

BE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED IN THE PRINCIPLE OF THE SELF

Embodiments of Love!

THERE ARE MANY FORMS AND branches of knowledge, and there are many educated persons in the world. But education without intelligence and discrimination is of little use. One without any sense of discrimination will be considered foolish in spite of all his bookish learning.

Though students today are endowed with great intelligence, yet there is a decline in educational standards. Modern students have developed a craze for foreign newspapers and magazines. They neither study their own books nor acquire the knowledge of their rich cultural heritage. They have developed a false sense of values. They take pride in discussing about novels and their authors. They keep on burdening themselves with information about unnecessary and trivial matters. They go on acquiring the knowledge of everything in the world except their Self. Thus, they lack real education.

What is the meaning of Vidya? Vidya does not mean bookish learning. Vidya is the knowledge that comes from the heart. It is eternal and changeless. Vidya connotes the knowledge of the Self; it is not mere secular education. Atma Vidya (knowledge of the Self) is true knowledge.

Suguna's Vision of Krishna at the House of Nanda

Nanda and Yashoda lived in Repalle. It was customary for the women of Repalle

to go to their house every evening and light their lamp from the one kept in the house of Nanda and Yashoda. This custom originated from the belief that if they lighted their lamp from the one kept in the house of a prosperous family, they would also become prosperous. This practice is in vogue in some villages even now. Nevertheless, not all the mothers-in-law in Repalle would permit their daughters-in-law to go to the house of Nanda and Yashoda for this purpose. Admonishing their daughters-

I expect that you should face difficulties with courage, reposing faith in God. If you constantly contemplate on God, no other thoughts will trouble you. Sorrows and difficulties will not affect you. I am always happy. You should also be always happy. Happiness is union with God. When you are in union with God, you will not feel any pain or suffering. You may have some physical pain or mental anxiety. But, if you are firmly established in the Atma Tattwa (principle of the Self), you will not be bothered by them. This is My Message of Navaratri to you.

in-law, they questioned them, “Can’t you light the lamp in your own house? Why should you go to their house to light it?” They were afraid that if they were allowed to go and see Krishna there, they might develop deep devotion for Him and neglect their household

duties. However, Krishna was the subject of discussion of all the women of the village when they met at the village well to draw water from it. Then, a new bride arrived in the village. Her name was Suguna. As she heard a lot about the Leelas (divine play) of Krishna, she developed a deep desire to see Him. However, she kept it as a closely guarded secret in her heart and did not reveal it to her husband or mother-in-law. But it is not possible to conceal truth howsoever you may try to do so.

In spite of all her efforts to hide it, this truth became known to all. One day, she went to the house of Nanda and Yashoda to light her lamp from the one kept in their house. She lighted her lamp while reciting the Divine Name of Krishna. Suddenly, she visualised Krishna in the flame. In the ecstasy of this divine experience, she lost her body consciousness. She even did not have the sensation that her fingers were getting burnt in the flame till Yashoda came and pulled her hand out. Forgetting all her pain, she danced in ecstasy. On hearing the divine experience of Suguna, other Gopis were also lost in ecstasy and they all went round the village singing and dancing:

*Our Suguna had the vision
of Krishna in the house of
Nanda,
Krishna appeared to her in the
flame of the lamp.
(Telugu Song)*



The root cause of man’s ill-health today is bad food and impure water. All that we consume must always be pure and sacred. Dasara celebrations signify cultivation of good and noble qualities. We should take daily bath, eat good food and have sound sleep. Only then can we lead a happy life. If we adhere to these principles in life, our face will shine with radiance. On the other hand, if we consume unsacred food, drink impure water and breathe polluted air, we may forget even our humanness. We may then lose our divine nature and acquire demonic qualities.

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When one deeply contemplates on God, one may experience the bliss of divine ecstasy. One will then forget one's pain, sorrows and difficulties. Since ancient times, many noble souls have been experiencing bliss by constantly contemplating on God and sharing their experiences with one and all.

Worries Do not Affect you when you Contemplate on God

Our Karmas (actions) are responsible for the happiness and sorrow we experience in life. When we perform good actions, we get good results. Bad actions have bad results. It is not possible to have good results by performing bad actions. Similarly, good actions cannot have bad results. Therefore, cultivate good thoughts and undertake good actions. *Be good do good and see good. This is the way to God.* Understand clearly that our own actions are responsible for all our sorrows and difficulties.

One should never give up Karma. At the same time, one should desist from aspiring for the fruits of Karma. The Gita exhorts us, *Karmanyevadhikarasthe Ma Phaleshu Kadachana* (you have right only on action, not on its fruit).

Man is born in action, is sustained by action and ultimately merges in action. Action is the cause for pleasure and pain. Truly speaking, action is God for man.

(Telugu Poem)

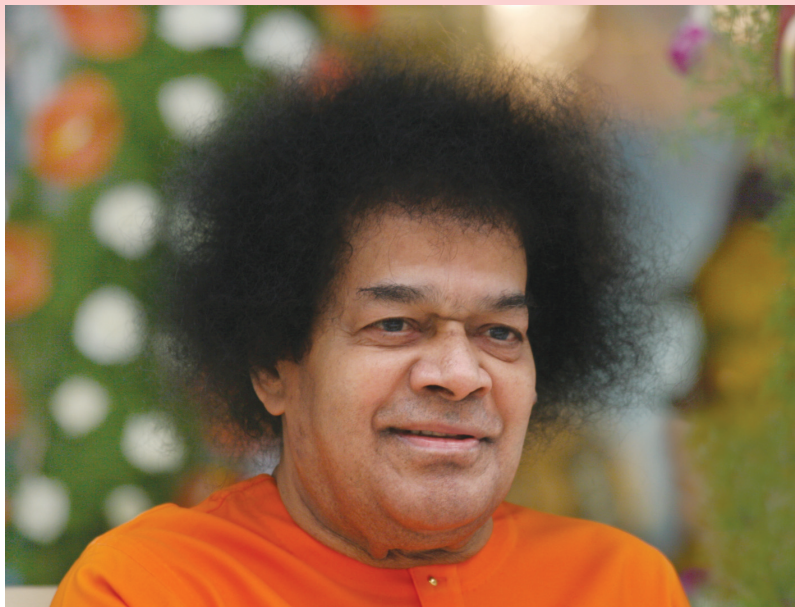
Our elders followed the ancient traditions and experienced peace and happiness. But, due to the effect of modern education, children today have given up their good old traditions and forgotten the path shown by their ancestors. They are therefore exposed to various kinds of unrest and agitation. They not only suffer restlessness, but

also lack contentment and satisfaction in life, with the result that they are becoming mentally and physically sick.

Man's thoughts are the root cause of his sickness. Hence, we should always have good thoughts. One can observe that those who eat good food, drink clean water and breathe unpolluted air are always healthy. In contrast, people consuming unsacred food, drinking impure water and inhaling polluted air are exposed to various kinds of ailments. The root cause of man's ill-health today is bad food and impure water. All that we consume must always be pure and sacred. Dasara celebrations signify cultivation of good and noble qualities. We should take daily bath, eat good food and have sound sleep. Only then can we lead a happy life. If we adhere to these principles in life, our face will shine with radiance. On the other hand, if we consume unsacred food, drink impure water and breathe polluted air, we may forget even our humanness. We may then lose our divine nature and acquire demonic qualities.

Many people wonder, Swami is nearing 81 years, yet His physical body does not show any signs of old age. My answer to those people is: "My dear devotees! I am not taking unsacred food or breathing polluted air. I breathe the air of the prayers of My devotees (*loud applause*). How then can I lose My Divine effulgence?" I have no ailment of any kind. I have no pain at all. Some time back, I fell down on account of an inadvertent error committed by a student. My leg was then fractured. Hence, I feel a little difficulty in walking. Moreover, I don't feel like walking nowadays. Nevertheless, I am coming to Sai Kulwant Hall daily and giving Darshan to the devotees. What difficulty or pain is involved in this routine? I do





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not have any pain or suffering. When I make the devotees happy, I too am happy. Sorrows, difficulties and pain can nowhere come near Me. I am always happy and blissful. Bliss is My food. I am always in a state of supreme bliss. If for any reason I am unable to come out and give Darshan to the devotees, I feel very much concerned about them: "How much the devotees would be pining for My Darshan! For how long they might have been waiting for Me! How much suffering they might have been undergoing!" Sometimes, I may be late in coming to Sai Kulwant Hall due to some urgent work. Still I do not miss giving



Darshan to the devotees. Hence, never think that Swami has not come due to any pain or suffering. I am revealing these facts to you today, so that you may not feel any anxiety because of My absence, and be always happy and cheerful.

