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Editor **G.L. ANAND**

Assistant Editor **P. RAJESH**

E-mail: subscriptions@sssbpt.org
editor@sssbpt.org

For Audio Visual / Book Orders:
orders@sssbpt.org
ISD Code : 0091
STD Code : 08555
Telephone : 287375

Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust Telefax
: 287390

General enquiry : 287164

Sri Sathya Sai University -
Administrative Office : 287191 /
287239

Sri Sathya Sai Higher
Secondary School : 289289

Sri Sathya Sai

Primary School : 287237

SSSIHMS, Prasanthigram,

Puttaparthi : 287388

SSSIHMS, Whitefield,

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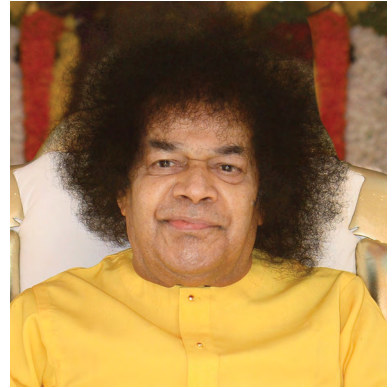
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"Divine Leelas of God lead man
from Pravrithi to Nivrithi. One
can derive bliss by singing the Leelas
of God. It is everybody's experience
how sweet and blissful it is to sing
the divine glories of God. When
devotees do Nagar Sankirtan early
in the morning, even those who do not
know singing join them blissfully."



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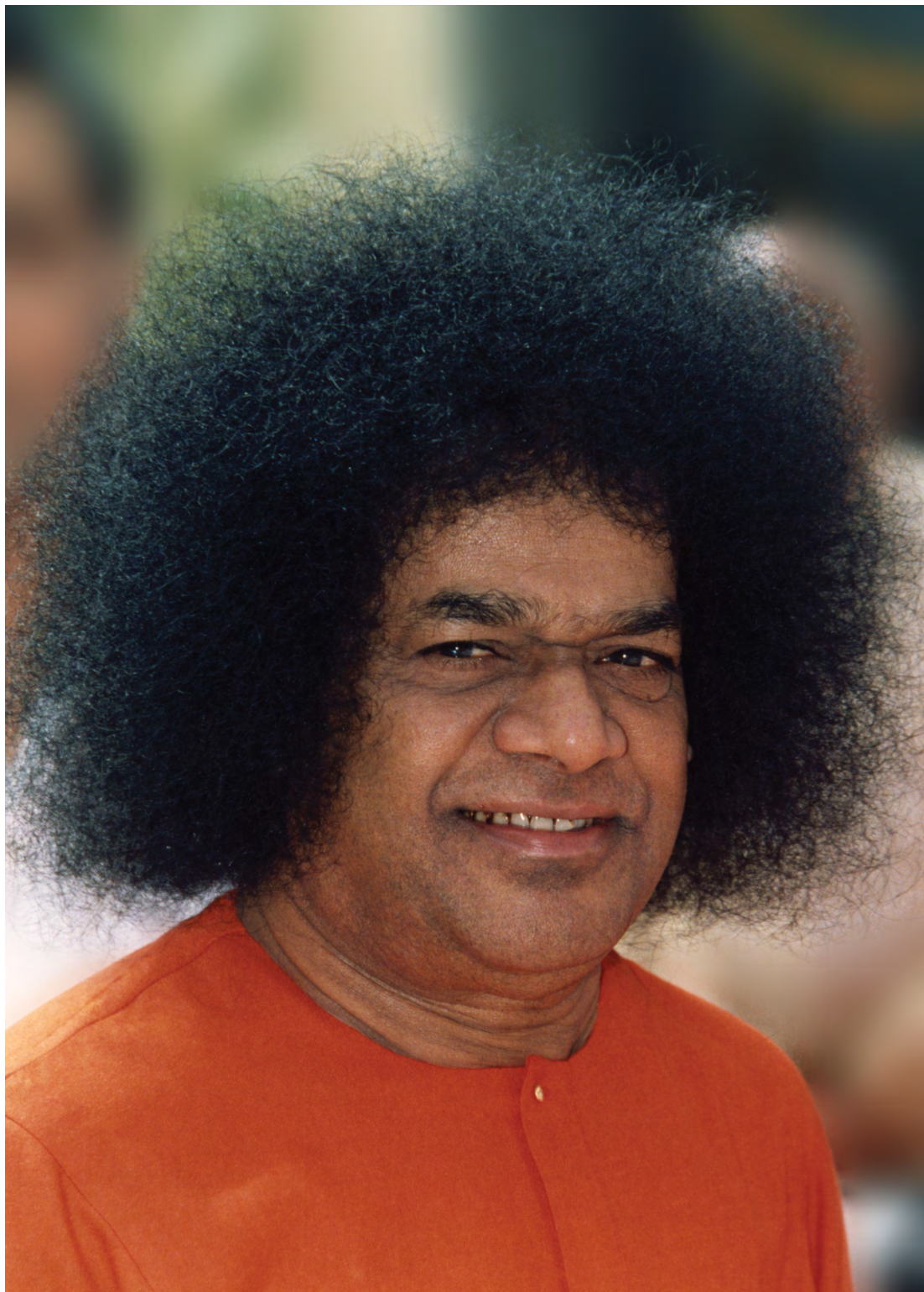
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AMRITA DHARA

BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:
19TH JULY 1996

NAMA SANKIRTAN IS THE ROYAL PATH FOR MAN'S REDEMPTION

Devotion is the basis to attain the knowledge of the Supreme Being. Devotion is the panacea to get rid of the disease of birth and death. It is devotion that leads man to the knowledge of eternal truth and confers on him liberation which is the ultimate goal of life.

