

SAI MARGA

*Offered at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan
with love and reverence from the devotees of
Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Sri Lanka
on the occasion of commemorating
40 years of Sai Seva in Sri Lanka.*

23 May 2005



*The Chosen Mother
of
Bhagavan Baba*



*Easwaramba
Simple, Meek & Modest
always away
from
Publicity, Admiration & Adoration
a
Personification of Love.*

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Excerpts from the address by

The books authored by

Dr.Ms.Vasanth Jayasuriya (MBBS.Cey; D.E.M. Cey)

titled

“Personal Interactions with Baba My Father”

AND

Prof. Sunanda Degamboda - University of Kelaniya

titled

“Sathya Sai Path to Glory”

were blessed and autographed by

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

on the auspicious day of Buddha Poornima (Vesak)

on 23rd May 2005 at Brindhavan, Whitefield.

- News From Our Region

VARATHARAJAN ARUMUGAM
"KAJA SAKTHY"
VAN, NORTH WEST,
ANAICOTTAI.



EDITORIAL

On October 29, 1940, at the age of 14, Bhagavan declared to his family and to the people of his village that he would henceforth be known as Sai Baba and that his mission was to bring about the spiritual regeneration of humanity by demonstrating and teaching the highest principles of truth, righteous conduct, peace, and divine love.

Exactly four decades ago Bhagavan's physical presence and His valuable teachings culminated in the minds of many in Sri Lanka, which was a turning point for Spiritual Transformation. Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithy, Colombo Sri Lanka, the pioneer Samithy commenced Sai Activities by His Grace in the year 1965. Bhagavan has said that *'The Bliss that I derive from Bhajan, I do not get from anything else'*. On these lines Bhajan Singing was at its threshold of Sai Activity, in Sri Lanka. Bhajans at the Samithy & Homes became widespread in short time across the country. SDG's & Centres evolved rapidly with Bhajan as the base, currently totalling to 124. Bhagavan said that *'There is only one Religion, the Religion of Love'*. This was conspicuous as from all religions converged under 'Sai Banner' and sang the glory of Lord Baba. This is a milestone event which led stronger affinity to one another from any cast, creed or religion to recognize 'Sai' in every being.

On the path of graduating towards realizing the divinity within us, besides fusing Ragam, Bavam & Thalam in the Bhajans, Baba quoted *'There is no prayer more fruitful than seva'*. Serving the needy, the less fortunates & the physically challenged became targets to serve, selflessly. 'Narayana Seva' was at its rudiment on 'Seva'. Full Moon day was chosen to cook & distribute Lunch to the needy. In fact the Rice was collected from many a home which has been accumulated as 'Handful Rice' (pidi arici). Sevadals worked overnight to make this monthly event a success. Periodic visits to Hospitals, Prisons & Homes of Children & the Aged with offer of Food and Love too was routine.

Bhagavan says *'My life is my Message ; Expansion is My life'*. Seva in Sri Lanka took its wide dimensions quite steadily. Free Medical Camps by qualified Doctors & Para Medics to the suburbs and rural areas were organized by the different Sai Samithis throughout the Country. Regular Camps were conducted which offered a great comfort to the sick and the poor. Another tangential Seva was, donating King Coconut Water & Sago Porridge to the Cancer Hospital in Maharagama, Sri Lanka, every week. Terminally ill patients cherish this service as it is very palatable to the state of their health. Sai Organisation of Sri Lanka at the National Level is not fatigued for 'Service', that it took another tangent, a landmark service project, in constructing a 'Hospice' in Hanwellla, Sri Lanka, which is capable of accommodating 50 terminally ill Cancer patients. Besides, Medical Care under a qualified Doctor and nursing staff (numbering to 30), Hospice gives a spiritual atmosphere and Recreation, above all, abundance of Love. This Project had incurred a cost of Rs 32 M, and situated on a four Acre Land.

Baba describes ' Donation of Blood' as Liquid Love, a very selfless service to the Patients. Many Samithis in Sri Lanka plays a significant role in conducting a Blood Donation Camp on the stipulated date.

Balavikas & EHV classes are conducted in most Samithies. ASSEHV School was established in Manipay, Jaffna which was the first of its kind in Sri Lanka. It is worth stating of the Sri Sathya Sai Home for Boys & Girls run by the Vavuniya Samithi too.

Bhagavan says '*Living with God is true Education, Living for God is true Devotion, Living in God is true Spirituality*'. Colombo Samithy makes a quarterly publication named 'Sai Marga' in Sinhala & English, whilst the Jaffna Samthi too makes a similar publication titled 'Sai Markam'.

Bhagavan Baba says '*that an act of Service is, that which is truly done in My presence*'. Colombo Samithy spearheaded the Tsunami Relief work with alacrity. Youths from the Colombo Samithy were on the scene of the closest affected areas within an hour of the Tsunami attack. Immediate relief measures such as Food, Water, Medicines, Mobile Toilets etc were provided just before dusk. This followed by dispatch of Relief Goods to the South, North & East of Sri Lanka in container Loads with great sacrifice & love. This continued over a month. Such hard work is continued towards rehabilitating the affected, by providing means for employment, exploring possibilities to build houses etc.

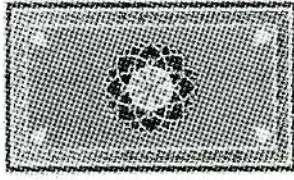
Grace of our Beloved Lord has enabled formulating the following Service Projects in view of His 80th Year of Advent (2005) :-

- 80 Corneas
- 80 Artificial limbs
- 80 Wheel Chairs
- 80 Tube Wells
- 80 Cataract Surgeries
- 80 Cattle Release from slaughter

Bhagavan has been Gracious in giving permission to celebrate 'Buddhapoornima' this Year (2005). Sri Lanka has been named the Hosting Country of these celebrations. Opportunity is taken to issue 'Sai Marga' our publication for this quarter to coincide with the '40th Anniversary of Sai Seva in Sri Lanka'.

*What one meets
in Life
is Destiny.
How one meets it
is Self- Effort.*

- Baba



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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

I am very happy indeed to issue a message to the organisers of the Buddha Purnima celebrations in Bangalore.

I am equally happy to learn that on the day of Vesak Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba marks the occasion with Buddha Purnima celebrations. Vesak is sacred to Buddhists all over the world because they commemorate the triple anniversary of the birth, enlightenment and passing away of Buddha.

In the contemporary society where greed, hatred and ignorance appear to have taken precedence over love and compassion towards fellow human beings, it behoves us to dwell on the teachings of the Buddha.

In the present context it has become the mission of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to lend his divine benevolence in directing this spiritual journey.

May all those who celebrate Buddha Purnima have the blessings of the triple Gem.

ചന്ദ്രികാ ബന്ദരാനൈ കുമാരതunga

Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga



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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



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இலங்கையின் பிரதம மந்திரி
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka


I am happy to convey my greetings to the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Sri Lanka, on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary.

The conflict between immediate interests or gains on the one side and universal values or final verities on the other, has found expression in both individual behaviour and social action, perhaps ever since the start of time. Some have argued that the rapid development of technology based on science and dissemination of modern life style have been accompanied by a marked increase in the impact of immediate interests on individual and social behaviour, at the cost of the influence of universal truths and values on the manner in which we relate to one another and to the institutions of society. It is sometimes feared that self-centredness will become the very goal of life itself, with a disastrous effect on humankind and society.

Against this background, Sathya Sai Seva Communities, wherever they are found, play an important role in society. They demonstrate to us - not through ideology alone but more through social action - the relevance of the universal values of Truth or Sathya, Virtue, Righteousness and Right Conduct or Dharma for the achievement of peace, harmony and human well being. The Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Sri Lanka, is an example of a community that works selflessly and voluntarily without aspiring to achieve fame or personal glory.

The practice of human values based on the eternal truths, through social action is a distinguishing feature of the Sathya Sai Seva Organisation. We are aware of the commendable efforts made by the organisation to improve the character and quality of education by incorporating the human values of Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Love and Non-violence into the formal learning process. We also commend the in which the organisation came forward, more recently, to identify itself with the plight of the country's tsunami victims. Sai devotees from both Sri Lanka and abroad provided immediate relief and medical services to the affected people. And when doing so they sought no publicity or recognition.

Organisations like the Sathya Sai Seva Organisation which are not only value-oriented but also cut across the usual barriers of race, language and religious affiliation, are much needed at the present time, when as a country we seek an approach which allows us to achieve peace, harmony and well-being through an expression of our unity. We wish the organisation all the best in the future, and hope its noble mission will move towards still higher levels of success and achievement in the years to come.-


Mahinda Rajapaksa



කවානාසක, ශ්‍රී ලංකා පාර්ලිමේන්තුව

சபாநாயகர், இலங்கைப் பாராளுமன்றம்

Speaker, Parliament of Sri Lanka

It is with great pleasure that I am sending this Message to the Souvenir to be released by the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Sri Lanka as a mark of respect to Lord Sri Sathya Sai Baba and to commemorate the 40th year of Advent of this Organisation in Sri Lanka.

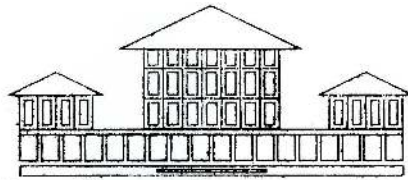
Buddha Poornima (Wesak) will be celebrated at Whitefield on 23rd May 2005 in the presence of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, by the Sri Lanka Sathya Sai Seva Organisation with the participation of a large number of Buddhist Devotees from many countries in the world.

The Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Sri Lanka has many activities to its credit. The Cancer Hospice at Hanwella, The Vavuniya Children's Home, Sathya sai School at Manipay are a few to be mentioned. This Organisation has undertaken these noble tasks with dedication and love. May the noble teachings of our religions guide us to serve the downtrodden and make their lives full of joy, human excellence and lasting happiness.

I wish to convey to the Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Sri Lanka all success in their endeavour to celebrate Buddha Poornima (Wesak) with Buddhist devotees all over the world and spread love and peace among the human beings.



W.J.M. LOKUBANDARA, M.P.
S P E A K E R



**Leader of the Opposition
Parliament of Sri Lanka**

I am very pleased to send my good wishes to the Sathya Sai Seva Organisation which commemorates this year, four decades of service to the people of Sri Lanka. The Organisation has through these forty years contributed to serving the needy by various humanitarian acts, such as maintaining a hospice for the terminally ill, helping in the education of children and running homes for the Orphans. Above all, it has at all times sought to uplift our people materially and spiritually, and enriched the Sri Lankan community through building ethnic, religious and cultural harmony.

The Sathya Sai Seva Organisation is founded, as is well known, on the path laid out by the great Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and its work is animated by the principles and philosophy of this divine personality who has appeared on earth to fill our hearts with love.

The world of today, developed as it is materially, yet abounds in tendencies that inhibit the fundamental needs of people, which are to live in harmony, work together, and develop human values. The pace of technological change has diminished human inter-dependence. There is a greater reliance on physical artefacts and their acquisition. The spirit of selfless service has been supplanted by business-like attitudes and man has been alienated from Human Values.

This erosion of the fundamental human Values of Non-violence, tolerance and love has spread to groups, communities, and ethnic factions and led to animosities among nations and regions.

The great value of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's teachings is that they are appropriate for the modern world. His teachings show that the fault is not with the spread of technology or the use of artefacts, but the lack of shared values among the people. This dilemma could be resolved by founding human activities around the five values of Truth, Righteousness, Inner peace, Love and Non-violence. Then the physical artefacts will be used for unity, collective development, and sharing. The apparently harmful modern innovations would be utilized to create a world of peace, happiness and purity.

A valuable characteristic of the life-principles expounded by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is that they do not demand a change of one's religion. He advises humankind to follow one's own religion and equally respect other religions. He calls for identifying others, not as belonging to a particular religion or race, but as 'Divine sparks'.

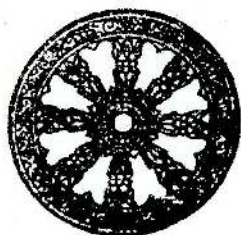
I believe that a world that follows Sathya Sai Baba's path will be a world where racial or religious divisions will not be found. It will be a world where sharing, loving and peace will flourish. On this important occasion for the Sathya Sai Seva Organisation in Sri Lanka, I wish that our country's inherent ethnic and religious diversity will become something to celebrate - the beauty of 'unity in diversity' through the promotion and propagation of Sathya Sai Human Values.


Ranil Wickremesinghe

*Message From The Desk of
Hon.Karu Jayasuriya MP (FICS,FCTT)
Former Deputy Leader of the Govt.of Sri Lanka,
Present Deputy Leader of the Opposition,
Parliament of Sri Lanka
Sri Jayawardenapura.*

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is a divine personality in this era with devotees in more than two thirds of the countries in the world. Bhagavan's teachings are simple, of which the main theme is to follow one's religion well. Every individual is considered as a spark of divinity irrespective of caste, creed, race or religion. "you claim to have devotion to me but you must examine yourselves every moment, whether you are observing the discipline I have laid down, the programmes of service I have marked out. That is the way to earn my love", says Bhagavan. "Love others and serve them, then you can win my love", this message is carried to the people through Sathya Sai Organisations in the respective countries. All these organisations follow a single charter spelled out by the Prashanthi Council under the guidance of Bhagavan. This world body ensures the uniformity of principles and practices of all the Sai Organisations in the world. Sathya Sai Seva Organisation in Sri Lanka has reached her fortieth birthday this year and aptly named this occasion as "The fortieth year of Sai Seva in Sri Lanka". The Sathya Sai Organisations in Sri Lanka have established educational, vocational, computer and language classes free of charge for the needy and the underprivileged. In addition free regular medical facilities have been provided to the estate sector and the villages, for the last ten years in the name of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Sathya Sai Organisation in Sri Lanka has accomplished a vast amount of seva through the service, spiritual, youth and educational wings. A vast number of people have benefitted materially, educationally and spiritually through the untiring efforts of the members of the organisation. They contribute voluntarily and selflessly to all the activities. All the religious festivals are celebrated together as Sai devotees without any ill feelings. The Cancer Hospice in Hanwella where the helpless and forsaken cancer patients are looked after in a loving environment is an ample example of the silent service of the organisation. The educational wing has trained many teachers to inculcate Human Values in school children. In conclusion I hope and pray that the Sathya Sai Organisation in Sri Lanka will be a beacon of light for unity and ethnic harmony.

Karu Jayasuriya



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DHARMAGAVESHI BAUDDHA ASHRAMAYA

(An Institute for Religious, National, Cultural and Social Services)

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Tripitakavedi
Dr. KOTTE PANNINDRIYA THERO
(M.A. M. Phil. Ph. D. (New Delhi))
Chief Incumbent

He possesses a small physique. Nevertheless, he possesses an extraordinarily strong mental faculty. His eyes ooze with compassion. Service to humanity is his motto. One compassionate look from him is able to soothe the ailing hearts of thousands and tens of thousands of people. It is bereft of over estimation or exaggeration if he is called the only living embodiment of magnanimity and compassion from among the living in the world today. It is his unique spirituality that brings about the spontaneous love and veneration of thousands and tens of thousands of people from all parts of the world.

In an era when man rises against man; when inhumanism supersedes humanism; In an era where justice, fair play impartiality and all other golden qualities of man have taken a back seat, what a great blessing it is to see a person living among us who is totally dedicated for the spread of the word of Dharma and the uplift of moral standards of humanity.

I haven't seen him personally nor have I spoken to him. But I know what a great saintly being he is. I only see him through my heart and mind, and therefore I hold him in deep respect. It comes to my mind what **Lord Buddha** has told on a similar matter. **Poojacha Poojaneeyanan** meaning, venerate the venerable. That is a hallowed word of the **Lord Buddha**. Accordingly, true to that word, he deserves to be venerated. He is none other than the **Great Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba** now reaching his 80th year of birth in the land of Bharata as a rare and invaluable gift to Bharata Mata, the land of birth of Lord Buddha. What he has done during his lifetime for the good and well being of humanity deserves the deepest respect, admiration and veneration from the people. I too join the large number of Sathya Sai Devotees in Sri Lanka on the occasion of celebrating the 40th year of the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation.

Ven. Dr. Kotte Pannindriya Thero
Chief Incumbent
Dharma Gaveshi Bauddha Ashramaya
Colombo, Sri Lanka



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CONGRATULATIONS

We are glad to forward this message of congratulations to the Special Souvenir being brought out to commemorate the 40 long years of Sai in Sri Lanka by the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Sri Lanka.

We understand that presently there are 124 Sai centres in Sri Lanka, serving the community on different needs, irrespective of caste, religion and language. Of these services, special mention may be made of the Hospice maintained at Hanwella for poor cancer patients, the SSEHV school run at Manipay and the orphanage maintained at Vavuniya.

Under the inspiration of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, those Sai centres, through their different service programmes, are most importantly carrying to the masses, the message suited for this age; "To serve man is to worship God". Today, when religions are competing with each other in carrying their doctrines and dogmas to the people, thus creating only barriers among them, this wonderful religion of service practised silently by the Sai devotees, infuses more harmony and understanding among the various religions practiced in this country, not disturbing in any way their individual faiths. This is called "Unity in diversity".

May the Lord shower His choicest Blessings on these Sai Centres to carry on their service activities more effectively in the years to come is our sincere prayer to Him!

Swami Anandhananda

FR. BALA RAJENDRAM
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(Diocese of Kandy)

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40th Year of the Advent of Sathya Sai in Sri Lanka
The Launching of a Souvenir by Bhagavan Baba on the occasion of
Buddha Poornima 2005

The best wishes that I express to you on this occasion go also to the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Sri Lanka.

Following the example of all religions, a continuous stream of people to be protected from all dangers of life in terms of harmony within oneself and to express basic values for human dignity.

I too wish that this Organisation may bring out virtues to help the humanity composed of all its own good will to the members of the Organisation.

Wishing you all the best on 40th year of the advent of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation in Sri Lanka.

Very Rev. Fr.Bala Rajendram
Vicar General

For His Lordship
Bishop Vianney Fernando
Bishop of Kandy



Lakshman Kadirgamar, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Sri Lanka

It is timely, as the annual celebration of Vesak at Puttapparthi approaches, to focus our minds on three aspects of Swami Sai Baba's unique contribution to the spiritual heritage of mankind. Swami teaches that there are many paths leading to God. If truth is at the summit of mountain there are many paths to the summit. Each religion has originated and evolved in its own historical and geographical context. Since human beings are different in many ways, by temperament and cultural background, there have to be different paths to the truth and different religions are necessary to help mankind in its pursuit of spiritual fulfillment. The beauty of Swami's message is that despite all the different formal religions of the world there is one basic religion the core of all religions- the religion of Love or the religion of the Heart. Whatever variations there are in the style and emphasis of the messages of the great spiritual leaders, the basic truth, as Swami has so clearly and eloquently explained, is that the link between all religions is the love between God and humans and, thus, between all humans. Swami's constant exhortation is that we should try, while practicing our own form of religion, to find that link of love that unites us all. Throughout history religions have fostered mistrust and antagonism which their founders did not intend. Religion has divided mankind into warring groups. Swami's message of the centrality of all religious beliefs heals divisions and unites mankind. His message has drawn to him and his teachings countless millions around the world who while remaining adherents of their own faiths glimpse through him a vision of oneness, understanding, fellowship and service.

Secondly, Swami's miraculous interventions in the daily lives of ordinary people not only reveal the divine nature of the Avatar; they are manifestations of his boundless love, compassion and concern for all who open their hearts and minds to him. Swami has said succinctly "I give you what **you** want, so that you may **want** what I have come to give you". Swami's divine physical presence amongst us gives immense comfort and reassurance as we wend our weary way through life. How many have experienced truth of his loving advice, "Why fear when I am here".

Thirdly, Swami's immense contribution to humanitarian and social welfare - his hospitals, universities, schools, water and irrigation schemes and the numerous charitable projects that are carried out in his name by devotees throughout the world - bear ample testimony to the fact that his teachings aimed at the spiritual upliftment of mankind are matched by his tender concern for its basic material needs.


Lakshman Kadirgamar



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அனூர பண்டாரநாயக்க பா. உ.

கைத்தொழில், சுற்றுலா, முதலீட்டு ஊக்குவிப்பு அமைச்சர்

Anura Bandaranaike M.P.

Minister of Industry, Tourism & Investment Promotion

It is my pleasure that Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has given His blessings to me, in subscribe a message to this souvinir, which I claim is a privilege. First of all, may I express my greetings to the Sathya Sai Seva Organisation in Sri Lanka on the eve of her 40th anniversary. I have been blessed, to meet our Lord in person and witness his work and teachings for the re-establishment of Dharma, which is His main objective under the reincarnation in the present form. It is my knowledge that Sai organisation works under the guidance of Bhagavan Baba. Selflessly with Love and Compassion mainly to assist the less fortunate.

May I take this opportunity to wish all the success to the Sathya Sai Seva Organisation in propagating Bhagavan's teachings and practice Seva and other activities of human life. The tremendous Seva done by the Organization in uplifting the life of the masses, under the guidance of the Guru is to be emulated a remarkable achievement in this brief time.

Anura Bandaranaike

*Message from The Desk of
Hon. Tissa Attanayake MP
Deputy General Secretary
United National Party*

Our Divine Master has come to light the lamp of Love in our hearts to see that it shines day by day with added luster. He has in several of His Discourses urged us to love more and more people and love them more intensely, and transform this love into service. He also advises "Service is the highest expression of love and of the sacrifice love involves. You have to expend yourself in Service unto the very last breath" (23rd Nov. 1985)

The tsunami on the 26th Dec. 2004 in Asia caused death and destruction on a massive scale in all the affected countries in the region. The number of people affected by the tsunami in Sri Lanka is estimated at between 1 and 2 million and its effects will be felt for many years to come. The tsunami has given us a wonderful opportunity to serve and serve with love. Let us show our gratitude to Bhagavan and seize this opportunity and serve and transform ourselves. The year 2005 is the 40th year of the advent of Sai in Sri Lanka. We should strive to become examples of the Divine Teachings of Bhagavan Baba.

Tissa Attanayake

Messgae from the Desk of
Dr. Nissanka Wijeyeratne
Former- Minister, Govt. of Sri Lankas
Former Diyawadana Nilame- Lay Custodian of the sacred Tooth Relic

I had heard and read of the amazing powers of the saintly SAI BABA of Puttaparthi many decades ago and had decided to visit him. This I did a few years ago with a few relatives and friends.

We proceeded via Bangalore to Puttaparthi his headquarters. We arrived in the afternoon only to be informed by the office that Sai had retired for his afternoon rest, and that we would have to wait a few hours for a dharshan. Hungry and thirsty as I was I decided to seek refreshments from a street boutique in spite of my wife's repeated pleas not to do so for hygienic reasons. I rudely replied her, proceeded on my task and returned soon after.

After a while we were surprised when an employee came out of the office and inquired for a party from Sri Lanka and said the Sai had sent a message that we were to be taken to a waiting room, rested and given refreshments and to wait for dharshan.

Later on we were taken, across a courtyard, to a room. While we stood there the Sai silently appeared. He was slightly built, appeared composed with an aura of sanctity and he greeted us warmly.

My son, who on the way had said that unless the Sai recognised him he would not take notice of him, was the Sai first called him, to come close then kindly patted him and said "Now will you recognise me" through the interpreter.

He then addressed me again through his interpreter and said you had earlier been rude in replying your wife and not to do so again.

He then blessed us all telling my wife's aunt, who was with us that her cousin sister had just passed away in Sri Lanka and since she would not be able to get an air passage early to Sri Lanka to remain and offer merit to her departed relative in prayer,

Sai later gave my wife a brooch that he materialised from the air. Later on in Sri Lanka, when she had mispalced it, she was told by a soothsayer that what she had lost was a rare gift given to her by a highly spiritually advanced being, brought through the air.

I inquired of the Sai whether he would visit Sri Lanka, but he said it was land about to be plunged into bloodshed through communal violence and he would not come. He then asked me what I wanted. I said nothing but Peace. He then told me that I speak from the heart and blessed me and again materialised a diamond fitted ring that surprisingly fitted my finger and blessed me.

Our journey back home was after refreshments He had ordered for us. We left with his blessings. Our journey took us through a forest area till we came to what seemed a swollen stream. We hesitated to cross but then a lorry arrived and came through and the driver said it was safe. The lorry passed us and

strangely vanished into the distance the way we had come. We then proceeded carefully, crossed the stream and shortly afterwards joined the road close to Bangalore our destination. The driver said he had never known of the route before and felt Sai has brought us back by a shorter route than the one along which we had gone to see Sai.