I expect that you should face difficulties with courage, reposing faith in God. If you constantly contemplate on God, no other thoughts will trouble you. Sorrows and difficulties will not affect you. I am always happy. You should also be always happy. *Happiness is union with God.* When you are in union with God, you will not feel any pain or suffering. You may have some physical pain or mental anxiety. But, if you are firmly established in the Atma Tattwa (principle of the Self), you will not be bothered by them. This is My Message of Navaratri to

you. You may have to face many difficulties and problems; you may be afflicted by many worries and anxieties. But you should ignore these by developing the spirit of detachment, saying, "They are not mine, they belong to somebody else. They just come and go like passing clouds. They cannot disturb my inner being." As for Myself, I do not at all attach any importance to them.

Consider Sorrows and Difficulties as Passing Clouds

Never think that someone else is putting you to trouble. You should

not blame others for your difficulties and problems. Our sorrows and difficulties are of our own making. The Kauravas tried their best to cause suffering to the Pandavas. But they could never put them down. What was the reason? The reason was the unwavering faith of the Pandavas in Krishna. They firmly believed: "Krishna is always with us." Similarly, you should develop firm faith in Swami. You should always feel: "Swami is with me." Do not at all worry about sorrows and difficulties. These are all like passing clouds. Clouds cannot overshadow the sun forever. They are not permanent; they come and go. There are many clouds which cover the sun during the rainy season. Similarly, when your mind is wavering and disturbed, you undergo sorrows and difficulties. When your mind is steady and firm, worries cannot disturb you. Hence, keep your mind pure and steady. Develop courage and fortitude.

How does a man lead his life today? In the drama of life, man today is singing the songs of Kama (desire) and Krodha (anger) and is playing the role of an actor whose actions are full of Ahamkara (ego). Do not repose faith in reaction, reflection and resound. Have faith only in reality. When you rely on reality, your thoughts, words and deeds will be pure and sacred. Reality is Divinity. Divinity is changeless, inscrutable and beyond delusion. Dear Students! Do not be afraid of passing clouds of difficulties. You should have no concern with them. Perform your duty well. Fulfil the aspirations of your parents. Your parents have sent you here with great expectations. If you act against their wishes, they will be disappointed. If you cause pain to your parents, it amounts to causing pain to Swami. You pray to God daily: *Twameva Mathacha*

Pitha Twameva, Twameva Bandhuscha Sakha Twameva, Twameva Vidya Dravinam Twameva, Twameva Sarvam Mama Devadeva (You alone are my father and mother, friend and relation, wisdom, wealth and everything). There is no difference between God and parents. Hence, make your parents happy. Swami will be very happy when you make your parents happy. Establish that truth firmly in your heart. Then only can you be called true students.

Stones are Hurlled only at Fruit-laden Trees

Once Hiranyakasipu called his son Pahlada close to him and enquired, "Dear son! I sent you to your Gurus and requested them to teach you good things. What have they taught you?" Pahlada replied, "Father! My preceptors have taught me many good things." "Tell me all that they have taught you", asked the father. Pahlada said, "I have acquired all forms of knowledge. I have learnt the four objectives of life – Dharma (righteousness), Artha (wealth), Kama (desire) and Moksha (liberation). In fact, I have learnt the very essence of Dharma (righteousness)." Hiranyakasipu felt very happy at his son's reply and asked him to explain what was meant by essence of Dharma. Pahlada then replied, "Dear father! All that we see and experience in this world is unreal and impermanent. Only God is real and true." The father became very angry. He pushed him away and commanded his soldiers, "Throw him into the sea. A son who flouts the commands of his father does not deserve to be in his presence. Take him away immediately." The soldiers took Pahlada to the top of a hill and pushed him down into the sea. Pahlada kept chanting, "Narayana! Narayana!" Narayana then



emerged from the sea and saved Prahlada. Having failed in his attempt to kill Prahlada by drowning, Hiranyakasipu ordered that he should be thrown into the blazing fire. But the fire was also extinguished; it refused to burn him. What is the inner meaning of this? Good people will always encounter opposition from bad people. Stones are hurled only at fruit-laden trees. Similarly, good people have to face the problems created by evil-minded people. But no harm can ever come to them.

Dear Students!

You should obey the command of your parents and God meticulously. Cultivate good conduct. Then, everything will turn out to be good for you. Nothing will harm you. No difficulty will ever bother you. It is only to enable man to cultivate good thoughts and good conduct that goddesses Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati are worshipped during Dasara celebrations. Durga is not to be understood as a ferocious goddess. She is the goddess supreme who protects you. Lakshmi is the embodiment of wealth. Saraswati is the goddess of speech and learning. Worship of these three goddesses is meant to cultivate good thoughts, good words and good conduct in man. He who teaches good things to you is verily the embodiment

of goddess Saraswati. He who teaches evil is verily a demon. Goddess Durga destroys only such demons. Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati are, in fact, not different from each other. They are very much present in your heart, inspiring you to lead a life befitting the status of a human being. Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati are the three mothers to a human being.

You should treasure these good words in your heart and put them into action. Thereby, you should come up in life and set an ideal to others. Moreover, by your example you should spread the message to the world that Bharatiya Vidya is great. There are several people in the modern world imparting education that leads to evil ways. You should reject such education. You should not go after it. You must enquire, "Will it help to purify my heart or not?" If you feel it is not conducive to your progress, you should give it up immediately. It is only when you are able to satisfy your conscience that you will be happy, peaceful and contented in life.

Dear Students!

Do Namasmaraṇa incessantly.

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

From Bhagavan's Discourse in

Genuine Joy

Questions may be asked and doubts expressed by many about the state of a person after he has attained fulfilment, the fullness of awareness. His life will be saturated with unexcelled Ananda (bliss) and he will experience oneness of thought, emotion and knowledge with all. He will be in ecstasy, immersed in the One and only, the Eternal Divine Principle, for that alone can confer joy during the process of living. Genuine joy is this and no other.

— *Baba*



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

Srikakulam Devotees Visit Prasanthi Nilayam

MORE THAN 2,000 DEVOTEES, including 850 teachers from 410 Government Primary Schools of Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh, came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 3rd to 6th December 2006. On this occasion, a conference on "Sri Sathya Sai Human Values" was organised from 3rd to 5th December 2006 in the Conference Hall at Prasanthi Nilayam in which all the teachers took part. Eminent educationists and senior faculty members of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning gave illuminating talks and interacted with the teachers in this conference.

On the afternoon of 5th December 2006, the devotees came to Sai Kulwant Hall in a grand procession comprising groups of musicians and folk dancers in various colourful costumes, presented songs, dances and other

cultural items and offered their salutations to Bhagavan. After this, a soul-stirring programme of devotional songs was presented by their groups of singers, both ladies and



Folk dancers from Srikakulam presented a dance in Bhagavan's Divine Presence in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 5th December 2006.

gents. Bhagavan blessed the singers at the conclusion of the programme and materialised Vibhuti for some of them.

Thereafter, Bhagavan blessed the teachers and devotees with a nectarine Discourse exhorting the teachers to inculcate thoughts and feelings of spirituality and divinity in the heart of the students. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.) The programme which started at 4.45 p.m. came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.10 p.m.

Life is a Pilgrimage: Experience it – A Dance Drama

Dramatic art was brought to its perfection when the students of Sri Sathya Sai School, Rishikesh presented the dance drama "Life



Sri Sathya Sai School, Rishikesh presented an excellent drama on the story of Badrinath in Sai Kulwant Hall on 10th December 2006.

is a Pilgrimage: Experience it" in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 10th December 2006. Based on the mythological story of Badrinath, a famous centre of pilgrimage in the Himalayas, the drama traced its history through Sathya Yuga, Treta Yuga and Dwapar Yuga, and brought it to its culmination in Kali Yuga when Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba visited it in 1961

and consecrated the shrine by empowering it by His Divine energy. Well-knit story, superb acting of the children, excellent direction, sweet music, thrilling dances and melodious devotional songs made it one of the most outstanding dramas performed in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance, blessed the children at the conclusion of the drama and posed for group photos with them. Next day, Bhagavan called the students and staff of the school in the Bhajan Mandir, showered His love and blessings on them and distributed clothes to them. He also materialised four gold chains for the students who participated in the drama.