(Sanskrit Sloka)

THERE IS IMMENSE POWER IN NAMA SANKIRTAN



PEOPLE FOLLOW VARIOUS paths of Bhakti (devotion) to attain the grace of God. What is meant by Bhakti? It is derived from the root 'Bhaj', which means Seva (service). It signifies the principle of love. 'Bhaj' has many other meanings.

Chanting of Divine Names Gives Eternal Bliss

Devotees have been singing the glories of God in four ways: Guna Gana, Leela Gana, Bhava Gana and Nama Gana (singing about divine attributes, deeds, thoughts and names of God). God is Gunateeta (attributeless) and Bhavateeta (beyond thoughts). By extolling the attributes of the Attributeless One, you cannot derive complete satisfaction. It is mere delusion to think that you can please God by extolling His attributes. The satisfaction that you derive out of Guna Sankirtan is only temporary. Truly speaking, God has no attributes.

Many devotees extol the attributes of God in this manner:

Oh the Lord of the universe! You are dear to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. You confer auspiciousness on those who take refuge in You. You recline on the serpent Adi Sesha and

You may describe God in any number of ways. But this will give you only temporary satisfaction. Chanting of His Divine Name alone confers eternal bliss. What greater penance can there be other than making the Divine Name dance on your tongue constantly? Only chanting of the Divine Name is the real Tapas (penance), real Tirtha (place of pilgrimage) and Kshetra (holy place). Therefore, Nama Sankirtan has supreme importance in the life of man. Chant the Divine Name constantly and redeem your life.



are the embodiment of wealth and bliss. Please destroy my worldly bondages and grant me eternal happiness. (Telugu Song)

People extol God as Sesa Sayana, Srinivasa (in whose heart Lakshmi resides), Chidvilasa (abode of bliss). Who is Srinivasa? Who is Chidvilasa? Does it not amount to extolling His attributes? Devotees who extol the attributes of the Lord in this manner can derive only temporary satisfaction.

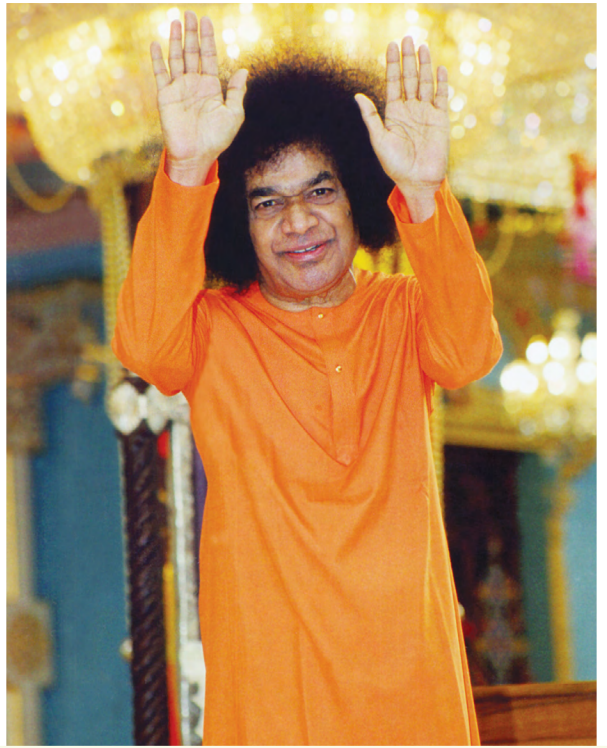
Similarly, many devotees like Jayadeva and Gauranga sang the Leelas of the Lord. Jayadeva, Gauranga, Mira and Sakkubai tried to derive satisfaction by singing the divine Leelas, but ultimately they realised that the entire world is the Leela of the Lord. The creation itself is His Leela. Then how can you separate only a few acts of God as His Leelas? Having realised this truth, they started performing Nama Sankirtan and experienced bliss. Nama Sankirtan is the highest form of devotion which can lead man to the ultimate goal of life. Mira craved for the vision of Krishna's blissful form in this manner:

Dear One! Come and bless me with Thy vision.

Without thee, oh Krishna, I cannot be.

I have no hunger during the day and no sleep at night.

What can I say when the words do not come out of my mouth?



Samashti Sankirtan (community singing) has the power to make the heart blossom. It broadens the mind and spreads divine vibrations all over the world. That is why community singing is the noblest among all spiritual practices. It was Guru Nanak who initiated this practice. He started this type of singing in which everybody could join together and sing in unison. It is only such type of singing, through which man can attain liberation.



Come, oh Lord, and soothe this burning heart. (Hindi Song)



Ultimately, Mira realised that day is Krishna, night is Krishna and everything is Krishna. He is time itself. Everything is His Divine Leela. Having realised this truth, Mira considered Krishna as her Hridayavasi (indweller of her heart). She said, "Oh Krishna, my heart is Your temple." There are many devotees who are lost in the thoughts of God. They sing:

Oh Lord, Your face is as beautiful as the moon and Your Lotus Feet are worshipped by all the gods. You are dear to goddess Lakshmi. Wherever I see, I find You only. You are there even in lanes and bylanes. I see You as the indweller of everyone and as the embodiment of bliss. You bestow auspiciousness on those who take refuge in You. Oh Govinda, the bestower of eternal bliss, come quickly and save me.