A few years later while I was Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Russia I developed a severe heart-attack. A special drug not available locally, was told by the Doctors may be available in the UK. My wife contacted my brother a Doctor who was living in that country and with unusual haste obtained and had it airlifted to Russia. I recovered the next day after its administration orally the nurses and doctors said, I had a miraculous response.

Later on I proceeded to the UK for a heart Operation by a specialist doctor, after its successful completion I left hospital,. Strangely the driver of the UK Embassy car had a Sai Bhajan tape in the car and played it. More strangely when I arrived at the flat hired for my stay I found a picture of Sai in the living room which the owner had put up.

Another Strange occurrence was when, years later, I was at West End hotel in Bombay, my wife and I returned to our room to get a parcel few minutes after we had left. To our wonder we found the room spread with Vibuthi and rose petals we had seen at Sai's room at Puttaparthi.

And when we left the hotel by taxi we found the driver had fitted a cassett and played a Sai Bhajan. On another occassion when I visited Sai I met a lady who told me she was the niece of a distinguished supreme court judge in Sri Lanka and worked on the Tamil Programme at Radio Ceylon which I was the Chairman. She had apparant burnt marks on her throat. She said she had developed throat cancer and came to Sai for solace. He had asked her to stay a few days and pray. Suddenly one day she found her voice restored and was told by a doctor the marks on her throat seemed to be after an operation and radium treatment.

Sai does not preach a new faith. He exhorts people to follow the good life preached by their own religious gurus and improve their own and others lives.

JAI SAI RAM

*Message from The Desk of
His Excellency P.M. Rao
Minister, High Commission of India
Colombo - Sri Lanka*

One of the foremost thoughts that came to mind on receiving orders of transfer to Colombo was about the presence of the Sathya Sai Organisation there and how establish contact with them. I was pleasantly surprised and excited on arrival to know that not only the Sathya Sai Organisations were vibrant and active but also had a large following through out the Emerald Island.

During my sojourn here for the past two and a half years I have noticed great dedication and devotion of the office bearers and members in carrying out the Divine instructions of Beloved Bhagavan Baba. The best example among many such activities is the immediate humanitarian relief undertaken by the Samithi in the aftermath of the tsunami devastation. The February 2005 edition of the Sanathana Sarathi has given a detailed account of the various activities undertaken by the Colombo based Sathya Sai Seva Organisation. Another salient feature was organising medical camps for the tsunami affected people by coordinating with the Sai Devotees from USA, UK, India and others to name a few. This reminds of Baba's saying "Help ever, hurt never".

The Cancer Hospice at Hanwellla is an example of "Service to man is service to God" by giving solace and support to those who are terminally ill. The Vavuniya Children's Home and Sathya Sai School at Manipay, which conform to the requirements of SSEHV, are among some of the equally important projects undertaken by the Sathya Sai Seva Organisation with great care and compassion.

On the 40th year of Sai Seva in Sri Lanka, I convey my felicitations and congratulations to the office bearers, members, and volunteers of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation. I also utilise the opportunity to convey best wishes to Bro. Wanniyasekaram and members of his team, to carry forward the message and teachings of Beloved Baba to different corners of this beautiful Island.

SAI – What is special?

In this world there are many religions – Hinduism, Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Zoroastrianism etc. Each religion has many sub sects. There are also many institutions headed by a Guru which guides one to his or her ultimate goal which is Eternal Bliss. The great Guru Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa said *“truth is one, sages call it by different names”*.

Sathya Sai Seva Organisation headed by Sri Sathya Sai Bhagavan is one among the many institutions but, what is special? How is it that it has spread to more than 132 countries and has innumerable branches in most of the nook and cranny of the world? Why do people from all creeds and all races flock to Putarpathi ? Let alone the affluent, even people from the Nagaland, the gypsies, the untouchables, the down trodden, the forsaken, the uncared, all fall at his feet equally and are showered with love by him. There is a Sai miracle happening every minute in some part of the world everyday. What is so special about “Sai”?

Sai, does not belong to any one religion. Sai is the amalgam of all religions. Sai does not convert. Sai makes one a better follower of whatever faith he may be following. You can stand in front of any deity of any religion and call out for Sai and the help will come. Every religion is respected. Every God is adored and this is Sathya Sai.

Is there any religion in the world that promotes treachery? Does any religion in the world promote violence? Is there any religion that preaches ‘hatred? Do any of the Holy Scriptures bid you to commit crime? If you combine all the good things that all religions teach, will not the quintessence point to “Love” ? Yes ! the essence of all religions and all Holy Scriptures is the only message of Sai and that is **“Love”**. That is the uniqueness of Sai. We need not follow rituals. Simply love one and all from the bottom of your heart and that is what Sai asks of us. Is not this path so easy to reach Him? Bhagavan said *“by loving all and serving all you will accumulate more merit than years of doing japa/meditation, or by piling tons and tons of flowers, or by doing archana and chanting lakhs of mantras.”* Is this not special ?

The thread that goes through the centre of all religions is worship. A devotee may follow any religion but he must sit in prayer in one form or another. He must sit in meditation to be in communion with the Almighty. Some people may offer flowers. There is no end to the list that is offered to the Lord who has built, owns and operates the Universe. Some people may make pilgrimages to holy places ; some people may bathe in Holy rivers ; others may fast, or do penance, or make sacrifices, or perform other rituals. It is true all these and more take you towards the Lord and secure for one the blessings of the creator. What is the uniqueness of Sai? Bhagavan said *“whenever you raise your hand to serve, help, redress, encourage, it is meant that you have raised your hands to worship God”*. This is a Sai speciality. His slogan is

“help ever and hurt never”. He further insists the hands that serve are holier than the lips that pray. Is this not so easy? Is this not unique ?

Bhagavan says *“When the road ends and the goal is gained, the pilgrim finds he has traveled only from himself to himself, that the way was long and lonesome but the God that lead him unto was all the while in him, around him, within him and beside him”*. Bhagavan never minces words. He is very emphatic in His message. Who else can make such crystal clear statements about the whereabouts of God?

Bhagavan takes a step further. *“I am in you as much as I reside in others. If you hate another person, if you take vengeance on another person, if you spite another person, if you torture another person, remember you are also torturing the Sai in that person. If you speak ill of any person, you are speaking ill of Sai”*. Is this not the uniqueness of Sai ?

If you want to know how much Sai loves you, cares for you and is fond of you, you will realize this from the following statement *“Let me tell you one thing – who wever you are, you are mine . I WILL NOT GIVE YOU UP. Wherever you are, you are near to ME. You cannot go beyond my reach.”* The above words are the very very special among the specials.

Message from the Desk of
Sri Indulal Shah F. CA
Chartered Accountant
Former International Chairman sssso
Presently International Advisor sssso

Ambassador of Prashanti Nilayam

We Devotees, who have been contemporaries of the Avatar are infinitely fortunate to be born in flesh and blood in these times when God himself walks on the very earth which he decided to create. At a time when strife and discord have robbed the world of peace and unity, God had no other option but to descend. And descend He did in this small hamlet of Puttaparthi. The Avatar has come with a Divine Mission and Purpose and it is our bounden duty to do our best to be able to qualify to be in the Divine Mission when He has himself summoned us to his Heaven on Earth – the Prashanti Nilayam. The question is How do we qualify.

How to Qualify to be in the Divine Mission

We all begin our march on the Sai Path with the sole intention of experiencing Peace and Equanimity under all circumstances and with a keen desire to become instruments in the Divine Mission. In order to qualify as an instrument in the Divine Mission before Swami invites us to be a member of the Avatar's family, we have to make Him a member of our family and establish a Divine resort in our Human Workshop and in our Homes.

The two key messages that sets the Avatar apart from the others are that –

1. All religions are one, and
2. There is only One God and that He is inside man and everywhere around.

If one ponders on this, one would realize that these are the needs of the hour for mankind. At the root of all problems of the world lies the lack of awareness of these two messages.

Hitherto, the Sathya Sai Organisation had succeeded in unifying the devotees all over the world on the platform of the five tools of Sadhana, viz. Bhajans, Meditations, Study Circles, Prayers and Service Activities and these activities have benefited millions of devotees.

However, the need of the hour is to make people aware that these five tools of Sadhana are merely instruments and not goals by themselves. The Avatar wants that now with the practice of the five tools the transformation of man must take place on a continuous basis and what is important is that this transformation should be evaluated on the benchmark of the five "D's", i.e. Duty, Discipline, Devotion, Discrimination and Determination. The end result should be to unknowingly proceed to see God within.

Actually transformation is not our work, seva is our work and transformation is His work. Offering service is our duty. Transforming an individual or a community or a nation is His duty. Many times, it happens that devotees of Swami are impatient and enquire of Swami as to when will the country be alright? Swami smiles and tells them "First you set right yourself then everything will become alright." It was

Mother Teresa who said "The Truth of prayer is love and truth of love is action". In our context, the truth of devotion is love and truth of love is service.

everywhere and at any point in time and let this auspicious 80th year of the Advent of the Lord take a lead to form such a guidance plan.

Thus, for the future generation, we should leave behind a very focused outline of the principles of transformation and the technology of such transformation so that the next generation can be guided by them to adopt a lifestyle which would constantly grant them peace and happiness. In India, the Sai Organisation has done research and made Bal Vikas a universal milestone of the Avatar of the age.

This can be achieved by the Organisation by setting up centres all over the world which would have the complete data and transformation techniques achieved with them for all to access. This information and technology should be uniformly available at all centres. This centre should be able to provide not only the guidelines for a unique lifestyle but also provide means to enable man to practice the achievement of such a life style.

Through Bal Vikas teachings, five techniques can serve as chemicals in our human laboratory. These will produce the Five “D’s” – Duty, Devotion, Discipline, Determination and Discrimination. All ingredients required to form a “Character” in young minds. This is the need of the hour – Educare – not formal education. Take up the programme of Bal Vikas in the family of Sai or non-Sai. But let us show this by way of example through every devotee’s house.

In order to experience this truth, man must learn to handle his own human workshop. True spirituality is therefore learning the art of integrating the love embedded in the heart with the mind, and thereby getting the heart, the mind and the five senses integrated into one whole system. It is only when the mind becomes pure that thought, word and deed can be united, and it is only when this integration is achieved that Divinity can be experienced. This in short is what Educare is - Unity, Purity and Divinity.

The uniqueness of Sri Sathya Sai Educare lies in the fact that it is also given a spiritual action plan to enable man to achieve the ultimate experience of divinity within, by the practice of the 5 D’s of Duty, Discipline, Devotion, Discrimination and Determination. Sri Sathya Sai Avatar, our beloved Bhagvan is the only Avatar who has shattered all the myths related to spirituality and converged all the diverse religious thoughts and philosophies into one united message of “Educare” and placed it in a very simple and lucid manner for the common man to easily understand and practice. It is therefore apparent that Bhagavan’s message is not different for different people, but just one message for the whole of mankind. Therefore, it is apt to say that this message of SRI SATHYA SAI EDUCARE IS THE ONLY VEDA FOR THE 21ST CENTURY. The message of Sri Sathya Sai Educare is the one that enables man to commence his journey from many to one.

Bhagvan has been talking for long and telling us that the five great values are within us. He has often reminded us that Divinity is resident within us. He has told us that there is not one inch of this universe, where He does not exist. Divinity pervades the Universe. It is only that we have to be aware of it and manifest Divinity in our lives.

Now with Sri Sathya Sai Educare as an intrinsic part of Bal Vikas and EHV Programme, we have the answer. The clue is in the ‘Care’ of Educare. Not only must the gurus provide Education- it must be done with CARE! Children must learn by the example of their Guru, their love. They must be taught to love and care for their behavior themselves, care for parents, care for home, care for teachers, care for

neighbors and friends, care for the needy, care for the environment and care for the five elements! This is the challenge for all Gurus. The challenge is as great as the ideal.

In no other Educational system are children, at the age of five or six taught to understand their relationship with nature, the five elements, Divinity and themselves. If a child, at that early age is reminded of his goodness and Godliness and that he must understand that it comes from our Sai, our God, he must live a Godly life of love, joy and happiness. Thus we create a divinely oriented society. It is critical that parents are included in this integral program of Bal Vikas and Human Values. This is the great challenge for us, the office bearers of the Sai Organization because Educare is the essence of all teaching of the Avatar.

It has now emerged that the message of Sri Sathya Sai Educare is the final blueprint for generating the spiritual character of every nation in the world, transcending all differences of caste, colour, creed and religion. It is the complete answer to all the problems faced by mankind today. It is for the first time in the history of mankind that an Avatar has disclosed man's true divine nature and has also made him realize his true relationship with the entire cosmos. The Sri Sathya Sai Educare will fill in all the missing links with the comprehension of the entire creation and that of man.

In this new scenario it is now imperative to understand that Bal Vikas is not merely an activity of the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, but a divine gift that should cover all children of the world, irrespective of their class, colour, creed and religion and implement Sri Sathya Sai Educare, through all activities of the Sai Organization and also in the individual lives of the devotees connected with the Sai Organisation. While the Bal Vikas classes have a great elevating impact on the children, it is also realized that parents must be actively involved in the process of EDUCARE. Hence, a well planned course of action on "Parenting" should be implemented in all Bal Vikas classes so that parents play a serious participative role in the development of their children. It is also important that before we embark upon this program, all members of the Organization imbibe, understand and practice the message of Sri Sathya Sai Educare in their personal lives. A large scale re-orientation and transformation program for devotees also will be initiated globally.

In summing up, my mind cannot help but go back to the year 1967, when I was bestowed with the responsibility of starting the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation. It was with Bhagawan's blessings and guidance that a handful of colleagues with great enthusiasm established Samithis and Bal Vikas classes under the banner of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation. Our understanding of the Divine Mission then in 1967 was very limited. It was restricted to conducting spiritual activities and seva work involving devotees. As the organization grew over the years, Swami also evolved our understanding of His Spiritual Message and we all started falling in line with it. Today, it is absolutely clear to all of us that the ultimate object of the Sai Organisation is to see God in Man. Swami has been constantly drilling in our mind and urging us to take up this challenge.

It was also in the year 1967 that I had the privilege to visit Sri Lanka and open the First Centre of the Sai Organisation in Colombo. This first centre has now multiplied to as many as 124 centres in Sri Lanka through His Divine Grace. I pray that Sri Lanka will lead the other countries in fulfilling this great challenge of promoting Ambassadors of Prashanthi Nilayam.

Sai Ram !

RAMNAVAMI

18/4/2005

*Message From The Desk of
Hon. Justice P.N. Bagvati
Former Chief Justice of India
Member Central Trust Prashanthi Nilayam*

It gives me great pleasure in sending this message to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Samithi Colombo, the premier Samithi in Sri Lanka which is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year.

The Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation took its roots in Sri Lanka with the formation of this Samithi in the year 1965 with the blessings of Bhagavan Baba. I am happy to hear that there are 124 Samithies now actively engaged in spiritual, educational and service activities throughout Sri Lanka.

I had been visiting Sri Lanka frequently. On several of such occasions I have had the opportunity of addressing distinguished gatherings of people of all walks of life including professionals, administrators & religious leaders.

On such occasions I was able to witness the manner in which the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Sri Lanka had been built up with devotion and determination.

*Message from Desk of
Dr. Pal Dhall
Chairman Zone 3
Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation
Overseas Countries (Asia & South Pacific)*

I extend my heartiest congratulations to Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Sri Lanka on its 40th Anniversary. This Organisation has served Sri Lanka well and could rightfully be proud of its record over the last 40 years. The Sai Organisation is a dynamic, evolving organisation that requires responsive leadership and dedicated workers who are on an active spiritual path. Sri Lanka has been particularly successful in attracting visionary leaders and committed spiritual seekers who have expressed their spiritual aspirations through their active service to their community.

In the last 40 years the size of the Sai Organisation and its activities have increased manifold. As in all countries, Sri Sathya Sai Organisation in Sri Lanka had its beginnings in the small number of devotees who would gather together to sing the glories of God at Bahjan mandalies. Then as the devotees level of consciousness evolved and Bhagavan's mission gathered momentum, Bal Vikas, Mahila Vibag, Youth Wing, Sathya Sai Education in Human Values for schools, Human Values for Parents and Service projects were successively added. Now the Organisation has embarked on great humanitarian projects centred around meeting with the needs of the destitute. Sai Organisation in Sri Lanka has excelled in all these activities and given outstanding service to its community. There are now 124 Samithis. The Bal Vikas programme is well established with a sound Teacher Training program. There is an active Mahila Vibag and a dynamic Youth Wing. To serve the community Sai Organisation in Sri Lanka has established a Sathya Sai School, A Hospice, an Orphanage, A water Project and an Institute of Sathya Sai Education that is working closely with the Ministry of Education to bring about a value education reform. The Organisation is playing an important role in the Tsunami relief at present.

Sathya Sai Organisation is not a religious but a spiritual organisation that has the avowed aim of raising awareness of the inherent divinity in every human being irrespective of religion, caste, race and colour. This is enshrined in its Charter. In keeping with this spirit, the Sai Organisation is playing a key role in uniting the whole of humanity into one caste, the caste of humanity, through the language of love and spirituality. Such unity is absolutely required for the humanity to meet with the current social, political, religious and ecological crises that are threatening the future. The starting point of such global unity is the inner transformation of each individual. It is this awareness and transformation that the Sathya Sai Organisation supports and nurtures through its various activities. Sai Organisation in Sri Lanka is playing a key role in creating unity, harmony and reconciliation in a country that has become divided and torn by war.

I pray to Bhagavan to continue to pour his special Divine Grace on the Sathya Sai Organisation in Sri Lanka.

Jai Sai Ram!

Message from the Desk of
M.Wanniyasekaram
Retd. Senior Bank Executive
Regional Central Coordinator - Sri Lanka

When intentions are Selfless, and the Goals are Divine, endeavors grow by Divine Grace. The year was 1940, Sathya Narayana Raju, the name by which we know Bhagavan in His childhood, started His Selfless Divine Mission by sitting on a rock closer to the present day Prashanthi Nilayam. He had only a handful of devotees around Him. Sixty Five years later Swami's fame, services, and the accomplishment of His Mission, have reached universal heights. There is no individual or an organization in the contemporary world that has won the fame and grown to the extent of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and the thousands of Sathya Sai Seva Organizations spread around the world. Bhagavan Baba has accomplished such a Divine Service through the millions of Sai Devotees, hailing from hundreds of nations. The true devotee serves the organization in the spirit of paying gratitude to the Lord for giving him a chance to serve the world! Though one may feel that he or she serves the organization, the truth is that Bhagavan has graced him or her to become His instrument. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has said "All those who believe Me, worship Me, follow Me, do so only with my Divine Will." We are all fortunate and blessed to become instruments of Divinity, because of the great merits we have accumulated over our past lives.

In accomplishing the Divine Mission on earth, Swami graces and makes everyone of us His instruments, instruments who are willing to submit to His work. The organization that accomplishes many services through the collectivity of Sai instruments is the Sathya Sai Seva Organization in respective countries. The Sathya Sai Seva Organization in Sri Lanka marked its birth in 1965. We have to recollect with gratitude the founder fathers of the centre, a very dedicated and loyal triumvirate in the Late C.Balasingham a member of the then prestigious Ceylon Civil Service, Dr. T.Nallainathan revered and respected medical practitioner and Mr.K.Thiyagarajah a kind hearted generous business entrepreneur who were the pioneers of the organization and if not for their selfless and committed contributions, the organization would not have grown into the gigantic tree that bears fruits of sweetness and nutrition today. We also remember with gratitude the stalwarts of the centre - Late C.Ranganathan, Q.C., Hon. Justice Siva Subramaniam and Hon. Justice Ananda de Silva. The organization, in its infancy, was bent more on spiritual work, conducting Bhajans in particular. The first Bhajan was held in Colombo in 1965 and fast spread to many parts of the island. After 40 years of existence, the Sathya Sai Seva Organization has as many as 124 centres.

I am fortunate to have been a member of the organization from the inception and witness the long journey of the organization up to its passage through the 40th mile post. The path was not one with petals of roses laid on its way. The organization had to remove many obstacles. Like the saying, what bring joy are not what you possess, but joy is conferred by what you achieve, today we derive joy by retrospection into the hard path through which we reached the glory of today.

If some one asks me, "What is your organisation's greatest achievement," I would readily respond by saying, given the ethnic, religious and cultural diversity of people in this island, we have been able to bring together people of all diversities in the pursuit of one goal - *that is unity in diversity* - on a scale that no other organisation has done!

On the eve of the Sathya Sai Seva Organization in Sri Lanka journeying past its forty years of existence and service, I am more concerned about its future. The hard work of our great predecessors has contributed in elevating the organization into its present glory. The young members have to learn to be selfless and committed like their predecessors. My sole wish on this occasion is that we shed differences and serve in the spirit of serving the Divine, the Divine in ourselves and others!

My pranams to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Baba for making all our endeavors successful.

*Message from The Desk of
Ryiko Hira
And
Sri Sathya Sai Devotees of Japan*

The Priests, The President, The Prime Minister and The Noble people of Sri Lanka have awakened to end the suffering by participating in the spiritual renaissance dedicatedly pursued by the Sri Sathya Seva Samithi of Sri Lanka. The Sai Seva of Sri Lanka has been pioneering and exemplary in sacrifice to other nations, especially in the fields of freeing cattle from slaughter houses, introducing Gayatri hymns to over 400 schools, establishing and managing the country's first hospice, human value schools, orphanages, clinics and above all, fostering unity of faiths.

In the times of Emperor Ashoka, Lanka took refuge in the wisdom of Lord Buddha. The wheels of nature are not meant to roll backward: everything passes on towards eternity. Today, as the people of Sri Lanka are filled with God's spirit and seek His guidance, they will have it and having it, they will select leaders who are like minded and will direct them into God's path.

In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Sai Samithi and on this auspicious occasion of Vesak festival in the divine presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Japanese devotees reverentially offer their heartfelt felicitations to the founders and devotees. As two island nations, may Japan and Sri Lanka work jointly in the common mission of Sai Seva.

*Message from The Desk of
Dr. Art-ong Jumsai Na Ayudhya
Educationist, Scientist,
Ex Minister Govt. of Thailand
Director -Sathya Sai University in Human Values
Bangkok*

It is indeed a rare opportunity to have the chance to serve the Avatar of the age for the last forty years. We are indeed grateful to Bhagavan for the fortieth year of the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Sri Lanka. Although Sri Lanka is a small country in comparison with many other countries, yet the Organisation is very large with 124 centres. The education wing of the Organisation has been functioning since the very beginning.

My own family background has a long past history connection with Sri Lanka with my great grand father, Prince Prisdang Jumsai who was ordained as a Buddhist Monk in Sri Lanka and became the chief abbot of a temple in Colombo. With this personal connection as well as the present connection with the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Sri Lanka, it has been a great joy and happiness to have been able to participate in the activities of the Organisation in Sri Lanka, from 1965.

Sister Angela Loraine Burrows and I have conducted Education in Human Values training and addressed public meetings on our five visits to Sri Lanka. In addition to this, I was a speaker at the Inter Faith Conference presided by the then Prime Minister along with 6 Cabinet Ministers who are Sai Devotees. Within the last year, I was a speaker at the Educare Seminar for Vice Chancellors and Heads of schools and the occasion was presided by the present present Prime Minister. On this last trip, I had the opportunity to visit Jaffna and saw evidence of a war ravaged area. The Organisation was very active in helping the orphans whose parents had been killed during the fighting. The Organisation also helped in the new settlement for villagers in the area. The first Sathya Sai School in Sri Lanka was also established there where the need is greatest and I was privileged to be able to take part in the school prize giving during the Sports Day event of the Sathya Sai School. On this same visit to the Northern Part of Sri Lanka, I was invited to deliver a talk to academics and teachers at the Jaffna University.

On behalf of the Sathya Sai School, the Institute of Sathya Sai Education and the Sathya Sai Organisation of Thailand, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Sri Lanka for having been in the service of Sai for forty years with a lot of achievements on record.