Dikir Barat: An Art Form of Malaysia

This short but beautiful cultural programme was presented by Sai Spiritual Education children of Malaysia in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 20th December 2006. Through the medium of Dikir Barat, a traditional art form of Malaysia, the children showcased the composite culture of Malaysia, highlighting how filial piety was universally practised in the religio-cultural traditions of all faiths inhabiting Malaysia, viz., Chinese, Muslims and Hindus. The programme comprised rhythmic arms and



A scene from Dikir Barat presented by the devotees of Malaysia in Sai Kulwant Hall on 20th December 2006.

body movements along with clapping by two groups of boys and girls sitting separately to the tune of the theme song first sung solo by a singer and then followed in chorus by both the groups. The programme was interspersed with three small skits showing the similarity of Chinese, Muslim and Hindu customs. The programme which started at 4.05 p.m. came to a close at 4.25 p.m. Bhagavan graced the programme by His Divine Presence and posed for group photographs with children at its conclusion. Bhagavan also materialised a gold chain each for two participants. Thereafter, Malaysian singers led the Bhajans also which started at 4.25 p.m. and came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 4.45 p.m.

Christmas Celebrations

A mammoth gathering of devotees participated in the celebration of the holy festival of Christmas at Prasanthi Nilayam. Besides the devotees from all parts of India, a large number of devotees from nearly 40 countries of the world came to celebrate it in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of celebrations, bore a festive look with various types of traditional Christmas decorations on this occasion. Beautiful Christmas trees, stars and other decorations enchantingly lit at night illuminated the entire Ashram.

The celebrations started on the afternoon of 24th December 2006 after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall at 3.50 p.m. After showering the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the huge gathering in Sai Kulwant Hall, Bhagavan came to the dais and lighted the sacred lamp at 4.00 p.m. to inaugurate the function.

What followed was a thrilling programme of devotional songs and Christmas carols by the children's choir and the adults

choir. It was the children's choir comprising 84 children which presented its programme first. Unity, divinity and harmony found expression at their best when the children sang songs melodiously in praise of Rama, Krishna, Jesus, Shirdi Sai Baba, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, as also the traditional Christmas carols. This was followed by an excellent presentation of Christmas carols and devotional songs by the adults choir in which more than 600 singers



Excellent devotional songs and Christmas carols were presented both by children's choir and adults choir as part of Christmas celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.

and musicians from nearly 40 countries took part. Followed by a brief session of Bhajans, the programme came to a close at 5.35 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

On the morning of 25th December 2006, Bhagavan came to beautifully bedecked Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.45 a.m. in a resplendently shining white robe and showered His blessings on one and all.

The programme began at 9.00 a.m. First, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School made their presentation of violin music by playing joyous tunes of devotional songs and Christmas carols. Thereafter, the brass band group of Institute students delighted everyone with their thrilling musical





The students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School made a thrilling presentation of violin music on Christmas morning.

tunes along with meaningful commentary, filling the entire milieu with joyous and pious Christmas spirit. The environment was further surcharged with divine vibrations by Bhajan singing which followed these musical presentations of the students. At the conclusion of Bhajans, Bhagavan graciously cut the cakes placed in the verandah and lighted candles on them. Bhagavan then went into the rows of devotees showering blessings and bliss on one and all. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.50 a.m.

In the afternoon, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 3.45 p.m. amidst chanting of Vedic hymns by the students. Before the Christmas Discourse of Bhagavan, two speakers addressed the gathering. Sri John Behner, Chairman of Zone 2 in the overseas Sai Organisation narrated his personal experiences of Bhagavan's Divinity and introduced the speakers. The first speaker was Sri Arthur Hillcoat of Australia who exhorted the devotees to follow the teachings of Bhagavan and make the best use of the opportunity when the Avatar Himself has descended on earth to teach the lessons of love and service to mankind. The second speaker was Father Charles Ogada, an ordained Catholic priest, teaching

at present in Sathya Sai School of Zambia. Father Ogada remarked that the Christmas was the festival of thanksgiving and realising the spirit of Christ consciousness which was the very purpose of man's life. Speaking about his experiences of Bhagavan's Divinity, the learned speaker said, "When I met Swami, I found Jesus." Bhagavan, he said, is teaching us to "be happy." In conclusion, he said that life was a precious gift of God to man and he should accept it with love.

After this, Bhagavan blessed the devotees with His Christmas Message and exhorted one and all to realise the unity of mankind



Bhagavan giving His Christmas Message in Sai Kulwant Hall on 25th December 2006.

by practising the principle of love which was universally present in the heart of everyone. Bhagavan also related many incidents pertaining to His visit to East Africa in 1968 to the delight of the vast gathering. After Bhagavan's Discourse, there was a brief Bhajan session. The joyous festival of Christmas came to a happy conclusion at 6.00 p.m. with offer of Arati to Bhagavan.



New Year Day Function

The New Year 2007 was ushered in at Prasanthi Nilayam with divine melodies in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. On the morning of 1st January 2007, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.25 a.m. amidst chanting of sacred Vedic hymns and showered His blessings on the huge gathering of devotees, both inside and outside the Hall. After Bhagavan was seated on the dais, the students of Prasanthi Nilayam campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning presented a grand programme of devotional songs, pouring out their heart to express gratitude to Bhagavan for His innumerable acts of grace. What followed this



Brass band of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning delighted one and all by their sweet melodies on New Year Day.

was an excellent programme of band music presented by the brass band group of students of the Institute. This programme of sweet

rhythmic compositions was interspersed with a very appropriate commentary relevant to the joyous spirit of the occasion. At the conclusion of this programme, Bhagavan blessed the band students and posed for group photos with them. Thereafter, Bhagavan cut the cakes placed in the verandah of the Bhajan Mandir and lighted candles on them. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.10 a.m.

In the afternoon, the alumni of the Institute offered their musical homage to Bhagavan with their feelingful and touching compositions. The programme began with an introductory speech of the Vice Chancellor, Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall at 3.15 p.m. Dwelling on the teachings of Bhagavan, Sri Gokak observed that the students should have reverence for their parents, gratitude to their teachers and love for God. Bhagavan, he said, had devised the system of integral education to instil these virtues in students. Thereafter, the alumni presented their programme comprising band music and devotional songs interspersed with commentary. The old students poured out their hearts in soul-stirring musical compositions expressing their heartfelt gratitude to Bhagavan for giving a new direction to their life. This grand New Year Day function came to a conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.00 p.m.

BHAKTA SAKHA 2007 DIARY AND CALENDAR 2007

Hurry! Only limited stock of calendars and diaries available. The following varieties are available in Calendar 2007:

6055 Wall (book type) 8.4 x 24.4 - 7 sheets - 5 nos. Rs. 220 (India);
Rs. 450/- (USD 10) (overseas - airmail)

6059 Table 2007 4x8 - 7 sheets - 5 nos. Rs. 170/- (India);
Rs. 375/- (USD 9)

Convener

THE YOUTH SHOULD CONTROL THEIR SENSES

The day on which all the devotees gather and sing the glory of God melodiously, the day on which the sufferings of the poor are lovingly removed and all people live like brothers and sisters, the day on which groups of Dasas (servants of God) who constantly contemplate on God are served a sumptuous feast, the day on which noble souls visit us and narrate the stories of God lovingly, enjoy that day as the real day. All other days are mere death anniversaries. Do I need to say more, oh noble souls?

(Telugu Poem)

Embodiments of Love!

OUR ALL INDIA PRESIDENT, SRI Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, Srinivasan has just now stated that Vinay, who made excellent arrangements for this Yajna, is a very intelligent and highly educated young man. I am very happy about it.

Though Srinivasan did not specifically make a mention about the youth in general, it is necessary for Me to add that the youth are also responsible for the unrest and agitation in the world today.

The Youth have Matchless Powers

Though they are highly educated, having graduate and postgraduate degrees and are occupying high positions, yet they do not know the essence of education. Thinking that they are highly educated and have high academic degrees, they are inflated with pride. Due to this pride, they are forgetting the canons of their religion and culture.

The day people took to fascination for English language, knowledge of one's

own religion and language declined. When knowledge of one's own religion and language declined, love for one's culture disappeared. When love for culture disappeared, righteousness declined on earth. When righteousness declined

If one is really interested in knowing the truth, one should come here, observe everything himself and experience happiness. It is a serious mistake to publish something in newspapers on the basis of hearsay. At least, the educated people should make efforts to know the truth. You should know the truth, adhere to truth and follow truth. If you do that, none in the world can overpower you. Hence, uphold truth at all times.

and disappeared from earth, Bharat lost its exalted position. Oh Bharatiyas! Open your eyes and be alert to the situation at least now. Oh men of noble qualities! What more can I explain and convey?