(Telugu Song)

Spiritual Import of Krishna's Leelas

God is immanent in every particle of the universe. What to speak of lanes and bylanes, the entire universe is His Leela. Therefore, it is due to your imagination that you do Guna Sankirtan, Bhava Sankirtan and Leela Sankirtan. Of the four types of Sankirtan, Nama Sankirtan is the best and the highest. It is, in fact, the royal path for man's redemption. When many people come together and do Nama Sankirtan wholeheartedly, divine vibrations generated by it spread everywhere. When God assumes a form, He takes upon Himself a name also. One should contemplate on the form while reciting the name. This is Japa Sahita Dhyana or Dhyana Sahita Japa

(chanting with meditation and meditation with chanting).

The Gopikas not only chanted the name of Krishna, but they were also deeply attached to His form. Everything in this world has a name and a form. It is the attachment to name and form that gives rise to Abhimana and Mamakara (attachment and feelings of mine and thine). Some people ridicule the Divine Leelas of Krishna without understanding their import. Similarly, even today many people criticise God without understanding the import of His Divine Leelas. When Krishna played and danced with Gopikas, he was only a child of six years. Where is the scope for criticising the acts of a six-year-old child? This criticism is only born out of people's imagination.

Once Krishna went to the house of a Gopika and knocked at her door when her husband was taking rest inside. The Gopika took some time to respond. Krishna was not the one to keep quiet. When He kept on knocking at the door, she spoke to Him through the crevice of the door and said:

Krishna! I am going to open the door. Why are You in a hurry? Have patience, because my husband is taking rest. Therefore, wait for some time.

(Telugu Song)

In spite of the pleadings of the Gopika, Krishna continued to knock at the door. Then her husband got up and opened the door. He was happy to see child Krishna at the door; he was not at all angry. He took Him in his arms and brought Him inside. Seeing this, the Gopika was ecstatic,



thinking, “Aha! My husband is also transformed. He is showering his love and affection on Krishna.” Fully immersed in the thoughts of Krishna, she lost her body consciousness.

On the face of it, the Leelas of Krishna appear to be of the nature of Pravritti (worldliness) but their true import is Nivritti (spirituality). In fact, all the Divine Leelas of God lead man from Pravritti to Nivritti. One can derive bliss by singing the Leelas of God. It is everybody's experience how sweet and blissful it is to sing the divine glories of God. When devotees do Nagar Sankirtan early in the morning, even those who do not know singing join them blissfully. There is so much sweetness in singing. Be he a theist or an atheist or a theistic-atheist or an atheistic-theist, everyone forgets himself listening to divine Sankirtan. Sankirtan of God's Name captivates the heart of all those who participate in it; it makes them forget themselves. Not only that, all the divine Leelas, attributes and the powers of God can be described beautifully in singing. Singing pleases one and all. It is the royal road to redemption for all. Those devotees who sing God's glory wholeheartedly forgetting themselves develop total love for God. God becomes verily the servant of such ardent devotees. Many devotees have been propagating the divine powers of God in the world through their songs.

You are beyond all description and human comprehension. Is it possible to estimate Your glory and splendour? I have been waiting for Your grace. Oh

Lord! Listen to my prayer and redeem me. You are the one who brought back to life the dead son of Your preceptor. You are the one who vanquished the serpent Kaliya, freed Vasudeva and Devaki and saved Draupadi from humiliation. You fulfilled Kuchela's desires. You made ugly-looking Kubja beautiful. You protected the Pandavas and saved the 16,000 Gopikas. You are beyond all description and human comprehension. Krishna, it is not possible for even Brahma to describe Your glory. I have been praying for Your grace. (Telugu Song)

God is beyond all description and the reach of the mind. That is why the Vedas declare, *Yatho Vacho Nivarthanthe Aprapya Manasa Saha* (whence the words along with the mind rebound in futility without comprehending Divinity).

Supreme Importance of Community Singing

Samashti Sankirtan (community singing) has the power to make the heart blossom. It broadens the mind and spreads divine vibrations all over the world. That is why community singing is the noblest among all spiritual practices. It was Guru Nanak who initiated this practice. He started this type of singing in which everybody could join together and sing in unison. It is only such type of singing, through which man can attain liberation. Great saints like Kabir Das, Tulsi Das and Ramdas attained liberation through Nama Sankirtan. There is immense power in Nama Sankirtan.



People may say God has no form, but He certainly has a name. However, the name of God does not mean only Rama, Krishna, Govinda, etc. God itself is His name. People say, God has no name and no form, but there is nothing in this universe that has no name and form. Even an atom has a name and a form. How can microcosm become macrocosm if it does not have a name and a form? Each and every form is associated with a name and every name is endowed with divine power. That is why the Bharatiyas have been worshipping stones, trees, birds and even poisonous snakes. They believe that there is nothing in this universe which is not pervaded by divinity. That is why many people do Pradakshina (circumambulation) wherever they are and offer their salutations to mother earth. Where is the place where there is no earth? It is everywhere. Here is a small story.

Once a fox took five rupees as loan from the earth. When it got up next morning, the earth asked, "Will you return my five rupees to me or not?" In order to escape from the earth, the fox started running. It ran day and night and reached a distant forest. Then it peacefully slept, thinking, "Now I can rest happily without being bothered by the earth." However, when it got up from sleep next morning, the earth asked, "What, when are you going to give back my five rupees?" The earth is also a form of God, and is present everywhere like God. That is why the Vedas propound, *Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Srutimalloke Sarvamavruithya Tishthati* (with hands, feet, eyes, head,



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◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇

mouth and ears pervading everything, God permeates the entire universe).