Message From The Desk of
Deshamanya Dr. Vernon L.B.Mendis
Former -Director General of External affairs
-High com. in Canada,UK. and France
- Sec.General of the Colombo Non-Aligned Summit 1976

I am deeply honoured to make this modest contribution to the souvenir which offers homage to him on the occasion of Buddha Poomima 2005 which falls on 23rd May 2005. Bhagavan has given his approval to Sri Lanka to host these celebrations in the company of a host of devotees representing a wide range of countries. The last occasion when Sri Lanka was host was at Brindhavan when it celebrated Buddha Jayanthi on 15th May 1996 and Swami welcomed them stating that it was the good fortune of devotees to have their celebrations at Brindhavan. He has repeated this honour in inviting Sri Lanka to celebrate Wesak in his presence at Whitefield on 23 May 2005. This is a rare honour for Sri Lanka which in a measure of the high esteem in which it is held by Bhagavan.

I have been a personal witness of the esteem in which Sri Lanka is held by Bhagavan for which not only Sri Lankan Buddhists but Sri Lanka as a nation should feel proud. I have been visiting the sanctuary of Bhagavan during the last few years accompanying my wife who is a fervent devotee and I had the opportunity of witnessing and participating in the ritual and celebrations which were conducted by Bhagavan to the endless throng of devotees. His mingling with them personally, conducting devotions and addressing them with his spell binding eloquence were unforgettable scenes of his impact and his divine like personality. I regard my personal encounter with him as a divine act which opened a new life for me. On one of my visits while I was with other devotees in the assembly I had the unbelievable experience of being summoned by him to his sacred presence and spending a length of time conversing with him and exchanging ideas. I was overwhelmed by the personal concern which he showed for me and frank exchange of ideas which ranged from spiritual to personal. Although overwhelmed by the power of his personality my ability to converse with him and exchange ideas with him was a measure of his combination of divinity and humanity. Our exchange covered a diversity of subjects from affairs in Sri Lanka to his spiritual vision all of which portrayed his extraordinary personality as the God in man. Before taking leave of him he conferred on me his traditional gift of a emerald ring which is an eternal token of his blessing and which ever since has been a source of inspiration. I have met him ever since several times and the last encounter was a truly memorable one in that I was standing on the side of the road on which he was been driven in his carriage when he spotted me and leaning out of the window greeted me with the words "You are from Sri Lanka". This is a measure of his encyclopaedic mind and memory.

Bhagavan remains in my mind as one of the most extraordinary experiences which amounted to an encounter with the divine. This is a measure of his impact on humanity and the world at large, for which he is venerated and revered. He was a living expression of God in man. The above are a record of personal experiences which can testify to his aura of divinity through which he has won the devotion of mankind. My encounters with him serve me as undying memories which kindle my own faith in my religion and spiritual beliefs.

The world today should be thankful to have Bhagavan as a source of spiritual solace, comfort and happiness to mankind at this juncture when it is so urgently in need of strength and self-confidence to face the daunting problems of our time. It is our hope that he will be with us for as long as life will allow as a source and strength through which to face these challenges and overcome them. Bhagavan is a blessing bestowed on mankind at this juncture when it faces crushing problems as he is the means through which man can overcome these challenges and create a new world.

A memorable testament to the adoration and veneration of Bhagavan in Sri Lanka is the Sathya Sai Organisation which has been founded in Sri Lanka under the inspiration of Bhagavan for the benefit of all mankind. There are 5000 centres in 180 countries today and the objectives of the Organisation is to help the individual to become aware of the divinity inherent in him, to practice in daily life divine love and perfection and to fulfil one's life with joy and lasting happiness. The Sathya Sai Organisation in Sri Lanka has the distinction of being the second oldest in Asia and the Sai centre in Colombo is the first such centre to be set up in Sri Lanka. The Service centres have undertaken a wide range of activities which include various forms of humanitarian service conducting medical camps, providing artificial limbs and wheel chairs. These services include three projects of national significance which are the Cancer Hospital in Hanwella, the Vavuniya Children's Home and the Sathya Sai School in Manipay. Through this organisation every endeavour is being made to confer the manifold blessings of Bhagavan on devotees and Sri Lanka has the honour of being the host of Vesak celebrations to be held in Whitefield on 23rd May 2005.

Dr. Uvais Ahamed

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Value Based Education for future generation Contribution of the Sathya Sai Seva Organisation

All religions are agreed that the human child, carries with him, the seed of human divinity. Loss of life and limb, so common in the less fortunate sections of the world today, especially in relation to children, can have long lasting, drastic consequences, both physical and psychological. That important period of childhood, with all its inherent characteristics of marvelous pleasure and joy are thus denied to children and their flowering and youthful years are emotionally disturbed and traumatised. They consequently develop anti-social traits and criminal tendencies, which lie dormant, tend to sharpen with the passage of time and emerge later on submerging those soft and tender qualities of the heart with which they were born.

Time has never been more opportune than the present critical moment to contemplate on caring for future generations, and in shaping and moulding the concepts of humankind towards a compassionate world. The essential prerequisite for peace and tranquility and absence of conflict is genuine understanding of each other and compassion towards the suffering humanity. Conflicts among people and societies come about only when people start shedding old values of peaceful co-existence and good living.

Such conflicts have an immediate impact and bearing on the lives of children and more precisely on the future generations. If we are to really care for future generations, we have to really and truly shed ego-centrism and develop such qualities as altruism, boundless compassion and understanding.

It is in this context that one has to value the enormous services now being rendered by the Sathya Sai Seva Organisations around globe. Much work in this regard has been done by the Sri Lanka chapter of the Organisation through its Educational Wing which has the very laudable mission of promoting Sathya Sai Human Values of Truth, Righteousness, Inner Peace, Love and Non - violence through teaching, training and the production of material required to raise the awareness of the public and those engaged in teaching and training.

According to Bloom's taxonomy, which is followed by all major education systems, around the world, the entire gamut of education is divided into 3 important domains. They are the Cognitive Domain which deals with the knowledge aspect of education, the Psycho-motor domain which deals with the skills aspects of the education and lastly the Affective Domain which deals with attitudes.

The concept of value Education enunciated and practised by the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation is of paramount importance to render relevance to any education system. A new terminology has emerged from this practice and is known as EDUCARE. It is now gaining wide currency in all parts of the world where the concept of Value Education is implemented. According to EDUCARE human values are inherently present in all human beings and it is the role of education to help the students to ensure that these values lying dormant are brought to the fore so that children can grow up to be human, compassionate and understanding people.

We proudly consider ourselves of having entered a new millennium as civilised human beings who have reached the highpoint in technological advancement. Yet, although the new generation constitutes the cornerstone of our world's future, they remain both ill-treated, exploited and marginalised. It is a sad commentary of our times that in our so-called civilisation most children, in many parts of the worlds are orphaned, massacred, starved and mutilated. Worst of all, the traumatic experiences incessantly forced on children, leave them both physically and psychologically sick. Where is our sense of right thinking which religion is supposed to teach us? Are we worth being called human beings? Where is our super reasoning that all human beings are supposed to be born with?

The time has come to shed egoism, egocentrism and to look beyond ourselves to ensure for our progeny a world characterised by peace and harmony in which they can live with honour and dignity.

It is both wrong and misleading to view growth and development of any society only in terms of material output. Isn't society riddled with seemingly insurmountable difficulties such as drug abuse, rape, murder, arson and large scale robbery and fraud. All this is rampant among the younger members of our society and can be largely attributed to the fact that the type of education that they had received was not value based. Development, which is not based on human values, to say the least, is detrimental to society. Underlying all development should be a core of values, entrenched in the people. When providing the best for the people emphasis should be on the qualitative expansion of services. First and foremost, there ought to be more attention on those aspects that enrich the quality of life for children, which enable them to enjoy their childhood fully as an important and significant 'stage of life'.

At the same time, there should be sufficient preparation of children for their roles in adult life, both of a democratic and pluralistic society. Unfortunately their hopes and dreams are often thwarted by an adult world that is cold, cruel and uncaring.

It is indeed very regrettable that contemporary education is placing much of its emphasis on imparting knowledge and skills that more often produces egocentric individuals whose only aim is to lead a comfortable mundane life. It has to be clearly understood that EDUCARE does not deny or decry the knowledge and skills aspects of education, but stresses the need for right attitudes based on human values: Truth; Righteousness; Peace; Love and Non-violence. Broadly speaking education should be for life and not merely for living. In this way the importance of right attitudes in the entirety of the educational process needs to be imparted based on human values. According to Sri Sathya Sai Baba's own words: "Human values are latent in every being". One cannot acquire them from outside; they are within. Man has forgotten his innate human values and he is unable to manifest them. EDUCARE plans to bring out these human values in the child and help them to translate into action.

Thus EDUCARE is a remarkable concept which is a great boon to today's younger generation and would certainly help to create a new society where humanism will be all pervading.

The Educational wing of the Sathya Sai Seva Organisation

The educational wing is formally named as the National Education Committee (NEC) and it works closely with the Sathya Sai Institute for higher learning, now considered a University, in Bangkok, Thailand.

The NEC took the initiative of establishing an Institute to promote Education in Human Values (EHV) in Sri Lanka and in the South Asian Region. This Institute of Sathya Sai Education in Human Values was inaugurated in 2004. The Institute will promote public awareness of EHV, train teachers and various professional groups in the application of Human Values in their respective professions. Parents and students too are served by the Institute.

The NEC held an International conference on value education, conducted mostly by foreign delegates from Australia and Thailand. It should be noted that two members of the NEC were appointed to the committee in civic awareness and value education of the Ministry of education in Sri Lanka.

The NEC has also arranged steps to train over six thousand school teachers who would inculcate human values in primary school children.

The Sathya Sai Seva Organisation will be remembered by posterity for having stepped into bridge an important gap in the education system by making it possible for the younger generation in society to imbibe and practice human values in their day to day lives without which it would be impossible to develop a society comprising of good and decent human beings. Considering the traumatic experiences our country has been undergoing during the last two decades and the extent of criminal activities prevalent in society today it is incumbent on all leaders both political and religious all civic minded individuals to ensure that "Human Values" is made an integral part of the curriculum in all schools in the country.

Shed the Ego through Love and Trust

Can a disciple die in masters presence, that is, when the master is alive, irrespective of the physical distance? The question is not whether one is in the immediate presence of the Master or far off, but whether one is filled with Love and Trust for the Master. The real closeness is only through Love and Trust. Then one can be even on the moon, but the Master will be by the side, the Master will be within oneself. As the disciple's love for the Master deepens, something of the Master-His energies-start melting and merging with the energy of the disciple. The fear of physical distance only reflects the lack of understanding.

Mahakashyap was a true disciple of Lord Buddha and he experienced such real closeness. Each person has his or her individual degree of nearness, love and trust, towards the master Mahakashyap remained in such closeness with the Master all through his life until The Buddha's life ended, when he too left his body, because he could not survive in separation. That is Mahakashyap's uniqueness, his oneness with his Master.

There were other enlightened disciples who did not die with Gautama The Buddha. It became a very significant question when Mahakashyap died, whether truly enlightened disciple should also die as had happened to Mahakashyap. One of the disciples, Moggalayan, said "I am now living for my Master's Message. Yes, I too died with Him, now He is living in me. This is my way, different to the way of Mahakashyap, who dissolved in Gautama The Buddha. I have also dissolved, but dying is not going to help anybody. There are so many blind people in the world who need eyes, there are so many people in darkness who need light, I will live... I will live as long as possible, I will live for The Buddha,"

Ananda was of a different kind altogether. He remained unenlightened even though he lived in close proximity to The Buddha for forty two years. No one could have stayed that close for so long, but Ananda enjoyed such special privileges being The Buddha's first cousin. When Ananda asked The Buddha to initiate him to become His disciple, he took advantage of his closeness to the Master prior to initiation and laid three conditions, aware of the fact that he would have to do whatever the Master commanded him to do after he became a disciple. Ananda said: "Right now I am your brother and you are closely related to me. Therefore whatever I say you have to do. Remember the three things I ask of you and don't forget them when I become your disciple.

The three conditions Ananda asked were:

- 1 That he would always stay with the Master and that He shouldn't be sent any where to spread the Message.
- 2 That the Master would meet anybody he brought along, even in the middle of the night. That this personal privilege would not ever be denied.
- 3 That he would always sleep in the same room as the Master sleeps, that he would not be moved away from the Master even in sleep.

The Buddha gave His promise, and these three conditions were adhered to fully all through the years. But Ananda did not become enlightened. One could understand Ananda's pain and anguish because those disciples who had come long after him became enlightened, while he remained in his ignorance just as he was before.

Ananda wondered, what would become of him when The Buddha passed away. Although he had been with the Master for so long, day in and day out, twenty-four hours a day, he could not become enlightened. Without the Master around he felt he would have no hope whatsoever. However, The Buddha explained to Ananda the reasons for his failure, and how His departure would bring the change.

"you don't understand the dynamics of life. Perhaps you will become enlightened only when I am gone, I am the barrier. You take me for granted. When you asked me to comply with your three conditions, I already know that those conditions would become the barriers in your progress. You haven't still forgotten the fact that you are my brother. You continue to believe that you have special privileges over other disciples and that I had to fulfil your three conditions. Perhaps my death will help you towards your goal."

Eventually, when The Buddha passed away the enlightened disciples convened a meeting to write down everything the Master had taught them over the years. However, Ananda was not permitted to take part in the meeting because he was deemed ignorant and unenlightened. Others, though enlightened, were also disadvantaged in that none of them had been so close to the Master continuously as Ananda had been. But, they still doubted Ananda's reliability whether he had understood The Buddha's messages correctly or if he would make up things with his own imagination, whether he remembered everything accurately or if he would give his own interpretation on what The Buddha had said.

Ananda was asked to sit outside the conference room and make himself available just in case something needed confirmation. It was a difficult situation and the scene was really tragic. The meeting was held behind close doors. Left out in the 'cold' Ananda was in tears because he had lived with The Buddha for forty-two years and actually knew more than the other disciples. In spite of him remembering each and every moment with the Master, Ananda was not allowed to participate in the meeting because they deemed him unfit. Something transpired as he sat outside crying. Ananda had never cried in his entire life. With those tears his ego got washed away and he became like a child.

When the disciples came out of the conference room they saw Ananda still sitting outside, but looked transformed and radiant. The old Ananda, the old egoistic person had vanished. They saw an innocent being with tears of joy and they all could see the light surrounding him. With great joy they invited Ananda inside. They were bewildered by the fact that Ananda could not attain enlightenment for forty two years in spite of his close proximity to The Buddha, but no sooner the Master had departed he had attained that state, exactly as the Master had continuously remarked. The Buddha's departure alone brought about the death of Ananda's ego. Ananda's contribution to the recollection of His teachings was immense.

So it is not a question of one person being decisive. Each person has to be unique in his own way. Somebody dies for the Master, somebody lives for the Master, and others become enlightened only after the Master is no more in the physical plane, each a unique individual. You cannot say who is greater-perhaps no comparison should be made. All are themselves unique and inimitable!

Just remember one thing - your love. Then wherever you are, near or far in space and time, it does not matter. And, beyond a certain level, even time does not matter. When time and space become immaterial, then you have really touched the feet of the Master. Then whatsoever transpires in you - whether to live for the Message of the Master or to die with the Master, whatever comes naturally and spontaneously to you -let it happen.

"What has all this got to do with us?" devotees of the Kali Yuga Avatar, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba may ask. Well, the story in its subtleness reveals the different kinds of disciples The Buddha had, each with his own uniqueness. In comparison to the millions who follow our beloved Lord Sai, The Sai Buddha for the Buddhist Sai devotees, more than two and half millinia ago The Buddha must have had less than few hundreds of disciples, may even less. But, the story has a powerful message for all of us, the countless millions who aspire to be or believe they are devotees of Bhagavan Baba.

In conversation with Dr. John Hislop in 1982 Bhagavan Baba had said "...In the years to come many devotees would 'fall' on the way side like chaff blown away by strong wind. Only those with steady faith will remain. In fact I will add strength to the mind and intellect of those dear to me..."

Yes! The winds of change are intense. The real Master - Disciple connection is inside and beyond the limitation and boundaries that the body may define. What we are about to witness and experience in the Divine Mission of our messiah, God in our midst, is the quantum leap in awareness of the Eternal oneness with Him, the very one within each one of us, the force of Love, Light and splendour.

In conclusion, my prayer to Bhagavan is to ask Him to forgive us for all our erroneous thoughts and feelings that hold us back and prevent us from dissolving into His Supreme Self, the All-pervasive Consciousness. You are our only destination Lord, and you alone can guide us through. May the "Inner-Voice that is You, be heard loud and clear each day.

With unfailing Love and Gratitude at Your Lotus Feet.

Dato. J.Jegatheesan
Senior Investment Advisor,
UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNDO

A Note of LOVE from Malaysia

It is indeed an honour and a privilege for me to have been asked to make a small contribute for the souvenir programme that commemorates 40 years of SAI in Sri Lanka.

When one considers that I myself only came into the Sai Divine fold less than 30 years ago, I thought I was among the pioneers, and the Malaysian SAI Council became operational only around 1980, we must bow in respect to our elder brothers in Sri Lanka for what they have achieved under very difficult circumstances.

The early days of my visit to Sri Lanka is lost in the haze of memory, but one can recall the small groups and the occasional Seva.

Then came the "difficult times" for Sri Lanka and one would have thought, that in most cases some would have used this as an excuse to "do nothing" (as some infact do i.e.do nothing, even without difficult circumstances) and to "leave it all to Swami" OR as another excuse "we are waiting for BABA to show the way"

How often have I heard this in my numerous travels around the world..... an excuse to deny the Divine call to LOVE ALL & SERVE ALL!

But in Sri Lanka, the driving energy of leaders and the supportive energy of members, driven by the Grace and LOVE for SAI, made them use these troubled times to move forward to reach a state of excellence that now others can and must emulate.

I have had the privilege to have visited Sri Lanka a number of times in the past few years and have been moved greatly by the HOSPICE they have built to give comfort to the terminally ill and create a kind of Divine Transit Station as they await their "final call".

I am not aware of any SAI center in any country in the world that has done this. We can only pray to God that the initiators of this project and those who benefit from it will be graced by GOD in full measure.

To have built such a Hospice in normal times itself would have been quite an endeavour, but to have done this during such troubled times: ONLY the Grace of SAI and the Devotion of Sai Members has made this possible.

The other significant event in Sri Lanka other than the 124 Centers they have, the Orphanage they run and the SSEHV school they have launched, was the recognition by their leadership that Inter Faith Unity is one of the "banner crying calls of the Avathar" as reflected in HIS Sarvadharm emblem.

Thus I was privileged to participate in this great event 2 years ago. The respect the SAI movement in Sri Lanka has won among all was reflected in the fact there were so many Religious Leaders from differing Religious bodies in the hall and also numerous Ministers of Government, including the Prime Minister.

Despite the fact that the Sai movement has been existing for so long in so many nations of the world, it is a rare phenomenon to see the Head of State or Prime Minister attending and supporting a Sai Function. The fact that the Prime Minister, the Deputy PM and so many Ministers and Religious leaders came to support this SAI event is testimony of the maturity of the SAI Organisation in Sri Lanka, the dedication of its leaders, past and present, the incredible support and LOVE of SAI members, and the GRACE OF THE AVATHAR OF THE KALIYUGA.

Including these and more, it shows the rare recognition, that have been earned by few SAI Organisations, that there is National recognition that the Sai Organisation of Sri Lanka is playing a role in nation building.

One can only wonder what greater heights of dedicated Seva and Love that Sri Lankan Sai Organisation will manifest, when Peace comes and the forces of Bhakti are further unleashed in a land that was once described as THE PEARL OF THE ORIENT.

Can SAI devotees bring back the luster to this PEARL?

This is my prayer

Sister Loarine Burrows
Senior Faculty Member,
Sathya Sai University in Human Values
Bangkok

From Darkness to Light
Sathya Sai Education in Sri Lanka

From untruth lead us to Truth
From darkness lead us to Light
From death lead us to Immortality

Sri Lanka is known throughout the world for its spectacular and diverse landscape and rich harvests of tea and spices. Through my long association with this beautiful country, I have come to understand that the real treasure is not only what bountiful nature has bestowed upon it, but the courage, steadfastness and adherence to Dharma of its people despite many, many years of conflict and suffering. It is clear to see Bhagavan's Divine Hand at play because the Sai Organisation has grown immensely in the past forty years. Not only has it given comfort and help to those in distress but has become a beacon shining its light in many directions, including the field of education.

My journey in Sri Lanka began in 1989 when I was invited to conduct a seminar on Sathya Sai Education in Human Values. It was at the height of the disturbances and it seemed quite dangerous, at least I had my doubts as many people had advised me to postpone going at that time. Fortunately, Swami prompted me strongly in my heart to go, and I did. Despite all the difficulties and dangers, the Sai Organisation had done a magnificent job to arrange a conference on a very high level. They even had Sri P.P. Devaraj the Minister of Hindu Culture as the guest of honour at the opening ceremony along with many other dignitaries. The conference was a success and was well received. The measure of success cannot be gauged merely on the superb organisation of the conference or the attendance of so many illustrious people and not even the content itself. No, most definitely, the success was due to the participation of gurus from all over the country. Without regard to their own safety, devotees had traveled from every corner of Sri Lanka, in some cases journeying for many days through some of the most dangerous terrain in the country. It was a demonstration of complete faith and determination. They were so keen to take part in such an event so as to enable them to do Bhagavan's work. It was a beautiful and humbling experience and I left Colombo feeling very enriched.

Due to the tireless work and dedication of the gurus and the support of the Sai Organisation, Sathya Sai Education in Human Values later known as Educare, has grown in leaps and bounds. Several other seminars and trainings were conducted in different parts of the country. Bhagavan's message of love and peace has been spreading throughout the land in the form of classes for thousands of children and youth. Through his infinite grace, the great wound that once divided this beautiful country is being healed. In

addition to this, five teachers from Sri Lanka have now been trained in the Institute of Sathya Sai Education in Thailand. They have all attended one of the basic diploma courses for two and a half months and several of them have received their diplomas from the divine hands. They are now the driving force behind Sathya Sai Education in Sri Lanka.

In nature, when a tree is grown it will produce fruits. In the same way the Sathya Sai Organisation of Sri Lanka has produced many fruits. The most prominent of these was the Education in Human Values Seminar held in 2004, attended by the Hon. Mahinda Rajapakse the Prime Minister himself. The Education Conference can be classified as the most prominent event, because it brought Sathya Sai Education in Human Values and the work of Sai Organisation into the limelight and was attended by many eminent personalities. This may have been the most prominent, however, without doubt the most succulent fruit is the Sathya Sai School in Jaffna. While attending the Education Conference last year, Dr. Art-ong Jumsai and myself had the opportunity to travel to Jaffna to visit the school and attended their annual sports day. Personally this was a very moving experience. Jaffna has suffered immensely due to the war and there is great evidence of hardship all around. Despite this, the devotees have rallied together and out of their faith and dedication, have started a school and a home for war orphans. It is very significant that the first Sathya Sai School in Sri Lanka should be in Jaffna. These children growing up infused with human values, especially love, will be the peacemakers of the future. These students along with the thousands of children, who have been exposed to Sathya Sai Education throughout the country, will bring this beautiful island of Sri Lanka back into a Golden Era of Peace.

The White Lotus

Mala Sabaratnam

Dep. Chairperson, Chief Legal Advisor

Ceylinco Group of companies

Member Central Trust, SSSSO Sri Lanka

*Amidst the rubble, the debris and dust,
in a lonely little pond,
the white lotus thrust its' head
to serve and reach Lord's golden feet.*

*the glittering rays of the eastern sun,
spread and shone on its' ravaged shores,
temples destroyed their courtyards deserted
where thousands would gather in song and prayer.*

*the lotus looked and heaved a long sigh;
"Lord! didn't I crave birth after birth
to serve Thee in this life so short,
and reach Thy golden lotus feet?"*

*the rose up, up and above,
soon its' journey in west would end,
the lotus shuddered, its' petals quivered,
"must I die not serving Thee?"*

*out of the stillness came a little girl
desolate, lonely and so sad,
tears dried and tears afresh down her little face did roll,
towards the lashing sea, she ran on.*

*the willing lotus gathered its' ebbing strength,
shook itself and made the girl turn round,
"Sai Ram!" she yelled in glee
"You are here! I am not alone!"*

*"My departed mother, she oft told me,
Swami sends forth flowers unexpectedly,
so lonely people His presence may feel,
'thou art here, I shall not die' "*

*kneeling slowly, plucking it gently
pleading, she whispered to the flower,
" please come with me to our grieving tent
that by your presence may others too live"*

*"in serving his children young and old
i see my lord & his golden feet,
my life is best! It wasn't in vain"
said the white lotus and nestled in her palms.*

S.Sivagnanam
Retd. Government Agent
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What is Love?

