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"Society has endowed you with all types of power. You are born and brought up in society and you lead your life in society. Should you not have gratitude for society which has done so much for you? But, unfortunately, students today lack such broad feelings. They lead a self-centred life and are concerned only about themselves and their family. If you lead such a selfish life, then who will take care of the masses?"

CONTENTS

- 2 **Dharma is our Real and Permanent Property**
Bhagavan's Discourse: 15th July 1996
- 11 **Celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam**
A Report
- 16 **Sankranti Signifies Man's Journey towards Liberation**
From our Archives
- 19 **I am Always with you**
Effulgence of Divine Glory
- 20 **News from Sai Centres**
- 28 **Purification of Heart**
Chinna Katha

*"Sanathana Sarathi" wishes
devotees a holy and prosperous New Year*

Cover Page Photograph: Trayee Brindavan

Trayee Brindavan, the lotus-shaped abode of Bhagavan at Brindavan, Bengaluru, was inaugurated by Him on 26th April 1984. Trayee is the composite term for the three Vedas – the Rig, Yajur and Sama. Lotus, the favourite flower of Bhagavan, is symbolic of spiritual blooming of the human heart.



AMRITA DHARA

BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:
15TH JULY 1996

DHARMA IS OUR REAL AND PERMANENT PROPERTY

All names and forms are the manifestations of the Supreme Being who is the embodiment of peace and auspiciousness. He is Existence, Knowledge, Bliss Absolute and non-dual. He is Sathyam, Sivam, Sundaram (Truth, Goodness, Beauty).

(Sanskrit Verse)

NEVER LEAVE TRUTH UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES



ALL THE ANIMATE AND inanimate forms that we see in this world are embodiments of peace. The physical forms of all living beings are the embodiments of beauty. Divinity which is the embodiment of Sathyam, Sivam and Sundaram (Truth, Goodness and Beauty) is present in all elements and all living beings as the principle of oneness. The same was stated by Plato, the mentor of Aristotle, hundreds of years before Christ. He said that truth, goodness and beauty formed the basis of the world.

Man's Greed Ruins his Life

Truth is the basis of everything. *Trikalabadhyam Sathyam* (truth remains unchanged in the three periods of time – past, present and future). Goodness is the real divinity. In fact, goodness is godliness. Though man is endowed with the principle of Sathyam, Sivam and Sundaram, he is unable to realise his own truth, beauty and

goodness. It is only when man realises the principles of truth, goodness and beauty can he understand the true meaning of humanness. Man today studies sacred texts like the Vedas, the Puranas (mythological texts), the Brahma Sutras (principles of

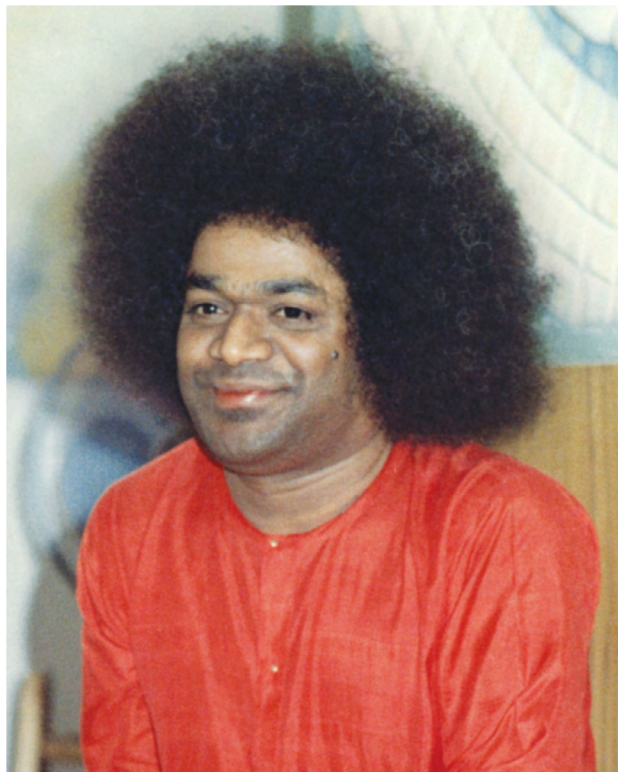
If a new student joins an outside institute, he has to undergo a virtual hell in the name of ragging. Unable to bear the torture of ragging, some students even leave the institute within a week. They call it ragging; I don't understand what is its purpose. In the name of ragging, they harass and torture the students to no end. Is this what the senior students are supposed to do? They should treat the juniors like their own brothers and sisters and give them all their love and affection.



Brahman), the Ramayana, the Bhagavadgita, the Bible and the Quran. In spite of reading all this, he lacks peace because he does not put their teachings into practice. Mere reading of sacred texts can be compared to consuming thin buttermilk. But putting them into practice with devotion is like partaking of thick milk. Is there any meaning in preferring thin buttermilk to thick milk? Practice is the real strength. Preaching, propagation and scholarship without practice amounts to mere ostentation. Practice is important, not mere preaching.

What is the use of man having enormous wealth if he cannot derive any comforts and conveniences from it? Even if there is plenty of water in a lake, a dog can only lick the water and not drink from it. Similar is the fate of a miser. (Telugu Poem)

Man today is endowed with all types of knowledge, wealth and power, but what is the use? His wicked quality of greed makes all these things useless for him. Man's greed is limitless today due to the influence of Kali Yuga. Neither does he utilise his wealth for himself nor he shares it with others. It does not matter if he does not share his wealth with others, but he cannot also see others being happy. Even animals do not



Wherever you see, people are craving for money. Why do you want so much money? What will you do with it? Do you utilise it for the welfare of the country or help the needy people? Do you utilise it for the spread of education? Do you at least feed the beggars? If money is not put to any good use, it is as good as dust.

You should not waste your life for the accumulation of money. Dedicate your life to foster compassion and love in society. Utilise the money to keep the body fit so that you can perform righteous actions and uphold your honour.



have the foolishness of concealing and the wicked quality of plundering. But these defects have become rampant in man today. Without getting rid of these defects, spiritual practices like Japa, Dhyana and Puja (chanting, meditation and worship) become useless. Worship without love, devotion without faith is useless. One may not have any type of knowledge, one may not listen to the teachings of the sacred texts or one may not understand their inner meaning, it is enough if one has love and faith. What do we carry with us when we leave our body? You use your body to perform various tasks and resort to unfair practices to maintain the body and to look after your family.

One with greed will not be successful in any of his endeavours.

He will commit sins and will be ridiculed by one and all.

His own people will abandon him.

He will lose all wealth and respect.

His greed will ruin him completely.

(Telugu Poem)

Make Proper Use of Wealth

This is the evil influence of Kali Yuga. Greed has become a fashion in this age. There is no trace of sacrifice in man today. The ancient culture of Bharat declared, *Na Karmana Na Prajaya Dhanena Thyagenaikē Amrutatthwamanasu* (immortality is not attained through action, progeny or wealth; it is attained only by sacrifice).

When a sinner is rolling in wealth, he does not show any regard or reverence

even for God. He realises the truth when he loses everything.

(Telugu Poem)

So long as man is enamoured of his wealth, he does not see the reality of the world. He sees it only when he loses everything. What is this world? What is this life? How long will it last? What is it that you have achieved in this life? Everything is like passing clouds. When you are young, you work hard and acquire various types of knowledge and face many challenges in life. The pleasures of youth are ephemeral. All the worldly relationships are temporary. There is only one thing that is eternal, that is love for God. If you do not acquire love of God, what is the use of acquiring anything else? Howsoever long you may live, ultimately you have to leave the world empty-handed.

The body which is made up of five elements is weak and is bound to disintegrate. Though hundred years of life-span is prescribed, one cannot take it for granted. One may leave one's mortal coil at any time, be it in childhood, youth or old age. Death is certain. Hence, before the body perishes, man should make efforts to know his true nature.

(Telugu Poem)

Were there not kings who had vast kingdoms and were full of pride and arrogance? But, where are they now? However, you have to work hard and earn as much as sustains your life without any shortcoming. We breathe in and breathe out air. We eat food, digest it and excrete



the waste. Similarly, man should not only acquire wealth but should also spend it for the right cause. You should not accumulate and conceal it. What you have to preserve is not wealth but Dharma (righteousness). Dharma is our real and permanent property. This is the truth that you have to realise today.

There lived in a village two brothers who were great misers. Though they had amassed plenty of wealth, they did not spend even a penny. They did not even eat food to their fill. They did not keep the lamp lighted for more than five minutes lest it should consume more oil. It so happened that one day a person living in a neighbouring village which was ten kilometres away passed away. As was the custom in those days, one of the brothers had to go to that village to console the bereaved family. The elder brother got up early in the morning to start his journey on foot because if he went by bus he would have to spend some money. He told his younger brother to light the lamp so that he could keep some clothes in his bag. As soon as he left the house, the younger brother put off the lamp to save oil.