(Telugu Poem)

Wherever you see, there is unrest and agitation in the world today. This is the state of affairs in all areas of human endeavour – social, moral, ethical and even spiritual. Man seems to have lost his humanness. From a millionaire to a pauper, everyone is becoming a beggar. The pauper is begging for alms; the millionaire is also begging and craving for more money. Who is big and who is small in this profession of begging? To speak the truth, it is the beggar who is better of the two because he begs out of necessity. On the other hand, a millionaire does not give anything in charity in spite of all his wealth. The rich today have no genuine desire to extend help for sacred and noble causes. Whatever charity they do, they do for the sake of publicity so that their pictures are printed in newspapers prominently. This is no real charity. In the prevailing circumstances, the youth, both boys and girls, should come forward with enthusiasm to remedy the situation and bring about a change for the better in the



Today education is leading to agitation. If this situation is to be corrected, education must be supplemented with educare. Education is acquired from books. Educare has, however, to manifest from the heart. Educare involves manifesting the human values that are latent in one's own heart. Secular education can be obtained from books. The book is like a Mukku (nose), whereas educare is the very breath that is inhaled through the nose. If there is no breath, there is no life. Similarly, humanness cannot survive without human values that are to be manifested through the process of educare.

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country. The physical, mental and intellectual power of the youth is matchless. If they take a firm resolve, they can achieve anything. They should utilise all their powers for the benefit of society.



Misuse of Senses is Making the Youth Weak

Unfortunately, today youth are becoming weak by succumbing to trivial attractions. Even a sixteen-year-old boy who is supposed to be physically strong is seen to be lean and emaciated. It is not due to lack of food and nourishment. It is due to the misuse of his senses that he becomes weak. It is a great mistake to weaken one's senses by misusing them. When the senses become weak, man becomes totally weak. The power of the senses is the very life-breath of man. It is unfortunate that the youth are misusing their senses. They have to conserve the divine energy of their senses and strive for the welfare of society. They have to protect the country. Then only do they deserve to be called real human beings. The parents of the youth today, in fact, are encouraging them to misuse their senses by giving them too much money. Thus, they are committing a great sin. In fact, it is they who are responsible for their wards taking to wrong ways. The children, no doubt, should be given freedom, but only to the extent necessary. Too much money causes many wrongs. Money has to be used properly. *Don't waste money, misuse of money is evil. Don't waste food, food is God. Don't waste time; time waste is life waste.* The present-day youth are wasting money, food and time. As a result, they are getting spoiled.

What is the vision of the youth like today? They do not have a steady vision even for a second. Their restless eyes keep looking this side and that side like that of a crow. Whatever they see, they develop a desire for it. What type of desire? Only bad desire. Therefore, first and foremost, the youth have to control their eyes. Our eyes are verily a sacred text.

Your life is a gift of your parents. Hence, you should love your parents wholeheartedly under all circumstances. Your mother is your first God; your father, the second. It is they who protect you and take care of you constantly. Of what use are your achievements in life if you forget your mother and father? Our Seva Dal and youth should propagate these ideals and try to arrest the degeneration in society.

If our vision is good, the entire creation will appear to be good to us. Hence, you should not look at anyone with an evil design. You should not develop a desire for everything that you see. I would like to tell the stark truth; do not take Me amiss. When the students go to college on bicycles, they stare at girls that are passing by. This causes many accidents. They stare at everything in the bazaar and every lady walking in the street while riding their motorcycles. So, the accidents are more in the case of motorcycles. Their eyes are glued to the college when they pass by a girls college. Is this the purpose for which God has given you eyes?

Do you know the purpose for which the eyes are given to you?

Is it to look at anything and everything that you come across?

No, no; you are endowed with eyes so that you may attain the vision of the Lord of Kailasa.

(Telugu Song)



The youth today not only have evil vision, their speech is also equally bad. They keep commenting on Anda (beauty) and looks of others. But they have no time to talk about Ananda (bliss). In fact, true beauty lies in bliss. Bliss is most beautiful. Nothing can match such beauty. To attain bliss, the youth should control their vision. God has given you eyes to see the wonders of His creation and not the external beauty of individuals. If three boys gather at a place, they talk all rubbish; they discuss useless topics. By talking about useless things, hearing useless talk and by seeing all that is useless man today is degenerating to the level of a demon. Born as a human being, man should behave in a manner befitting of a human being.

Our tongue is most sacred. It is the gift of God for the purpose of speaking sweet words. Hence, we should never speak bad words. The tongue should always be used in a sacred manner. As I have already said, the eyes are not given to man to look at anything and everything. The eyes are meant to see the beautiful form of God. But the young men today do not go to see the beautiful form of God when they pass by a temple. Instead, they look at the ladies visiting the temple. Is this the kind of vision they should have? Man today is becoming a demon by his faulty vision, by listening to bad words and by indulging in useless talk. The youth especially should be very careful. They should exercise control over their senses. If their senses are under control, then there will be no possibility of any harm or mistake when they go about their work anywhere.

The Parents should Inculcate Values in their Children

Embodiments of Love!

I am telling all this out of My love for the youth. You may hide anything, but



I cannot do so. We should recognise the reality of all that is happening today. Parents and elders should also be careful in this respect. Some parents show too much indulgence towards their children. You may shower all your love and affection on your children, but you should exercise check when they take to wrong path. If the child is spoiled on account of your blind love, who gets the discredit? Only the parents!

The Vedas declare *Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava, Acharya Devo Bhava, Atithi Devo Bhava* (revere your mother, father, preceptor and guest as God). Your life is a gift of your parents. Hence, you should love your parents wholeheartedly under all circumstances. Your mother is your first God; your father, the second. It is they who protect you and take care of you constantly. Of what use are your achievements in life if you forget your mother and father? Our Seva Dal and youth should propagate these ideals and try to arrest the degeneration in society. They may encounter any number of obstacles in this task; but they should overcome them and march forward, staking even their life to put society on the right path.

The youth should not waste money. They should not indulge in useless talk. They should observe Mounam (silence). *Mounath Kalaham Nasthi* (there will be no quarrel if you maintain silence). Srinivasan said that the youth should receive proper training in technology. However, technology has degenerated to 'trick-nology' because of its misuse by man. Man today is ruining himself by resorting to tricks instead of putting technology to right use. There are no tricks in technology if man develops proper understanding.

Students! Young Men!

You should exercise utmost caution. Earn a good name in society. Uphold the dignity of your family. Realise the intimate relationship that exists between the individual and society and promote the welfare of society. Prahlada was sent by his father Hiranyakasipu to his teachers. The teachers taught him all Sastras (scriptures). Once Hiranyakasipu called Prahlada, made him sit on his lap and enquired, "Dear son! What have you learnt?" Prahlada told his father that his teachers had taught him that character was very important, and a man without character was like an animal. They had also taught him, he said, that one should consider the women as mothers and sisters. Hiranyakasipu then asked him, "Can you tell me one great lesson that you have learnt?" Prahlada replied, "There is none higher than Hari. Devotion to God is essential for everyone. God is present everywhere." Hiranyakasipu was very angry to hear this from Prahlada. All the people in the royal court were also stunned by the bold reply given by Prahlada. Though his father tried to dissuade him from chanting the name of Lord Hari by punishing him in many ways, Prahlada never left chanting the name of God.

Easwara Sarva Bhutanam (God is the indweller of all beings). I wish that you too, like Prahlada, should teach this divine principle to one and all and encourage



The power of the senses is the very life-breath of man. It is unfortunate that the youth are misusing their senses. They have to conserve the divine energy of their senses and strive for the welfare of society. They have to protect the country. Then only do they deserve to be called real human beings. The parents of the youth today, in fact, are encouraging them to misuse their senses by giving them too much money. Thus, they are committing a great sin.

.....

them to worship and contemplate on the name of God. When you undertake the task of spreading the name of God with dedication, you can bring about a great transformation in society in no time. This work should begin from your home. Chant the name of God with your parents. The parents have given you this body. Your mother prepares delicious food to nourish your body. But, who sustains the Atma Tattwa? God is the only refuge. Hence, parents should set an example by instilling in the children the urge to realise God.

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.

(Telugu Poem)

However much you nourish the body, it is bound to perish sooner or later. Is the body given to man for eating, sleeping and procreating like birds and animals? No, not at all! Man has to sanctify every moment of his life by contemplating on God. God is always with us, in us, around us. That is what the parents have to teach their children. It is the foremost duty of the parents to teach this sacred path to their children. The Gurus (preceptors) have also to teach such noble principles to the students. The teachers today pass on only the information contained in the textbooks to their students. The children also seem to have developed taste for it. Hence, each one of you should visit some school and teach such noble things to the students. Born as human beings, is it proper for you to make obscene remarks at women? If you harass ladies with your vile words, will others keep quiet? Will they not harass your family members? Will they spare your own wife and children? Hence, first and foremost, you have to respect others. Then only will you receive their love and respect.