- To love is to be human. Love enables man to live in harmony with his fellowmen. It provides the link between the individual and the divine.
- To love is to serve and share and care. Love makes man to serve society. It evokes all that is great, blissful and good in men and demonstrates the unity of mankind. "Let us live together, let us struggle together, let us grow together in joy and harmony" - says the Vedas.
- To love is to be healthy in body and mind. Hatred produces physical and mental ill-health.
- To love is to be free. Love confers freedom from inhibitions.
- To love is to expand th heart. Expansion destroys feeling of mine and thine.
- To love is to have mutual regard, equal mindedness and forbearance- three qualities which help man to be a true man.
- To love is to create peace in the family, in society, in the country and in the world.
- To love is to make your heart fertile-not to love is to make it a barren land.
- To love is to have a direct vision of God. One name for God is Sat - Chit - Ananda (Being - awareness - Bliss). Sat represents truth. Chit represants Jnana (Wisdom). Where Sat and Chit are present, Ananda (Bliss) is bound to be present. As God is Truth, He has to be realised through truth. As God is Jnana, he has to be realised through the path of knowledge. As He is Bliss He has to be realised through Love.
- To love is to be happy. People who throw love around them are generally always happy
- To love is to become God, because God is Love.
- To love is to sacrifice - eg. Christ on the cross.
- To love is to enjoy the state of non dualism.
- To love is to nurture Dharma.
- To love is to experience the essence of life.
- To love is to know what you really are.

- To love is to erase your ego and totally surrender to God. Saranagathi is total victory.
- To love is to give and take . i.e. Offer your love and receive Divine Love.
- To love is to make an excellent investment. The deposit of love in your heart is imperishable and gives double, double and double interest.
- To love is to follow the lighthouse of Divine Love and sail towards the goal.

It is easy to sing the praise of Love. How to practice Love? We all love ourselves without difficulty. There is no question about it. How to express this love to others? We love our children, we love our parents, we love our own brothers and sisters and spouses. That will be accepted as generally correct, because this love arise as a matter of instinct. Why is there no instinctive love towards others outside the circle of the near ones. One reason is that we consider 'others' as 'others' and therefore the circle is restricted. Baba says that there are no 'others'. There are only 'ourselves'. Being 'ourselves' as 'others' is a delusion, caused by the 'maya' of ignorance. The same Divine spirit or God or Athma or consciousness resident in me is resident in the other also. The other is a reflection of myself and I am a reflection of the other. If this is accepted, I can learn the art of instinctively loving the other as I do in the case of my near ones. In fact when I love the 'other', I love myself.. I love God in me. I love the same God in the other . I learn to go beyond the concept that I am only the body and mind. That should be my ultimate objective. Therefore in order to reach our ultimate objective, there is no alternative but to understand the true nature of Love, and practise it. Baba says God is love and love can be realised only through love.

If the world is full of love, there will be no jealousy or envy. Jealousy is the cause of all dissension. One individual is jealous of another; One family is jealous of another; One village is jealous of another; So jealousy is ever spreading . The cure for this disease is love and love only. The opposite of love will bring only disaster. Baba calls us embodiments of love. Having listened to what I have said about some of the important aspects of love, are you prepared to accept this honour, without reservations or is ther a lurking cynical smile in your heart? You have to answer yourself.

If you want to see love as a form, if you want to see love personified, if you want to see love walking on two legs, go to Prashanthi Nilayam. You will not only see love but also experience it.

We say God is Love and Love is God. we also say light is God. There is a unity in these three words God, Love and Light. This is not a fanciful idea or a concept beyond our understanding. We directly experience this in jyothi meditation as taught to us by Baba. In the final stages of Jyothi meditation, we are enveloped in one divine light of love.

Swami says 'that' the flow of love percolates through every cell and atom. It is love that is present in every atom. It is this atom that becomes matter all over the universe. Without this atom there is no Universe. Therefore Divine love is present as an atomic principle. Not merely an atom, God is present in microcosm and macrocosm as well. Therefore, the love which is latent, inherent in you, need not be sought outside.

All are embodiments of God. Everything is Divine. Discharge your duties as an offering to God.

Finally, a personal message from me to all of you for the New Year; stretch out your hand in friendship, forbearance and love. If the other person does not stretch out his hand in return, nothing is lost, except perhaps a little of your ego, which is a good thing. In fact, a positive gain.

Message from the Desk of
Prof. Sunanda Degamboda
Senior Lecturer University of Kelaniya
Deputy Central Coordinator - Education
Member, National Advisory Committee on Ethics and Civic Consciousness Ministry of Education

I am a relatively young Sai Devotee. I knew Bhagavan only since 1995 though He knew me since time immemorial! Why Bhagavan Baba did not 'tap on my shoulders' before 1995, I can only conjecture and surmise. A magnet cannot attract an iron filing on the floor when the roughness of the floor prevents the 'merger' between the piece of iron and the magnet. For human beings, it is the roughness of the heart that prevents their attraction towards Swami.

The Sathya Sai Organization of Sri Lanka is a Divine gift to Sri Lanka, gifted by no one other than the Divine Swami! Gifts often help the possessor of the gift to enjoy, but the gift that is the Sathya Sai Seva Organization, gives joy to everyone who work with everyone else in the organization. This joy comes from sharing, conforming, and serving with egoless feelings. I am only a young member of the organization but my association with the organization have given me tremendous joy, the joy of serving the organization.

The Sathya Sai Seva Organization has smoothened the roughness of hundreds and thousands of hearts for forty years and I wish many more will rally around the Sathya Sai Seva Organization in the spirit of sharing, conforming, and caring. I also wish that the Organization will be inspiring and instrumental in establishing human value based long lasting peace and development in our country.

Chandima de Silva

Senior Lecturer, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

Director Institute of Sathya Sai Education in Human Values

Member, National Advisory Committee on Ethics and Civic Consciousness Ministry of Education

The Divine Mission of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

In 1940, at the age of 14, Bhagavan declared His mission as “I have come to light the lamp of Love in your hearts, to see that it shines day by day with added luster. I have not come to speak on behalf of any teaching, like the Hindu teaching. I have not come on my mission of publicity for any sect or creed or cause, nor have I come to collect the followers for any doctrine. I have no plan to attract disciples or devotees into my fold or any fold. I have come to tell you of this unitary faith, this Atmic principle, this path of love, this duty to love, this obligation to love.”

With the aid of many thousands of active service workers Sri Sathya Sai Baba runs major projects to help poor and suffering people in India and inspires and supports many others. Swami says that “service is the best form of worship” and with love and service, Swami attempts to realise His mission.

All this work is done anonymously by members of the organisation with no publicity or public fundraising, which Swami strictly forbids. The Sathya Sai Organisation in many communities in India provides free services like village hygiene, sound basic education in human values and home industry etc. Outside India there are well over 1,000 Sathya Sai centres and many thousand more groups spread throughout the world where the Organisation is represented do selfless service, primarily for the direct benefit of the poor, for refugees, the homeless, the aged and many other kinds of needy and suffering people.

A most significant event for the population of a large part of the poor state of Andhra Pradesh was the inauguration on Sai Baba’s 70th birthday of the enormous Rayalaseema water project. In the presence of a crowd of about 200,000, the President of India officially started the turbines that opened this project, which brings a year-round water supply to each of over 750 villages and several towns in this dry state that were often without any water previously, which lack caused much suffering.

Establishment of the most modern and spacious Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospital in Puttaparthi could be undoubtedly described as a milestone in Swami’s selfless service to humanity. All services at this hospital including complicated surgeries are done free of charge. Leading surgeons from Italy, USA, UK and India work gratis for the hospital.

Already, more than a dozen Sathya Sai Colleges have been built in India, admitting several thousands of students annually. These are all run through private donations, as are numerous Sathya Sai Schools, male and female colleges and one central university, the Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. These institutions are regarded as the foremost educational centres in a number of Indian states.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba predicted many years ago, when it seemed incredible, that there will eventually be at least one major Sai College in each State of India.

This unique education combines the highest technical and scholarly standards with the deepest moral education available anywhere today, requiring thorough personal commitment to universal truth and goodness in both word and action. Sai Schools and Colleges also exist in other countries, especially Thailand. Another Sathya Sai College in Zambia has been in existence for many years. This well-founded college teaches the unity of religions, charges no fees, is run on donations and serves children from low-income families with scholarships.

A Sai school has also been started near Gothenberg, Sweden and a Sai College is to start up in Odense, Denmark shortly. It is worth mentioning here that the first Sai School in Sri Lanka is presently operating in Manipay, Jaffna.

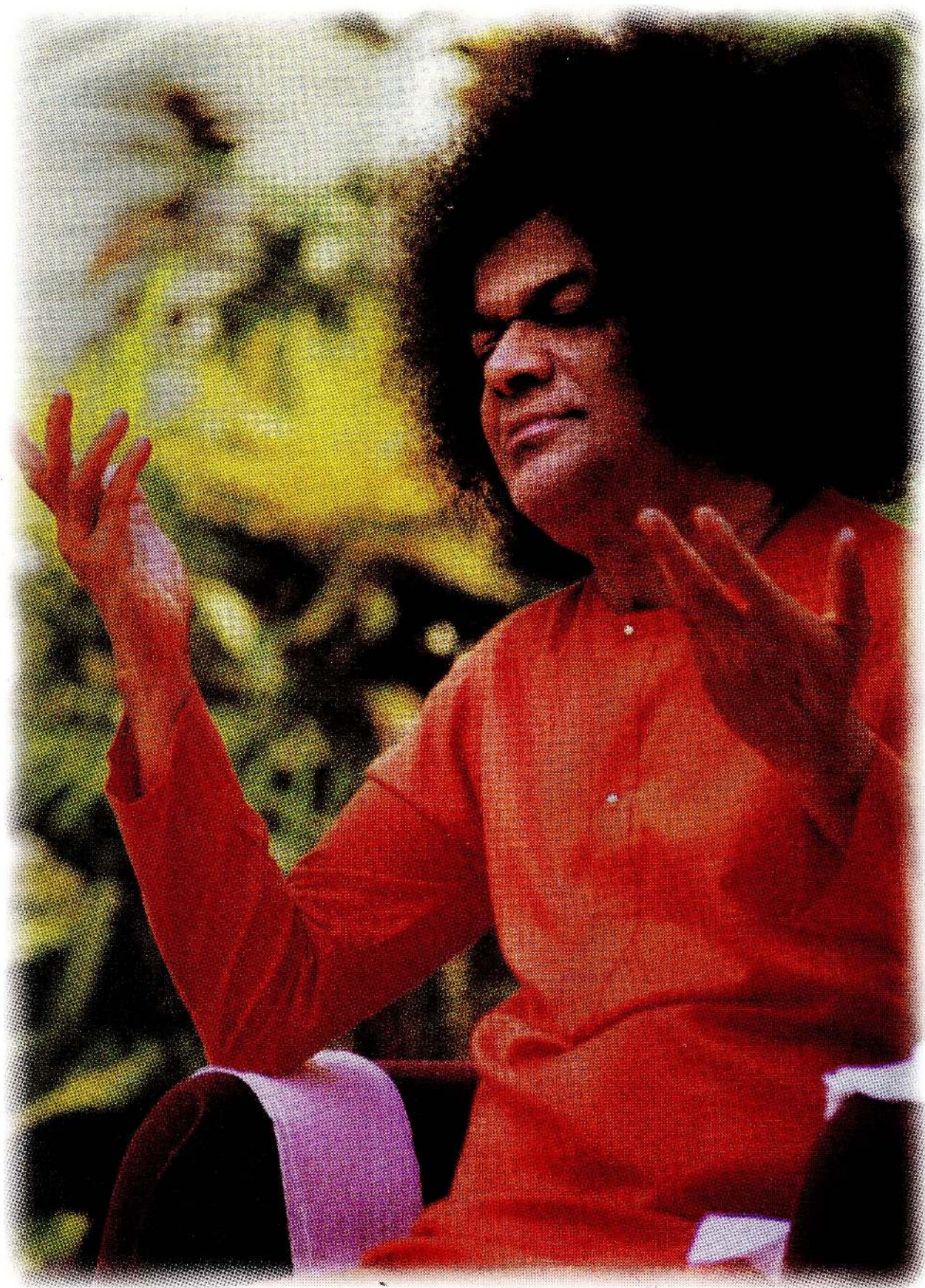
As a unique service activity, the Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisation of Sri Lanka has established the Sathya Sai Suva Sevena in Hanwella, a 50-bed centre for Symptom Control and Palliative Care of Cancer patients. Due to financial constraints, this centre is presently catering to a limited number of patients but the Organisation hopes to increase its services in the near future.

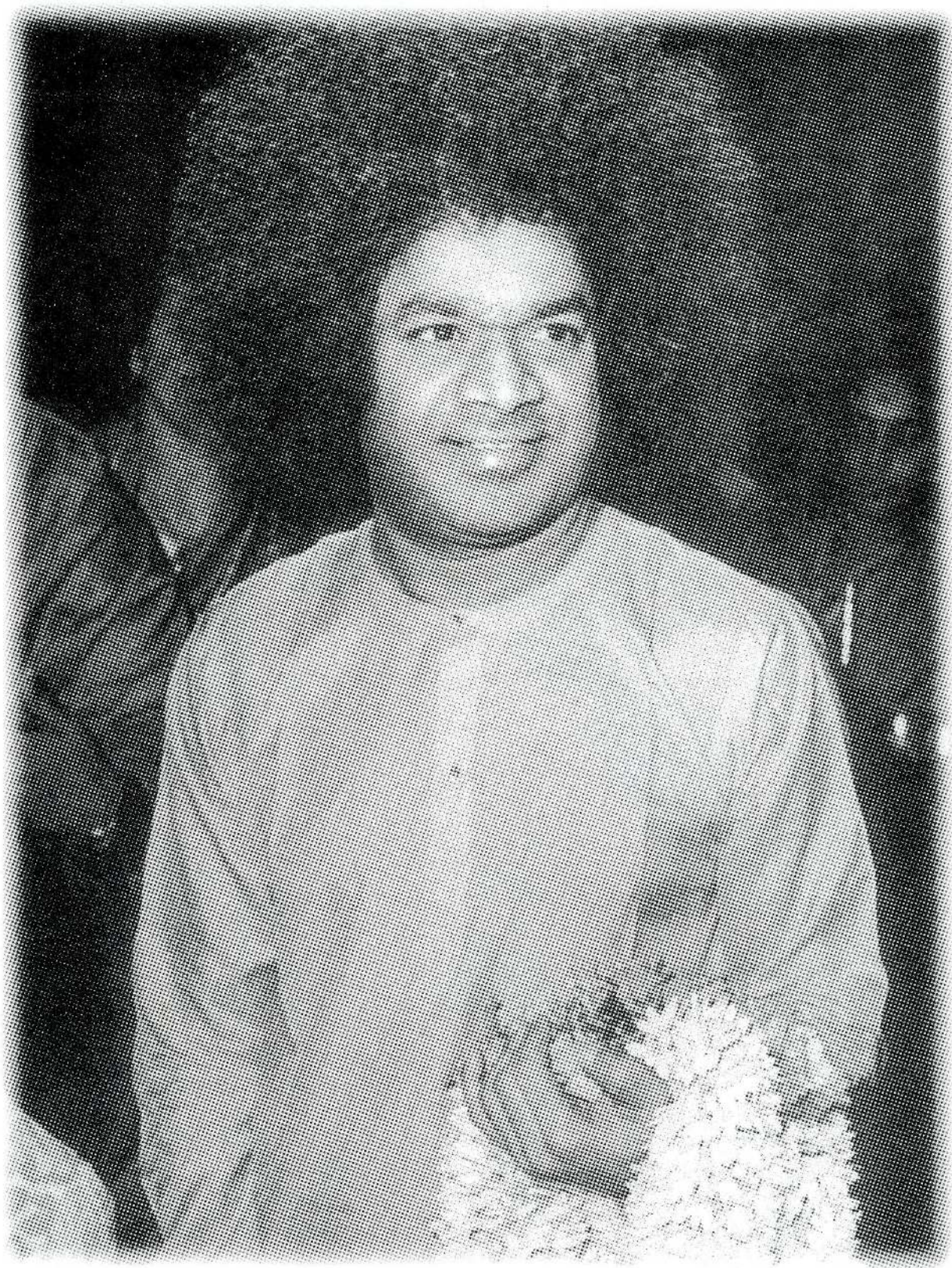
The Sathya Sai education in Human values (SSEHV) for young people from 6 to 16 years of age and a trust for that purpose were inaugurated by Sri Sathya Sai Baba in 1981. SSEHV is a universal system of spiritual education, not bound specifically to any particular religion, sect, Church or other single system of moral belief. The five human values truth, right action (righteousness), peace (of mind), love and non-violence, which are the most universal ideals in all world cultures and form the essence of all religions and form the basis of SSEHV.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba has told his followers that, even though god is in everyone and everything, he is totally aware of his Divinity in a way which others are not.

The breadth and depth of spirituality in India's ancient culture, with its great tolerance and universality, is well reflected in the works and teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Whether Sri Sai Baba is the Avatara incarnation of Vishnu come again to save the world from the crisis caused by its periodic decline in righteousness is a question of personal conviction, for no one can fully perceive and know the true nature of such omniscient and omnipresent divine incarnations.

In conclusion, let us quote Swami : "Service to man may deal with his physical or spiritual needs, but serving him by example is best of all. Do not be bad example to your neighbours or family members. be good and radiate goodness. The truth must be spoken without hypocrisy or deceit; there must be no motive to injure. Acts must be regulated by the overall supremacy of righteousness. He is asked not to neglect the knowledge he has acquired but to ruminate on it and cultivate it by putting it into practice. Treat the mother as God; treat the father as God; treat the preceptor as God; treat the guest as God. These important declarations should be honoured. And then, the teacher has some very fine advice to give about the gift of service. Give in reverence; give in plenty; give with modesty; give as to a friend; give without any thought of reward. Do not give ostentatiously. All has to be done with humility and reverence. Only then will these acts bring about cleansing of the mind, which is the main benefit to be derived from service."





Divine Discourse by Bhagavan Baba

EXPERIENCE DIVINITY WITHIN IN TOTAL SILENCE

EMBODIMENTS OF LOVE!

You are very well aware of the present condition of the world. There is no scope for talking about God. Today Dhanam(money) is considered as Daivam (God). In such a situation, how can Dharma (righteousness) prevail in the world?

PRINCIPLE OF LOVE IS CHANGELESS

Embodiments of Love!

There is no other path except that of love to attain God. Love is God. God is Love. But people do not understand what love is. They consider attachment to all that is worldly and material as love. Out of their selfishness, they love worldly objects and materials. So, man's love today is tainted with selfishness. There is selfish motive behind whatever he does. How can then man have the vision of God who is the very embodiment of selfless love? Love is present in all beings, right from a Pamara (ignorant person) to a Paramahansa (realised person). How can one describe such a principle of love?

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

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

enced and enjoyed. The experience of love confers bliss on us. Hence, we can say that bliss is the form of love.

EMBODIMENTS OF LOVE!

Everything in this world is bound to change except the principle of love. Love is the only true and eternal path which will lead you to divinity. Divinity pervades each and every limb of the human body. It can be visualised only when we understand the principle of oneness. people attribute various names and forms to God. In fact, God should not be confined to a particular name and form. God is beyond all attributes and transcends all names and forms. Divinity is present in all in the form of love but each one experiences it in his own way. People imagine a particular form of divinity. They think divinity is limited to a specific name and form. That is why they are unable to experience it.

One whose heart is filled with love will see the manifestation of divinity everywhere. It is a mistake to think nature is different from God. People give various names to divinity based on their own experience. Jewels are many but gold is one. Likewise names and forms are different but divinity is one. Where does gold come from? It comes from the earth. Similarly, God manifests in human body. Daivam Manusha Rupena(God incarnates in the form of a human being). Hence, consider as divine . Sahasra Seersha Purusha Sahasraksha sahasra Pad (The Cosmic Being has thousands of heads, eyes and feet). All heads, all eyes and all feet are His. Such transcendental divinity can be experienced only in absolute silence and in solitude. There lies hidden sacred divine power in the depth of total silence. The tongue is given to you not to indulge in vain gossip. That is why the ancient sages and seers practised Mounam (silence). It is possible to experience God only in the depth of silence. However, we should understand the true meaning of silence. Silence does not mean merely refraining from speech. It is much higher than that and includes the mind also. The transcendental nature of divinity cannot be described in words. It is beyond the grasp of the mind.

FOCUS YOUR MIND ONLY ON GOD

Whatever you see in this world is the manifestation of truth. When divinity is all pervasive, how can there be untruth? But you are unable to realise all-pervasiveness of divinity. Turn your vision inward and observe absolute silence. Only then can you realise all-pervasive divinity. Mere intellectual exercise will not help you in this regard. Whatever you see, hear and experience is the manifestation of divinity. Only God exists everywhere. Such being the case, is it possible to attribute a particular name and form to Him? He is present in all forms. When we experience the principle of oneness, we will be immersed in bliss. Hence, we can say that bliss is his form. Nityanandam, Parama Skhadam, Kevalam Jnanamurtim, Dwandwateetam, Gagana Sadrisham, Tattwamasyadi Lakshyam, Ekam, Nityam, vimalam, Achalam, Sarvadhee Sakshibhutam (God is the embodiment of eternal bliss, He is wisdom absolute, beyond the pair of opposites, expansive and pervasive like the sky, the goal indicated by the Mahavakya Tattwamsi, the one eternal, pure, unchanging, the witness of all functions of the intellect).

EMBODIMENTS OF LOVE!

When God is all-pervasive, where is the need to go in search of him? You should make efforts to experience your innate divinity by observing total silence and turning your vision inward. You can experience divine bliss only in absolute silence. That is why it is said, "Silence is golden".

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

Today people conduct enquiry and research into various aspects of the world. But divinity cannot be experienced with such enquiry and research. Se-

lect a divine form of your choice and contemplate on it. When you focus your mind on the divine form, your mind gets transformed completely and becomes one with divinity. Today man's mind keeps wavering from moment to moment. Do not rely on such a wavering mind. Instead, rely on divinity which is steady and changeless. Once you fix your mind on a divine form of your choice, never change it. Close your eyes and contemplate on it. Only then can you experience divinity.

UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY

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

Nirgunam, Niranjanam, Sanathana Niketanam, Nitya, Shuddha, Buddha, Mukta, Nirmala Swarupinam (God is attributeless, pure, final abode, eternal, unsullied, enlightened, free and embodiment of sacredness). Divinity is present within you. Unable to realise your innate divinity, you waste your time searching for God outside. Whatever you see and experience in the world is only the reaction, reflection and resound of your feelings. Do not get deluded by the reaction, reflection and resound. Turn your mind inward and contemplate on the reality within you. You will certainly be able to experience divinity. You should have divinity as your goal and nothing else. Divinity is one without a second, and is all-pervasive.

Understand the principle of oneness and install God on your heart. Without the principle of unity, there can be no multiplicity. If you do not understand unity, you cannot understand the multiplicity of Nature. Nature is the best preacher. Follow the ideals demonstrated by this preacher with Precti (love). The more you develop love, the sooner you can see God. Body attachment is the cause of all differences. You will understand and experience unity in diversity only when you give up body attachment, you can experience God in a moment.

Whatever you see is the manifestation of God. The principle of unity in diversity is divinity. But you are unable to understand and appreciate this truth, in order to understand this truth, there should be total transformation in your feelings. As is the colour of the glass, so is the colour of the scene outside. Remove the colour glasses of body attachment and see the reality.

MAKE YOUR MIND STEADY

EMBODIMENTS OF LOVE!

Hold on to the principle of love firmly and you can achieve anything. When you fill your heart with love, you will be protected wherever you go. Love is the reality and everything else is only reaction, reflection and resound. In order to experience the reality, you have to cultivate steadiness of mind in the first instance. How can you make your mind steady? You have to contemplate on one name and one form. Be firm in your chosen path. Do not get deluded by what appears to the physical eyes. Open the eye of wisdom and see the reality.

Embodiments of Love!