After covering a distance of about three kilometres, the elder brother returned home and knocked at the door. The younger brother asked, "Who is knocking at the door?" The elder brother replied, "I am your elder brother." The younger brother asked him why he had come back. The elder brother said, "While leaving the house, I did not tell you to put off the lamp. So, I have come to see if the lamp is still

burning." Then the younger brother replied, "Brother, do you think that I don't have this much common sense? I put off the lamp as soon as you left the house. But you have walked such a long distance up and down to remind me about this. You did not think how much your sandals would have got worn out because of this unnecessary walking." Then the elder brother said, "Brother, I am not as foolish as you think. I removed my sandals, made them into a bundle and put them under my armpit and walked the distance."

What is the use of having sandals if one does not use them out of one's miserliness? What is the use of all the wealth and property if one is not able to draw any comfort and convenience out of it? You should lead a comfortable life and make others' life also comfortable. Otherwise, what is the use of all your wealth?

Use your Education to Help others

You acquire many types of education, but education is not meant for merely securing a job. You should utilise your education for the welfare of society and for the betterment of your village. There is no use acquiring degrees. Today students use their degrees like begging bowls. They go to each and every office begging for a job. Acquire the education which makes you self-reliant. Undertake the activities which are beneficial for the progress of your village. Educate the villagers about health and hygiene so that they are not afflicted by diseases. Teach them the importance of cleanliness and help them to improve the drainage system of the village. Teach them to undertake useful practices like growing



vegetables for their self-sustenance. Share your knowledge with the children of the village. Therein lies the real merit of your education. *Paropakara Punyaya, Papaya Parapeedanam* (one attains merit by serving others and commits sin by hurting them). You should utilise your education to help others.

As soon as students today get their degree, they go to the employment office to get their name registered for employment. Those who are highly educated apply for jobs in overseas countries. This is not the real purpose of your education. The real purpose of education is to develop villages. You are born, brought up and educated in your village. All that you have attained in life is acquired by you only from your village. Society has endowed you with all types of power. You are born and brought up in society and you lead your life in society. Should you not have gratitude for society which has done so much for you? But, unfortunately, students today lack such broad feelings. They lead a self-centred life and are concerned only about themselves and their family. If you lead such a selfish life, then who will take care of the masses? All are the children of God. All are brothers and sisters. Therefore, you should strive for the progress of all. Work for the development of society with mutual cooperation and tolerance without giving room to any conflicts. Develop the qualities of forbearance and empathy.

Unity is very essential. You should put the principle of unity into practice. Only then can it grow. Unity does not mean

merely greeting each other, “hello, hello;” it should be reflected in practice. You should work unitedly. There is great merit in unity. Therefore, students should develop broad feelings and broad-mindedness. Develop expansion of Hridaya. Where does Hridaya lie in your body? It is not the physical heart that is on the left side of the chest. This is not what is meant by Hridaya. Hridaya, in fact, is present in the entire body. It has no limit, it is all-pervasive. *Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Srutimalloke Sarvamavruthya Tishthati* (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, the Divine Principle permeates the entire universe). So, everybody who comes within the expanse of your Hridaya is your kith and kin. You should lead your life with such feelings of fraternity and unity. Education is not meant for merely earning your livelihood; it is meant to make you a cultured individual. Education is a process of refinement. When you develop culture, there will not be any dearth even for your livelihood. You chant the prayer, *Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah* (If you protect Dharma, you will be protected by Dharma) everyday. When you protect Dharma, Dharma itself will protect you. Therefore, you should foster Dharma in society. When you foster Dharma in villages, it will develop in towns and cities also.

Human Beings should Develop Humanness

Students

Today we find Indian cultural traditions being practised at least to some extent



only in villages. They are nowhere to be seen in towns and cities. Only in villages you find virtues like adherence to Dharma, justice, forbearance and love, which have become extinct in towns and cities. Though there are courts, banks, universities and many other institutions in towns and cities, there is prevalence of injustice, unrighteousness and vices in them. On the other hand, there are no such institutions in villages, yet people in villages practise morality and ethics. Even the tribals who live away from society in forests are endowed with truth and righteousness. In fact, it is they who uphold our culture. Having acquired education, what are the people doing today? They are destroying culture, morality and ethics in society. In fact, they are ruining humanness itself. Where is humanness today? Lakhs of years have passed since man took birth on this earth. But humanness is yet to be born in him. You find only humans in form, but not in practice. Then, when will humanness blossom in man? How many births has man taken and how many more he has to take? In fact, humanness should be born in man with his very birth. We say, we should speak truth. But, is there any person who speaks truth? All that man utters today is untruth. All that he does is unrighteous. Then, how can humanness be born in him? Even birds and animals follow certain rules and regulations. They have a reason and



Lakhs of years have passed since man took birth on this earth. But humanness is yet to be born in him. You find only humans in form, but not in practice. Then, when will humanness blossom in man? How many births has man taken and how many more he has to take? In fact, humanness should be born in man with his very birth. We say, we should speak truth. But, is there any person who speaks truth? All that man utters today is untruth. All that he does is unrighteous. Then, how can humanness be born in him?



season for what they do. But man has no reason and no season. Then, what is the use of all your education? Why should one acquire this useless education? Acquire



the education which is beneficial to society, develops brotherly relationship between man and man and makes humanness blossom in you.

Today hatred is prevalent between man and man, village and village, State and State. Then, how can there not be hatred between one country and the other? You are developing hatred in your own State and in your own country. Then are you not ashamed to say that some other country is attacking us out of hatred? First of all, set your own house, village, town and State in order. If you are not able to remove conflicts from your own house, then how can you bring about harmony between one country and the other? Who are you to correct others? What right do you have? First of all, bring harmony in your own house and develop humanness. Consider all as the children of God. This is the education that students should acquire today.

Never Leave Truth under any Circumstances

Today wherever you see, people are craving for money. Why do you want so much money? What will you do with it? Do you utilise it for the welfare of the country or help the needy people? Do you utilise it for the spread of education? Do you at least feed the beggars? If money is not put to any good use, it is as good as dust. You should not waste your life for the accumulation of money. Dedicate your life to foster compassion and love in society. Utilise the money to keep the body fit so that you can perform righteous actions and uphold your honour.

You should be prepared to sacrifice even your life for the sake of God. Hold on to truth and follow Dharma. These are the two virtues that man should cultivate. The Vedas also teach, *Sathyam Vada, Dharmam Chara* (speak truth, practise righteousness). Never leave truth under any circumstances, even at the cost of your life. Take Harishchandra as your ideal. In the face of all difficulties, his faith in God and truth never faltered. Ultimately, truth only saved him and he was able to get back his kingdom and wealth. What is that which sustains truth? It is love. Therefore, develop love. But do not limit your love to yourself and your family. If you think of only yourself and your family, better you live in a forest. What right do you have to live in your village or in society? When you live in society, you should see to its welfare. Being a member of society if you always think of yourself and your family, you are no better than a person who is afflicted with an incurable malady. Develop unity and live in harmony with everyone. Do not become a victim of the disease of selfishness and self-centredness. Aspire for the welfare of all and consider the sufferings of others as your own. When students develop such broad feelings, they will become the future redeemers of the nation. You should become an ideal person and uphold Sathya and Dharma which Bharat has been propagating since ancient times.

Students!

You are the future emancipators of the nation. You are the future leaders and pleaders. Therefore, follow the path of truth.



Even pleaders today have taken to wrong path. Do you know what type of pleaders we have today? Even if Harishchandra were to be born today, they would make him utter a hundred lies. This is the influence of Kali Yuga. That is why you do not find any person like Harishchandra today. Out of fear for these pleaders, Harishchandras have run away to forests and hills! Sathya and Dharma have run away and Asathya (untruth) and Adharma (unrighteousness) have established their hold. What you have to do today is to purify this prevalent environment. How can it be done? This can be done only by practising truth and righteousness. Merely speaking about truth is not enough. You have to put it into practice. What is there in your heart should be expressed in speech and what is spoken should be put into action. A student will remain a true student so long as he follows the path of Sathya and Dharma. In the absence of Sathya and Dharma, a Vidyarthi (student) will become Vishayarthi (seeker of pleasures).

(Bhagavan sang the Bhajan *Sathyam Jnanam Anantam Brahma* and continued His Discourse.)

Treat the New Students like your Brothers and Sisters

Here is an important point for your attention. When a new student joins our Institute, you should treat him with all love and affection more than your own brother and make him forget his worries and anxieties. It is not a tall talk that our Institute is an ideal in this regard where new students are treated like brothers

and sisters by senior students. Many of the outside institutes give importance to wealthy people who give big donations. But in our Institute, love is the only donation. I give importance to people who are full of love. You have heard the boy who spoke in Sanskrit some time ago. He does not have the support of his parents. He is being looked after by his grandparents. We give admission to such students and help them to come up in life. You can see for yourself how the boy is totally free from all his past worries so much so that he even learnt Sanskrit and gave a talk. My Sankalpa (Will) is to give happiness to students who lack the love of their parents and make them forget their worries (*loud applause*). I am doing this and asking you to do the same. If you come across such students, help them to the extent possible to enable them to make progress in life.