Chanting of any Name of God Confers Bliss

Once mother earth prayed to Lord Narayana, “Swami, I can bear the burden of any number of sinners, but not of those who do not chant Your Name. Therefore, kindly show the path of liberation to one and all through chanting of the Divine Name.” Valmiki wrote the Ramayana consisting of one crore Slokas (verses). He wanted to distribute the Slokas to the three Lokas (worlds) equally. Thus, he distributed 33,33,333 to each of the three worlds. At the end of the distribution, one Sloka was left out. The question arose how to distribute one Sloka into three parts. The Sloka consisted of 32 letters. Valmiki distributed 10 letters each to the three Lokas. Still two letters remained. How to distribute these two letters to three worlds? Then Vishnu told mother earth, “When Valmiki distributed one crore Slokas of his Ramayana to all the three worlds, two letters remained. These letters were Rama, Krishna, Hari, Hara, Siva, Sai, etc.,” which are the common property of all the three worlds (*loud applause*). These two letters signify unity in this world which is otherwise marked by duality.

Duality is the nature of this world. Human beings are unable to have the vision of reality because of their duality. *A man with dual mind is half blind.* He is so deluded that he sometimes says ‘yes’ and sometimes says ‘no’ as an answer to the same question. Those who chant the Divine Names can overcome this duality and redeem themselves. This is true with

respect to the Divine Names of Jesus and Allah also. Man should therefore chant the Divine Name of God constantly. Thyagaraja sang thus:

Oh Lord! How can I decide who You really are, whether You are Siva or Madhava? The letter ‘Ra’ is the life force of Madhava Mantra and the letter ‘Ma’ is the life force of Siva Mantra. I offer my salutations to the One whose name is the life force of these two Mantras. (Telugu Song)

Madhava Mantra is “Om Namo Narayanaya” and the letter ‘Ra’ is its life force. When we remove the letter ‘Ra’ from the word Narayana, it becomes Nayana, which is meaningless. Similarly, the Siva Mantra is “Om Namah Sivaya.” If we remove the letter ‘Ma’ from this, it becomes Nasivaya which means inauspicious. However, when you join these letters ‘Ra’ and ‘Ma’, they give the Divine Name, Rama, to whom Thyagaraja offered his salutations. There is no one in this world who does not chant the Divine Name in one way or the other in his life. Many people have children or friends who bear the divine names Rama, Krishna, etc. They do chant the divine name when they call them, saying, “Come, oh Rama, come, oh Krishna.” God has innumerable names and infinite forms. You may chant any of His names and redeem your life by Nama Sankirtan. You may describe God in any number of ways. But this will give you only temporary satisfaction. Chanting

continued on page 172...



SRI SATHYA SAI ARADHANA MAHOTSAVAM



RI SATHYA SAI ARADHANA Mahotsavam was held at Prasanthi Nilayam from 23rd to 25th April 2012 to offer worship to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on the occasion of the first anniversary of His Maha Samadhi. A huge gathering of devotees thronged Prasanthi Nilayam to take part in the solemn function. The Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan and a galaxy of eminent speakers paid glowing tributes to Bhagavan on this occasion. The venue of the programme was Sai Kulwant Hall which was aesthetically decorated with colourful buntings, cloth hangings, festoons of various colours and shapes, decorative umbrellas and flowers. There were elaborate decorations with fresh flowers on the Samadhi of Bhagavan, and a beautiful chair for Bhagavan was placed on its right side.

Experiencing the Divine – from the Form to the Formless: A Colloquium

The programme had a sacred beginning on the morning of 23rd April 2012 with worship of the idol of Lord Ganesh opposite Ganesh Gate. After the performance of sacred rituals and worship by the priests, the idol was put in a shining silver casing at 6.30 a.m., after which it was unveiled for devotees to have its Darshan and experience bliss.

The programme in Sai Kulwant Hall started with Veda chanting at 8.00 a.m.

on 23rd April 2012. The first item of the programme after Veda chanting was a colloquium on the theme, “Experiencing the Divine – from the Form to the Formless.” The distinguished speaker who introduced the theme of the colloquium was Dr. Samuel Sandweiss, a practising psychiatrist from Sai Diego, California, U.S.A. and author of three famous books on Bhagavan Baba. Dwelling on the theme of the colloquium, the erudite speaker said, “My understanding of the formless is that it is infinite silence, eternal peace, emptiness of desires and attainments: pure love, which is everything.” Supplementing his talk with video clips showcasing how the Divine assumes whatever form He Wills to take, he observed that experiencing Divinity from the Form to the Formless – the theme of the colloquium – is to experience and celebrate Swami’s all-embracing love that brings the entire mankind together as one family.

The next eminent speaker who deliberated on the theme of the colloquium was Swami Suddhananda Giri, a monastic disciple of Paramahansa Yogananda, serving at present as Treasurer of the Yogoda Satsanga Society of India. Beginning his inspiring talk with a prayer, the distinguished speaker observed that God cannot be limited to any form as He is all-pervasive. He exhorted one and all



to visualise God within as God lives in the heart of man, but He can be visualised only by love and faith. This was followed by a brief Bhajan session. The morning programme concluded with Arati at 10.30 a.m.