Consider everyone as the embodiment of divinity. God is the mother and father of all. That is why, we pray: Twameva Mathascha Pitha Twameva, Twameva Bandhushcha Sakha Twameva, Twameva Vidya Dravinam Twameva (oh God! You alone are our father and mother, Friend and relation, wisdom and wealth). Have firm faith that God is your everything. Do not entertain any doubts in this regard. It is -

that God is your everything. Do not entertain any doubts in this regard. It is because of doubts that man's mind is in a confused state. Many people ask me about the proper way of meditation. I always tell only one thing, "Meditation does not mean merely closing your eyes and imagining anything and everything. Choose one form, install it in your heart and see that it is steady. Have total faith in one name and one form and contemplate on it incessantly. That is true meditation. If you follow this practice earnestly, you can experience divinity."

EMBODIMENTS OF LOVE!

There is no greater Sadhana than following the

path of love. Your love should flow only in one direction. Your love should constantly flow toward God. Only then can you have the vision of God, who is the very personification of love. If you are unable to visualise God, it only means that you have not directed your love towards him.

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

EMBODIMENTS OF LOVE!

People talk about meditation. Meditation is very simple. Meditation is not mere concentration. Concentration can never be equated with meditation. With unflinching faith and unwavering

mind you should let your love flow towards God. If there is unsteadiness in your mind, it is reflected outside. All unsteadiness comes from within you. I am rather surprised to note that man's mind is wavering every moment. Why should the mind waver? It has no such power. Manas (mind) and Manishi (man) should be one. When you achieve the oneness, you can experience the principle of unity.

EMBODIMENTS OF LOVE!

You must firmly resolve to hold on to the principle of unity and divinity. What is the purpose of human birth? Is it to spend your time in eating and drinking? No, no. You should make efforts to understand the underlying principle of unity of five elements, five senses of action, five senses of cognition and five life sheaths. If you make sincere efforts, you will certainly be able to experience the principle of unity in diversity. Hence, make every effort to experience unity and sanctify your lives. It is possible only by following the path of love. There is nothing superior to love in this world.

(Bhagavan sang the Bhajan, "Prema Muditha

Manase Kaho.." and continued his discourse.)

Today I have awarded the Gold medal for all-round excellence to a girl student from Anantapur Campus. She has been a diabetic right from her childhood. Her parents and doctors have been trying their best to control her diabetes but all in vain. However, she has unflinching faith in Swami. That is why she had no problem at all in spite of her blood sugar level being very high. She is not worried at all. In fact, when her parents get worried, she infuses courage in them, saying, "Don't worry, God is with me." In this manner, has spent sixteen years. She has studied in Puttaparthi school; and Anantapur college. Sometimes, her blood sugar level is very high.

No medicine can control it. Her father becomes anxious. But she is protected by her steady faith. Swami told her firmly, "This disease cannot harm you. Have total faith in God. Do not pay heed to what others say." She forgets her Badha (suffering) remembering Swami's Bodha (teaching). She has followed Swami's words implicitly and has remained steady in her faith. That is why she has come up in life.

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

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

Having resolved, what ought to be resolved, hold on to it till you have succeeded. Having desired what ought to be desired, hold on to it till your desire is fulfilled. Having asked what ought to be asked, do

not leave the hold till you get it. Having thought what ought to be thought, hold on to it till you have succeeded. With heart mellowed, the Lord must yield to your wishes or forgetting yourself, you should ask him with all your heart. Persevere, be tenacious, and never give up, for it is the quality of a devotee never to retreat, abandoning his resolve.

(Telugu Poem)

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

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



God does not cause suffering to any living being in his creation. All sorrows and difficulties are of your own making. God is the protector of all living beings. He provides peace and happiness to one and all. Loka Samasta Sukhino Bhavantu (May all the people of the world be happy). This is the Will of God. How then can God cause sorrow to a human being? Unable to understand this truth, you blame God for your suffering.

“Whether it is adversity or joy let us have equanimity and act effectively As Sai Devotees”

With humility and love, I offer my pranams at Bhagawan Baba's Divine Lotus Feet.
Sai Ram to all of you.

Whether we need to experience the joy and bliss of singing Bhajans and expressing our love to the Lord, or to deal with destruction and devastation as genuine spiritual aspirants, our purpose is one. Our purpose is to become one with the Divine Indweller. The Divine Indweller is Swami who lives and resides in the throne of our spiritual hearts. Permit me to share with you an experience.

Many years ago, I was in Prashanthi Nilayam. I was doing my work and I was happy but I was pre-occupied by many worldly concerns at home and within the Organization and did not focuss and derive the maximum benefit that one can derive being in the divine presence of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. I prayed to Swami as I always do, and I am sure all of you do, here at home and when you are in the divine presence. One morning I had awakened and I had a new outlook. Certainly, I was no longer beguiled by the vicissitudes of worldly concerns. I was not concerned about all the petty and small worldly promises that I was having, about the conflicts that I was experiencing, about the emotions that were being evoked in me by my attachment and my failure to look at my brothers and sisters as my fellow loving manifestations of God. Certainly I no longer had those feelings. What I am saying is I experienced a kind of equanimity that enabled me to deal with adversity and with happy situations in a peaceful and serene manner. And, this lasted throughout my stay in the Ashram and it was very, very beautiful. I thought, “Oh, my God, never have I experienced anything like this. I don't deserve this. Swami has given me this gift. What have I done to deserve such beautiful happiness inside my heart?” I was very, very happy. And I remember this, many, many years ago, my dear departed brother Dr. Hislop

was also there in the Ashram, and I remember visiting him prior to my departure and I remember saying to him, “Jack, I am very, very happy”, and he looked at me and smiled and I think, he understood what I was talking about. In any case, when I went to take leave of Swami I became as a little child, which I often do, unfortunately I wished I was child like, and I am more often childish than childlike, and on this occasion I was very childish. I took leave of Swami and Swami saw me for a few moments alone, and I said to Swami, “Swami, when I return home, various situations will arise, I do not have the wisdom or the ability to discern right from wrong and in some of these situations I do not have the ability to see through the worldly illusions, Swami, when I go into the room, will you please come there and speak with me”. Like this I asked, “Swami, please come and speak with me, Swami, let me see you and speak with you before I get your Padanamaskar. Swami, please come and speak with me and give me your guidance” with the firm and complete conviction that Swami would come when I had these difficulties knowing that my Lord would appear. And, Swami looked at me very smilingly and said, “Yes, I will come”. In any case, I went back home and I think about 4 or 5 weeks I experienced this detachment, when I went I was effective in my worldly life, I did my duties as a physician, I interacted with my family and friends and with people whom I encountered appropriately, but I had this kind of detachment from good and bad, happy and sad and happiness and peace.

Certainly, one morning, -nothing had happened on the prior day or evening- I had awakened and lo and behold the feeling was gone. I found that I was back in the same ruts. The same ruts that, perhaps most of us have, when we have these worldly attachments, worldly identities, interactions and these worldly events. I found that I was back in it. I do not know how it slipped through my fingers. I was very deeply saddened because it was a very

happy and peaceful experience. Now, I am not trying to suggest to you that I had some kind of beatific realization or anything of that sort. I am trying to say to that Swami, somehow, enabled me to achieve some detachment from this and it was very blissful and peaceful and there was equanimity associated with it. So, I returned to Swami and I had the opportunity to speak with Swami alone and I said, "Swami, when I went home I was very detached and I was very peaceful and very, very happy and I felt that you were with me always, then suddenly one morning when I was awakened it was all gone". And then I asked Swami, "Swami, was this hysteria or was this genuine spiritual experience?" and Swami answered "it was spiritual, but you have to work to keep it".

Now, we have work to do.

The work is to deal with adversity. Swami teaches us that adversity is an opportunity for us to progress spiritually, to rise above the events, no matter how devastating, how grievous the situation may be and the events may be, we have to rise above all that in a detached manner and we have to act appropriately and do what is right and what is good. So whenever we assemble for any kind of gathering, may be for Bhajans or to deal with something like this, the reason for us assembling is always the same – I am paraphrasing something that Dr. Reddy said, which is very important, that it is always the same, that it is for us come closer to and ultimately realize the divinity within us. That is the purpose of our life and the work in which we must engage is to selflessly serve our fellow men and women in the world. So, we have this adversity and we must rise above in a detached manner. Now, in order to rise above this in a detached manner and to act in a spiritual way, the way that Swami is talking about, selfless service, we have to do this in a certain manner and that manner has certain attributes. We should consider the quality of selfless service and the effectiveness of our service. The quality of our service has to do with our outlook and our attachment. We have to be pure, unattached and we have to emphasize completely with the person and who is being served. Selfless service is having complete empathy with the person being served. Complete empathy is complete identification with the person and complete identification is selfless love. So, service is selfless love – service is active selfless love. So we have to

engage in selfless love and the selfless service and that brings in the quality of our work because then we do it with that wisdom, without attachment, without ostentation, without zeal and without any kind of superficial emotion. We are not here to seek name and fame. We are not here to seek reward or recognition. We are here to selflessly serve as children of God, other children of God who are suffering, who have been given this suffering, so that brothers and sisters might come forward and rise above adversity and thereby raise their level of God consciousness in this world. That is the scheme of things. Tomorrow we may be suffering. Then there are brothers and sisters who come and give us their hand. Today they are suffering, we extend our hand, without any desire for name and fame, without any zeal, without any ostentation. There are absolutely essential attributes of Sai service, this is the essential attributes of the Sathya Sai Organisation. It is very important that we keep this in mind in all our endeavors.

Now, what is effectiveness? I shall say only, quality, in terms of our Organization. Quality of service is being selfless, is extending selfless love to those whom we serve, which means complete identification with those who are in need. The effectiveness of what we do, it means in doing the right thing we have to use our human skills – as Dr. Reddy also referred to – use this human intellect to appropriately serve and love our fellow men – I am very distinctly paraphrasing something that he said. What is ceiling on desires? We should not waste our time, energy, food and money. Does that not apply to what we are doing now? I am confirmed with many, many very sweet dear beautiful people all over the world who are writing emails to me saying that they are collecting lot of used clothes, they want to put them in boxes, pay for the shipment to Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, asking how can we do, whom do we send it? And I have to disappoint them saying "My dear Brothers & Sisters, This is not the kind of service that is effective". Why is it not effective? Firstly, you are giving used clothes to people who will be, if not offended, will not use these clothes. Secondly, the cost of transporting these things is five times the cost of the clothes which can be purchased by the Sathya Sai Organization. If you wish to do something, let the infrastructure of the Sathya Sai Organization in these stricken areas acquire these things, new things,

things that are available locally. Why should we throw money away on transporting all these things? This is happening all over the world now. Many people are telling me that they are inundated with these things. In India, Dr. Reddy spoke with the President of Tamil Nadu. He said, "tell them we are thankful and appreciative but tell them not to send them any more clothes, this that and the other because we are now dealing with the dead and much more somber activities." So we have to do what is right and we have to be effective. The organization here is being very effective. As I have seen it, and I have seen the outline of all the things that have been engaged in. The Prime Minister was very gracious to us this morning and he gave us an understanding, a better perspective of what can be done here for Sri Lanka and also undoubtedly for the other areas as well. Clearly, as emphasized, I think, by the chairman, shelter and hygiene are solely needed. Medical treatment is needed also. But shelter is very important because what we have to do is, maintain social order here, because some of these people are very young, people who are now forlorn and destitute, who do not have families, who have no supervision, who are running around wildly, who have nothing and no one. This is social chaos. There has to be social order. The only way in which this can result – the Prime Minister was telling us – is for there to be some committees formed to find shelter and for supervision. The Government will provide some kind of appropriate and responsible supervision for these young people. Let us contribute to this effort as best as we can, you are already doing that by contemplating building of these temporary shelters. So that there can be an assembly, a community of victims and people who have been devastated in this event. Overall, in approaching this, primarily we are talking about Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia – we want to have medical camps, and yesterday we thought we will go in and treat these people who have been stricken, and who have lot of medical problems. That is necessary and we are doing that. And, there are many international and local teams of doctors. The doctors who are coming from the United States in the next day or two are very well educated, very experienced doctors. These are doctors, primarily some of them are from the East Coast of United States and they have practiced in Swami's hospital. Some of them have engaged in medical camps in various parts of the world for the last 10 to 15 years.

So, these are not new-comers. Like Dr. Upadia, they have been doing this seva for many, many years and in fact these doctors have also been working in Swami's Super Specialty Hospitals. You are getting a team of doctors, many of them have extraordinary experience, extremely competent, they have incredible education and many of them are affiliated with the best educational, academic facilities in the United States, the best Universities in the United States. But alongside with that, we have also to distribute the necessities of life. This is the immediate and acute phase - food, water, shelter, Hygiene, clothing, all these are the necessities of life and necessities for survival. Subsequently we have a plan that these kinds of camps will continue. Even the Prime Minister said that. .

Many of these teams of medical doctors have come from various countries and they have brought medicines. There is no record of the treatment, no record of the treated, and how and what they have treated but there are complications with the treatment. Who will deal with the complications? We have to have ongoing, persistent medical camps. If one doctor is leaving in two weeks, from whatever country he may come, he has to pass the banner to the next team of doctors. That is the nature of the medicine as it is practiced all over the world. there is something called the "continuity of care". And even the Prime Minister alluded to the need of some kind of record keeping, and medical records are an icon in the medical community all over the world. All doctors know, they must keep medical records. Why, so that there can be continuity of care. I give you a pill today and I leave tomorrow and the day after tomorrow you suffer complications from the pill I gave you, then my brother or sister who comes after me will at least understand what I did, why I did and what she or he has to do. That is called continuity of care. We must have that. We must maintain that everywhere. That is absolutely essential.

Let me speak a minute about funding. I sent a letter to all the Centres all over the world, about the Sathya Sai Society of America earthquake relief fund. This Sathya Sai Society of America is a Trust that has existed for 30 years and in the old days I alluded to Mr. Hislop because he was one of the Trustees, Elsie Cowan, Brother Bozani and I. Swami has asked that Trust to be a centre for dis-

tribution of funds because we used to contribute. But he has also reiterated his ever present instructions "do not solicit donations" and we do not. Many people of goodwill have come forward. I have to make them aware of his facility that we do not solicit donations. Fortunately the funds have been coming forth in a plentiful way and we have distributed substantial funds to Sri Lanka, to Thailand and to Indonesia and this will continue as long as we can, and as long as there is a need. So we will take care of this funding. But there must also be accountability. That is why I asked Br. Wann, I want to see the leaders, I want them to understand how they are approaching this. I have to account first and foremost to Swami. For everything that we do collectively as an Organisation, that is my responsibility. Also, I have to respond to the Government, in this case the United States Government. This is a Trust fund. So we must account for that. We are doing good work, good deeds. In fact things have been purchased with these funds to alleviate suffering in the world. That legitimizes our collection of this money and our disbursement to these various countries. These things must be done. That is right action. That is what we must be doing. That is the reason why you as Trustees must keep track of what you do, must be sure you do it carefully, all of you must ponder as to whether you are doing what is right and good which brings about the maximum benefit, and that when you have all decided in unison and act, then you must keep me apprised so that I can responsibly manage these funds to the maximum optimal good for all these stricken areas. That is so much for funding.

With regard to the manpower, as I said, we will supplement in Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka, as it is needed and requested. We will supplement the medical facilities with doctors and trained personnel, people trained in other areas as well and with regard to the goods, I recall a conversation that Dr. Reddy had this morning with a prominent person I guess, in the government of Sri Lanka. They collected a huge container of new clothing and it is very good and here they have, I believe, shipped it free of charge. So they acquire these things very economically. In that manner we can also send materials. In fact Dr. Reddy was speaking with him in the corridor and asked him, "how can you accomplish this, can you do it in other countries, can we emulate what you have done,

because this is proper." We are not throwing away money on transport when you can buy these things cheaper. So, we will continue doing all these things. We will be able to collect money, goods and supplies. If it is possible, we will do it. What is important is that your Organization has the integrity and the confidence in itself to address these things and to address them properly, to understand the quality of Sai service and to understand how to address the situation with which you are dealing in an effective manner.

Let me end the way I began by saying whether it is the joy of Bhajans or whether it is discussing how we can deal with adversity, if there was ever adversity, that adversity is here and now. This may be the most grievous adversity that has ever come to mankind. So, whether it is adversity or whether it is joy, let us have equanimity. Let us act effectively. We are Sai Devotees, we are spiritual seekers. We seek only to realize the divinity within ourselves and have to understand the purpose of these human lives. Therefore I say to you, brothers and sisters, let us all come together, please, and let us address these things and let us remember who we are and why we are here.

Jai Sai Ram.

19-02-2005

*Speech delivered
on a special visit to
Sri Lanka to guide
& assist in
Tsunami Relief Seva*

Men should lead a life of truth and righteousness, Only then can they protect the country and become worthy of being called real men. Otherwise, how can they consider themselves worthy of the status of human beings? Several people go to temples. When they visit a temple, they must make a vow that they would respect and protect women. Only then will they be protected. It is only when the women are safe, the whole world will be happy.

“Swami has given us an opportunity to Work with Unity”

***Dr.Narendra Reddy
Member, Prashanthi Council sssso
Chairman Internatinal,
PrashanthiMedical Council***

I offer myself at the Divine Lotus feet of our
Loving Lord Sai.

Distinguished guests, Sai Brothers and Sisters,
Sai Ram to all of you.

I thank Bro. Pulendran and other Council members for having taken us around the disaster areas. It is very painful to see what had taken place. But Swami says what can we do about it? Swami clearly said that Buddha Poornima will be celebrated this year and Sri Lanka will be celebrating this Buddha Poornima this year. Lord Buddha said “Buddhang Saranang Gachchami”, “Dhammang Saranang Gachchami”, “Sangang Saranang Gachchami”. It is very relevant for us right now. Let us serve society in a dharmic way and also Swami interpreted the words of Lord Buddha beautifully. He says Mythri Muditha Karuna Upeksha. We should have compassion for the less fortunate. Swami has given us an opportunity to rise up to this occasion. We are a spiritual organization and ours is a spiritual movement. We should clearly remember that this is for our own spiritual evolution. In this process I just want to confine myself to what is being done by the International Medical Committee and by the various International Physicians and Para Medical people. Dr. Goldstein will give more comprehensive view points what is done by the International Sai Organisation in different aspects. At present as you have already heard that Dr. Upadia came and assessed the situation in

Trincomalee and a group of Physicians have gone from Singapore and Malaysia to assess the situation in Indonesia. A group of doctors from U.S.A. will be coming tomorrow and will be here for about a week to evaluate the situation and how best we can plan to send the medical teams in the coming months because we want to have it as an on going effort.

We i.e. Dr. Goldstein, Bro. Wanniyasekeram and I met the Prime Minister this morning and he gave us an idea, what the priorities are and he was very clear. Providing shelter to the displaced people is the priority for various reasons. May be for the reasons of hygiene and social order it is very important and the Sai Organization in Sri Lanka is on the right path. They have started looking into exploring the possibilities which we are happy. From U.K. Dr. Upathia’s team will be coming after the U.S.A./ Canada medical team. So there are different teams going into disaster stricken areas to evaluate the situation. It is not only to provide medical services but also to help if they do not have enough patients or enough things to do as physicians. They are all willing to provide other services like distributing food, clothing and even have a portable toilet and other services. They are all willing not to confine only to medical services but even to do other services as well. We have to rise up to the occasion. As a Spiritual Organisation we should remember this is for our spiritual evolution. Swami’s 80th birthday the wonderful theme is, “UNITY, PURITY AND DIVINITY”. Swami has

provided and opportunity to show how we can be united in this effort. We should work in unity with the Local Government and forget about all the petty differences. Swami is giving us an opportunity to practice to work in unity at all levels. Unity at the level of Organisation, unity with the community and Unity with thought, word and deed and finally seeing the oneness. Seeing the same Divinity in the people who are served and through the server, Unity at all levels. How do we practice PURITY? I want to quote swami about the Buddha. Swami says "Samyak Pavan, Samyak Va, Samyak Saravanam, Samyak Thristy, Samyak karma, Samyak Jeevanam". He says think good and think no evil, hear good and hear no evil, see good and see no evil, speak good and speak no evil, do good do no evil. This is how we should have good thoughts, good deeds and work together, so that we should have the purity that leads to divinity. Experience our own divinity during this process and manifest the divinity in this process for which swami has given us an opportunity. That is the goal for which we are here. We rise up to the occasion and do our best. Swami says quality of service is important and not quantity. There are people who may be giving billions of dollars and thousands of people working. We do not have those resources but we can show the quality of services, how we are doing everything selflessly, with love and humility. That is the uniqueness we should be exhibiting in doing our selfless service. I pray to swami to bless us with the wisdom and strength to love him, serve him and do his work selflessly with love, humility and reverence. Thank You, Sai Ram to all of you..

Jai Sai Ram.

*Speech delivered on his special visit
to Sri Lanka to guide & assist in
Tsunami Relief Seva.*

AUM SRI SAI RAM

1. God is neither distant nor distinct from you.
2. The end of knowledge is Love, The end of education is character.
3. Ego gets and Forgets, Love gives and Forgives.
4. Man's distance from Divinity is the same as his distance from himself.
5. Man is born to share and serve, not to grab and grieve.
6. Be in the World, But let not the World be in you.
7. Science is below the mind, Spirituality is beyond the mind.
8. Do not come to me with your hands full of trash, for how can I fill them with Grace, when they are already full. Come with empty hands, and carry away My Treasure, My Love.
9. Be what you profess to be, Speak what you intend to do, Utter what you have experienced, No more, No less.
10. Make the Mind the Servant of God, not the Slave of Senses.
11. Buddhism: Remember the wheel of cause and consequence, of deed and destiny and the wheel of Dharma that rights them all.
12. Before you TALK - THINK Is it necessary ? Is it True ? Is it Kind? Will it hurt anyone? Will it improve, upon the silence?

Reported By
Mahesh Ghayal
Team Leader - USA
Tsunami Medical Relief Team

Upliftment, Relief and Rehabilitation of affected individuals, families and communities using a Holistic Approach

Since the tsunami struck on December 26th, 2004, there has been an outpouring of love, sympathy and help from all over the world. The Sai Tsunami Relief Team under the direction of the international Medical Committee of the Prashanthi Council went to Sri Lanka to serve the survivors from January 31st until February 9th. The team consisted of fourteen Sai devotees from the USA and Canada and included doctors, a psychotherapist, emergency medical personnel and non-medical volunteers.

The team met with the Central Coordinator and other coordinators from the Eastern Zone of Sri Lanka in Colombo and discussed the needs of the survivors. Some supplies were purchased in Colombo, and the following day, our team set out to Batticaloa. The villages of Thirukovil and Thambiluvil were identified for the seva activities. These communities were some of the hardest hit by the Tsunami. Upon arrival, we were able to assess in more detail the needs of the affected communities. There was total destruction of many villages and communities including schools, homes and places of worship.

Two primary schools were destroyed. Out of approximately 250 students, 46 were lost to the Tsunami. The surviving students were taught in a temporary shelter, which consisted of wooden pillars and corrugated iron roofs. Several temples were badly damaged and the Sai Center of Thambiluvil was destroyed. Four Bal Vikas students and two Bal Vikas Gurus lost their lives. The survivors were housed in several camps, and the Relief Team attended to them at Sakalalakalai Amman and Sagamam camps. The Sakalalakalai Amman Camp had 167 tents housing approximately 670 people, and the Sagamam Camp had 350 tents

housing an unknown number of people since more were coming each day during our service period.

A holistic approach was used for the relief, rehabilitation and upliftment of the individual, the family and the communities affected by the Tsunami. Using this holistic approach, we attempted to meet the physical, educational, emotional/psychological, socio-economic and spiritual needs of the survivors.

EMOTIONAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL

Whenever someone suffers a loss, the immediate need is one of solace, comfort and love. Here, everyone had suffered great loss and the need for emotional and psychological support was by far the most important, extensive and urgent component of our relief effort. In Thirukovil and Thambiluvil, this need had, up until now, not been addressed. Some had lost a parent, brothers or sisters and some had lost children in addition to their homes, belongings, and livelihood and life savings. For many, their purpose for life had been lost. Their faces were drawn and sorrowful, and their hearts were heavy.

Grief counseling was given to individuals, and groups of people. The counseling was done in the classroom, the playground, and the homes (tents). The counseling process was initiated with the teachers. Their personal losses were discussed, and they were given solace, appreciation and courage to continue their work, which was essential for continuing the education and recovery process of the children.