You may be aware, how the outside institutions function. If a new student joins an outside institute, he has to undergo a virtual hell in the name of ragging. Unable to bear the torture of ragging, some students even leave the institute within a week. They call it ragging; I don't understand what is its purpose. In the name of ragging, they harass and torture the students to no end. Is this what the senior students are supposed to do? They should treat the juniors like their own brothers and sisters and give them all their love and affection. They should make them comfortable and help them get rid of their worries so that they live in a cordial and peaceful atmosphere. This is what I am doing and I am asking you to do the same (*loud applause*).



In this Institute, not only we provide free education, we also give scholarship to deserving students. We don't charge even a naya paisa in the name of games fee, examination fee, library fee, laboratory fee, tuition fee; etc. When we are providing such ideal and free education to students, how noble and ideal students should become! They should become ideal boys. If a beggar comes to you to beg, you should tell him, "My dear, it is not proper to resort to begging. Why do you stoop down to such a level? Come, I will show you a way to earn your livelihood." You should help such people to become self-reliant. Once when a hungry man approached Jesus, he gave him two fish. But, how is it possible to provide food in this manner everyday? Therefore, he bought a net and gave him, saying, "Eke out your livelihood with the use of this net." Our students should also follow this example. They should help the needy to earn their livelihood with respect.

Humility is the Hallmark of a Student

All students of our Institute should live like brothers and sisters and treat everybody with love. You should develop such broad-mindedness. This is what our students should learn today. They should not give room to ego and ostentation. You should develop love and idealism. This is how students can come up in life.

There are many examples in history where ordinary people rose to exalted positions by dint of their virtues and hard work. There was a person who used to sell newspapers and there was another person who used to polish shoes. After polishing the shoes of his customers, he used to say to them, "God

bless you." There was yet another person who used to write addresses on envelopes and earn his livelihood. Even such a person could rise to an exalted position of Prime Minister of England because he was endowed with humility and sacred feelings. See, how much man can rise in life if he has humility and love! Education is not that important. After all, what is there in modern education?

Education confers humility, humility confers deservedness which in turn gives you wealth. Wealth will bring you material and spiritual satisfaction when you utilise it to perform charity and righteous deeds. (Telugu Poem)

Humility is the hallmark of a student. In fact, it is the crest jewel of education. If you come across such humble students, help them in every possible way so that they forget all their worries and experience happiness. How happy was this boy when I materialised a chain for him and put it around his neck! He does not even feel the loss of his parents. You should also help others like this. Whatever I do is only to demonstrate an ideal to you. There is always perfect harmony between My thoughts, words and deeds. That is why I have got the right to tell you all this. *The proper study of mankind is man.* All of you should live like human beings and not like animals and demons. Don't become stone-hearted. Develop a soft heart that melts with compassion at the suffering of others. Thanks.

– From Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 15th July 1996.



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

MOBILE MEDICAL VANS LAUNCHED



IN A SIMPLE FUNCTION organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Andhra Pradesh in Sai Kulwant Hall on 24th November 2011, seven mobile medical vans with modern diagnostic equipment were launched as part of Bhagavan's 86th Birthday celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam. Later, at a formal function organised in Sivam, Hyderabad, Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan, Governor of Andhra Pradesh, handed over the keys of the seven vans to the respective District Presidents by placing the keys on the Divine Chair of Bhagavan, asking them to take them as they were blessed by the Lord Himself. The mobile vans will provide free medical care at the doorstep of poor and needy villagers in seven districts of Andhra Pradesh, viz., Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Kadapa, Mahaboobnagar and Hyderabad.

PILGRIMAGE OF YOUNG ADULTS FROM U.S.A.

More than 50 young adults representing most of the States of U.S.A. came to Prasanthi Nilayam on a pilgrimage on the eve of Bhagavan's 86th Birthday and presented a devotional music programme in Sai Kulwant Hall on 25th November 2011.

An Inspiring Talk

The programme was preceded by an inspiring talk by Dr. Phil Gosselin, Zonal Chairman, North America. Speaking about the omnipresence of God, the distinguished speaker observed that this was the most endearing aspect of God since it enabled everyone to talk to Him and be with Him at all times and at all places. After experiencing Swami's omnipresence and omnipotence, it was possible to say with conviction that Krishna really did lift Govardhan mountain, Jesus really did walk on water and Moses really did part the sea, he added. Referring to life as the game of hide and seek, the speaker said that Bhagavan had found us and it was now our turn to find Him and complete our journey of life, "from I to We."

Sai our Divine Mother: A Vocal Music Offering

After this talk, the young adults made their musical offering at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan. As conveyed by the title of the programme, "Sai our Divine Mother," it comprised devotional songs dedicated



Young Adults from U.S.A. presenting a music programme in Sai Kulwant Hall.



by the singers to the Beloved Mother Sai, and included such touching numbers as "O Maa, O Maa, Sai Maa," "Mata Mata Sai Mata." The programme which began at about 5.00 p.m. came to a close at 5.35 p.m. At the conclusion of the programme, clothes were presented to singers and musicians. This was followed by a Bhajan session which concluded with Arati at 6.00 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam.

PILGRIMAGE OF WEST BENGAL YOUTH

A group of more than 200 youth from all parts of West Bengal came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam for three days from 13th to 15th December 2011. On 14th December 2011, the group presented a programme of devotional songs in Sai Kulwant Hall. Starting their presentation at 5.15 p.m. with Guru Vandana (salutations to Guru), they presented in all six group



Youth from West Bengal making a devotional music presentation.

songs in Hindi and filled the entire milieu with devotional fervour. All the songs were dedicated to Bhagavan and described His Divine Glory and teachings. Every song was preceded by a meaningful commentary which added richness to the entire presentation. At the conclusion of

the programme, clothes were distributed to all participants, both boys and girls. This was followed by a Bhajan session and distribution of Prasadam. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.30 p.m.

PILGRIMAGE OF VIZIANAGARAM DEVOTEES

More than 1,400 devotees came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh from 22nd to 24th December 2011. On 23rd December 2011, they staged a musical dance drama entitled "Palle Sevaye Paramatma Seva" (service to villages is service to God) in Sai Kulwant Hall. The programme started at 5.00 p.m. with a short speech of the District President who outlined the service activities being carried out in nearly 500 villages of this district by the Sai Organisation. Based on the teachings of Bhagavan, "Grama Seva is Rama Seva" (service to villages is service to the Lord) and "Manava Seva is Madhava Seva" (service to man is service to God), the drama depicted how Bhagavan showered His grace on the village and transformed the villagers when His teachings were practised in the village. At the conclusion of the drama, clothes were presented to the cast. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.15 p.m. after a brief Bhajan session and distribution of Prasadam.

GRAND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

The sacred festival of Christmas was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with great solemnity and devotion. A large number of devotees came from overseas



countries to take part in the celebrations which started with a beautiful devotional music presentation on 20th December 2011 and concluded with Christmas carols of International Children's Choir on 26th December 2011. The entire Prasanthi Nilayam bore a festive look with various types of Christmas decorations. Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the celebrations, was specially decorated with colourful buntings, festoons of various designs, Christmas trees and beautiful flowers. At night, colourful serial lights on various buildings in the Ashram and trees presented a charming spectacle.

Croatian Choir's Musical Presentation

The first Christmas programme was presented on 20th December 2011 by about 180 devotees who came to Prasanthi Nilayam from Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Montenegro and Bosnia to



As part of Christmas celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam, Croatian Choir made an excellent musical presentation.

participate in Christmas celebrations. This group of singers and musicians, both ladies and gents, rendered devotional songs in many languages with elegant ease and total perfection and delighted the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall by their versatile singing. They started their programme at

5.00 p.m. with chanting of Om three times followed by Ganesh Prarthana (prayer to Lord Ganesh) in Sanskrit. Their first composition was a Telugu song, "Kapadu Sai Devuda" (Lord Sai, protect me) which was followed by devotional songs in English, Croatian, Macedonian, Slovenian and Bosnian. After this, they presented the evergreen Hindi song, "Humko Tumse Pyar Kitna" (Sai, You know how much we love You). Thereafter, they sang five Hindi Bhajans which were followed in chorus by all devotees. At the conclusion of their presentation, clothes were presented to all participants. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.15 p.m. after Bhajans led by students and distribution of Prasadam to devotees.

International Adults Choir

The second Christmas presentation was made by the International Adults Choir on 24th December 2011. The choir consisting of about 165 ladies and 75 gents singers and musicians from nearly 40 countries of the world made a soulful rendition of Christmas carols and devotional songs in praise of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and holy Christmas. Commencing their programme with Ganesh Mantra (prayer to Lord Ganesh), the singers and musicians kept the audience spellbound for nearly one hour, singing with verve and devout feelings 16 devotional songs which included "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "Joy to the World, the Lord has Come," "Glory and Praise to the Lord the Almighty," "Sai is Love, Just Love,





International Adults Choir making a musical presentation as part of Christmas celebrations.