All should develop humanness, whether they are young men or young women. It is for this sacred purpose that we have started the Youth Wing of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation in the entire world. The youth have to set an ideal to others in society. Those who roam about in the bazaar aimlessly cannot be called youth in the real sense of the term. They are verily donkeys. Donkeys wander and bray in streets. The youth should not behave like that. You are not a donkey. You are God, truly. Uphold firmly your sacred humanness and lead a dignified life. Keep up your prestige. This is the foremost duty of the youth.

Many youngsters secretly read trashy books. They keep them in between the pages of their textbooks, showing to others that they are reading textbooks. But they actually read these shoddy novels. Thus, they deceive even their teachers. Follow the correct path and say with confidence that you are a human being, not an animal. Live up to your title of a human being. It is only when you nourish and nurture human values and behave like a human being does your education acquire value.

Journalists should Observe Propriety in Writing

Embodiments of Love!

I have great love for you. None can measure My love or compare it with this and that. My love is uniform for all without any bias or prejudice. My love can match only My love. I am not bothered about what others say about Me. Some people criticise Me. Some others write against Me in newspapers. They publish all sorts of nuisance borrowed from other countries. Can a person copying such nuisance and publishing it in a newspaper be called a true journalist? A true journalist will never do so. He will write only on the basis of his personal experience and knowledge. He will never publish anything on the basis of something that is published by some paper in London or America. Those who publish such trash relying on papers of other countries behave like dogs. When a dog barks in some corner of a street, another dog in a nearby street also starts barking. It is the nature of a dog to behave in this manner, not that of a human being. Whatever people may talk, we should adhere to truth. Truth is inside. You are the embodiment of truth, verily. When you are totally committed to truth, no untruth can disturb or harm you. If people say



some nonsense about you, let them do so. Let the dogs bark; you should not bother about it. Some people are jealous of the recognition that Swami's great humanitarian service is getting all over the world and try to cast aspersions on His name. Their criticism is the product of their jealousy. So many people come to Swami. Do we send invitation to them? Not at all! Let those who indulge in criticism of others try to attract people in such large numbers. It is impossible. Not even ten people will gather around them. What is the reason? The reason is lack of goodness. It is goodness that attracts people.

Embodiments of Love!

You see and hear so many things in the world. Without bothering about them, stay firm in your love. You have no reason to hide your love; continue to grow in love faster and faster. Then your mind will become pure and sacred and your birth as a human being will be sanctified. Then only you deserve to be called human beings. Otherwise, you will degenerate to the level of demons. Do not pay heed to everything that others say. Treasure the sacred words you have heard here. Install God in your heart.

Embodiments of Love!

Do not feel upset that Swami is doing some plain speaking. Rather, you should be happy that Swami is stating the facts (*loud applause*). Divinity cannot be explained or defined. It is not something to be advertised. You may go through any newspaper. It is full of advertisements along with pictures. Many of them contain false statements. It is sheer foolishness to publish such advertisements. A true human being will not act in this way. If one is really interested in knowing the truth, one should come here, observe

everything himself and experience happiness. It is a serious mistake to publish something in newspapers on the basis of hearsay. At least, the educated people should make efforts to know the truth. You should know the truth, adhere to truth and follow truth. If you do that, none in the world can overpower you. Hence, uphold truth at all times. Truth is your witness. The mind is the witness of the mind, virtue is the witness of virtue, and a fool is the witness of all foolishness. We should not become fools. Rather, we should be Phools (flowers) that are offered to God. It is unfortunate that instead of becoming flowers, we are acting like fools.

The Students should Shine like Pure Gold

Dear Students!

There are many more things that are to be told. I am stating all this only to put you on the right path. Love! Love! Love! It would be enough if you cultivate love. However, this love should not be expended on the objects of the world. It should be steadily fixed on God. Then you will become good individuals. Otherwise, of what use is your education? Today education is leading to agitation. If this situation is to be corrected, education must be supplemented with educare. Education is acquired from books. Educare has, however, to manifest from the heart. Educare involves manifesting the human values that are latent in one's own heart. Secular education can be obtained from books. The book is like a Mukku (nose), whereas educare is the very breath that is inhaled through the nose. If there is no breath, there is no life. Similarly, humanness cannot survive without human values that are to be manifested through the process of educare.



Embodiments of the Divine Self – Students!

You are all very good. You are nuggets of gold, verily! (*loud applause*) However, you should not be like 14 carat gold. You should be like 24 carat gold. Do not lose your value. If you lead your life like this, I will extend all possible help to all of you. I will help you financially and spiritually in every endeavour you undertake. Become good and earn a good name. Bring good name to your parents, Institution and to Swami. (Swami then called a student from America and another from Russia, studying at Prasanthi Nilayam and asked them to recite Rudram and Sri Sukdam). This boy is from America and that boy is from Russia. You see how they are chanting in one voice! (*loud applause*) These boys can recite all Vedic Mantras. They concentrate on the study of the Vedas at all times. There are many others from different countries who are learning the Vedas. But the Bharatiyas are forgetting the Vedas. Foreigners learn Sanskrit and chant Vedic Mantras clearly with proper intonation.

In contrast, what do the Indians learn? They learn, “Ding dong bell; pussy is in the well.” These are the nursery rhymes we teach our children from early age! This is not correct education. We have to realise the sanctity of Indian culture and spirituality. According to the principles of Indian culture, morality is the mother, integrity is the father, peace is the sister and courage is the brother. We should develop these eternal and sacred relationships. But we forget these relationships and try to develop foolish and mean relationships. *Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are.* As is your company, so you become. Since there is a lot of time available with us, I will tell many more things in greater detail in the coming days. I am not afraid of anyone. I am attached to truth. I do not bother about what others say. Those who believe in truth will not be afraid of anyone.

– From Bhagavan’s Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall on 13th August 2006 on the occasion of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna.

SRI SATHYA SAI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL PRASANTHI NILAYAM

Admission to Class I and Class XI of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Vidya Giri, Prasanthi Nilayam Post., (Anantapur Dist., A.P.), 515134 will take place in June 2007. It is an English medium, wholly residential school.

Prospectus and Admission Forms can be had from the Principal from 01-01-2007 on cash or payment remittance of Rs. 50/- through D.D. drawn on SBI, Prasanthi Nilayam (code no: 2786) in favour of the Principal, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, with a self addressed Rs. 20/- stamped cover of 15 cm x 24 cm.

Last date for issuing the forms from the Principal’s office is 15th February 2007 and last date of receiving the forms in this office is 1st March 2007.

Only students coming from English medium classes should apply.

Principal

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

GERMANY

IN THE WORLD OF PUBLISHING, Frankfurt Book Fair is one of the largest in the world and is held annually in Frankfurt. The five-day event started on 4th October 2006 and had over 7,000 publishers exhibiting publications to about 300,000



The German Sathya Sai Organisation participated in the Frankfurt Book Fair and displayed 120 books on Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and His Mission.

people. India was invited as the guest of honour at the exhibition. The German Sathya Sai Organisation displayed 120 books on Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, which have been published in German language since 1982. There was also a huge banner and a PowerPoint presentation on the life and work of Bhagavan. The exhibit attracted multitudes of visitors and their questions were addressed by long-time German Sai devotees. Information was given on the German Sathya Sai Organisation, Bhagavan's free educational institutions, healthcare services and other humanitarian projects. By any

measure, the delivery of information about Bhagavan to such a large and influential audience was received with appreciation and admiration.

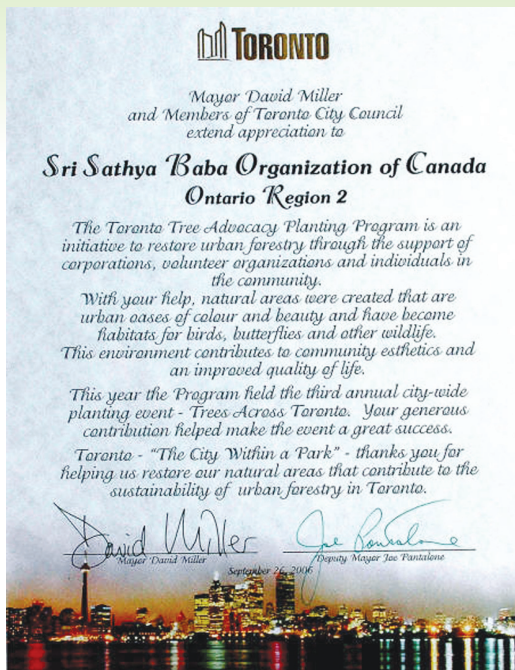
The annual national Sai Children's Camp of German devotees was held in a youth hostel in the beautiful Odenwald forest near Frankfurt from 4th to 13th August 2006. The theme of the camp was "Sharing Joy with others". More than 80 participants from all over Germany took part in the event. The children between 7 and 12 years of age took part in various group activities: daily prayer, meditation, group singing, clay modelling, painting, sports and picnics. Besides, there were storytelling sessions and dramas. The themes in all activities centred on the five human values of truth, righteousness, love, peace and non-violence. The children constructed a huge model of earth with its inhabitants living together in peace as one Sai family. This was an enriching and loving experience for all the participants.