Children were counseled extensively with a variety of methods. We played with them and prayed with them. We smiled and cried with them. We gave them love and in return received much more love.

Parents and families were comforted, consoled and counseled in the privacy of their tents on a personal level. One family had lost four girls, having only one son survived. The father had lost the will to live. We gave them swami's vibuthi, love, encouragement, and hope. The next day the mother came for bhajans, the father reassured us that he would be fine, and the boy had a smile back on his face.

A crucial part of counseling is that it is an ongoing process. To this end, a counseling training workshop was conducted in Colombo. This was attended by thirty five to forty devotees, mainly women. The programme was interactive and inspirational and included didactic teaching, small group workshops, and role-play. The attendees became motivated and inspired to continue the relief and rehabilitative work.

PHYSICAL

The overall physical health of the survivors was good, and limited medical care was provided in the Sagamam camp. A total of 108 patients were treated.

The people had shelter, but rain-water could enter the tents from the ground, so we dug trenches around the tents to drain the water away. We bought digging tools and the local people were employed to dig the trenches, thereby providing some useful activity and a small source of income for them. Cleanliness of the campsite was promoted by picking up litter, with the children following our example and doing most of the work.

We distributed bed sheets, clothes, items of personal hygiene including toothpaste and toothbrushes, combs and toys. We distributed hurricane lamps, each camp to provide light. Prior to distributing the lamp, we chanted "Asato Maa Sadgamaya, Tamaso Maa Jyotirgamaya, Mrityor Maa Amirthamgamaya". Symbolically Swami is providing Light in their hours of darkness. Narayana Seva was performed at the Sai Center on February 4th, and at the Sakalakalai Amman Camp on February 6th. At the sai Center, the food was served on banana leaves with every one seated. At the Sakalakalai Amman Camp, food packages were distributed from tent to tent, maintaining the dignity of each individual and family as it is done in Gram Seva by Swami's students.

SOCIO-ECONOMY

This is a most difficult need to address in view of the sheer number of bread-winners affected. However, some needy families were identified by the local Sai Organisation, and a variety of tools of trade were distributed. These included tools for carpentry and masonry work, sewing machines and bicycles. For many, the bicycle is an essential means of transportation that enabled them to buy and sell goods. Without bicycles, the people are isolated from the outside communities. One lady had lost her husband who was the provider for her family. She had tailoring skills, and the sewing machine will provide a means of support for her family.

EDUCATIONAL

If the minds are stable, the teachers will teach more effectively, and the students will learn more effectively. Hence counseling was a first priority, and this was coupled with provision of school uniforms and school supplies, such as books, crayons, pens, pencils, paper, blackboards and chalk. Sports equipment, such as cricket gear, soccer balls, jump robes, tennis balls, inflatable beach balls and volley balls were provided at both the school and the camp.

SPIRITUAL

On our first day in the service area, we visited the site of the Sai Center of Thambiluvil. The building was totally destroyed by the Tsunami. While there, we found a Ganesh idol, which had been uprooted from the installation and displaced by the Tsunami waters. Very symbolically, we picked up the Ganesh idol and re-placed in the center courtyard on a concrete platform. This heralded the new beginning of all good works. The Gayatri Mantra was chanted for protection and purification of the surrounding areas.

The 4th of February marked Sri Lanka's Independence Day and also the 41st day of mourning following the disaster. We were fortunate to be a part of the religious ceremonies, which marked the end of the mourning period according to local tradition and custom. Following this, normal life would be resumed. It was quite fitting and very

symbolic that we participated in Narayana Seva and distribution of cloth for school uniforms and tools of trade on this day. The very next day we saw a lone canoe, fishing in the lagoon. The following day there were more boats in the ocean resuming fishing. At the campsite, children sang Bhajans and the Sri Lankan National Anthem. Other religious groups had observed our work, and near the end of our stay, they approached us and invited us to sing Sai Bhajans. On our last day, Sai Bhajans were held at a Devi Temple on the outskirts of the campsite. Most of the children and several adults attended. The vibrations generated were Divine. To conclude the bhajans, a Subramaniam bhajan was sung, however, immediately following this, the children spontaneously sang a Ganesh Bhajan, which was followed by Aarthi. This signifies a new beginning for the survivors, and in particular the hope for the future lies with the children.

TRANSFORMATION

Relief work is being carried out by many very well qualified non-government organizations. These organizations are experienced and very efficient in what they do.

The main difference between Service provided by the Sai Organisation and other NGO's is the Principles set by Swami. Wherever possible, we

tried to do our seva activities according to how Swami would want. Whenever we deviated from this, the results were apparent immediately. We served with humility and love, maintaining the dignity of the individual, the family, and the community. We studied and restudied Swami's "Divine Message to His Devotees: your mission has begun." and tried and follow its principles.

We served with the attitude that this Seva is "From Love, Through Love, To Love, For Love". We are merely His instruments, and we tried to be His worthy instruments. Where we failed, it was because of our human weaknesses. Where we were successful, it was because of Swami's Grace. However much we gave, we received much much more. Not only did we see a transformation in those we served, but we also saw a transformation within ourselves.

When we came the minds were melancholy and the hearts broken, when we left, the minds were mending and the hearts healing.

Our mission has begun, and we have a long way to go. Let us:

"Follow the Master
Face the Devil
Fight to the End
Finish the Game"

ATMA

Three disciplines are essential to become aware of Divinity in all and in the Avtar: No activity should be taken up with individual aggrandizement in view; intellect and emotion must be directed to the revelation of the resident in the heart, Atma; every act should be done sincerely with love, with no yearning for acquiring personal profit, fame or benefit. Above all, listen to the voice of God within. As soon as one contemplates a wrong act, that voice warns, protest, and advises giving up. It pictures the shame that has to be faced, the disgrace that entails. It would appear as if there are two personalities inside you, the one that prompts and the one that prevents. The warning signal, the timely advice, is given by the Jangam (the spirit of right) in the Angam (the physical body). It reminds you of the absurdity and the danger inherent in the identification of the Self with the body, it encourages you to discriminate between right and wrong; it is God, enthroned in every heart as the highest wisdom, the prajna, the eternal witness, whom you can contact easily in the depths of dhyana.

-BABA-

Prof. Sunanda Degamboda

Senior Lecturer University of Kelaniya

Deputy Central Coordinator - Education

Member, National Advisory Committee on Ethics and Civic Conciousness Ministry of Education

Seminar for office-bearers of the Sathya Sai Organisation on applying human values in serving the organisation

The National Education Committee of the Sathya Sai Seva Organisation conducted a National Seminar for office bearers of the Organisation on the 19th of February 2005 at Saraswathi Hall, Bambalapitiya.

This was the first of the national seminar / training programs the NEC will conduct for various professional groups and students. The NEC resolved that the first seminar should be for office bearers of the organisation. The plan is to have such national seminars in Colombo in English medium and then to take the same or improved seminars to zones, and conduct in either Sinhala or Tamil as the case may be. All of these seminars will help office bearers to understand organisational requirements and how to apply Human Values while serving the organisation and in personal life. The NEC will follow up and have other seminars in Jaffna and Kandy.

The keynote address was delivered by Sri. S. Sivadasan, advisor to her Excellency, the President of Sri Lanka. Sri Sivadasan explained the present day situation of Human Values in the society and suggested means of raising the level of human values in our society.

Swami Atmaganananda Ji Maharaj, Head of Ramakrishna Mission, spoke on

“Love as a Human Value”, and explained how selfless Love encompasses all other values.

Several other resource personnel of the Sai Organisation, Mr.S.R.Narayanaswamy, Mr.Clarence Welikala, Prof.Sunanda Degamboda, Ms. Penny Jayawardane, Ms.Shantha Mahendran addressed on various topics. The focus of these speakers was application and intergration of Sathya Sai Human Values in serving the organisation and in personal life.

Br. M. Wanniyasekeram, Regional Central Coordinator, led a discussion on issues and strategies to base officer's duties on Human values.

***Reported by:
Prof. Sunanda R
Degamboda***

Prof. Sunanda Degamboda
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Deputy Central Coordinator - Education
Member, National Advisory Committee on Ethics and Civic Consciousness Ministry of Education

The deeper meaning of Sathya Sai Human Values

By Prof. Sunanda Degamboda

Sathya, Dharma, Shanthi, Prema and Ahimsa are the five human values Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has introduced to the world. Each and all of these values can be explained superficially, in terms of phenomena close to our mundane lives or in a very deep sense. Let us inquire the superficial and deeper meaning of each of these values.

Sathya: In a superficial sense, Sathya refers to what we perceive as true and correct and expressing only what we perceive as true. We can talk truth when the truth produces beneficial or neutral results. It is easy and joyful to tell our secular achievements with others, but it is hard to admit a mistake. A criminal hides the truth and will not admit that he committed a crime. When man evolves spiritually and his consciousness gets closer to the Absolute Truth, he develops an inner power to fearlessly express the truth, whether beneficial or disadvantageous. In a previous life, Buddha was a layman. Once he was going through a jungle full of bandits. Bandits caught him and tried to kill him. The young aspirant told the bandits that he was going to give some medicine to his old mother and after that he would come back to the bandits. Bandits released the young man, and after seeing the mother and as promised, the young man returned to the bandits. Bandits appreciated the truthfulness of the young man and released him. Thus, stick-

ing to the truth during disadvantageous circumstances is a power, acquired by becoming less egoistic.

The Absolute Truth is the unity of everyone and everything in the universe, and the person who experiences this Absolute Truth is endowed with the human value of Truth, unshakably established in him. Thus, the value of truth is firmly rooted only when ego is completely dissolved and the Blissful Nirvana is experienced!

Dharma: Dharma refers to the principles of sustenance of objects, living beings, and systems in the universe. For instance, the solar system is sustained by near circular revolution of planets at tremendously high speed. The particular formation of the sun and planets and the revolution of planets around the sun is the Dharma of the solar system. It is this revolution that produces day and night, rain and drought, and keeps the whole planetary system in balance. Different elements and systems in the universe have different Dharma. Man, being the apex of evolution, his Dharma is Love. Man finds it easy to love what he likes, but loving what he dislikes is extremely difficult. The culmination of love is the development of selfless or unconditional love. This again is an egoless or Nirvanic state where one experiences the oneness of

everything and everyone. Once Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba defined a devotee as, "I recognise a person as a true devotee only if he could love everyone else the way he loves me."

Shanthi: We often define Shanthi as inner peace, untouched and unaffected by events of the external world. Achievement of Shanthi is vividly explained by Lord Buddha. When one withdraws his mind from desires and hatred, the consciousness moves into its natural state of Shanthi. Buddhism teaches us that permanent Shanthi is thus established when the mind is totally and permanently withdrawn from all desires and hatred. All desires and hatred of man are rooted in the ego and the perennial Shanthi is synonymous with the total elimination of ego, achieved on experiencing Nirvana.

Prema: Prema is first manifested as love with attachments. As long as our love has the element of attachment, the opposing phenomenon of hatred too will prevail. Spirituality helps us to spread love to many, including ones we dislike. It is our ego which prevents or mitigates radiating love to many, far and wide. Thus, radiating love to many happens only when our ego dissolves, and sees everyone and everything in the world as inherent parts of the One. This is the highest level of love where we are not conscious of any attachment, and we spread unconditional love. This happens only when we experience Nirvana, the One.

Ahimsa: Ahimsa refers to not harming anyone or anything in the universe. Whatever we think, tell or do if they harm anyone or anything is himsa, and any thought, word or deed of ours that causes relief to others is Ahimsa. Since all hatred

thoughts are rooted in ego, complete Ahimsa is achieved only when we root out ego, which is the state of Nirvana.

Thus, when we consider the deeper meaning of any of these five values, it goes right into an egoless state. Therefore, man can achieve his highest goal by perfecting any one or more of human values. Once any of these values is **perfected**, the other four values are perfected. There are many paths that lead to the perfection of human values. Buddhism prescribes the "Gnana Marga" where the mind is gradually but progressively withdrawn from phenomenal objects by practicing equanimity towards the ephemeral world. The culmination of this training is the gaining of the wisdom of equanimity (Sanskarupeksha gnana) where the mind becomes totally inactive and Nirvana is experienced when the **mind disappears** totally. Buddha described the Nirvana as a mindless state (Oh Monks, Nirvana is a Perceptionless, Feelingless and a **Chiththa Nirodha** state)

Hinduism prescribes Bhakthi Marga where a man gradually surrenders his mind, first to a formful God, progressing to complete annihilation of mind on becoming conscious of the formless and attributeless state of Divinity. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba tells us that both paths, the Gnana Marga and Bhakthi Marga merge at one stage of practice when the consciousness of the aspirant shifts from the formful to the formless! Lord Buddha explained this point of transfer by saying, "You may have Bhakthi or Sradhdha towards me, but at a certain stage you should give up Love and Bhakthi to Me too (Meaning, giving up love for the form of Buddha)

When one meditates on the Light (in relative terms light is formless), contemplating on light from a formful Divine, entering through Agna Chakra, reaching the spiritual heart, and opening a white lotus generating deep white light, the aspirant first experiences the formless light filling his body. Progressive practice spreads the light out of the body and at an advanced state of practice the aspirant observes the whole universe as a single light. At this point the saadhaka loses the body consciousness and experiences the light alone without boundary. Only his consciousness of the light will remain.

To quote Swami, "contemplation of God is the right royal path that would remove all types of worries. Therefore, do not try other means for achieving mental peace and get into trouble and worry. March on along the divine and glorious path. All the Karmas in the spiritual field are meant to bring peace and happiness to us. They are not intended to trouble us. My heart is overflowing with love and joy on account of the Namasankirtan you have done yesterday in the streets of Puttaparthi. Continue this Namasankirtan wherever you are throughout your life. especially, when your spirits are down with sorrow, sing the glory of God full-throated.." 23rd Aug. 2004

Jai Sai Ram

*Speech delivered at the seminar
for office bearers of the sssso on
applying human values in serving
the Org. at Saraswathi Hall, Colombo
On 19 feb. 2005*

When you protect Sathya and Dharma, God will, in turn, protect not only you and your country, but the whole world. Consider truth as your life-breath and righteousness your armour. If you have these two, you will have everything. You don't need to fight with anybody in the world. The world has not done any harm to you. There is nothing great in attacking those who have done no harm to you.

BODY

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

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

Observing common principles of the Charter and intergrating it to our Duty

I am confident that all of you devotees & office bearers are well versed on all aspects of the rules & regulations of the charter of the Sathya Sai Organisation, apart from the written guidelines, it is my belief that there is another aspect we tend to forget more often than not, that is, the spiritual or divine aspect. My inner voice which will be a source of strength encouragement and guidance to you all when coping with the numerous problems you encounter in administering the charter.

How often in your daily work have you had an outburst, and declared proudly, that you gave so and so, a piece of your mind for not meeting requirements. Imagine that instead of doing it this way you were able to speak in a manner that would have had a profound effect on the heart of the person you are dealing with. No set of rules, and no charter in any organisation could function effectively without taking the human aspect into consideration.

You will agree when I say that none of us are qualified to lead until we are willing to do so with the heart of a true servant. In essence, observance of absolute simplicity, sincerity of purpose, humility, righteousness, honesty, purity, good conduct, truth, love and spiritual guidance are of immense importance. Without these we will not be able to reach the goals expected of us.

The first objective of the organisation is to enable man to discover the innate divinity - to make people aware of this truth & live in that awareness. We should carry out in actual practice that is in our own lives, the rules, restrictions and guidelines set by Swami. In similar vein we must be ready at all times to listen to the divine voice when man listens God speaks, when man obeys God acts, when men change nations change.

You may ask the question, how do I begin? You can begin by listening to the still small voice that speaks in our heart. Silence is important. One of the first principles of straight living is the practice of silence. Be silent yourself. This endure silence in others. Quiet contemplation leads to a pure mind - a mind free from the evils that enter through the ears or come out from your mouth. Here again I would like to add other noble standards which would equip us for devoted service.

They are absolute honesty, absolute unselfishness, absolute purity & absolute love. These are the four pillars, which will herald a new age.

One cannot live crooked and think straight. One cannot be selfish. We cannot think of our needs all the time. Sharing is the true essence of unselfishness. There is enough in this world for everyone's need. But not for everyone's greed. We should broaden our love to channelise this activity to some others. Devoted service is not possible unless love emanates.

The following methods, aids procedures, in my opinion could be regarded as key factors in administering the charter in its true and correct perspective.

1) SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Today's world understands the need for better physical, intellectual emotional & spiritual needs of children & adults more than ever before in history. The need that we should propagate should be based on a strong spiritual understanding of the values.

When in difficulty, pray for guidance before making a decision, men can give you advice only as

far as their intelligence can reach, but the inner voice which illumines the intellect will reveal to you the way out of the difficulty. Have patience and wait prayerfully as prayer can bring about the impossible. Spiritual guidance will reward you with success.

2) ADMINISTRATION & ORGANISATION

To administer is to decide how the pre-determined objectives of the organisation should be achieved. Organisation involves putting theory into practice. In any activity there must be some form of organisation. The charter lays down the requirements expected of those in charge of the organisation. The purpose of this organisation is to broaden one's love and to channelise one's activity through devoted service. Our lives should be guided by the rules, restrictions and guidelines given by Swami.

In doing so, administration and organisation will work as they should.

Duty within this organisation does not mean the items of work entrusted to you by your superior's or society. Duty means the responsibility not to harm anyone by your actions speech or behaviour.

3) LEADERSHIP

Leadership is important for an organisation to meet its goals. A leader is a person who has the strength of personality and charisma to mark him stand out from the group. He is the sort of person who can be spotted in a crowd as some one with special skills. It may be worthwhile to list out a few qualities of a good leader. There may be a difference of opinion regarding the order of these qualities, however in my opinion the following are important. Sincerity of purpose, humility, motivation, initiative, impartiality, tenacity, common sense, personality, reliability, honesty, ability to accept criticism.

Leaders should be looked upon by the group as a person who is reliable and with a high degree of responsibility and honesty.

He should create a healthy atmosphere to

stimulate constructive criticism and make the group feel that he is a person who is willing to accept criticism and not a person who feels that he is the "be all and the end all of the organisation".

4) Communication with people within the organisation

Communication is not a one way path You should be able to listen as well as talk. People must understand what you wish to communicate. Do not have hypocrisy or crookedness in your speech. Always think that the other person may have a solution to the problem. Do not think that you should always push your ideas. Leave room for others to participate, do not think that you are in the organisation to seek popularity.

Decide carefully - what needs to be said and how it should be said. Person to person contact is an excellent means of communication. For no charter can function without proper inter personal relationships.

5) Management

Management is the art and skill of deciding what needs to be done and then getting it done. When people meet in groups or organisations some sort of management is necessary. Just as the basic materials with which an artist works may be his paints - in an organisation the managers have a much more complex basic material to deal with human beings within the Sai Organisation. Managers must equip themselves with sadhana - to work with others - that is a calm, Quiet temper, duty would mean responsibilities - not to harm anyone by your actions.

All those involved in day to day management do not serve to attract attention or with the intention of getting a reward, earning praise or gratitude. Service is voluntary and honorary. People are pushed into service by that force which drives them - LOVE. In this context one has to train oneself to like what you do and not do what you like.

When this happens everyone works together for the benefit of one another. If those who work

are not motivated to the achievement of its goals, then the goals will not be reached. Within this organisation there are study circles, a study circle does not mean just reading, discussing and taking information into the head. The essence of it is to practice what has been learnt or similarly to carry out in practice Swami's guidelines. Those involved in management must have the six important qualities.

ENTHUSIASM
ENERGY
COURAGE
PREPAREDNESS
DEVOTION
SINCERITY

True service is not superficial - it entails the difficult task of controlling the mind and discharging duties properly.

6) Motivation

This involves providing leadership for subordinates, and also requires the ability to give of their best in achieving the objectives, by creating a good morale or working spirit amongst all those within the organisation.

Motivation is directly concerned with the people who work for a particular organisation. It involves, encouraging them to work well and willingly in the most economic manner and in the best interests of the organisation. The objectives of an organisation can be achieved only through the efforts of people; And people need to be motivated - induced, persuaded, prevailed upon (but not forced) - in a humane and understanding way to give of their best.

Also, motivation may be described as leadership and is essentially a human relations concept. It bears the responsibility to bring together distinctive personalities into an efficient team. Motivation requires a knowledge of psychology as a means of understanding behaviour patterns and responsibility for motivation.

May be summarised thus :

A) If the members of the team are not motivated to the achievement of its goals, then the goals will not be reached.

B) Motivation is accomplished only by the fulfilment of the needs of those whom it is intended to motivate.

7) Discipline

Discipline is the very core and bedrock for a successful organisation. If this aspect is carefully nurtured and developed, it is absolutely certain that it will result in an efficient and highly successful and well motivated organisation. A charter exists to maintain discipline.

Discipline will mean that your personnel are dedicated to their organisation. Birds of passage just looking for bread and butter will never be a complete success. True interest and dedication is vital.

Discipline will also mean that your personnel have had a thorough training in their duty. Untrained personnel, are bound to crack up unlikely to face a crisis in a disciplined manner.

A perfectly disciplined organisation is totally impossible, if they are not bound to their organisation, to their superiors, and to their fellow men with a deep sense of loyalty. Loyalty, not in the sense of the narrow sense of blind obedience to regulations, and superiors, but loyalty that emanates from a strong desire to uphold the traditions, the prestige and the success of the organisation they serve.

A strong and abiding loyalty to serve their organisation with love and devotion will certainly strengthen their resolve to execute their duties more efficiently. Absolute loyalty is just not important, but absolutely vital a sine qua non - if we are to measure up to the exacting standards now so constantly demanded of us.

8) Human Relations, Courtesy, Politeness

In integrating the common principles of the charter into our duty, human relations are of prime importance. What is the desired image we wish to project, it is not one of victory - it is not one of competition and neither is it one of aggression, the image projected here is one of love for all humanity, "LOVE EVER - HURT NEVER" are Swami's words. In keeping with this, human relationships are most important. How do we treat others? What are our behaviour patterns and attitudes. Are we courteous and polite to people.

"If you please" are three words that express courtesy and indicate the fact that we care for the feelings of others, being courteous is a virtue that we could be proud of. Besides, such words used in conversation reveals our personality and wins us the respect of others.

"Thank You" two important words - use it and see how a person's face lights up after he has done you a service - however trivial it may be don't reserve your thanks to only people who matter. Use it freely and you will give people happiness.

Omit the word 'I' use "We" which signifies togetherness, unity and strength.

We should always associate ourselves with others and think of achievement as combined efforts - never as an individual feat. Gurus should always use "we" meaning the family or the society that is being represented.

The word "I" is a tiny cog in the massive wheel of humanity and is insignificant, besides it is a symbol of ego, which destroys all the other rules of good human relationship. The real key to human relations is learning as much as we can about human nature and behaviour. No charter will function well if heed is not paid to human relationships. Cut out that desire within you to feel great or important.

Our own attitudes are reflected back from the other person almost as if you stood before a mirror. Be enthusiastic and you will arouse enthusiasm in others. Act with confidence and others will have confidence in you. Shower praise on people where it is due, and make room for others in your life.

In conclusion the purpose of this organisation is to broaden one's love and channelise one's activity through devoted service.

Positive thinking and a change of heart is the only way to end global conflict and resolve domestic disputes. It is simply a way of life, a philosophy, aimed basically to change people through an inner searching of their minds.

I have based my presentation to you this morning purely with the intention of sharing one's knowledge and expertise with others as these traits, principles, values and guidelines set by Swami, have created a great impact in my mind, helped me to change my lifestyle and also bring about a change of heart. I believe that this change of heart, could lead to a better tomorrow and for a better world.

Thank You

*Speech delivered
at the National Seminar for
office-bearers of the Sathya Sai Seva
Organisation, on applying human values in serving the Organisation
19 feb. 2005*

DIVINITY

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

*Address by Prof. Anil Kumar on 23rd April, 2005
at Saraswathi Hall*

Hon. President, distinguished Members of the dais, fellow pilgrims, devotees, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

In the first instance let me thank Bhagawan Baba who made this trip a reality. In fact, this was planned three years ago and had to be cancelled at the last moment but this happened.

Before I say anything my friends there are two classes of events in life. The first class of events are doings, doings. That is all that we do. The second class of events are happenings, happenings. You do not do things but things happen. In respect of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba things are happenings and not doings. Things are not done. Things simply happen. Take for example love. Love is not done. Love happens. Beauty is not done. It happens. Truth is not done. It happens. I am so happy that Bhagawan could make this trip happen. I thank him again for this.