Real Love, Pure Love.” They concluded their presentation with “Om Amen-Amen Amen, Om Santhi, Santhi, Santhi” at 6.00 p.m. Perfect synchronisation of a variety of musical instruments and voices of the singers presented a sumptuous musical treat to the audience. The fusion of Eastern and Western lyrics and melodies was refreshingly exhilarating. At the conclusion of the programme, clothes were presented to the participants. This was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.30 p.m.

Christmas Programme by Students

On the joyous day of Christmas, 25th December 2011, the programme started early in the morning with singing of Christmas carols by a group of overseas devotees, both ladies and gents. Beginning their programme with chanting of Om three times, the singers sang in all 16 Christmas carols in beautifully decorated Sai Kulwant Hall and filled the entire milieu with spiritual vibrations. The programme which started with the song, “Silent Night” at 6.30 a.m. concluded at 7.00 a.m. with the joyous song, “We Wish you a Merry Christmas.”

The next programme of the Christmas morning which started at 8.30 a.m. was presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School and Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. First, the school students enraptured the audience with a thrilling rendition of Christmas carols on their violins. Thereafter, the



Musical presentation on violin by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam.

Institute students enthralled the audience with band music. At the conclusion of these two instrumental music presentations, the Institute students sang soulful Christmas songs. All the songs were preceded by a meaningful dialogue between a child and his father which illustrated the teachings and significance of Christmas. Soon after the start of the programme, two students dressed as Santa Claus went round the entire hall distributing chocolates to the devotees and students. At the conclusion of this programme, there was a brief session of Bhajans which were led by Institute students and followed in chorus by the large congregation of devotees. Meanwhile, Prasadam was distributed to



all. The programme came to a close with Arati at 9.50 a.m.

Bhagavan's Christmas Discourse

The main programme of the Christmas evening was the Christmas Discourse delivered by Bhagavan in 1996. Before this Discourse was aired in Bhagavan's golden voice, two speakers addressed the gathering. Introducing the speakers, Sri John Behner, Chairman of the Christmas Committee, expressed gratitude to the devotees of Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Slovenia, Montenegro and Macedonia who put up wonderful Christmas decorations in the entire Prasanthi Nilayam Ashram. He also thanked the Indonesian devotees for their valuable work in the Western Canteen.

The first speaker of the programme was Smt. Sylvia Alden of U.S.A., an E.H.V. teacher, who has been associated with Christmas celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam for nearly two decades. Dwelling on the main teaching of Bhagavan, "Love All Serve All," the distinguished speaker observed that love is all-encompassing and all-fulfilling. She exhorted one and all to develop love and allow Bhagavan to live through them. The second speaker was Sri Arthur Hillcoat, former Christmas Chairman and presently advisor to the Prasanthi Council. Dwelling on the objective of human life, the eminent speaker asked, "What is the purpose of our existence? Why do we suffer? Who are we?" Man, he said, should realise truth even if he had to undergo many trials and tribulations.

This was followed by Bhagavan's Discourse, during the course of which Bhagavan had materialised a miniature Bible. Bhagavan said that the true purpose of celebrating the birthday of Jesus was to reflect upon his teachings and put them into practice in life so that man attained unity with God as Jesus ultimately declared, "I and my Father are one."

International Children's Choir

The concluding programme of Christmas celebrations was International Children's Choir which was presented by 54 children from 18 countries on 26th December 2011. The programme entitled "The Gift of Love" was a beautiful and interesting mix of Christmas carols and children's experiences with Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Starting their programme with prayer to Lord Ganesh, "Om Sri Ganesha Jai Om Sai Ram," the children sang in all 15 songs in English, Spanish, Telugu and Sanskrit, concluding it appropriately with the song, "Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells." The songs were interspersed with children's personal experiences with Swami which conveyed His love for children. Be it the rendition of the songs or the accompanying music, the children gave an impeccable performance, providing a befitting finale to grand Christmas celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam. At the conclusion of the programme, clothes were presented to the children and Prasadam was distributed to all. The programme which began at 5.00 p.m. came to a close with Arati at 6.25 p.m. after a brief Bhajan session.



From our Archives

SANKRANTI SIGNIFIES MAN'S JOURNEY TOWARDS LIBERATION

The sun appears serene and peaceful. The days have become shorter and the cool wind is blowing. The fields are ripe with golden crops. Marigold flowers are blossoming like garlands of pearls on the banks of rivers. The farmers are rejoicing and singing. The chillies have ripened and are looking red. The sweet festival of Sankranti has come, filling our homes with the newly-harvested grain.

(Telugu Poem)

TURN THE VISION INWARD TO ATTAIN SELF-REALISATION

Embodiments of Love – Young Men and Women!



THE FESTIVAL OF Sankranti has come in all its beauty and splendour. The joyous state of mind of men and women has added gaiety and bliss to the festivity. Sankranti is no ordinary day. It marks the beginning of the sacred Uttarayana (northward movement of the sun). It confers on us plenty and prosperity and helps us to develop virtues and undertake sacred activities.

This day marks the entry of the sun into the sign of Capricorn in its northward journey (Uttarayana). Bhishma, lying on a bed of arrows after he fell wounded, waited for the commencement of Uttarayana to give up his spirit to the Lord. He lay on the bed of arrows for 56 days. The scriptures have declared that those who leave their mortal coil during the Uttarayana have no rebirth. This does not mean that one should

hang oneself in Uttarayana in the hope of securing freedom from rebirth! The right way to give up one's life is to fill one's mind with holy thoughts and let the end come in the natural course.

Uttarayana means turning the intellect inward, towards the heart. The bliss that

The northward movement of the sun is the appropriate occasion for developing inward vision. This is the royal road for the spiritual aspirant to realise the Supreme. It is not enough, therefore, merely to recognise the northward movement of the sun in this period. Every effort should be made to direct the vision inward towards the pure, sacred Indwelling Self. This is the period for cherishing sacred thoughts and performing holy deeds.





Sankranti signifies change. Let this Sankranti bring about a transformation in your heart so that you may always lead a happy, prosperous and glorious life. Think of all those good things that have happened in your life. Then you will be happy and blissful. Bliss is, in fact, your very nature. Real humanness lies in rising from Manavatva (humanness) to Daivatva (divinity). Sankramana is the time when the inward journey towards a pure and unsullied heart is made. Just as the sun embarks on its northward journey, Sankranti is the day on which the intellect should be turned towards the Atma for Self-realisation.



is experienced within alone is true bliss for man. All other external and sensory pleasures are ephemeral. Only the Atmic principle is pure, permanent and infinite. This has been termed the abode of Moksha (liberation). The journey to Moksha is called the quest for liberation.

Inner Meaning of Festivals

In the movement of the sun from house to house in the Zodiac, the entry into Capricorn is most important. Capricorn is a sign of peace and contentment. According to the Gregorian calendar, Sankranti begins on 13th or 14th January. This confers a kind of mental and physical peace.

The northward movement of the sun is considered highly significant, both spiritually and scientifically. It has immense spiritual meaning. The inner meaning of the sun's northward journey has to be properly understood. The north is represented by Himachala. Hima means snow. It is pure, untainted and extremely cool. All these endow it with the quality of perfect peace (Prasanthi). Achala means that which is steady and unshakeable. Himachala does not refer to the physical Himalayan region. It represents that which is cool, peaceful and steady. From today the sun is said to move towards such a state. The sun symbolises the vision of man.



The northward movement of the sun is a call to human beings to turn their vision towards that which is cool, peaceful and unchanging. This means that men should direct their vision inward. This is the lesson taught by the sun.

The Inward Vision

Sankranti signifies change. Let this Sankranti bring about a transformation in your heart so that you may always lead a happy, prosperous and glorious life. Think of all those good things that have happened in your life. Then you will be happy and blissful. Bliss is, in fact, your very nature. Real humanness lies in rising from Manavatva (humanness) to Daivatva (divinity). Sankramana is the time when the inward journey towards a pure and unsullied heart is made. Just as the sun embarks on its northward journey, Sankranti is the day on which the intellect should be turned towards the Atma for Self-realisation.

Man's vision should not be confined solely to the external objects and worldly things which are transient and perishable. Man has been given the vision so that he may see the pure, sacred divine consciousness abiding in his heart. The northward movement of the sun is the appropriate occasion for developing inward vision. This is the royal road for the spiritual aspirant to realise the Supreme. It is not enough, therefore, merely to recognise the northward movement of the sun in this period. Every effort should be made to direct the vision inward towards the pure, sacred Indwelling Self. This is the

period for cherishing sacred thoughts and performing holy deeds.

Develop Harmony

Sankranti is a holy day for many reasons. It was the day on which Adi Sankara took Sannyasa (renounced all worldly ties and donned the ochre robe). It is the usual custom to offer to people a mixture of jaggery and sesame (Til) on this day. Jaggery is sweet and is a symbol of love. Til is also a symbol of Sneha (friendship). Therefore, the offer of this mixture means offering to people love surcharged with friendliness.