The programme on the afternoon of 23rd April 2012 started at 5.00 p.m. with Veda chanting. This was followed by an erudite exposition on the theme of the colloquium, “Experiencing the Divine – from the Form to the Formless” by Sri J. Jayaraman from the Ashram of Maharshi Ramana. The distinguished speaker observed that man must attain quietude to experience Formless Divinity by eradicating negative feelings like desire, anger, etc., from the mind. Comparing human mind with an ocean, Sri Jayaraman remarked that small waves do keep rising in the ocean, but the ocean is not affected by these. Referring to his interview with Bhagavan, Sri Jayaraman stated that when he prayed to Bhagavan for Balam (strength), Bhagavan gave the succinct reply, “Atma is Balam.”

A Pilgrimage to Myself: A Drama

This scholarly talk was followed by a revealing drama entitled, “A Pilgrimage to Myself” which depicted how Bhagavan continues to inspire Sai devotees by performing miraculous cures and transformation of individuals even after His Maha Samadhi. Based on some real life incidents, the drama presented by the youth of Odisha highlighted the fact that Bhagavan has not gone anywhere and He continues to reside in the hearts of His devotees. The drama which began



The drama “A Pilgrimage to Myself” was based on real life incidents.

with a thematic song, “Chal Mana Chal Apne Ghar Chal” (oh mind, abide in your own house) at 6.25 p.m. came to a close at 7.00 p.m. with the concluding lines of the same song. At the end of the drama, clothes were presented to the cast. This was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. The programme came to a close with Arati at 7.15 p.m.

Guru Vandana: Devotional Songs

A cascade of divine memories of Bhagavan flooded each heart in Sai Kulwant Hall when students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning paid heartfelt tributes to Bhagavan on 24th April 2012, the day on which Bhagavan left His mortal coil last year. Beginning their presentation entitled, “Guru Vandana” (salutations to the Guru) at 8.20 a.m. after 20 minutes of Veda chanting, the students poured out their hearts in soul-stirring songs interspersed with a meaningful commentary and accompanied by beautiful video clips which showcased the glory and grandeur of Sai Avatar. The songs which included “Madhura Mohana Ghanashyama” (enchanted form of Sai),

“Rama Rama Rama Sai,” “Tu Pyar Ka Sagar Hai” (You are the ocean of love), “Sai Ke Darbar Mein” (in the royal court of Lord Sai) were evergreen songs dear to Bhagavan.

Release of Book “Miracle of Pure Love”

This was followed by a talk by Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Organisations. Welcoming the chief guest Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan, dignitaries and devotees, Sri Srinivasan asserted that the Divine Mission of Bhagavan would continue with the help of His devotees. He informed the gathering that the fourth campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning at Muddenahalli had been approved by the Government of India, and added that the work on Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust’s drinking water project to provide drinking water to 118 villages of Puttaparthi, Kothacheruvu and Bukkapatnam Mandals at a cost of 80 crore rupees would start soon.

The book, “Miracle of Pure Love” written by Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning was thereafter released by the Governor, Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan. In his introductory talk before the release of the book, Dr. Venkataraman reiterated that the power of pure love was supreme and nothing could compare with this power. Bhagavan, he said, not only taught this but exemplified it also in His life. After releasing the book, the Governor reverentially placed a copy of it at the Samadhi of Bhagavan.

Governor’s Address

Quoting a verse from the Upanishads, the Governor in his address observed that Bhagavan is the incarnation of the Supreme Being who is eternal and has no birth or death. Describing how Bhagavan executed mammoth projects for the poor and needy in the shortest possible time, the Governor stated that the government agencies should follow the ideal set by Bhagavan. Paying respectful tributes to Bhagavan, Sri Narasimhan said that he had come to Puttaparthi as a devotee of Bhagavan



Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan, Governor of Andhra Pradesh paid respectful tributes to Bhagavan.

and not as Governor. The dignitaries who were present on this occasion included Sri N. Raghuvveera Reddy, Revenue Minister and Smt. J. Geeta Reddy, Minister for Heavy Industries, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Excerpts from Bhagavan’s Discourse

Excerpts from a Discourse of Bhagavan followed this. The first thing that man needs to know is to know himself, said Bhagavan in His Discourse. What was the

use of knowing everything without knowing oneself? asked Bhagavan. Man, Bhagavan said, should have sacred thoughts in his heart and he should fill his heart with love. Man should make others happy because he can be happy only when others are happy, concluded Bhagavan. At the end of His Discourse, Bhagavan sang the Bhajan, "Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin" which the entire assembly of devotees in the hall followed in chorus with great devotion. A brief Bhajan session followed this. Meanwhile, Prasadam was distributed to all. The morning programme in Sai Kulwant Hall came to a close with Arati at 10.30 a.m.

After the conclusion of the morning programme of Aradhana Mahotsavam in Sai Kulwant Hall, Narayana Seva was organised in Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium, where thousands of people from the adjoining villages were offered food and clothes. Simultaneously, free food was served to all the devotees in Prasanthi Nilayam.



Narayana Seva being conducted in Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium.

Two Musical Presentations

The programme on the afternoon of 24th April 2012 comprised two enrapturing musical presentations. The first presentation was made by the renowned singer Bombay Jayashri who had training both in Carnatic and Hindustani music. Starting her presentation with the song, "Jagadisha Suresha" (Oh Lord of the universe), the eminent singer followed it up with two more soul-stirring songs. She concluded her presentation with the song, "Krishna Nee Begame Baaro" (Oh Krishna, come quickly and protect me), a befitting finale to her brilliant concert. At the conclusion of her presentation, the singer was honoured with a Sari, and clothes and mementoes were presented to the artistes who provided instrumental support to her.