CANADA

The "Living Room" is a shelter for mentally challenged individuals who are homeless in the beautiful city of Vancouver, Canada. On 30th October 2006, Sai devotees prepared 200 hot meals for the residents of the "Living Room". In addition, Halloween decorations were set up at the home and candies were distributed with love and humility.

In Toronto, a big tree planting event was conducted in the spring of 2006 by the Sathya Sai Organisation. Over 100 volunteers including adults and children





Award for the service rendered by the Sathya Sai Organisation of Canada.

participated in this weekend event when they planted about 700 trees. The Toronto municipality was quite pleased with the service rendered by the Sathya Sai Organisation and invited the office bearers for an award ceremony. The award was given on 26th September 2006 by the Mayor, David Miller, in the presence of a large number of municipal councillors and other invited guests.

In Windsor, Ontario a spiritual retreat with a focus on youth was held on 19th August 2006 by the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation. This was attended by over 350 persons and the keynote speaker was Smt. Geetha Ram from Washington D.C., U.S.A. The event started at 6:00 a.m. with Omkaram, Suprabhatam, meditation and a film showing Darshan of Swami. Smt. Geetha Ram said that when she met Swami last June and mentioned that she was travelling to Toronto to participate in the annual Sai retreat, Swami corrected her by

saying that the retreat was not in Toronto but two hours away from Toronto! This was at least six weeks before Windsor was decided as the final venue. During the retreat, Canadian youth physicians delivered an audio-visual presentation on diabetes and hypertension to the devotees. They also held a medical camp to screen the devotees for these two ailments. In all, 80 persons were screened. Ten devotees needed urgent attention for management of diabetes mellitus and eight for hypertension. These patients were referred to the nearby hospital for follow up.

COLOMBIA

On 21st October 2006, in the beautiful city of Santa Fe De Bogota, a symposium on "United for Peace" was held. It was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Colombia with representatives from the following faiths: Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist, Islam,



A symposium on "United for Peace" was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Colombia on 21st October 2006.

and Arhuacos Indians. Arhuacos Indians, who are native to Colombia, are well known for their childlike, trusting and loving nature. Their society believes in sharing, not in the singular pursuit of riches. There were 300

people attending the event in which there were five speakers: a Catholic priest, a Jewish rabbi, a Buddhist monk, an Islamic priest, and an Arhuacos Indian chief. The master of ceremonies was the Central Coordinator of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Region 22, Carlos Cuellar. Each speaker described how their religion taught and motivated peace. The meeting started with Arhuacos Indians playing their traditional music on natural instruments of seeds inside gourds and flutes made of bamboo. Then the Arhuacos Indians reminded the audience of the importance of Mother Nature and maintaining empathy with rocks, trees, water, and the animals in man's search for peace as well as maintaining a loving relationship with all mankind. Each religious leader spoke about how Jesus, Moses, Buddha and Mohammad had preached peace. Three major TV stations were present and reported on the event. In the feedback received from the audience, many were eager to have another similar conference on peace and unity.

FIJI

A team of neurosurgeons, physicians, nurses and para-medical personnel from Australia led by Dr. K. Nadanachandran, Dr. Cliff Peady and Paul Chichio visited the Colonial War Memorial (CWM) Hospital in Suva, Fiji from 23rd October to 3rd November 2006. This was the sixth such visit for Dr. Nadanachandran, a member of the International Medical Committee of the Sathya Sai Organisation. The team saw 70 patients and performed 22 neurosurgical operations and taught local doctors and nurses. Medical supplies and medical magazines were collected and donated to the Fiji hospital. The services rendered were much appreciated by the staff and administrators of the CWM

Hospital. News and acknowledgements appeared in the local press and on national television. The team was also invited to have discussions with Dr. Gunasegaran Gounder, the Minister of Health and the Australian High Commissioner in Fiji. During the past visits, it was felt that there was a high incidence of birth defects involving the spine and the brain. Since folate deficiency is associated with these defects, the issue of supplementation of wheat flour with folate was raised by Dr. Nadanachandran with the Minister and one of the two main flour millers in Suva.

U. S. A.

The Sathya Sai Centre of Tampa Bay in collaboration with Matchpia organised two bone marrow drives in the community on Saturday, 11th November 2006. Of 6 million nationally registered bone marrow donors, less than 1% are of South Asian origin making this community the most under-represented racial group of marrow donors in the United States. For South Asian children and adults who need a bone marrow transplant in order to survive a life-threatening illness, the best hope of survival is finding a match within the South Asian community.

The drive featured an innovative new technique for donor registration which does not require a blood sample. The Buccal Swab procedure uses a few swabs of saliva, from the inside of the cheek, to determine blood type and compatibility. Volunteers from the Sai Centre and community were excited about this project from the get go. Before asking others to register, they registered first thus showing a 100% support for the cause. The very thought of having a role in potentially saving a life was a very strong motivator.

About 275 people registered as potential donors at two drives held



at the annual India Festival and the Pakistan cricket match. Volunteers recruited donors by making people aware of the dire need of the project and also dispelling common misconceptions about the complexity of registering or potentially donating. It was encouraging to meet many caring people that took the time to volunteer themselves and their families. At the end of the day, all the volunteers walked away with an overwhelming feeling of peace and joy knowing that this was a day spent in the true spirit of service.

CROATIA

Rovinj is a beautiful town located in the west coast of Istria on the Adriatic Sea. From 29th September 2006 to 1st October 2006, the Croatian Sri Sathya Sai Organisation held a spiritual retreat. The theme of the retreat



"The Joy of Awakening" was the theme of the spiritual retreat organised by the Croatian Sri Sathya Sai Organisation in Rovinj, Croatia.

was "The Joy of Awakening". Around 330 people from Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro attended the retreat. Workshops were conducted on the themes of Truth, Goodness and Beauty. Members of Dalmatian region presented a programme describing the spiritual experiences of Bhagavan's devotees.

During the retreat, the Zonal Chairperson, Alida Parkes, had meetings with Regional Coordinators. The final event of the retreat was a presentation of Vesna Krmpotic's book entitled "1008 x 1008", a book of poems describing the dialogue and bond between the Lord and the devotee. Jack and Louise Hawley were invited guests at the retreat. Jack Hawley's book on the Bhagavadgita was translated into Croatian language. They had an interview with national television, and held a seminar for Croatian managers entitled "Dharmic Management"

GHANA

Accra is the largest city in Ghana and its capital. Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Accra celebrated Bhagavan's 81st Birthday by organising several functions from 19th to 25th November 2006. To begin with, Ladies Day was celebrated with Bhajans sung by 150 ladies of Indian and Ghananian origin at the Indian Culture Centre. Following this, several Bhajans were held in individual devotees' homes culminating in the grand celebration



Sai devotees visited Pantang Psychiatric Hospital, Accra and distributed hot meals and fruits to patients.

on the evening of November 23rd at the Sai Center in Osu, Accra. The Bhajans continued on to November 25th when 35 Sai devotees visited the Pantang Psychiatric Hospital and distributed hot meals and fruits to patients. This is the largest of the three psychiatric hospitals in Ghana and is located about 26 km from the Sai Centre of Accra. The patients and the hospital authorities were very grateful to the Sathya Sai Organisation.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

B H A R A T

Andhra Pradesh: Anantapur district conducted a free medical camp treating 450 patients and a free veterinary camp vaccinating 348 cattle and treating 325 cattle in Ananda Raopet village. The district carried out 9 free marriages in Kanchi Samudram, Lepakshi, Pedda Reddy Palli, Rachapalli and at S. Dadlapalli villages

East Godavari district distributed blankets to 81 leprosy patients and 19 old people, performed Narayana Seva for about 1,300 people in different villages and organised a huge Bal Vikas rally on the 81st Birthday of Bhagavan on 23rd November 2006.