The Sankranti festival should be regarded as the day on which man turns his vision towards God. Man's life may be compared to a stalk of sugarcane. Like the cane, which is hard and has many knots, life is full of difficulties. But these difficulties have to be overcome to enjoy the bliss of the Divine, just as the sugarcane has to be crushed and its juice converted into jaggery to enjoy the permanent sweetness of jaggery. Enduring bliss can be got only by overcoming trials and tribulations.

The Sankranti festival was designed to promote harmony and love in the family, to make people realise the unity of the Creator and creation, to teach the people their obligations, to instil heroism in them by making the sun god their example, and, above all, to make them realise their inherent divinity. This is the sacred purpose of the Sankranti festival.

– **Excerpted from Sankranti Discourses of Bhagavan.**



Effulgence of Divine Glory

I AM ALWAYS WITH YOU



FEW MONTHS BEFORE going to India, I had a very strong premonition, almost a certainty, that I was going to be in an automobile accident. The feeling persisted to such an extent that I finally told Robert that I felt we should make preparations to have someone take care of my responsibilities in case such an event occurred.

One morning, not long afterwards, a car pulled out of a side street at a very high speed, like a missile aimed directly at my car. In that split second, there was no time for thought, only reflex. I swerved, but there was oncoming traffic. At that moment, there occurred what can best be described as a time lapse. According to the laws of physics, no amount of manoeuvring, given the speed of the other car, could have

kept our two vehicles from colliding. One moment they were on a collision course, next, they were moving in separate directions without a scratch. It felt surreal, not only to experience a suspension of time, but to witness a miraculous repositioning of the automobiles.

After the incident, I no longer felt the danger of being involved in an automobile accident and soon forgot all about it until we next returned to India. In our interview, Swami asked me what I wanted. I replied that I wanted always to remember Swami, but I would sometimes forget. Swami's reply brought back my memory and infinite gratitude for His loving protection. He said, "You don't forget, you always remember. Remember the near accident in your car, two cars almost colliding, one second apart? Swami was there. I am always with you, around you, and within you."

— Excerpted from "Divine Lessons from Sathya Sai Baba" by Diana Baskin

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— Convener

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

FIJI



FROM 20TH TO 27TH AUGUST 2011, medical camps were organised in various parts of Fiji. Five paramedical professionals, 40 medical students and several general volunteers from Fiji were joined by 37 volunteers from Australia including medical professionals. On the first day, a seminar for the local medical



Medical camps were organised by Sai volunteers in Fiji.

practitioners and medical students, a symposium on backache, workshops and practical demonstrations were organised. The keynote speaker was Prof. Ian Rouse, Dean of the Medical School of the Fiji National University. Over the next five days, volunteers travelled by bus to the interior parts of Fiji and organised medical camps. Over 2,100 people were provided loving medical services. Every day started with multi-faith prayers and ended with Bhajans. Services provided at the

medical camps included general medical, paediatrics, dentistry, ophthalmology, women's health, medical education and pharmaceutical services. Patients received health education talks while awaiting services. The final medical camp was at the newly-built Sai Health Centre in Viseisei and concluded with a book launch. The book is a compilation of plays based on the early life of Bhagavan prepared by Professor Subramani of the Fiji National University. There was a feeling of spiritual upliftment and satisfaction amongst all volunteers who prayed to Bhagavan to continue to bestow His blessings with more opportunities of service.

PANAMA

On 3rd and 5th September 2011, the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Panama arranged two public meetings at the National University. The first meeting on 3rd September titled "Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, His Message and His Mission" was attended by educators. Prof. Ofelina Medeiros, the education coordinator, gave an introduction of the human values programme. Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai International Medical Committee and Director, Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation and Dr. Hector Castaneda, Central Coordinator for Region 21 of Central America, shared their experiences with Bhagavan, His teachings, His Mission and His Work. The second meeting on September 5th titled "Sai Ideal



Healthcare” was addressed to doctors and medical students. Dr. Narendranath Reddy and Dr. Hector Castaneda spoke about Bhagavan’s ideal healthcare mission as well as other humanitarian projects undertaken throughout the globe, His teachings and His love for all of His creation.

SWITZERLAND

From 19th to 21st August 2011, “Love All Serve All” (LASA) festival was celebrated in Geneva to spread Bhagavan’s Message of human values in a way that is understandable and open to the general public. Over 200 Sathya Sai youth from all over Europe took part in this festival joined by the general public. On the first day, pedestrians along a lake in the city were interviewed about the role of human values in their lives. Artwork with chalk was drawn on the street and the people walking past were asked to complete the sentence, “I can make a positive change in the world by...” The

answers were written on small cards and were collected by the festival participants. On the next day, some of the cards were attached to gas balloons and released while the rest were distributed to children. Every balloon included a message on how to make a positive change in the world. The evening cultural programme included poetry recitation which was accompanied by Irish Harp followed by a LASA band performance and a concert.

On the second day, Sathya Sai youth served breakfast to homeless people. It was followed by a workshop on human values, depicting one or more values through the use of music, sports and art. Discussions, case studies and a small play focusing on human values were also staged. Creative plays and beautiful performances were organised in the uptown part of Geneva which has the best entertainment theatres. They included the ‘Art of Light Interactive Play’, the ‘Dolphin Play’ and the ‘Cheeky Fairy Play’ followed by a LASA film, a LASA band performance and a presentation of photos of children. A breathtaking performance by the Omagh Community Youth Choir was also presented. The Omagh Community Youth Choir group was formed in 1998 after a car bomb explosion in the centre of Omagh, to raise positive awareness in the community and to spread values through music. On the last day, presentations were held at the Webster University which included dramas, posters and a song that was composed during the workshop. The festival ended with a talk given by Ivan Bavčević and



A workshop on human values formed part of the “Love All Serve All” festival held in Geneva.



closing remarks from the organisers. The LASA festival was an amalgam of art and human values filled with the spirit of love and selfless service.

INDONESIA

The 2010 eruptions of Mount Merapi began in late October and continued into November. Sathya Sai volunteers have been providing relief to the victims of the volcanic eruption on an ongoing basis since November 2010 under the programme titled "Sai Seva Merapi 2010." Immediately following the eruption, Sathya Sai volunteers plunged into action by providing loving service to the victims. Baby food, baby sanitary items, utensils for babies, blankets, mattresses, mats, hygiene kits, clothing including over 13,000 T-shirts, 8,500 Sarangs, 1000 pieces of infant clothing, 10,000 pieces of undergarments, Telon oil, eucalyptus oil and other essential items were distributed to the evacuees. Porridge was served round the clock for the evacuees in Muntilan area.

The Sai Council of Indonesia has undertaken the reconstruction of houses and the water supply services for the victims. Up to date, 31 houses have been completed for old people without any income or family. The bricks, cement, wood, and other basic materials were provided by the Sai Council. The local villagers provided the labour to build the homes under the supervision of the Sai volunteers. The Indonesian and the Malaysian Sai Councils collaborated under the Village Integrated Programme (VIP) to repair the



The Sai Council of Indonesia has so far provided 31 houses to the victims of eruptions of Mount Merapi.

water supply system and to build seven water storage tanks to collect and store water from the springs along the slopes of Mount Merapi. The water channels and piping is over seven kilometres in length. Pure drinking water is being distributed to three villages (Desa Jambean, Bendo Sari and Jonggol), benefiting over 325 householders.

On 1st September 2011, there was a fire accident in a densely-populated area of Jembatan Dua, located in West Jakarta. 325 houses were burnt down, affecting over 1,400 people. On 4th September 2011, Sathya Sai volunteers packaged and distributed 350 bottles of medicinal oil for treating various ailments, 700 sachets of mosquito repellent cream, 30 packets of milk powder and 30 packets of diapers to the people affected by the fire. Sathya Sai Organisation has volunteered to continue to serve the needy on an ongoing basis.

U. S. A.

On 17th September 2011, Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of America, Mid Central





Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of America, Mid Central Region organised their eighth annual health screening camp.

Region organised their eight annual health screening camp at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in St. Louis. Over 200 people were provided medical services with utmost love, humility and unity by more than 150 volunteers including 25 doctors and 72 interpreters. The camp began at 9 a.m. with a prayer to Bhagavan. The comprehensive health screening services included blood sugar test, blood lipid panel, dental and eye check-up services, asthma, women's health, children's health, lead screening for children, bone health / osteoporosis screening, hearing test, general health information, mind-body health, children's behavioural health, nutrition / diet advice, diabetic education and poison control. Health education was discussed with patients on one to one basis with flip charts, video presentations, posters and handouts. Free reading glasses were distributed to those in need.

A Bone Marrow Donor Registration drive at the camp site resulted in 21 people registering as donors. Children were given

'goody bags' with books, pencils, crayons and other items and some were fitted with bicycle helmets. Twenty two defective infant car seats were replaced. A special booth on health and human values included the screening of the video "His Work" on Bhagavan's service projects to humanity in the fields of education, healthcare and water supply. All participants received a brown bag containing nutritional food products. Sri Charlie Dooley, the Chief Executive of the County of St. Louis and a representative of the Health Department attended the medical camp.