My friends, we need effective instruments to fulfill Bhagawan Baba's divine mission just like a surgeon requires his own equipment and a scientist requires his own equipment in a laboratory. In the fulfillment of the divine task, in the fulfillment of the divine mission brother Nalin, his wife and Regional Coordinator worked and made this happen. I thank them very much.

The President at this evening's function raised an important issue. Well I would like to say what Bhagawan Baba has got to say in these matters. Sir, you have raised a very relevant question that is bothering at a global level. Though you for modesty's sake said that the problems of Sri Lanka, my dear Sir, I would rather say these are

Problems the world over. So we should have a kind of global perspective on these activities, on these problems confronting us.

We have religions, a number of religions all over the world. We have a number of devotees all over the world. We have a number of people, a

number of ideologists but yet there is a dearth, yet there is a shortage, yet there is no peace and yet there is no love. Something is missing. Why? As the President mentioned in his speech in the families of today, in the present trend of society and in the present education system something goes wrong somewhere. All this necessitated Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to come down in human form and spend his life's sojourn amidst all of us. Bhagawan Baba sets an example to everybody.

We have religions which are fear oriented. That is, if you do not pray to God, look here, you will go to hell. So be careful, because you have to go to heaven. Fear oriented religions say that if you do not follow the religion you will go to hell. So more conflicts because of the fear oriented.

We have some religions which are greed oriented. Greed! I want to be number one in society. I want to be the number one industrialist. I want to be number one in finance. I want to be number one in literature. I want to be number one in position. These are religions of greed, greed oriented religions.

Then we have future oriented religions. After death you have a place reserved in heaven. I have to go there. These are future oriented religions. Some religions ensure you a place in heaven, in paradise so we live in dreams. We live in promise and hope.

We have another category of religion. That is, religion based on love. I emphasize, religion based on love.

We do not need to be God fearing. All grandmothers and grandfathers tell their grandchildren my dear child, you should be God fearing. God is not to be feared. God is got to be loved. We need God loving people and not God fearing people.

Because of organizations of religions what has happened today? It has divided society into fragments, into segments. Religions cannot communicate with each other. My friends, I am

sure that most of you would agree with me when I say that the maximum number of wars are fought on religious grounds or in the name of religions. There is so much of blood shed, conflicts and war because of religions. Therefore religions today over all requires a new approach, requires a new dimension and that is the religion of love. The religion of love can certainly be followed by anyone. Even a person who does not accept religion, an atheist by all standards, cannot say that he has no love. He cannot deny that he never tasted love at all. Love is a component. Love is a birth right. Love is an ingredient. We are born with love and that should be our religion today. We get divided when we talk of God. If one says God is a person who has divided community, my friends, God is not a person. God is not a person. God is a phenomenon. God is not an object to be possessed. God is energy, a cosmic energy. God is totality of existence. God is manifestation, totality and the reality. That is what Bhagawan Baba states. But God is personalized. We limit God to a person. Therefore my focus this evening is this my friends. God is not a person. God is not an object. He is a phenomenon. God is reality and God is the very energy. In this sense we can all get together, we can work together. God is Love. Love is God. Live in love says, Sri Sathya Sai Baba. God is love. We know what love is, but this love is a different standard altogether. We know love is give and take, purely reciprocal. We know love is

Based on exploitation. We know love is an expression of hidden sensual intentions, sensual pleasure. That is not love at all by any standard. Love goes on increasing if it is spiritual.

One simple example that Bhagawan Baba tells quite often in his discourses is this. In the good old days elderly people, married people also go to school and learn at the feet of a master, a Guru. One day, a gentleman was listening to the lecture of his master. But his master did not conclude his lecture. He went on giving his lecture. Perhaps he was specially charged that evening. But this man is bothered about his wife at home. He said, "Master time up." The master replied, "Shut up and sit down. The topic is interesting." He even extended his lecture by half an hour. The disciple again said, "Master, my wife is waiting for me at home. You are not married so you do not know the love that

exists between a husband and wife. My wife is waiting for me at home. Why don't you wind up?" The Master said, "Shut up." He went on lecturing. The man then said, "Master my mother is waiting for me, why don't you stop?" The Master said, "Nothing doing." He continued. The master became very much disgusted with the disciple who insisted that the lecture should be closed at one time or another. The master said, "Look here my boy, do you think your mother loves you?" The man replied, "Why not? Master you do not know a mother's love because you left your home a long time back." The Master then asked, "Do you think your wife loves you?" The man said, "Certainly. Master you do not know a wife's love because you never married." The master tells, "Is that so? Okay boy, I will make you know how much your mother loves you and how much your wife loves you. Please follow me." So both of them came to the residence of the disciple. At the door step the master said, "Look here, my boy I

will give you a glass of water and that water will have the effect of anesthesia, chloroform. You will lie as if you are dead. Do not worry, you will not die. Your life is ensured. It is safe in my hands but you will lie down as if you are dead and gone but you will hear all that is happening." So this fellow had one glass of water with anesthesia. He became totally unconscious but he was following all that was happening. He fell on the ground. From inside the mother came noticing the boy's body lying on the ground. She started crying. She said, "My son I never thought that you will die. I never thought that you would desert me in my old age. As per the traditions the last rites of my death should be done by you my son, but look here you are no more." She went on wailing. Then from inside the young wife came. She went on, "I never thought like this. Why do you not take me also along with you? How am I to carry on like this?" She went on crying. Then this master said, "Do not cry, do not worry. Get me another glass of water from inside. Who so ever that drinks this glass of water will die and this boy will get back life." So on the seniority basis the master said to the old aged mother, "Look here, you are quite an old lady. You have had so many innings in your life. Your children are all settled. All your grand children are well settled. Why don't you drink this glass of water so that your son will have additional lease of

life." The old lady said, "I am sorry. I am not prepared to die because I want to see the marriage of my great grandson. I am not prepared to die. I am sorry." This fellow is hearing all this. Then the master looking at the young wife said, "Why do you cry young lady? I can understand the separation of a wife from husband. I can understand. I pity you. Come on drink this water and your husband will be brought back to life." The young lady said, "I am sorry Sir. I am so young. Why should I die unnecessarily. It is not necessary. These are days

when one can get remarried. I am not prepared to die." This fellow gets up and says, "Guru now I understand what love is." There is no mother, no father, no relation, no relationships, no near and dear other than God's divine love. God's love is; eternal love, it is divine love, it is immortal and it is ever fresh, ever green. Human love diminishes. Human love declines. Human love fades away.

Bhagawan Baba said at one time about love. A new son-in-law was invited by the father-in-law to spend some time in the in-law's house. In newly married days it is nice to spend time in an in-law's house. So this man came there. He was spending time in the in-law's. He was having a fine time going round the garden. On the way this man saw a thorn, a little thorn. He got very much disturbed. He thought to himself, if this thorn is to prick the feet of my beloved wife, the feet that look like the petals of a rose, she would suffer a lot. So he shouted and told her, "Be careful, there is a thorn on the way. There is a thorn be careful." This newly married bride was very happy. She thought to herself, my father has selected the best man, because he has selected a man of love. He paid him a dowry but he deserves even more and we can claim arrears too. That was the feeling of this lady. After six months they were going round the garden, an evening stroll. The husband saw a thorn on the way. He said, "There is a thorn. Do you not know how to walk? Be careful." Fifty per cent love gone. Only fifty per cent love left. After one year this girl carrying a newly born babe goes for an evening walk. The husband saw a thorn again this time. The husband got very disturbed. "Don't you know how to walk? Half of my salary goes to meet the medical bill. Be careful. Watch your steps." This lady comes to realize what love is and the definition of love. The definition and the depth of

love is in experiencing it. Love falls into emptiness, it is abysmal, it is

Minimal after all when compared to the divine love. Bhagawan Baba says that God is around you, in you, above you and below you. God is always with you. Just as you cannot be away from your shadow, just as you cannot run away from your shadow you cannot run away from God. He is always with you.

I will tell you of an incident of an elderly man aged 80 years. His name was Ramachandran. He was a very elderly man seated next to me. He came to see Bhagwan Baba but he was totally blind. He was asking everybody around, "Sonny, is Swamy here? Is it time for Swamy's arrival? Is Swamy anywhere around?" Then and there, believe it or not, by my side Bhagawan Baba walks in a gentle, soft, smooth and dignified manner step after step holding the red robe in one hand. The old man was sitting there till the Dharshan time. Bhagawan Baba stood in front of this elderly man and said, "Bhagawan is here my dear, do not worry I am here." This elderly man who was helpless at the age of 80 was waiting for Swamy's Dharshan. He was desperately inquiring from everybody and there is Swamy standing by him with his palm on his head saying, "I am here my dear. Why fear when I am here." Swamy Baba says, "God is by your side at all times; no matter whether they are positive times, negative times, times of difficulties or times of pleasure. Come watch my way if you want God to be by your side. Actually speaking to expect God by your side is also ignorance. He is always by your side. We are not aware of it.

Bhagawan Baba gave another example. It seems a rabbit borrowed one rupee from mother earth. Just one rupee. It was worth a million rupees from the point of the rabbit. As anyone would do, this rabbit does not want to pay back the loan he had taken. It has already imitated humanity. It wanted to escape. He does not want to pay

The loan at all. He went running, running and running and ultimately the rabbit hid itself in a hut. "Yes, now I am safe. Earth won't ask my loan." There from beneath it hears, "I am here. How about the one rupee? How about the one rupee?" The rabbit could not avoid earth. Likewise we can-

not avoid God's presence. We are in God. God is in us. That is what Bhagawan Baba says, "We are from God, we are in God, we will be back to God." That is what we call awareness. What we know today is, not spiritual awareness. What we need today is spiritual awareness. Spiritual awareness. Meaning that there is God within you and observing you as an eternal witness. He is watching you. That is why He is called a witness. It does not matter, you may follow any religion. The religion may be different but spirituality is one. Religions are different paths of spirituality. Spirituality is the goal. Religion is something like a flower. Spirituality is a garland. Religion is something like an ornamental jewel. Spirituality is gold. Religion is a spirit path. Spirituality is the goal. Religion is a way. Spirituality is the aim and ambition. So we should be religious people. Then we will never get divided. If we are spiritual we will never get divided. Spirituality speaks of the spirit of religion. Sathya Sai Baba speaks of the spirit of religion.

One day a devotee asked Bhagawan Baba, "Swamy, are you God?" Bhagawan Baba replied, "Yes, I am God. You are also God. I know that and you do not know that. That divinity is patent in me and it is latent in you. The divinity is latent in you while divinity is manifested in me." Therefore awareness is necessary. Bhagawan Baba says that one has to learn and experience in life. So Bhagawan emphasizes on the experience of religion and not on expression of religion. Bhagawan says this about expression. People express excellently, articulates gestures, express excellent linguistic gimmicks

And what not. However strong one may be if he has no experience one is a big zero. So Swamy says, "Heroes on platforms zeros in practice." Today in the society people should practice and not simply propagate. Religion has to bring out this awareness. Bhagawan has not started any new religion. Let us be very clear about it. Sathya Sai Baba is not a religion. He has not started any religion. He has not. It is something like the Indian Ocean. How many rivers merge in the Indian Ocean? All roads lead to Rome. All rivers merge in the ocean. All rivers and streams merge at one center. My friends you have got to understand the fundamental principle that we are one and that division should not be there. Bhagawan Baba is not a separate God. Bhagawan is not a religion. Baba is

bliss. Bliss is Baba. Baba is love. Love is Baba. Baba is sacrifice. Sacrifice is Baba. Baba is truth. Truth is Baba. So religion means, practicing what God stands for. If you speak the truth, yes you are a religious man. If you are virtuous, you are a religious man. So practicing a religion is a testimony to religious affiliations and religious loyalty. My affirmation and my confirmation deepening and strengthening my spiritual bliss express my attitudes of life. Therefore my friends, a Christian can be a better Christian. I am a member of a Christian College. In the introduction our friend informed you that I spent about thirty years in a Christian College. Four years of study. Twenty six years as professor in the Department of Botany. So there is more of Christian blood all over. Whenever I talk to my Christian fraternity, whenever they invite me for Easter, Good Friday or Christmas they ask me, "What has Baba to say about Christmas? What has Baba to say about Christ?" They are surprised at what I have got to say to them. They ask me, "Anil Kumar, from where did you get this information? We do not know the Bible. It has not taught us these things. Our pastors

Do not speak of these things. How do you come to know?" I tell them, "There is a spiritual master who tells me these things. It is he who takes me to the profundity of the Biblical teaching. You can be a better Christian by coming to Baba. You can be a better Muslim and you will be able to understand the Quran much better after understanding Bhagawan's teachings. You can be a staunch Hindu if you listen to Bhagawan's discourses. Bhagawan's discourses are something like a dynamism an enthusiasm to religious convictions." Today we have conveniences. There are no convictions. You should be convinced. Hold on the principles.

I would like to make a point very clear to you my friends. I heard in the presidential address by the Hon. Guest that Sri Lanka is passing through certain difficulties right now because of the tsunami and earlier because of certain disturbances and what is our role as Swamy devotees? Our role as Swamy devotees is very well defined. We should bring about peace. We can. We should learn how to share. We should learn how to care. We should learn how to serve. Caring, sharing, concern and service are the things which are needed utmost for all Swamy devotees at this juncture. I am extremely

happy to have heard from the Chairman and our brother, Wanniyasekaram that devotees here in Sri Lanka were the first to take to action at that disastrous moment. It is so nice. Bhagawan said, "Worship God." It does not mean the collection of flowers from gardens. Meditation does not mean sitting straight with closed eyes. Stop meditation and worship, take to service. That is the best form of practicing religion. Service is the best way to be close to God. Because God means, serve.

Somebody asked Swamy, "Swamy, let us know how to serve you?" A good question. "How shall I serve you Bhagawan?" Bhagawan said, "You do not need to

Serve me. I am serving you. As I serve you it is necessary for you to serve others. As Jesus Christ on the Cross said, "I have come to serve and not be served." I emphasize, "I have come to serve and not to be served." That is what Jesus Christ said. Here Bhagwan says to serve because service is the best and surest way to reach God. Service is the experiment, the operation of love and inference of the reality. Science is based on procedure, observation and inference. So service is the process. It is a laboratory from where you draw certain conclusions and infer. Experience God's love and divinity or else my friends religion becomes textual, religion becomes academic, religion becomes propaganda and religion becomes publicity. No! No! Religion is not meant for publicity. God does not need publicity.

I will tell you something that happened 30 years ago in Madras. One said, "Look here, I want all of you to go the Prashanthi Nilayam and see Sathya Sai Baba." Baba in his discourse got up and said, "Do not go there. Wherever you are if you are peaceful that is Prashanthi Nilayam. Wherever you are if you are happy that is Prashanthi Nilayam." So Prashanthi Nilayam is not geographical. Prashanthi Nilayam is not a place to route on maps. Prashanthi Nilayam is a state of mind. Prashanthi Nilayam is a psychological state of bliss. Prashanthi Nilayam represents transformation. I can tell you of many a smokers who have become non-smokers, many a people who used hard drinks who are now teetotalers. I know many non-vegetarians who are total vegetarians because religion brings about a silent revolution within you leading you to transformation. Political revolution is external. Spiritual

revolution is internal. Political revolution is transfer of power. Spiritual revolution is transformation of a person to a higher level, to a level of consciousness, to a level of awareness, to a level of

Elevation, to a level of realization of yourself and to a level of realizing wherever we live.

Therefore Sri Lanka take Bhagawan's discourses, spirit of discourses. Now we should learn how to share. We should learn how to serve others and act on the spur of the moment. We should stop all our spiritual activities such as meditation. Stop that right now. Serve the community right now. We should assist our brothers and sisters who are suffering now. This is the spiritual message that Bhagawan wants me to convey to everybody here.

I remember an incident that took place in 1977 in Andhra Pradesh. There was an unprecedented flood havoc. Thousands of lives were lost. Suddenly Bhagawan in his discourse said, "I want all of you to go and serve those people. I don't want you to have a spiritual holiday here. Spiritual pilgrim centers are not picnic spots." Spiritual centers are for service. That is what we need now. We need a kind of fellowship of faiths. We should never say that Sathya Sai Baba Organization is the only organization. No! Christianity has as many organizations as has Swamy. Islam has as many as Sathya Sai Baba. Buddhism has much as Baba. Brotherhood of man is after all Sathya Sai Baba's message.

I am speaking very much on the lines brought to my attention by the President this evening. Then he made a reference to education. Our education institutions are today centers of disturbances. Wherever there are education centers, wherever there are universities we need more policemen. We need an army to control them. How unfortunate it is. Education is not information. Education is not memory. Education is not scholarship. Education is not to make your head a data based computer. If education

Is to feed your head with information it is a burden. Such education may give you knowledge but that knowledge is allergy. Education is not to make you knowledgeable. Knowledgeability is not a the criterion of education. Education is to bring

out the latent values in you. The word 'education' is derived from the original Latin word 'Educare'. It means to bring out all that is in you. Am I doing it as a professor? I don't bring out. I push in from outside. I go on stuffing. If the result is good, well good. Education centers should be centers of learning to bring out the latent human values. A dog behaves like a dog. A monkey behaves like a monkey. A donkey behaves like a donkey. But man is not behaving like a man. Therefore human beings should be taught how to be human. A human being needs to be taught that today. That is the most unfortunate thing in this 21st century which we call space age, computer age and the age of science and technology. Man has to be reminded, "Oh! You are a man so behave like a man. You are a human, behave like a human being." Baba says, "Mankind is one with kindness. One with kindness belongs to mankind." So we should have this kind of education to bring out all the latent values within us. Or else education becomes encumbrances. Education will make you feel proud, but it should make you very humble and simple. Simplicity and humility are the hall marks of an educated man and not pride, not pomp and not show. The Sathya Sai Baba Education System, Sathya Sai's philosophy of education is based on human values. Mr. President you will be happy to know that the University Grants Commission, the highest body in India adjudged the Sathya Sai Baba system of education as the best form of education in India today. The UGC also said that all the universities should emulate, should copy the Sathya Sai University system. It has got a beautiful system, an integrated system of education where the curriculum,

Dissemination and the teaching are a happy blend of the content and value going hand in hand working together. That is the uniqueness of the Sathya Sai Education System. If a person out of a university is more loving, is more reverential, is more respectful, yes, the education system can be proud of him. If he turns into a gunda, if he turns into a revolutionist, if he turns into a rebellion, if he becomes a reactionary, if he turns out to become a hindrance to the peace of society it is not worth learning at all. It is better to close the universities. Swamy says, education in institutions should make everybody serve and make everybody aware of the needs of the community. This is what Bhagawan wants from the students of Sri Lanka. Let all the

students of Sri Lanka know the problems of Sri Lanka. Let all of them work together to solve the problems of Sri Lanka. Let them be patriotic citizens to this country. Education should be in this direction; to be more patriotic, to be more original and to be more creative rather than simply follow because imitation is human nature. Human creation is divine. Bhagawan wants you to be creative and initiative.

Then regarding the rest of the community. The President referred to resolving of problems. As Swamy says money comes and money goes but morality comes and grows. Morality comes and grows. Further Swamy says the more money you have the more worries you are going to have. Bhagawan in a discourse said that Alexander the Great told everybody, "Look here my countrymen! After I die when you take my coffin along the streets in procession to the grave yard, the cemetery my friends see that my hands are stretched. Let the whole community know that I came here empty handed and that I am returning empty handed. I have not brought anything and I am not taking even a fistful of sand. I am not taking anything." This should be the lesson from the

Life of Alexander the Great. So detach. Too much money speaks of fear of death. If somebody thinks that money will save his life, it is impossible. Money will never save life. Money will take away your life because people will be waiting for your death to take away your properties. Money will never save life. On the other hand we cannot buy everything with money. Bhagawan Baba says with money you can go to the super star hotels, but you cannot buy appetite. With money you can buy a comfortable bed, but you cannot buy sleep. With money you can have an extravagant luxurious life but with money you cannot buy life span. You cannot buy peace. You cannot buy friendship. You cannot buy love. You cannot buy beauty. After all money will help you to be more comfortable and live with more conveniences. Swamy tells us one more point. He tells us that money should be something like a foot wear, a shoe. That shoe should be exact to the measurement. If it is too big you will fall. If it is too tight you cannot walk. If it fits in exactly, yes, you can walk briskly. So money should be enough to lead a peaceful life, enough to share with others, enough to make you quite comfort-

able. That is what Swamy says. Further Bhagavan said that money and blood should circulate. If blood does not circulate then there is something wrong in your system. There is something wrong in your physiology. You need some therapy or treatment. So blood and money should be circulated. The more you give the more you get. I emphasize. The more you give the more you get.

Today we have faith in everybody but we do not have faith in God. That is the tragedy of life. Bhagavan said, I sit in a car comfortably having total faith in the driver. Whether he will take me head on collision, well I do not think of it, I think I am comfortable and safe in the hands of the driver. I have got total faith in the Doctor. I lie

Down on the operation table and submit my body, Oh! Doctor do whatever you want with my body. Well he may take me to the other planet. I have faith in him. I have faith in the washer-man. I give him my latest clothes and suits thinking that he will bring them safe. I never think that he will run away with my clothes. I have total faith in the washer-man. I have faith in the gold-smith even in these days when gold is very costly. I buy some gold and give it. I have faith in the gold-smith. He may run away with it. I have faith in the barber. I tell him to trim my hair. He can put it in my neck. So we place faith in the barber, faith in the doctor, faith in the teacher but faithless in respect of God. That is the tragedy of life. The One in whom we have to have repose and full faith we have become faithless. That is why we are hopeless. The present tragedy is because of this.

I can also tell you my friends how Swamy helps us to grow in faith. There was a professor who came from Japan to see Swamy. His name was Hiakowa. He had come to Prashanthi Nilayam for the first time. Professor Hiakowa was a Buddhist. When he came to Prashanthi Nilayam he had no idea of Bhagawan at all. Swamy will catch such fish first. Swamy asked, "Hiakowa how are you?" Hiakow replied, "I am fine." Swamy said "No, you are not fine." Hiakowa insisted, "I am fine Swamy. I am fine." Swamy repeated, "No, you are not fine. You have some heart trouble." Hiakowa shocked asked, "Heart trouble?" Swamy went on, Yes, you had this trouble right from your birth. You are having a congenital problem right

from your childhood. You have a hole in your heart. No one except two people know about it." Hiakowa questioned Swamy, "Who are they Swamy?" Swamy replied, "The Doctor at the time of your delivery and your mother and no one else." Hiakowa's expression was an, I see! Hiakowa came out of the interview room and living in the days of IDD, International Direct Dialing, made a call to his mother. He exclaimed to his mother, "Hi mum! Is it true that I have a hole

*People today are creating differences
among human beings by attributing
different names and forms to
nameless, formless and attributeless
God. This is a serious mistake.*

*Divinity is being divided by
devotees. Devotees who divide God
are evil-minded. God is one. Never
create divisions in the name of God.*

*When we do not realise the oneness
of God, we engage ourselves in futile
arguments and counter arguments.
Whether it is Rama, Krishna, Siva or
Vishnu, all these are only different
names ascribed by devotees to God.*

But God is one.

*Member of the Faculty of Brindavan,
Prashanthi Nilayam Campuses of
SSSSO Higher Learning*

*26th April 2005 Address at the
Sathya Sai School, Manipal, on
the occasion of awarding
certificates for EHV teachers.*

With Pranams at the Lotus feet,

The Chairman of the meeting, the members of the Governing body, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to draw certain important points which can be represented to the government and to the citizens of Sri Lanka for them to accept the Sathya Sai system of Education.

Being a teacher, I would like to sum up the following points to communicate the subject matter.

1. Sathya Sai system of Education is a secular system of Education. It is not religious. It is not spiritual. It is not dogmatic. It is not fanatical. It is secular, which means it appeals to everybody. It is a combination of all religions. It is not exclusive but it is inclusive.

2. Sathya Sai system of Education is not simply information oriented. It is not merely to inculcate the knowledge. It is not meant merely to pass all knowledge of technological matters. Sathya Sai system of Education is a combination of all these, which is beautiful, which is universal, which is synthesis of, which is a harmony of integrated value system. It is a value oriented system of Education.

