical team went to Suva, Fiji to conduct the 4th annual neurosurgical camp. About 70 patients were seen in the free clinic and 14 surgeries were performed to treat various disorders including brain tumours and spina bifida (congenital abnormality of the spinal column). Dr. Chandran met the officials of the Department of Health to discuss proper nutrition during pregnancy to help prevent the development of spina bifida. Three team members held educational activities to facilitate the training of registrars and nurses in Fiji. Dr. Chandran addressed the Fiji Medical Association and stressed the importance of training a permanent neurosurgeon in Fiji. The anaesthetist of the medical team gave a lecture to the anaesthesia registrars at the local hospital and the team nurse instructed the local nurses about proper operating room procedures.

SLOVENIA

The Youth Wing in Slovenia was highly inspired and enthused after the Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference in July 2007. From 11th September 2007, the Sai Youth met regularly on Tuesdays to conduct a study circle on Bhagavan’s

Discourses given during the Conference. In addition, the youth undertook the task of helping an elderly woman who lived in a trailer in Ljubljana. She had no electricity, running water or heating. The youth not only brought her clothes and food, but also cleaned the neighbouring area, gathered and chopped wood to provide warmth for her during winter. The elderly woman and the local community who saw the youth working on cleaning the neighbourhood expressed their gratitude and appreciation.

INDONESIA

On 12th September 2007, an earthquake struck Southern Sumatra in Indonesia with a magnitude of 8.4 on the Richter scale. This was followed over the next several days with



On 16th September 2007, Sai devotees of Indonesia distributed 2,000 kg rice to 300 families in the villages of Lubuk Tanjung, Pasar Palik and Tebing Kandang affected by the earthquake which struck Southern Sumatra.

earthquakes of magnitudes 7.8 and 6.7. About 88,000 houses, 2,000 educational facilities and 620 health facilities were damaged by the earthquakes. In immediate response, Sathya Sai devotees in Bengkulu distributed 2,000 kilograms of rice to 300 families in the villages of Lubuk Tanjung, Pasar Palik and Tebing Kandang on 16th September 2007.

Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Indonesia organised a function to inaugurate Sai Prema Orphanage on 16th September 2007. Children in this orphanage are taught religion, art, culture and sporting activities. No fees are charged by the orphanage that presently has 11 children. These children receive formal education at the Brigjen Katamso National School. At the inauguration function of the school, Sri Madan Lal Chhabra, the Consulate General of India in Medan, made a special note of the selfless service activities of the members of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Indonesia. The event was also attended by a government official from the Department of Social Ministry and several senior office bearers of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation. In conjunction with the inauguration ceremony, a blood donation drive was organised on the same day, which drew 50 donors.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh: A cancer detection camp was conducted for the first time in the State, scanning 700 women in Mallapur and Dharmaram villages under Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme (SSSVIP). The patients were treated by the Indo American Cancer Research Institute.

A defluoridation plant to supply clean and safe water for 4,000 people daily was installed in Mallapur, Nalgonda district.

Agro services were provided to four villages under SSSVIP, covering 400 farmers and 2,000 acres of land. Fresh genuine seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and counselling were given on a continuous basis with a weekly follow-up programme.

Nellore district youth donated a stall with all types of provisions and vegetables to a poor family of Marupur village on 2nd December 2007 so as to enable the family to earn its livelihood. 30 cultivators were given the necessary seeds. The district conducted a free medical camp in Induru village on 9th December 2007, treating 300 patients. The youth of the district distributed 300 blankets in Kasumuru Girijan Yanadi colonies on 23rd December 2007 in view of severe winter. Nine pregnant women in these colonies are being served with nutritious food and medicines.

Vizianagaram district conducted an eye camp at Gurla Mandal Headquarters on 8th December 2007 and examined 167 men and 288 women patients. 325 patients were identified for cataract operations. All of them were operated in nine days in Shankar Foundation Eye Hospital, providing free transport and food. The district observed Bal Vikas Service day throughout the district in a big way on 25th December 2007.

Assam: Devotees thronged the spacious Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Nilayam, Guwahati early in the morning on 23rd November 2007 to celebrate 82nd Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. After Omkaram, Suprabhatam and Nagar Sankirtan, the Mahilas (ladies) went in a procession to the nearby sacred river Brahmaputra to fetch water in 82 earthen jars with which Abhisheka Puja (ceremonious bathing) of the statue of Shirdi Sai Baba was performed.

At noon, Seva Dal volunteers from Guwahati Samithi went in batches to Sukreswar Mandir and Guwahati Railway Station to conduct Narayana Seva. Another batch went to Noonmati, in the outskirts of the town, to feed the orphans of the Sishu Mangal Kendra. Narayana Seva was also conducted at the Sadhana Nilayam premises where all devotees partook of Bhagavan's Prasadam. Soulful Sai Bhajans were conducted to the great delight of hundreds of devotees. As dusk fell, the entire Sadhana Nilayam was tastefully illuminated. Another highlight of the celebrations was the holding of exhibition and sale of Sai literature. Finally, dazzling fireworks lit up the night sky and devotees gradually dispersed after spending a thrilling day in Bhagavan's adoration.

Punjab: Sai Youth of Patiala undertook service activities in Sai Old Age Home in Choura village, Rajpura Road, Patiala on 30th December 2007. The service activities included cleaning of Old Age Home premises and its surroundings and medical check-up of the inmates along with distribution of prescribed medicines, items of daily use and woollen jackets to them.

The youth reached Old Age Home at 9.50 a.m. and started activities at 10 a.m. The total number of youth who performed the service activities was 55 – 30 girls and 25 boys. They were divided into three groups and each group was allotted a separate task.

After performing the Seva activities, Sai Youth performed Narayana Seva at 1.00 p.m. and served food to the inmates and devotees. The programme concluded with Bhajans which started at 2.00 p.m. and came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 3.00 p.m.



The Director and Actors

CHINNA KATHA

ONCE SOME RESIDENTS OF A village decided to enact the drama “Harishchandra” in their village. The date of the performance of the drama was announced in the village with the beat of a drum. Ultimately, the day of the performance of the drama came and the actors started playing the drama.

In the drama, there came the scene when Chandramati (playing the role of mother) had to weep when Lohitasva (playing the role of her son) died of snake bite. But there were two parties in the village. The person who



Our life will be filled with chaos if we do not conscientiously play the role assigned to us by God who is the director of this world drama.



The actor enacting the role of Chandramati did not perform the designated role because he could not merge his individual identity with the character whose role was assigned to him.

was playing the role of Chandramati refused to weep because he belonged to one party

and the person enacting the role of Lohitasva belonged to the other party. Even the pleas of the director did not have any effect on him. The theatre was filled with shouts and counter shouts, and the spectators walked out making a lot of noise. The drama ended in chaos.

What happened here? The actors could not merge their identity with the characters whose role they were enacting as they did not forget their individuality. They forgot the role assigned to them in the drama. In the same way, we are all actors in this drama of the world. Every actor in this drama should conscientiously try to play the role assigned to him by God who is the director of this world drama. Otherwise, our life will be filled with chaos.

The world stage is full of characters. The Lord, the Director, has cast each one in a separate role. One ought to learn to perform one's role perfectly. This can happen only if the Director is obeyed to the letter, to each and every direction of His.

– Baba



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