On the second Sundays in August and September 2011, hot nutritional vegetarian soup (Sai Vegetable Chili Bean Noodle Combo Soup) was lovingly served to about 200 homeless people at the Centenary United Methodist Church in downtown St. Louis. About 14 to 18 volunteers took part in this heartwarming soup kitchen service project.

– **Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation**

B H A R A T

Andhra Pradesh: Sri Sathya Sai youth of Visakha district organised a Walk for Human Values on 11th December 2011. The youth carried the banners Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa and marched slowly on the Ramakrishna Beach Road covering a distance of three kilometres, singing value songs. More than 5,000 youth, devotees and students from schools and colleges participated in this march appealing to all about the urgent need of practice of human values. The





A Walk for Values was organised in Visakhapatnam.

march was flagged off by the Commissioner of Greater Visakha Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam, Sri B. Ramanjaneyulu.

Bhagavan's 86th Birthday was celebrated in Andhra Pradesh with great devotional fervour for one week from 19th to 23rd November 2011. Narayana Seva programme was conducted by all Bhajan Mandalis and Samithis. A total of 50,000 Narayanas were offered Swami's Prasadam on 23rd November 2011. Chodavaram Samithi alone organised Narayana Seva for nearly 20,000 Narayanas. About 10,000 blankets were distributed to needy people at every corner in the district.

All the districts in the State also paid a fitting tribute to Bhagavan on His Birthday by organising large-scale Narayana Seva, distribution of Amruta Kalasams (food provisions) and clothes to needy people.

A newly-constructed Sri Sathya Sai Seva Centre at Jarjangi in Srikakulam district was inaugurated on 5th November 2011. On 22nd November 2011, 860 Saris were distributed to the needy and poor by the New Colony Samithi of Srikakulam.

On 23rd November 2011, 18 new villages which have come into the fold of the Sai Organisation, conducted Narayana Seva, in which 23,000 people took Swami's Prasadam.

Karnataka: Bhagavan's 86th Birthday was celebrated with great solemnity throughout the State. At Brindavan, the celebrations commenced on 23rd November 2011 with Suprabhatam, Veda chanting and Nagar Sankirtan. Large crowds of devotees gathered at the elegantly lighted and decorated Trayee complex. Nadaswaram music filled the air in the early hours of the morning. Sathyanarayana Puja commenced at 8.30 a.m. followed by soulful Bhajans. After Bhajans, Narayana Seva was held, wherein Bhagavan's Prasadam was served to over 1,500 persons, and clothes were distributed to them. The evening programme consisted of Bhajans and cutting of Birthday cake and concluded with Trayee Pradakshina (circumambulation) by devotees.

Kerala: Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations visited Kerala from 2nd to 4th December 2011 and addressed meetings of office bearers and Sai devotees in Malappuram, Kannur and Kozhikode districts of the State. On 2nd December 2011, he addressed a meeting of cardiac patients who had undergone heart surgery at Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospitals at Puttaparthi and Whitefield (Bengaluru) and explained how Bhagavan in His compassion set up these institutions to provide free treatment to needy patients. The function was organised



at Ramdas Hospital, Perinthalmanna and was attended by about 150 patients and their family members. He also visited Sri Sai Sneha Theeram, hostel for tribal children run by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Malappuram district. These children are staying in two hostels run by the Sai Organisation. Two inmates from these hostels have passed 10th Standard exam and have joined Plus two Standard for the first time in the history of these tribal colonies.

On 3rd December 2011, Sri Srinivasan delivered a motivating speech to more than 1,500 devotees and active workers of the Sai Organisation in a function held at Sadhu Kalyana Mandapam, Kannur. Later, he visited a village of this district adopted by the Sai Organisation where he distributed sewing machines to needy ladies and inaugurated a tailoring school started by the Sai Organisation for the benefit of villagers.

The programme on 4th December 2011 was arranged at Tagore Centenary Hall, Kozhikode. This programme was attended by about 2,500 devotees and active

workers of the Sai Organisation. About 750 Sai youth members also attended this programme. All India President delivered an inspiring speech and dwelt on his experiences with Swami. He also gave ideas on the future role of youth in the Sai Organisation.

Maharashtra and Goa: A global Akhanda Bhajan was held at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar High School and College, Chembur on 12th November 2011. The 24-hour non-stop Bhajan started at 5.10 p.m. with chanting of Omkar and Vedic



Global Akhanda Bhajan for 24 hours was organised at Chembur.

hymns. The Akhanda Jyoti (lamp) was lit at 5.50 p.m. As vibrant and soulful Bhajans started flowing ceaselessly with a delightful chorus, the peaceful and pristine atmosphere gained a divine lustre. The tastefully decorated altar was a replica of Bhagavan's sanctum sanctorum in Sai Kulwant Hall, Puttaparthi. Also adorning the altar were the idols of Lord Ganesh and Shirdi Sai Baba and Bhagavan's seat. There was an enthusiastic and invigorating participation by Bal Vikas children who attended in large numbers. The entire



A section of the gathering participating in a meeting at Kozhikode.



atmosphere was spiritually charged as children sang aloud the glory of God. The 24-hour spiritual exercise came to an emotional close with the golden voice of Bhagavan echoing, "Prema Muditha Manase Kaho..." Around 800 devotees attended the Akhanda Bhajan which came to a close with Arati and distribution of Prasadam.

As part of Swami's 86th Birthday celebrations, a special healthcare awareness programme was conducted at Karmali, Goa by Panaji and Karmali Samithis. Eminent doctors gave talks on healthcare and Mother and Child Care. The programme was a great success with fully packed hall.

Odisha: Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini was launched on 30th October 2011 through video conferencing with Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Mandir, Bhawanipatna which became the first recipient school of Odisha in this project. This was inaugurated by All India President, Sri V. Srinivasan by video conferencing with the teachers, staff, students of the school along with Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini volunteers at the National Informatic Centre premises.

The Regional Centre, Eastern Zone of the Institute of Sathya Sai Education was inaugurated at Bhubaneswar on 30th October 2011 by All India President, Sri V. Srinivasan who renamed the building Sai Janani (Mother Sai). This auspicious ceremony was attended among others by Dr. B.G. Pitre, S. Pratap Thakker and State Presidents of Sikkim, Bihar and West Bengal. The All India President spoke a



The Regional Centre of Eastern Region of the Institute of Sathya Sai Education.

few words of inspiration to delegates as to how best we could make use of it. Dr. B.G. Pitre also spoke to the gathering and termed the choosing of Bhubaneswar as the regional centre for eastern region as Bhagavan's divine grace.

After the inauguration of Eastern Regional Centre, a seminar on 'Human Values in Medicare' was organised, in which more than 100 doctors of the State participated. Eminent doctors like Dr. Narasimham, Director, Mobile Medical Health Service, SSSIHMS, Puttaparthi, Dr. K.P. Mishra, Cardiologist from Apollo Hospitals and Dr. P.K. Das, Cardiologist from SSSIHMS shared their views with participants.

Punjab: Bhagavan's 86th Birthday was celebrated by Patiala Samithi with great piety and enthusiasm. As a part of the celebrations, a Laksharchana was conducted by reciting Sai Gayatri for 86 hours from 18th to 23rd November 2011. Besides, a Nagar Sankirtan by the students of Sai Saraswati Vidya Mandir was carried out on 20th November 2011. Another Nagar Sankirtan was organised on



23rd November 2011, in which about 300 devotees participated. This was followed by Narayana Seva, wherein 1,200 people were offered food.



Bhagavan's 86th Birthday was celebrated by Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Niketan, Baghpur (district Hoshiarpur), in which about 2,000 people took part.

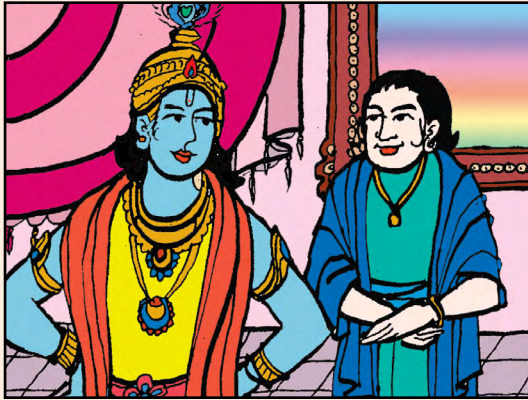
The tiny village of Baghpur reverberated with singing of Bhajans and chants of "Jai Sai Ram" on the occasion of 86th Birthday of Bhagavan Baba. The celebrations were held in the premises of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Niketan, Baghpur (district Hoshiarpur), in which more than two thousand persons including students, staff, devotees and local people joined. On this occasion, a Shobha Yatra (palanquin procession) was brought out which started from the school with beautifully decorated palanquin carrying a photograph of Baba. Throughout the route of the procession, children and devotees sang all-faith Bhajans. At the end of the programme, a Langar (free food) was arranged for all participants.