The next performance of the programme on 24th April 2012 was a Sarod recital by Ayaan Ali Khan, the talented younger son of Sarod maestro, Amjad Ali Khan. The young artiste enraptured the audience with three scintillating pieces and earned their profuse appreciation. Shawls and

mementoes were presented to Sri Khan and his accompanying artistes at the conclusion of the presentation. This was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. The programme came to a close with Arati at 7.00 p.m.

Concluding Talks on the Theme of the Colloquium

The programme on the third and final day of the

Aradhana Mahotsavam comprised Veda chanting, Bhajans, concluding session of the colloquium and devotional songs. The morning programme on 25th April 2012 started at 8.00 a.m. with Veda chanting followed by Bhajans. It concluded with Arati at 9.45 a.m.

The programme on the afternoon of 25th April 2012 started at 5.00 p.m. with Veda chanting. This was followed by two talks on the theme of the colloquium. The first talk was delivered by Sri Sai Giridhar, a research scholar of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. God incarnates on earth to establish Dharma when Dharma suffers a decline, said Sri Giridhar and added that Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba incarnated in Kali Yuga to establish Prema Dharma, the Dharma of love. He referred to the unconditional love of Radha for Krishna and said that Radha never wanted anything from Krishna, not even His love, in return for her love for Krishna. This, he said, was the ideal man should follow to attain God.

The next speaker of this session was Dr. G. Venkataraman, a renowned scientist and former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. The eminent speaker observed that it would be a weakness to restrict Bhagavan to a form and added that time had come to look for Him inside than outside. Referring to Bhagavan as the Avatar of Love, the erudite speaker said that Bhagavan had left for mankind an inexhaustible treasure

in the form of Prema which could uplift the entire society. He exhorted the devotees to pick up the torch of Prema and march forward valiantly.

Premaradhana – Devotional Songs

A bouquet of nine devotional songs entitled, “Premaradhana” (offering of love) by the youth and devotees of West Bengal formed the grand finale of the Aradhana Mahotsavam. Beginning their programme at 6.20 p.m. after the illuminating talk of Dr. G. Venkataraman with soulful rendition of a



Touching musical tributes were paid to Bhagavan by the youth and devotees of West Bengal.

song, “Har Pal Tera Saath” (we experience Your proximity every moment), the singers suffused the entire milieu with Sai Love by their devout presentation, every song of which touched the hearts of the listeners. The presentation became all the more touching by the accompanying video clips which showed Swami showering His love on devotees. At the conclusion of their presentation, clothes were presented to the singers. After a brief Bhajan session and distribution of Prasadam, the programme came to a close with Arati at 7.40 p.m., thus concluding the grand function of Aradhana Mahotsavam.

From our Archives

PROFOUND WISDOM OF MOTHER EASWARAMMA

MOTHER OF EASWARA IS EASWARAMMA

WHO IS EASWARAMMA? She is the mother of Easwara. This was not the name given to her by her parents. But after her marriage, Kondama Raju (Swami's grandfather), being one of wisdom and blessed with a vision of the future, started calling her Easwaramma (mother of Easwara).

Validity of the Name, Easwaramma

She was christened as Namagiriamma at the time of her birth. But Kondama Raju told her that Easwaramma was the most appropriate name for her, as he knew that she was going to become the mother of Easwara (God). Easwaramma was born in such a poor family that she did not even have proper food to eat. All that she had to eat was Ragi Sankati (gruel prepared from a coarse grain). Even I too eat Ragi Sankati only. Many people in Karnataka eat Ragi Sankati. I like it very much. I do not relish rice, Korma (curry), etc. Ragi Sankati with groundnut chutney is My favourite food. Both Ragi and groundnut are available in our village. When I come here (Whitefield) from Puttaparthi, I bring Ragi flour with Me. Even when I go to

Kodaikanal, I tell the boys to bring Ragi flour for Me. Easwaramma was illiterate. When I see the egoistic attitude, perverted mentality and ostentatious behaviour of the present-day educated people, I feel it was better that Easwaramma did not have any schooling.

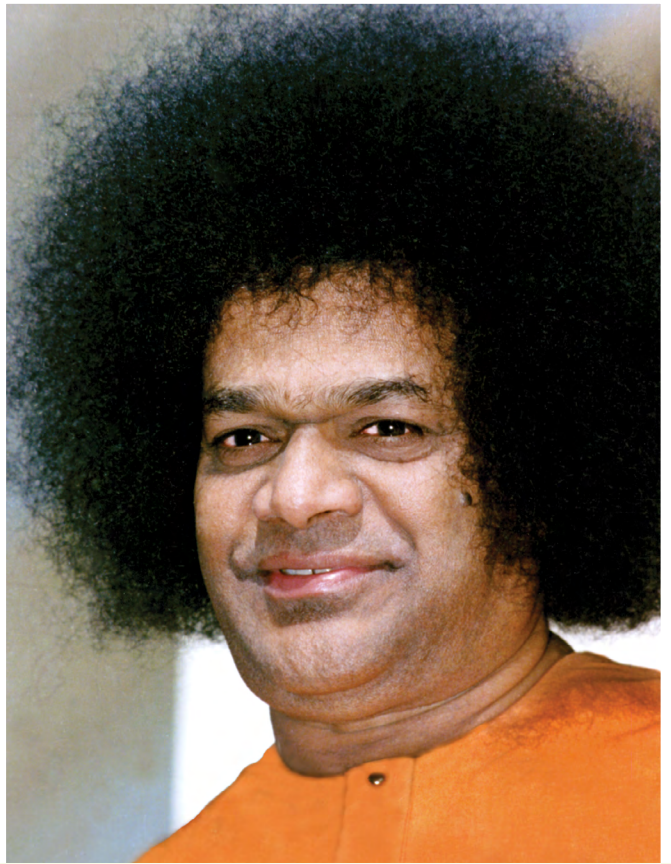
Noble Truths Taught by Mother Easwaramma