West Godavari district celebrated Bhagavan's 81st Birthday by organising service activities in Tadepalli Gudem, Narsapuram and Jangareddy Gudem villages for 5 days (19th to 23rd November 2006), giving 81 Amruta Kalasams (food provisions) to needy people and distributing blankets to 81 selected needy people.

Prakasam district inaugurated 36 houses built with the cooperation of Sri Sathya Sai Grama Seva Trust (A.P.) on 19th November 2006 in Guntapalli village, gave blankets to 81 poor people at Chirala on 19th

November 2006 and carried out Narayana Seva for 1,600 people at Ongole town on 23rd November 2006, the Birthday of Bhagavan.

Guntur district distributed blankets to 108 people sleeping on footpaths on 22nd November 2006 in the night and carried out Narayana Seva for 3,500 people and gave new clothes to 200 people in Vellatur and to 81 people in Macharla villages.

Haryana and Chandigarh: A veterinary camp was organised by the Sirsa Samithi in November 2006. In this camp, 377 animals were examined and given free treatment.



A veterinary camp was organised by Sirsa Samithi of Haryana wherein 377 animals were examined and given free treatment.

Sirsa Samithi also organised a blood donation camp in which 81 persons donated blood for the benefit of needy patients.

The Samithi conducted an awareness programme at school level and organised a declamation and poetry recitation contest on topics – “Manav Seva is Madhav Seva”, “Unity of Faiths”, “Role of Students in Building Nation”. As many as 16 schools sent their teams of two students from each school.

An inter college seminar was organised on 22nd November 2006 at



Sirsa wherein six colleges of Sirsa district sent their teams of two students from each college. The topic of the seminar was: "How can I be Useful to Society?"

Kerala: An 81-hour Bhajan was conducted in all the 14 districts of Kerala from 2nd to 5th November 2006 as part of 81st Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan.

A three-day camp for teachers of Sri Sathya Sai Schools in Kerala was conducted under the guidance of the Institute of Sathya Sai Education, Mumbai on 27th, 28th and 29th October 2006 at Sai Centre, Alwaye. 70 teachers participated in this camp. On these days, a two-day camp was conducted for educate trainers in which 90 participants from 14 districts of Kerala took part. The faculty members of the Institute took classes.

A seminar on human values in the legal profession was conducted on 28th October in the premises of High Court of Kerala by Sai Neethi, lawyers forum of the Sai Organisation. Justice Benjamin Koshy, Justice Padmanabhan Nair, Justice Thottathil B. Radhakrishnan and faculty members of the Mumbai Institute spoke on the occasion. 200 advocates participated in this seminar.

Free distribution of medicated drinking water was started from 22nd November at Pathanamthitta for all the devotees going to Sabarimala, a famous place of pilgrimage in Kerala. The Seva continued up to 26th December 2006.

Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal: Having come to know from a news item that a poor young farmer had committed suicide on 8th December 2006 in Bichauli village due to non-availability of water for his small agricultural land and that his family consisting of old parents, wife and five small children were unable

to pull on and were having pangs of hunger, a team of 11 members of Orai Samithi and Jhansi Zonal Coordinator visited the village and provided the family with much needed food-stuffs for two months, woollen clothes for all the family members and sufficient amount of cash. They assured the family that they would bear all the expenses towards education of the seven years old eldest son and marriage expenses of the eldest daughter when she grew up. They also gave full-sized photograph of Swami and Vibhuti packets. As a large number of villagers gathered on this occasion, a brief talk on Swami's life and mission was given and a few Bhajans were sung. The event was well covered by prominent newspapers.

To celebrate Bhagavan's 81st Birthday, Allahabad district organised a free medical camp in village Dhokri on 18th November 2006. Seven doctors from different disciplines checked up and gave free medicines to about 1,000 patients. Bhajans were sung after the camp, 81 new woollen sweaters were given to needy children and 11 sewing machines were given to needy women for their livelihood. Free tailoring classes will be conducted for these women. On Ladies Day on 19th November 2006, about 150 ladies and 30 gents arranged a Bhajan programme near Sangam of Ganga and Yamuna rivers and floated 81 earthen lamps in the river. 81 ladies who were living on begging only were given new woollen shawls. Narayana Seva was also done.

On 20th November 2006, nearly 3,000 Bal Vikas students took out a grand rally, covering a distance of about four kilometres singing Bhajans and displaying Swami's messages. Children and the Seva Dal members going

Continued on cover page III ...



GOOD TEACHERS MAKE GOOD STUDENTS

Modern education equips man just to fill his belly; it does not help him to attain righteousness. What is the use of acquiring this type of education? Listen! Oh valourous sons of Bharat!

(Telugu Poem)

Dear Teachers!

YOU HAVE COME ALL THE WAY from Srikakulam, the very name of which begins with Sri, meaning resplendence and loftiness. Sri is not an ordinary word. It carries with it great eminence; it is used with the names of noble souls like Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa.

Inculcate Spiritual Thoughts in Children

All those who have come from Srikakulam are great devotees. They have not become devotees only now; they have been ardent devotees right from the beginning. All of them – men, women, children and elders – experience the divine principle in thought, word and deed and enjoy bliss therefrom. The teachers who have come to this sacred place from Srikakulam are very very fortunate. A country makes progress because of such teachers only. However, much depends on the conduct of a country's students. The students who are endowed with skill and knowledge can promote its welfare and advancement. They should have purity of thought and tenderness of heart. It is the teachers like you who prepare

such students. If the teachers are good, the students will also be good. If the teachers have purity of speech and thought, the students will also imbibe pure, tender and exalted feelings.

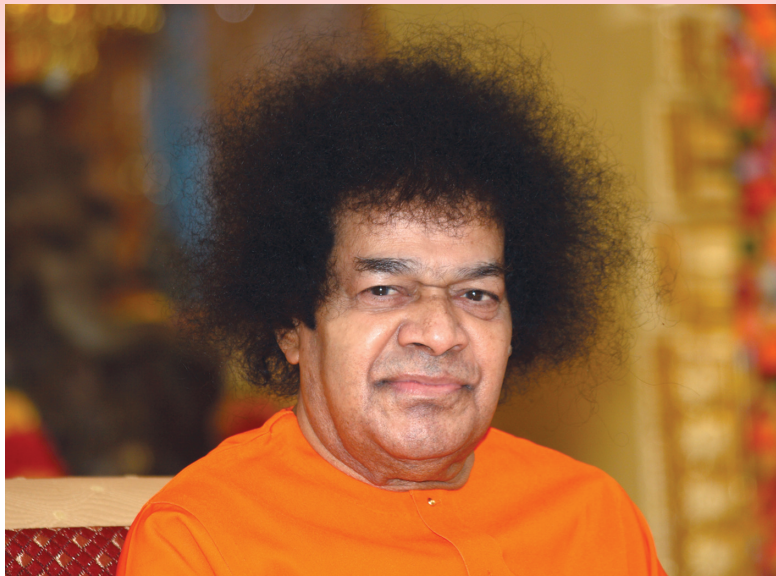
Embodiments of Love!

You should not impart merely physical and worldly education to children. You should also expose them to moral, ethical

Make every effort to inculcate goodness in children in spite of all your difficulties and problems. That is your primary duty. Teachers are the true leaders of the country, not the political leaders. Only teachers can make the children good. There would be chaos all around without good teachers. Teachers should take keen interest in the well-being of students. Make them shining ideals so that their light of goodness spreads to every street and village, giving joy to one and all.

and spiritual knowledge. Infuse self-confidence in the students. Whatever one may possess, it is of little use without self-confidence. You should primarily instil spiritual thinking in students. Spiritual thinking means contemplation of God. So, develop the thoughts of contemplation of God in the hearts of students. Then their feelings will become pure, steady and selfless.

Today wherever we see in the world, people are crazy for money. What can money do for us? Can it wipe out the tears of sorrow? No, not at all. Money is only for name's sake. It cannot bring real happiness. We can attain happiness only through right conduct, sacrifice and love. Wherefrom does Dharma (righteousness) come? *Sathyannasti Paro Dharma* (There is no Dharma greater than adherence to truth). There can be no Dharma without Sathya (truth). Therefore, lead your life relying on Sathya and Dharma. Why are we born in this world? Not merely to eat, drink and sleep. Lord Krishna declared, *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). Each being is an aspect of divinity. Hence, all of you are embodiments of divinity. Love is your true nature. Having been blessed with human birth, you should lead your life with purity of thought and action. Only then can the country make progress. Otherwise, all your spiritual practices like Yajna, Yaga



You are born out of love, are sustained by love and ultimately merge in love. Teach the children to develop tender feelings and sweet speech. Never teach them to speak harsh words. Saturate their life with love and righteousness. Then the entire world will shine resplendently. Just as a lamp spreads light all around, the light of their good conduct will make the world shine.