FESTIVALS / EVENTS IN THE YEAR 2012

11th Jan.	.. Annual Sports and Cultural Meet of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning	10th Aug.	.. Sri Krishna Janmashtami
14th Jan.	.. Makara Sankranti	29th Aug.	.. Onam
20th Feb.	.. Sivarathri	19th Sept.	.. Ganesh Chaturthi
23rd Mar.	.. Ugadi	24th Oct.	.. Vijaya Dasami
1st Apr.	.. Sri Rama Navami	10th Nov. (6 p.m.) -	Global Akhanda
13th Apr.	.. Tamil New Year Day	11th Nov. (6 p.m.)	Bhajan
14th Apr.	.. Vishu	13th Nov.	.. Deepavali
24th Apr.	.. Bhagavan's Maha Samadhi Anniversary	18th Nov.	.. Rathotsavam
6th May	.. Easwaramma Day	19th Nov.	.. Ladies Day
6th May	.. Buddha Purnima	22nd Nov.	.. 31st Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning
30th Jun.	.. Ashadi Ekadasi	23rd Nov.	.. Bhagavan's 87th Birthday
3rd July	.. Guru Purnima	25th Dec.	.. Christmas

Purification of Heart

AT THE TIME WHEN Krishna was living at Dwaraka, there was a great artist who made portraits of many kings and received rewards from



A reputed artist prayed to Lord Krishna to give him the opportunity of drawing His portrait.

them. But these rewards did not give him satisfaction. He thought that his art would be worthwhile only when he made a portrait of Krishna and received His grace. With this expectation, he went to Dwaraka and had Krishna's Darshan. Krishna asked him smilingly, "What brings you here?" He said, "Oh Lord! I have gone all over the country and have earned the reputation that there is no artist superior to me. But this has not given me satisfaction. I pray to You to kindly give me an opportunity to draw Your portrait. I can draw Your picture just as You are if You sit before me for some

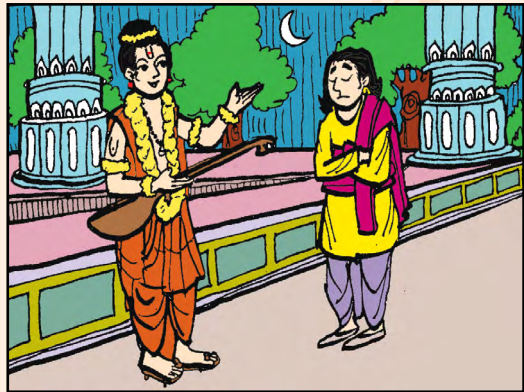
time. Therefore, kindly give me this chance to make my life worthwhile." Krishna consented to his request, sat before him for some time without moving and went inside. The artist made a mental picture of Krishna on seeing Him, went to his dwelling place, drew a picture of Krishna and went to show it to Him next day. However, when he saw Krishna, he found that Krishna looked quite different from the picture he had drawn. He went back to his lodge, drew another portrait of Krishna and brought it to Him the next day. But he was not satisfied with this picture also as this also looked different from Krishna. In this way, he tried five or six times but failed to draw a true picture of Krishna. Distressed as he was that his wish had not fructified, he thought of leaving Dwaraka at midnight without telling anybody.

Realising his distress, Sage Narada appeared before him and said, "My dear! Do you know who is Krishna? How can you draw a portrait exactly like Him? Nobody is capable of drawing an exact portrait of Krishna who is the director of the divine cosmic drama and whose form is ever new and shines with added brilliance every moment." Reassuring him, Narada said to him, "Do not get disappointed. I will tell you a way." Saying this, Narada whispered a secret into his ears. Happy to receive the advice of Narada, the artist went to Krishna



with a big mirror covered with a cloth the next day. Keeping the mirror in front of Krishna, he removed the cloth from it and said, "Swami! Now whatever may be Your form, it will be reflected in this mirror." Krishna understood his predicament, blessed him and showered His grace on him.

When your heart is pure, you can clearly see the form of God in it. Purification of heart can be attained only by devotion saturated with faith and love.



Narada came to the help of the artist and told him the secret to solve his problem.

NOTICE

Due to unexpected demand, stock of 4 sheet Wall Calendar 2012 (10897), set of 3 calendars 2012 (10900) and Viswavyapi Diary 2012 are exhausted. At this stage, we will not be in a position to entertain further orders.

– Convener

Sri Sathya Sai Gokulam

A Unit of Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust – Bhaktha Sahayak Division

Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust – Bhaktha Sahayak Division is a religious organisation involved in service to: (a) the devotees visiting Prasanthi Nilayam and (b) the cows through Gokulam. Sri Sathya Sai Gokulam (a Goshala) is a unit that houses, protects and rears about 400 cows. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba says Cow (Gomatha) is one of the four mothers of man. Accordingly, the main objective of the unit is to take good care of the cows that are in the Gokulam. Gokulam requires the following personnel immediately:

1. Veterinary Doctor – 1 no. – 10 to 15 years of experience in Gynaecology and Animal Reproduction.
2. Veterinary Doctor – 1 no. – 10 to 15 years of experience in General Veterinary Medicine.
3. Junior / Senior Veterinary Officer – 1 no. - Bachelor's degree with experience in handling various duties with respect to Goshala activities.

Prior experience is a must for all the above posts. The incumbent must be willing to serve sincerely and with commitment. He must be ready to behave and live in such a manner that is suitable to the spiritual environment and the Ashram. Interested candidates may please send in their Bio Data with passport size photographs to The Convener, Bhaktha Sahayak Division, Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515134.

Email: bsd@ssstbsd.org"Ph0 08555 – 288550.

– Head - BSD, Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust



SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING (Deemed to be University)

Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515134, Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh, India

Ph.: +91 8555 287239 Fax: 286919

Website: www.sssihl.edu.in E-mail: registrar@sssihl.edu.in

Admissions Notice

Admissions for the Academic Year commencing from 1st June 2012

will be made for the following Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Professional Programmes:

Programmes offered for men: B.A., B.A.(Hons) & B.Sc.(Hons) in Economics; B.Sc.(Hons) in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biosciences (leading to Postgraduate Programmes in respective subjects) and B.Com.(Hons); B.B.M. and B.C.A.; M.A.(Economics), M.Sc. (Nanoscience & Nanotechnology); M.B.A., M.B.A.(Finance), M.Tech.(Computer Science) and M.Tech.(Applied Optics).

Programmes offered for Women: B.A., B.Com.(Hons), B.B.M., B.Sc.(Home Science), B.Sc. (Hons) in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biosciences; B.Ed., M.A.(English), M.A.(Telugu), and M.Sc.(Food Science & Nutrition) / M.Sc.(Food Technology).

Eligibility for Admissions:

Undergraduate Programmes [B.A. / B.A.(Hons) / B.Sc. / B.Sc.(Hons) / B.Com.(Hon) / B.B.M. / B.C.A.]: 10+2 pattern of study/Intermediate. Minimum marks required in X Std. examinations is 60% in aggregate and 55% in General English. Candidates should have taken their final year +2 / Intermediate qualifying examination before the date of Admission Test. In the case of candidates who have appeared for XII / +2, their marks in the previous years (X or XI Std.) should not be less than 60% in aggregate and 55% in General English.

For B.B.M.: The admissions test will evaluate verbal skills, numerical skills and reasoning skills.

For B.C.A.: Candidates should have Mathematics as one of the subjects of study in their XI/XII standards, should have studied Algebra, Geometry, Calculus and basics of Statistics in their formal education at +2 level. The admissions test will evaluate verbal skills and knowledge in Mathematics.

Note: Separate application form is to be submitted for each programme of study.

Postgraduate Programmes [M.A.(Economics) / M.A.(English) / M.A.(Telugu) / M.Sc.(Food Science & Nutrition) / M.Sc.(Food Technology)]: A First class (minimum of 60% marks in aggregate in all the three years of study) in respective degrees with 50% in General English.

For M.Sc.(Food Science & Nutrition) / M.Sc.(Food Technology), candidates of B.Sc. (Biosciences) / B.Sc.(M.P.C.) are also eligible to apply.

For M.Sc.(Nanoscience and Nanotechnology) Programme, candidates of B.Sc.(Physics) / B.Sc.(Biosciences) / B.Sc.(Chemistry) background are eligible to apply.

For M.A.(Economics) Programme, candidates of B.A. / B.A.(Hons) in Economics or B.Com./ B.Com.(Hons) background are eligible to apply.

Contd...2.

Professional Programmes [M.B.A. / M.B.A.(Finance) / M.Tech.(Computer Science) / M.Tech.(Applied Optics) / B.Ed.]: A First class (minimum of 60% marks in all examinations of the course) Bachelor's degree or a Postgraduate degree with 50% marks in General English in the first undergraduate degree examination. In case of the candidates who have not received the marks statements of the final year of the Bachelor's degree examination, their marks in the previous years/semesters should not be less than 60% in aggregate and 50% in General English.