In those days (Swami's school days), when we returned from the Bukkapatnam school in the evening, Mother Easwaramma would lovingly enquire as to what happened in the school that day. One day the children told her, "Mother, today a teacher made our Sathya stand up on the bench." They started criticising the teacher. Mother Easwaramma intervened and said, "Children, you should not talk ill of your teacher. No teacher would punish his student without a proper reason. Our Sathya might have committed some mistake." Then she asked Me, "Sathya, what is the mistake You committed?" I told her the facts as they happened. The teacher ordered, "Whoever has written the notes should place it on his table. Others should stand up on the bench." I had not



written the notes. That was My mistake. Hence, I stood up on the bench. I also said something which was more than necessary. I said, "Sir, can all those boys who have taken down the notes answer your questions? Though I have not written the notes, yet I can answer any question that you may ask." The teacher thought that I was egoistic and ordered that I should stand on the bench for three periods. I obeyed him. In the meantime, the bell rang and the other teacher Mahboob Khan came to the class. He was a Mohammeden and a noble person. He was pained to see Me standing on the bench. He asked the teacher why he had made Me stand on the bench. "He has not taken down the notes, hence the punishment," said the teacher. Mahboob Khan defended Me, saying, "So what if He has not taken down the notes? He can answer all your questions, and that is enough. Ask Him to sit down." However, the teacher insisted that I deserved punishment as I did not obey his command.

The teacher had to go to another class. But he was unable to get up from the chair. Initially he thought that his Dhoti had got entangled to a nail in the chair. But that was not the



Though Mother Easwaramma had no formal education, she was endowed with profound wisdom. The teaching that Mother Easwaramma imparted to Gokak remained etched in his heart forever. Later on when he came as Vice Chancellor to Puttaparthi, he used to recall her words of wisdom. He would remember her often. He would say, "I see Mother Easwaramma in my dream almost everyday. I act upon the words of wisdom spoken to me by her. Her advice is useful not only for me, it is good for others also."



case. He was stuck to the chair! When he tried to get up from the chair, the chair also came along with him. Then Mahboob Khan told him, "He is not an ordinary boy. He is endowed with great divine powers. You have punished Him without a proper reason. At least now ask Him to sit down." The teacher realised his mistake and told Me to sit down. Simultaneously, he was also able to get up from the chair.

When all this was narrated to Mother Easwaramma, she said, "Dear Sathya, You should not punish Your teacher." I said, "I did not punish him; in fact, he punished himself." Mother Easwaramma used to impart many sacred teachings to the children. She told them, "My dear ones, you are going to school to study. Whatever you learn, put it to proper use. Only then will you be called truly educated and earn the title Sakshara (literate). If you do not make proper use of your education, you become a Rakshasa (demon). Make efforts to become Sakshara." Mother Easwaramma told Me, "Sathya! At all times, at all places, under all circumstances, love all. Do not hate anybody. When You love all, You will be loved by all." If you do not love others, how can you expect others to love you? Give love and receive love. It is not one-way traffic. You should give and take. I love all. That is why all love Me. There is no trace of hatred or enmity in Me. In this manner, Mother Easwaramma taught the children many sacred ideals.

Do Good, Be Good, See Good, Speak Good

I want to tell you an incident that speaks of Mother Easwaramma's immense

compassion and love for children. Summer classes were going on. Students from many States and countries were attending these classes then. Gokak, who used to conduct the classes, was a strict disciplinarian. He was a man of high character endowed with the spirit of sacrifice. He was a great academician too. He was conducting the classes in an exemplary manner.

One day, the students were having lunch in the dining hall. One of the boys got up and went outside before others could finish their meals. Gokak, who watched this through the window, called him and chided him for his act of indiscipline. "When your fellow students are having their food, you should not get up in the middle even though you have finished your meals. It amounts to insulting them." Saying so, Gokak suspended him from the classes. The boy was in tears but Gokak was not moved. The boy came to Mother Easwaramma's room, fell at her feet and started crying. He told her about the harsh punishment meted out to him by Gokak. He pleaded with her to come to his rescue. Mother Easwaramma consoled him and sent him away. She sat on the steps where Gokak would pass by. After a while, Gokak came there. Mother Easwaramma offered Namaskar to him. Gokak responded with Namaskar to her. Then she said, "When I did Namaskar to you, you reciprocated the same. In the same manner, if you punish others, you will be punished in return. The boy out of his innocence has done a mistake. Please forgive him and allow him to attend the classes." Gokak acted on



the advice of Easwaramma and forgave the boy. In this manner, she used to help others and provide comfort and solace to them. Her words of wisdom got imprinted on the heart of others.