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(sacrificial rituals) and Tapa (penance) will be as futile as pouring rose water over a heap of ash. The hearts of students are pure and sacred. Sow the seeds of love in them. They will grow into gigantic trees and yield the fruits of peace and righteousness.

Make the Students Shining Ideals of Goodness

Man today is beset with so many worries. You cannot carry on your life if you are bogged down by worries.

To be born is a worry, to be on the earth is a worry; world is a cause of worry and



death too; entire childhood is a worry and so is the old age; life is a worry, failure is a worry; all actions and difficulties cause worry; even happiness too is a mysterious worry. Devotion to Swami alone will put an end to all your worries. Oh people! Develop such devotion and love. (Telugu Poem)

Never give scope to worry; lead a life full of happiness. Love for Swami is the panacea for all your worries. Inculcate good qualities in children so that they can attain progress in life and have a bright future. If you sow the seeds of Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness), Santhi (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence) in children, they will set not only this country but the entire world on the right path. When the main switch is put on, all the bulbs will shine. Similarly, when the main switch of Bhakti (devotion) is put on, it will spread its sacred light to all countries. Bhakti does not merely mean singing Bhajans to the tune of cymbals. Bhakti means love for God. When you develop this love, all your endeavours will become sacred. Not only that, your entire life and your human birth will also be sanctified. You are born out of love, are sustained by love and ultimately merge in love. Teach the children to develop tender feelings and sweet speech. Never teach them to speak harsh words. Saturate their life with love and righteousness. Then the entire world will shine resplendently. Just as a lamp spreads light all around, the light of their good conduct will make the world shine.

Dear Teachers!

Make every effort to inculcate goodness in children in spite of all your difficulties and problems. That is your primary duty. Teachers are the true leaders of the country, not the political leaders. Only teachers can make the children good. There would

be chaos all around without good teachers. Teachers should take keen interest in the well-being of students. Make them shining ideals so that their light of goodness spreads to every street and village, giving joy to one and all. People today are suffering from many types of problems. By exhorting them to contemplate on the name of God, you should try to alleviate their suffering. They may be afflicted with any number of worries, but their heart will rejoice the moment divine name enters their ears.

Teachers should Set Ideals for Students to Emulate

Dear Teachers!

You are all very fortunate. Make the best use of the fortune that you are blessed with. Develop this fortune and share it with all. By sharing this with all, you will enjoy the harvest of bliss. Teaching is a noble profession. The teachers are the leaders of the world. The world cannot exist without them. There have been many great Maharishis (sages) like Vasishtha, Viswamitra, Jamadagni and great preceptors like Dronacharya, Kripacharya and Bhishmacharya who set ideals for the whole world by their example. They in fact were true Acharyas (preceptors). If you transform yourselves like them, you can remove all evil from the face of the world.

Dronacharya was the preceptor of the Kauravas and the Pandavas. Once when the Kauravas and the Pandavas were playing with a ball in their childhood, the ball fell into a nearby well. The children tried many methods to bring the ball out. At that time, Dronacharya was passing that side along with his wife and son. Coming near the children who were surrounding the well, Dronacharya asked them, "My dear children, what is the matter? Why are you standing around



the well in this manner? What has happened?" The children replied, "Swami, our ball has fallen into the well." "Do not worry at all. I will bring your ball out." Saying this, Dronacharya took out an arrow and shot at the ball. The arrow pierced the ball. Then he shot another arrow which got into the first arrow. In this manner, he shot consecutively one arrow after the other, made a rope of the arrows and brought the ball out. The teacher should develop the skill and strength of the children like this and teach them noble ideals. Only then can the children come up in life and experience happiness.

The happiness of the children is the source of sustenance of the world. Their Ananda (happiness) is verily its Ahara (food). Without the food of happiness, what is the use of other foods? Eating, drinking, walking, sleeping and ultimately dying – is this the be all and end all of man's life? Human life is highly exalted and lofty. We should fill our heart with sacred feelings befitting our exalted human birth. Being

teachers, first you yourself should cultivate good habits and lead an ideal life. Then you should teach the children to cultivate good habits. When a teacher is addicted to smoking, how can he tell the students not to do so? It is only when the teachers cultivate good habits and good conduct can the students emulate their example and strive for the welfare and progress of the country. You may have to face many difficulties but never go back on your resolve to mould the students as ideal persons. These are the attributes of a true teacher.

I am very happy that so many teachers have come from Srikakulam. Whatever good that you know, first you yourself should put it into practice and then teach it to children. With blessings to all, I bring My Discourse to a close.

– From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 5th December 2006.

FESTIVALS / EVENTS IN THE YEAR 2007

12th Jan.	.. Annual Sports and Cultural Meet of SSSIHL	29th July	.. Guru Purnima
14th Jan.	.. Makara Sankranti	27th Aug.	.. Onam
16th Feb.	.. Sivarathri	4th Sept.	.. Sri Krishna Janmashtami
20th Mar.	.. Ugadi	15th Sept.	.. Ganesh Chaturthi
27th Mar.	.. Sri Rama Navami	21st Oct.	.. Vijaya Dasami
14th Apr.	.. Tamil New Year Day	9th Nov.	.. Deepavali
14th Apr.	.. Vishu	10th Nov. (6 p.m.) -	
2nd May	.. Buddha Purnima	11th Nov. (6 p.m.)	Global Akhanda Bhajan
6th May	.. Easwaramma Day	19th Nov.	.. Ladies Day
26th July	.. Ashadi Ekadasi	22nd Nov.	.. 26th Convocation of SSSIHL
		23rd Nov.	.. Bhagavan's 82nd Birthday
		25th Dec.	.. Christmas

Bondage of Desires

CHINNA KATHA

ONCE A PERSON, HAVING developed the spirit of renunciation, left his house and started living at Vasishtha Guha near Rishikesh in the Himalayan region. The serene environment of this place was suitable for meditation.



The serene environment of Vasishtha Guha was suitable for meditation.

One day, as he was absorbed in meditation, a tourist bus stopped there. The passengers got down from the bus one after the other and started bathing in the Ganga. Some of them started talking to each other. They were conversing in Kannada language. Hearing their conversation, the renunciant opened his eyes. As he belonged to Karnataka, his attachment to Kannada language became manifest. He got up from his seat of meditation, went near the passengers and asked, "From where are you coming?" They replied that they were coming from Karnataka. At once, this man's attachment to his State was revived. He further asked them, "Are you from Bangalore or Mysore?" The passengers replied, "We are

all from Bangalore." This man then developed attachment to his district. "In Bangalore, where do you live?" he asked. "We live in Hoskote", they said. The man then developed attachment to his Taluka.

As this renunciant heard one description after another about the places he was associated with in the past, he was overwhelmed by his desire to know more. He then asked the passengers, "Does anyone of you know about Kadugodi?" "What to talk of knowing Kadugodi? We are living there only," said one of them. Then the renunciant developed attachment to his residence. He asked that person, "My father lives in house number 3 near Rama temple. Do you know him? Is he all right?" That person told him that his father had passed away three months ago. "Oh! My father is dead," lamented the renunciant and started shedding tears.



Hearing their conversation in Kannada, the renunciant went near the passengers and enquired where they had come from.

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along with them enjoyed Swami's Prasad after the rally.

On 21st November 2006, Seva Dal members cleaned ward Nos. 14 and 16 of Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital with acid and phenyl and distributed apples, bananas and biscuits to all the patients in the wards.

Bhagavan's Birthday was celebrated in a big way by the Allahabad district. In addition to regular programmes of Nagar Sankirtan, Bhajans, Veda chanting and Laksharchana, all the inmates from three leprosy homes, orphans and mentally challenged children from Mother Teresa School were brought in a bus to Durga Pooja Park. Narayana Seva was done and blankets and clothes were given to selected lepers. 81 sewing machines were given to needy women who had taken free tailoring training in the past six months.

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Why did this man, meditating at a blissful place like Rishikesh get attachment and



When a man has attachment and desires, he cannot progress on the path of renunciation.

desires? If a person contemplating on God after renouncing everything continues to develop attachment and desires, then where is the need for him to leave home and hearth? He may better lead worldly life staying at home.



Though Gunas (attributes) emanate from the Lord, He is unaffected: smoke arises from fire, but fire is unaffected; clouds form in the sky and move about in the sky, but the sky is unaffected by them. All are attached to Him like beads, but He is free, unattached. The universe is based on Him, but He has no need for the universe as base.

— *Baba*