For M.B.A./M.B.A.(Finance): Candidates of Technical Courses like B.E., B.Tech., B.Pharma., B.Sc.(Agri) etc. are exempted from the minimum requirement of 50% marks in General English.

For M.Tech.(Computer Science): A First class both in the Bachelor's degree and M.Sc. (Mathematics) / M.Sc.(Physics) / M.Sc.(Computer Science) / M.C.A. or first class in B.E.(Computer Science) / B.Tech. (Computer Science) levels of examination with Computer Science background. Further the candidates should have formally undergone the following courses: Artificial Intelligence, Computer Networks, Computer Organisation & Architecture and Database Systems.

For M.Tech.(Applied Optics): A First class both in the Bachelor's degree and M.Sc.(Physics) or first class in B.E. / B.Tech. levels of examination with a background in Optics and Electromagnetic Theory.

For B.Ed.: The admissions test will evaluate General English and two methodology subjects based on the subjects studied at the undergraduate/postgraduate programmes.

Candidates applying for the above Postgraduate and Professional programmes should complete their final year/semester qualifying examination before 30th May 2012. Admissions are made as per the guidelines issued by the Govt. of India and UGC with regard to Reservation of seats for SC/ST candidates. Further, SC/ST candidates are entitled to a relaxation in the eligibility criterion of 5% marks.

Note: Eligible candidates will be short-listed by the Institute based on the marks in the qualifying examinations and will be called for the Admissions Test.

Admission to all the above programmes will be on the basis of a Written Admissions Test followed by an Interview which will be held in **3rd and 4th weeks of April 2012** at **Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh**.

The application form along with Information Handbook will be available from **1st of November 2011 to 25th of January 2012**. The last date for receipt of duly filled-in application forms is **31st of January 2012**.

Interested candidates may apply to the **Registrar, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515134, Anantapur District, A.P.** along with I.P.O. or Bank Draft for Rs.100/-. The Bank draft should be drawn in favour of **Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning**, payable at **S.B.I., Prasanthi Nilayam/Puttaparthi**. Since the application forms are different for Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Professional programmes, candidates must indicate clearly the details of course/subject of study for which they seek admission in the requisition letter.

The name and complete postal address along with programmes for which application form is required should be clearly stated in Block letters on the reverse of the IPO/DD and also in the requisition letter.

Alternatively, candidates may visit the Institute website, www.sssihl.edu.in for applying through the online application portal.



Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music

Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134, Anantapur Dist., Andhra Pradesh, India,

Ph.: +91 8555 287239 Fax: 286919; E-mail: musicadmissions@sssihl.edu.in

Admissions Notice

Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music at Prasanthi Nilayam offers Diploma Course in Music for **men students**. The admissions will be made for the Academic Year commencing from 1st June 2012.

Diploma Course (Full-time): Duration: 3 years: (Carnatic, Hindustani) Vocal, Veena, Mridangam, Sitar, and Tabla.

Eligibility: Candidates should have passed 10th Standard of study and also a Course in Music equivalent to Foundation Course in Music from any recognised College/Institution and be between 16 and 23 years of age.

Application forms will be available from **2nd January to 29th February 2012**. Admissions will be on the basis of Aptitude Test and Interview which will be held in April 2012, at Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh.

Interested candidates may apply to the Registrar, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515134, Anantapur District, A.P. along with Indian Postal Order or Bank Draft for Rs 50/- drawn in favour of **Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, payable at Prasanthi Nilayam / Puttaparthi**. The name and complete postal address should be clearly stated in Block letters on the reverse of the IPO/DD and also in the requisition letter. Alternatively, candidates may send their request to the email Id viz., musicadmissions@sssihl.edu.in for application form and Information Handbook.

– Registrar

Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School

Prasanthi Nilayam - 515134, (A.P.)

ADMISSION NOTICE 2012-2013

Admission to Class I (Boys & Girls) and Class XI (Boys & Girls, only few seats for girls) of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515134, Anantapur Dist., (A.P.), will take place in June 2012. It is an English Medium, wholly residential school. Prospectus and Admission Forms can be obtained from the Principal from 01-01-2012 by paying Rs.100/- either by cash or through Demand Draft drawn on **State Bank of India, Puttaparthi Branch (code no:2786)** in favour of **Principal, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School**, with a Self Addressed cover (size 15 cm x 24 cm).

Last date for issuing the forms is 15th February 2012 and the last date for receiving the filled in forms at this office is on or before 1st March 2012.

Only students coming from English medium classes should apply.

Age limit for 1st std. in between 5 ½ years and 6 ½ years as **on 30-09-2012**.

Age limit for XI std. should be below 16 ½ years as **on 30-09-2012**

Phone: 08555-289289

E-mail Address: ssshss@gmail.com, Website: www.ssshss.org.in

Note: Admissions for Ist Std. will be under “RTE Act 2009” by Random method.

– Principal



Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences

EPIP Area, Whitefield, Bengaluru - 560066, **Tel:** 080-28511500 Extn. 415
Fax: 080-28411502 - **Email:** registrarblr@sssihms.org.in

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield, Bengaluru is offering 4 years course leading to **Bachelors degree in Nursing (for Girl Students only)** and 3 ½ year courses leading to **Bachelors degree in Anaesthesia Technology, Cardiac Care Technology, Imaging Technology, Medical Laboratory Technology and Perfusion Technology (for Girl Students only)**. Applications are invited from candidates who fulfil the eligibility criteria as given below. **Age:** Candidates should have completed minimum 17 years and maximum 25 years of age on or before 31st of December in the year of application for admission.

Qualification: 10+2, PUC or any other qualifying examination conducted by Boards / Councils / Intermediate Education established by State Governments / Central Government and recognised as equivalent to two year Pre-University examination by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences / Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

Subjects in 10+2/ PUC: Candidates should have passed subjects of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and English (PCBE) individually and must have obtained a minimum of not less than 50% marks put together in all these subjects. For B.Sc. Imaging Technology, the candidate should have also passed Mathematics along with the subjects mentioned above with an aggregate of 50%. Candidates desirous of applying can download the application form from the website and send the same by post. Incomplete applications, applications in a different format and applications not meeting the eligibility criteria will be rejected.

For further details log on to www.wfd.sssihms.org.in

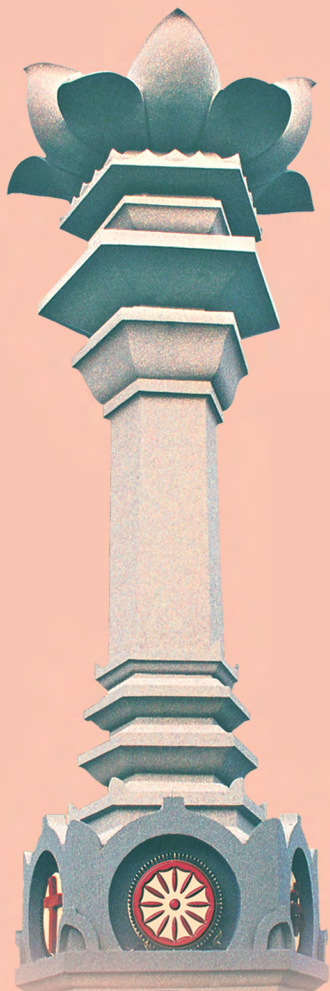
Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield, Bengaluru is a 333 bedded Super Speciality Hospital offering free medical and surgical care in the fields of Cardiac and Neuro Sciences. The hospital is accredited by the National Board of Examinations to offer Postgraduate programmes leading to the Diplomate of National Board degree (DNB) in the following specialities: **DNB Anaesthesiology, DNB Cardiology, DNB Cardiac Surgery, DNB Neurosurgery, DNB Radio-Diagnosis**. The entire training is given **free of cost**. Admissions will be based on the latest guidelines given by the National Board of Examinations for the year 2012 January session. For details visit the National Board's website: www.natboard.edu.in

Applications invited for Fellowship Programmes: Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield, Bengaluru is a **333-bedded Super Speciality Hospital** offering free medical and surgical care in the fields of Cardiac and Neuro Sciences. The hospital is affiliated to the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences to offer Post-doctoral **Fellowship programme in Interventional Cardiology** and shortly we are going to start **Fellowship programme in Critical Care Medicine** starting June 2012 session.

The Institute does not charge anything for the programme. Admissions will be based on the guidelines given by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences for the year 2012 June session. For details visit the Hospital's website: www.wfd.sssihms.org.in

– Director





Attain God's Love

The flower of mercy or compassion should be offered to the Lord. Today there is no compassion in people. Their hearts are as hard as stone. But such hearts also can be melted by love. There is nothing in this world that love cannot melt. With love, you can achieve anything in this world. Every individual on this earth must have love in his heart. You should not make use of this love for selfish purposes. There may be selfish love between you and your parents, and you and your wife. But the love of God is never selfish and there is no self-interest in it. Therefore, work hard to deserve God's love.

– Baba

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