3. Sathya Sai system of Education is not to make people knowledgeable. Knowledgeability is not the main concern. Our concern is wisdom. So, Sathya Sai system of Education means inculcation of wisdom and not merely knowledge. Knowledge gets into the head, while wisdom is born in our heart. Head is a computer, a tape recorder, while the heart is original, creative, respectful, reflective, divine and spiritual.

4. Other forms of education will help you to get your degrees, degrees of MSc., PhD, MBBS and soon. They are all job oriented but Sathya Sai system of Education is not just job oriented to carry on our living with our jobs. I earn some money to maintain my family. It is not merely for living; it is for life.

5. Sathya Sai system of Education is not meant for

money, recapitulation, to get things by heart. Children get things by heart and they are repeated. Sathya Sai system of Education is not an exercise of repetition. It is not merely for recapitulation; it is for transformation.

6. Sathya Sai system of Education is not to make you feel proud of your academic excellence. Other system of education is intended to express proud of their institutions. There is nothing wrong about it. They are boastful. They are exhibitionists. Sathya Sai system of Education is not for that. Not to feel proud, exhibit pomp and show. It is to be simple and humble. It is for humility, simplicity, infinity, ability and capability.

7. Sathya Sai system of Education is different from other forms of education. I teach Science in my class, where I teach about quantum, Darwin's theory etc. All that is about the world, the 5 elements, worldly, outside information. Sathya Sai education teaches not only worldly matters from outside but in brings out what is within you.

8. Bal Vikas gurus teach with the help of stories on Rama, Seetha, Lakshmana, Jesus, Guru Nanak, Mohammed and so on. What are stories in Bal Vikas are values in EHV. Rama is Truth in Education in Human Values, Lakshmana is surrender in Human Values; Seetha is wisdom in Human values. So, in EHV we speak of the stories by way of exposing these values. Stories first in BAL Vikas; Values first in EHV. But in Educare what we say is, that Truth is not outside. It is within you. So, from stories to the values and from values to the minds. We travel from Bal Vikas, go to EHV, the final destination is Educare. Start from Bangalore, land in Colombo and reach Jaffna. Therefore, Bangalore is Bal Vikas, Colombo is EHV and Jaffna is Educare. And, Bal Vikas is knowledge; EHV is wisdom and Educare is experiential knowledge. It is extensible and experimental. So, Jaffna is experience. That is

Educare. They represent 3 levels of knowledge.

9. Last one is this: I am a teacher for the last 4 decades and I belong to a family of teachers. My parents and grand-parents are all teachers. My mother wanted my brother at least to be different. But he ended up as a Professor of Pathology, and another in our family became the Principal of an Engineering College. So we cannot become anything other than teachers. Teaching blood flows in my body. I am proud of my profession. A teacher is the richest man in the world. People tell us rich man is a person who has a big Bank balance but we have the real richness in the safe deposit locker, which is the heart of our students and their parents. Krishna had to go to Sandeepani and Rama to Vasista. So who are great now? The teachers. Bhagavan Baba had to go to Bukkapatnam and Kamalapuram. Therefore, a school is not just walls and foundation. A school is an experience; it is a laboratory, machinery. It is like the heart in the body. Similarly, an educational institution is the heart of a society and community. If the heart is sound, the body will be healthy.

I will tell you of an incident that happened in UK, because Sri Lankan and Indian histories are closely associated with British history. There lived a King in UK, Charles the 4th, who happened to visit a school. During Royal visits, the British, they do not do Namaskar like us. They take off the hat. When the King was passing by, the teacher, William Wordsworth, did not take off his hat. Everybody said, "You are going to lose your job; you did not

pay respect to the King". The teacher said, "how can I do that to one king only, while there are 40 kings in my class"? A teacher is more than a King. A teacher is a kingmaker, and our dress and address should be perfect. A teacher is one who should dress well. Without castor oil face, he should dress and address with adequate precaution.

I am sure, you would have understood the difference between Bal Vikas, EHV and Educare and specially, the uniqueness of Sathya Sai system of Education.

Yesterday, the drama presented was fantastic. My congratulations to the children. The drama was not just an entertainment but it is historical in depicting the day to day situations in Jaffna. My special blessings to all the children who played yesterday, and also the little children who played the band. It was perfect to the rhythm. This school is already in on-line contact with Prasanthi Nilayam and it is already in line with the Sathya Sai system of Education. May Bahaman's blessings be with the administration, the benefactors - Mr. Vasanthasenan and his wife. May Bhagavan inspire all the members of the Committee, particularly, the Central coordinator. No Institute, to my knowledge ever trained teachers. I appreciate this small country which has this stupendous task.

RESPECT WOMEN

Consider women as embodiments of truth. Even if some minor faults are noticed in them, do not give importance to them. Respect and revere them. Do not use even a single word that would hurt them. If they really wish, they can achieve any great task. You should be prepared to lay down even your life for the sake of protecting and helping women. At least from today, all of you should come forward to protect the honour and dignity of women in the world.

Mrs. Mano Ramanathan JP
Attorney at Law,
Deputy Legal Draftsman

***“Mahila Vibhag is a Tremendous force to
Do good to the Community”***

At the very outset, my humble Pranams at the lotus feet of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, as he who has given me this opportunity to address you. As Instruments of Swami, Mrs. Parameswary Balasingham and Mrs. Neela Motilal Nehru invited me to the “Ladies Day” celebrations as the chief Guest. While thanking you, I consider it an honour and privilege to have been asked to address you this evening.

Your Organisation the “Mahila Vibhag” is a tremendous force to do good to the community. Your objectives are to be commended and should be fostered in every possible way. You are promoting Bhagavan’s teachings in a spirit of friendliness, co-operation and initiative. This will not only help the Organisation, but also will benefit your families, then from the home it will spread out into the Community and to the Society.

We also have the privilege of being in the midst, of four world’s greatest cultural traditions. Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity and Islam. These religions have immensely enriched and influenced us for the greater good. Bhagavan Baba is among us to feed the roots of all religions. He has not come to change any religion He wants us to follow the teachings of our own religion and respect other religions. As Mothers and Teachers you must teach children to respect other religions.

“The feminine is the foundation on which a peaceful and happy world could be raised. When women are true and brave, kind and compassionate, virtuous and pious the world can have an era of peace and joy.” (Vol IX Sathya Sai Speaks)

Every human being is born from the mother’s womb. So you see ladies what a great responsibility you have. The child is fostered by mother’s Love and enjoys many things because of the mother. Hence there is no higher Divinity than the mother. But this divinity relates to the body alone. Mother is the first

Guru who shapes and moulds the children and gives spiritual values. It is the noble thoughts of the mother which makes the children great. A mother may go wrong in other respects but she will always strive for the well being of the children.

Hence every child has to love the mother as the Primary duty. Every child has four debts to discharge

1. Reverence to the mother
2. Respect to the father
3. Obedience to the teacher
4. Adoration to God

Besides these, every child must learn to live in peace and love with other children and other families. Respect elders, respect view of others, respect other children, respect members of their families. The idea that one can live for oneself and that one need not worry about the wants, needs and weaknesses of others have to be removed quite early in life, by the Bal Vika’s Gurus and the mothers. Encourage the child to cultivate the pleasure of “togetherness”. They will enjoy it; and you will be sowing the seeds of social peace. The seeds will grow into universal peace and universal bliss.

Life is like a train journey, you, young children have a long way to go. But the elders have to alight from the train pretty soon. You must learn to make your journey comfortable and happy. Do not carry heavy unwanted luggage with you. That will make the journey miserable. Do not indulge in fault finding and in picking quarrels with others. Don’t desire to have the best things for yourselves only. Share with others around you the good things you are given. Anger, hatred, envy and jealousy are the heavy luggage, Swami wants you to avoid taking with you in the journey. Now I quote Swami from Volume IX Sathya Sai Speaks. Swamy says “I must give the elders, the parents some advice. Do not set bad examples for the children to follow. If you are truthful, just be calm under provocation and full of love

in all your dealings with others, then the children too will grow up in Sathya, Dharma, Shanthi & Prema. If you tell your son, when you are actually at home, to speak through the telephone, when someone is calling, to reply that the father is not at home, you are sowing a poisonous seed, which will become a huge tree”.

Swami continues to say in Vol.IX Sathya Sai Speaks: “Let me tell you a story to illustrate the danger of such small beginnings. A mother carried her son on her shoulder, when she went to the market. A woman with a basket of fruits passed by her. The child lifted a banana from that basket and started eating it. The mother noticed it, and when she was told that he had cleverly lifted it from the basket of a passing fruit seller, she complimented the son on his smartness. That made the child indulge in petty thieving and picking pockets. As he grew up into a boy he was house breaking and indulging in high-way robbery. Once during dacoity he committed even murder. And when he was caught and jailed, he expressed a wish to see his mother before being hanged. The wailing, weeping, desperate mother was brought before him. She was sobbing at her son’s fate.

The son asked her to come closer to him, suddenly he tried to strangle her and the guards separated them. The son said “She deserves the punishment, for it was she who brought me to this doom. Had she reprimanded me, when I stole a banana, when I was a child of two years, instead of complimenting me, I would not have fallen into this evil way.”

Mothers and elders you must instill in your children and the youth, the virtues of truth, respect which I have dealt with, and also hard work and gratitude.

Sometime back a daughter who is now a successful woman in the world wrote these lines to her Mother who did so much for her. The daughter wrote “Mother, you gave me the feathers; then showed me the way. You gave me the heart; to brave the unknown. You freed my mind so I could freely fly” This shows the deep gratitude of a child to the mother. Gratitude is shown not necessarily by great gifts, but even by a smile and a few words of appreciation. Dear brothers and sisters, the last thing I like to impress upon you is to succeed in life. There is no short cut to hard work. There is a proverb

current in China “The most delicious food is that which is got by hard labour.” What is got by arduous effort is relished with joy. What ever you do, have the name of the Lord on your lips and faith in Swamy in your heart. Thereby you will find your work easy and your work will be transformed into worship.

Now I have come to the end of my talk, let me quote Swamy again “Yesterday is gone, Today is a fresh chance. The new opportunity is now. Tomorrow you cannot be sure of. Every minute is to be welcomed as unique and as valuable and precious infact. Do not pine over the chunks of time you have wasted. Seize the moment that has come within you and grasp it”.

I repeat let by gones be by gones. Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery, but today is the moment of reality. So begin today to live these values. So that you will make your history a happy one for you to look back on. Dear Sai devotees remember in life it is not what you gather and what you keep, but what you scatter and you give. This is what tells what kind of life you have lived.

So dear Brothers and Sisters, your life is in your hands- Plan purposefully, prepare prayerfully, proceed positively and pursue persistently.

Om Jai Sai Ram

News From Our Region

Western and Southern Zone

The Sathya Sai Organisation swung into action immediately after the tsunami struck the island. Between the 26th December 2004 and the 4th January 2005 Volunteers from the Colombo Samithi and from other centers in the Western, Eastern, Northern and Central Zones worked round the clock very tirelessly engaged in a range of activities that included the following : (i) procurement of rice, vegetables, dry rations, (ii) cooking meals for the refugees, (iii) collection of clothes and medicines, (iv) packaging transporting and distributing food medicines and clothing to the refugees.

In the Western Zone, nearly 300 Sai Volunteers served approximately 10,000 people in the worst affected areas in Modera, Galle, Moratuwa and Hikkaduwa towns.

North Central Zone

Immediately after the tsunami, Dr Upadhyaya, Member of the Prashanthi Medical Council visited Trincomalee district between the 28th December and the 3rd January on a fact finding mission to assess the medical needs of the affected population. He met a number of Government officials and travelled to some of the tsunami affected areas in the district.

A team of voluntary relief workers from the UK and the USA conducted medical camps in a number of towns and villages in the Trincomalee district between the 14th March & 23rd March. They provided eye and dental care for children and adults, general medicine, and grief counseling. They disbursed eye glasses to those in need, visited a number of schools in the area and carried out health checks on the children, and generally attended to the medical needs of the affected people.

Two eye surgeons in the team also performed cataract operations in the Trincomalee General Hospital and Vavuniya General Hospital and distributed spectacles to the needy. In total, in

Vavuniya and Trincomalee the team had performed about 180 surgical procedures and distributed nearly 1000 spectacles.

A public awareness meeting was organized by the Sathya Sai Center Trincomalee and conducted in the Shanmuga Hindu Ladies College Hall in Trincomalee town on the 26th March. This meeting was attended by about 300 devotees and non-devotees. The chief guest was Swami Athma Gananandaji Head of the Ramkrishna Mission in Sri Lanka. Swami Athma Gananandaji spoke of the importance of service in our lives. Bro M. Wanniyasekeram, Central Coordinator for Sri Lanka in his address described the various service activities being carried out by the Sai Organisation both at the national level and also at the zonal level.

With a view to rehabilitating the lives of the tsunami affected persons in the district, selected persons in the community were given tools of trade so that they could get back to their jobs. 34 fishing nets and ancillaries were distributed to those fishermen most in need. Other sub-projects designed to promote income generation activities in the community included repair of 8 outboard motors, provision of water pumps to schools, and farmers groups and also the distribution of uniforms to children in 5 schools in the area. These items were distributed to the beneficiaries at the end of the evenings programme. The days programme came to an end with a concert presented by the Bal Vikas children.

Northern Zone

On the 18th March 2005 the SSEHV School in Manipay conducted its annual Sports Meet. Special guests included, Dr N. Bremadasan, President of the Coordinating Committee of the Eastern Zone, and the Principal, College of Education Kopay. All 85 children in the three primary classes participated in the Meet.

On the 25th March 2005, 150 refugees from the village of Katkovalam in the Point Pedro Town council area were invited to the Sai Mandir in Point Pedro and were gifted with thermos flasks, feeding bottles, milk powder, school uniforms, school bags, mats and kitchen utensils.

Following this, and on the same day 200 fishing families living in temporary shelters, in the village of Manalkadu about 5 Km from Point Pedro along the eastern coastline were gifted with kitchen utensils, brooms, buckets, pots and pans, sarees, jackets, sarongs and milk powder.

Commencing at 4.00pm the same day a public awareness Meeting was held at the Sai Mandir in Point Pedro. Brother Sivathasan, advisor to the President of Sri Lanka, Sister Mala Sabaratnam, Chief Legal Officer and Deputy Chairperson of the Ceylinco Group of companies, and Bro Puvanendran Project Director of the NECORD Project addressed the gathering of about 100 devotees and non-devotees.

On the 26th March an EHV seminar was held for about 50 educationists in the Jaffna University campus. This was attended by the principal of the College of Education, the Principal of the Kopay Training College and teachers. The same three speakers who had spoken in the morning programme spoke in this seminar.

Following this in the evening of the same day a public awareness meeting was held in the main Jaffna Sai Center. Several devotees and non-devotees attended this function which was addressed by the same three speakers who had spoken in the morning. The subjects of the talks were spirituality, Sai teachings and Sai Life and His message and teachings.

Eastern Zone

Towns and villages on the eastern seaboard were amongst the worst affected places as a result of the tsunami.

An eighteen-member team of doctors, nurses and volunteers from the USA and Canada under the leadership of Dr Mahesh Ghayal visited villages in the Eastern Zone and provided comprehensive aid in the form of medical treatment, psychological counselling and socio economic assistance to the survivors of the catastrophe. Medical clinics were conducted in tents and the team treated 108 patients.

A team of voluntary relief workers from the UK and the USA conducted medical camps in a number of towns and villages in the Kalmunai district between the 14th March & 23rd March. They provided eye and dental care for children and adults, general medicine, and grief counselling. They disbursed spectacles to those in need, visited a number of schools in the area and carried out health checks on the children, and generally attended to the medical needs of the affected people. A Team of eye surgeons performed cataract surgery in the Kalmunai General Hospital and distributed eye glasses to those in need. They performed 50 procedures and distributed about 500 pairs of spectacles.

National Education Committee

Seminar for office bearers on SSEHV. Report appears elsewhere in this issue.

Cancer Hospice

The Sinhala and Hindu New year was celebrated with the inmates of the Cancer Hospice in Hanwella on Sunday 10th April 2005.

Visit of Prof. Anil Kumar

Prof. Anil Kumar visited Sri Lanka between the 23rd and 27th April 2005. He addressed public meetings in Colombo, Kandy and Jaffna and visited Sai centers in these cities. Over 1000 devotees and non devotees attended each of these meetings. Prof Anil Kumar kept the audience Spellbound. Judging by the number of questions, that were put to Prof Anil Kumar, it was evident that a great desire in the minds of every one who attended these lectures to know more about Bhagavan and His teachings.

FESTIVALS / EVENTS IN THE YEAR 2005

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

We welcome articles from devotees on their personal experiences and the various aspects of Swami's teachings. Articles should not exceed 2 1/2 A-4 Size typed paper. Hand written manuscripts will not be considered for publication. We reserve the right to reject and edit articles sent for publication.

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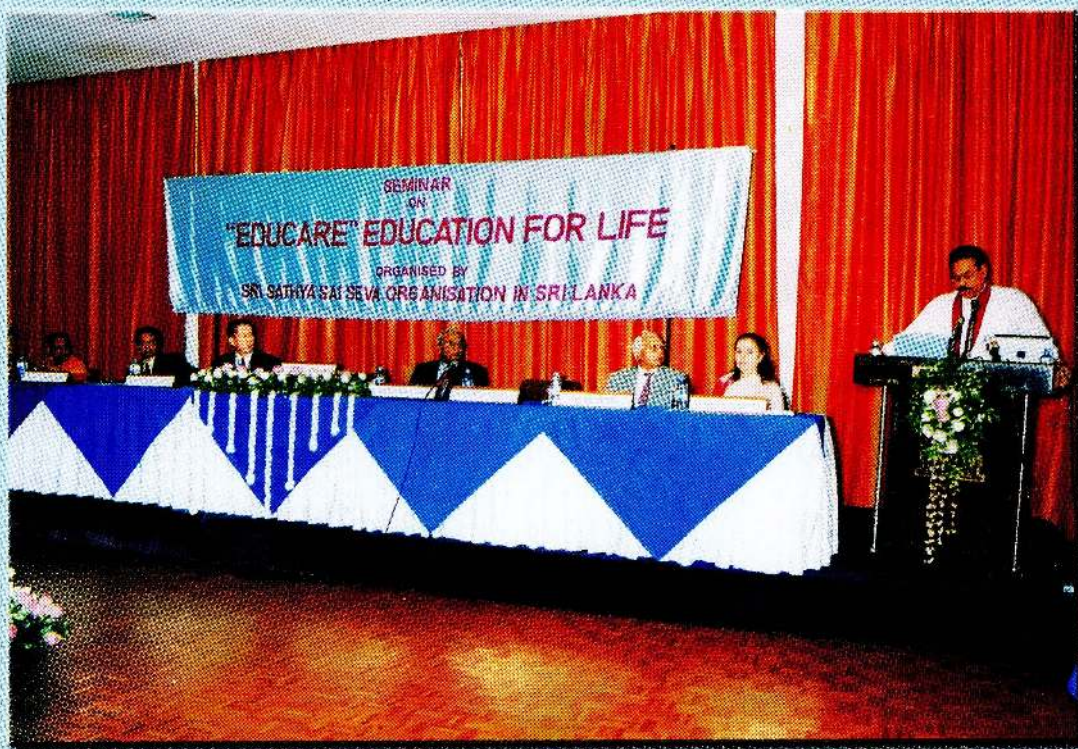


INTER RELIGIOUS SYMPOSIUM ON THE ROLE OF RELIGIONS IN BUILDING A NATION & A CARING SOCIETY
 ORGANISED BY SRI SATHYA SAI SEVA ORGANISATION IN SRI LANKA,
 AT BMICH ON 7TH JULY 2003
 CHIEF GUEST HON. RANIL WICKRAMASINGHE - PRIME MINISTER SRI LANKA



L to R :- Hon. Justice C. V. Vigneswaran - Dato (Sri) Jega Jagatheesan (*Malaysia*),
 Hon. Karu Jayasuriya Deputy Leader, M. Wanniyasekaram,
 Hon. Ranil Wickramasinghe Prime Minister, Dr. Art Ong Jumsai (*Thailand*),
 Hon. Loku Bandara Speaker Parliament, His Excellency Jitendra Kumar Indian High
 Commission in Sri Lanka, Ven. Dr. Muwagama, Gnanaseeha Nayaka Thero,
 Hon. Tissa Attanayake, Dr. Uvais Ahamed, His Excellency Eassuwaran Hony,
 Consul Mauritius, S. Sivagananam. Also Present - Rt. Rev Duleep de Chickera Bishop
 of Colombo, Hon. T. Maheswaran

**SEMINAR ON "EDUCARE" - EDUCATION FOR LIFE
FOR VICE CHANCELLORS, EDUCATIONISTS, POLICY MAKERS, PLANNERS
ORGANISED BY- SRI SATHYA SAI SEVA ORGANISATION - SRI LANKA
UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE OF
HON. MAHINDA RAJAPAKSE M.P. (PRIME MINISTER)**



L-R :- Prof. Sunanda Degamboda, Dr. Art - ong Jumsai Na Ayudhya (Bangkok)
M. Wanniyasekaram, Dr. Pal Dhall (Australiya) Loraine Borrowes (Bangkok)
Hon. Mahinda Rajapakse (Prime Minister) Delivering the welcome address

**INAUGURATION OF THE INSTITUTE OF SATHYA SAI
EDUCATION IN HUMAN VALUES - COLOMBO**



L to R :- R.Surendran (P.C), Chandima de Silva, Dr (Mrs) Tara de Mel Sec. Ministry of Education (Chief Guest) Madam Shiranthi Rajapakse (Hon. Prime Minister Wife)
M. Wanni Wanniyasekaram, His. Excelency D.Eassuwaran, His Excelency P. Rao,
D.M. Swaminathan

**EXHIBITION
PROPOGATING VEGETARIANISM**



L to R :- J.Jayasinghe, Karu Jayasuriya, Venerable Buddhaist Prrest, Ms. Mala Sabaratnam,
Dr. Mrs Jayasuriya, Mrs. Penny Jyewardene (Organiser of the Exhibition)

Dr. Godlestein International Chairman & Dr. Reddy Chairman International, Prasanthi Medical Council on a special visit to Sri Lanka after Tsunami Disaster



Courtesy call on
Hon. Mahinda Rajapase
Prime Minister

L to R:
Dr. Michael Goldstein
International Chairman
Hon. Mahinda Rajapakse
Prime Mister
Dr. Nareindra Reddy
Chairman International
Prashanthi Medical Council.
M.Wanniyasekaram
Regional Central Coordinator

Dr. Michael Goldstein
addressing the members of the
central trust and senior office
bearers at sai mandir colombo,
where Dr. Goldstein &
Dr. Reddy Guided & Encour-
aged the members in
performing Relief Seva



Vist to one of the Refugee
Camps at Mutwal Church by
Dr. Michael Goldstein and
Dr. Nareindra Reddy
Members of the Colombo
Samithi were the first to arrive
at the church & extend their
services

**SATHYA SAI SEVA ORGANIZATION MEDICAL TEAM FROM U.S. A & CANADA IN THE
EASTERN ZONE WITH THE TSUNAMI VICTIMS**





**NATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE CONDUCTED A NATIONAL SEMINAR
FOR OFFICE BEARERS ON HUMAN VALUES**



Speakers L to R : C.Welikala, S.R. Narayanaswamy, Swami Athmagananda Maharaj-Head of the R.K.M in Sri Lanka, Prof. Sunanda Degamboda Chairman - N.E.C. S. Sivathasan advisor to her Excellency the President of Sri Lanka M.Wanniyasekaram- R.C.C. Penny Jayewardene - Director Institute of Sathya Sai Education in Human Values

PROF. ANIL KUMAR'S VISIT TO SRI LANKA



L to R: S.R.Narayanaswamy, Nari Khudchandan, H E. D.Eassuwaran, Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, M. Wanniyasekaram, His Excellency P. Rao, Ram Balasubramaniam, Prof. Anilkumar (Delivering His Address)



STATUE OF GAUTHAMA
BUDDHA GIFTED BY THE
DEVOTEES OF SRI LANKA



20TH CENTURY MONUMENT AT
HILL VIEW STADIUM PRASHANTHI NILAYAM

CHAITANYA JYOTHI (MUSEUM)



Cancer Hospice with the "Sarwadharma" Shrine - Hanwella



Sai Children's Home - Vavuniya



Premier Samithi in Colombo