You are bound to face the consequences of your actions. If you talk to others harshly, it will come back to you as resound. If you hit others, it will come back to you as reaction. Hence, do not hurt others. Do good, be good, see good and speak good. Then you will reap rich rewards. Though Mother Easwaramma had no formal education, she was endowed with profound wisdom. The teaching that Mother Easwaramma imparted to Gokak remained etched in his heart forever. Later on when he came as Vice Chancellor to Puttaparthi, he used to recall her words of wisdom. He would remember her often. He would say, "I see Mother Easwaramma in my dream almost everyday. I act upon the words of wisdom spoken to me by her. Her advice is useful not only for me, it is good for others also."

You should not criticise others. You should not hurt others or make fun of them.

... continued from page 163

of His Divine Name alone confers eternal bliss. What greater penance can there be other than making the Divine Name dance on your tongue constantly? Only chanting of the Divine Name is the real Tapas (penance), real Tirtha (place of pilgrimage) and Kshetra (holy place). Therefore, Nama Sankirtan has supreme importance in

Mother Easwaramma used to impart many sacred teachings to the children. She told them, "My dear ones, you are going to school to study. Whatever you learn, put it to proper use. Only then will you be called truly educated and earn the title Sakshara (literate). If you do not make proper use of your education, you become a Rakshasa (demon). Make efforts to become Sakshara." Mother Easwaramma told Me, "Sathya! At all times, at all places, under all circumstances, love all. Do not hate anybody. When You love all, You will be loved by all."



You should love all. This is what we have to learn. Love everyone. This is the foremost teaching of Mother Easwaramma.

– **Excerpted from Bhagavan's Easwaramma Day Discourses.**

the life of man. Chant the Divine Name constantly and redeem your life.

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

– **From Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 19th July 1996.**



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

SRI RAMA NAVAMI PROGRAMME



SRI RAMANAVAMI, commemorating the birth of Lord Rama, was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with great piety and solemnity on 1st April

2012. Devotional music programmes were presented in Sai Kulwant Hall both in the morning and evening to celebrate this sacred day.

The programme in the morning began at 8.00 a.m. with Veda chanting. This was followed by soulful devotional songs in praise of Lord Rama by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, which suffused the entire milieu with devotional fervour. Excerpts from Sri Rama Navami Discourse of Bhagavan followed this. Narrating various incidents from the Ramayana, Bhagavan in His Discourse highlighted the great ideal of brotherly love between Rama and His brothers and exhorted one and all to install Rama in their heart to redeem their life. Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "Rama Jayam Raghu Rama Jayam," which the devotees followed in chorus with great devotion. This was followed by Bhajans mainly dedicated to Lord Rama. The morning programme came to a close with Arati at 9.30 a.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.

The evening programme began with Veda chanting at 5.00 p.m. What followed



A soul-stirring presentation of devotional music by the staff and students of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music.

this was a sumptuous feast of classical Carnatic and Hindustani music which elevated the listeners to a divine plane and kept them spellbound for more than one hour. The presentation was made by the staff and students of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music, Prasanthi Nilayam. Beginning their programme with a Thyagaraja composition, they sang devotional songs and presented instrumental music pieces, showcasing the lyrical quality and spiritual essence of the devotional compositions by their talented rendition. Bhajans followed this which concluded with the Bhajan, "Rama Kodanda Rama" in Bhagavan's golden voice. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.30 p.m.

SRI SATHYA SAI EDUCARE - VISION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam conducted a seminar on the theme, "Sri Sathya Sai

Educare – Vision and Implementation” in the school premises on 3rd and 4th April 2012. More than 100 teachers of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School and Easwaramma English Medium School, Prasanthi Nilayam participated in the seminar. Apart from the Principal, Vice-Principal and senior teachers of the school, many distinguished speakers including Trustees of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Sri S.V. Giri and Sri R.J. Rathnakar, former Vice Chancellors of the Institute, Dr. G. Venkataraman and Prof. Vishwanath Pandit and a number of subject experts addressed the participants during the course of the seminar providing valuable insights to the participants for effective implementation of Educare principles in a practical way in classroom situations.

At the conclusion of the seminar, the Principal of the school, Sri Sivaramakrishnaiah listed out the recommendations of the seminar and exhorted the teachers to improve the learning process in the light of these recommendations. The Vice Principal Smt. Munni Kaul also shared her experiences of the subject with the participants. The seminar concluded with Arati to Bhagavan.

TAMIL NEW YEAR

Tamil New Year was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam on 13th April 2012 with traditional gaiety and solemnity. Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Tamil Nadu organised a beautiful music and cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall on this occasion. The first item of the programme

comprised thrilling dances presented by hearing and speech impaired children of Vela Special School, Villupuram at the initiative of Sathya Sai Alumni of Tamil Nadu. These alumni have been organising medical camps for the children of this school.

The programme started at 5.30 p.m. with the dance of a child to the tune of the Bhajan, “Ganapati Om Jai Ganapati Om.” As the singers sang the song, two teachers of the school interpreted its tune in sign language and the child performed synchronised movements of the dance as per the tune of the song and music. This was followed by a dance by a group of girls with lighted lamps in their hands. A patriotic song, “Vande Mataram” followed this which was performed by a group of boys. After another beautiful dance by a girl, the



Hearing and speech impaired children performing a group dance.

programme concluded with a group dance by girls who danced like Gopikas while one child in the make-up of Krishna played on his flute. All the dances were performed with such perfect synchronisation of the

gestures of the children to the tune of the songs and music that it was hardly possible to notice that the children were deaf and dumb. Naturally, the devotees in the hall expressed their appreciation of the programme with a thunderous applause at its conclusion.

This was followed by a devotional music programme by Sundaram Bhajan Group of Tamil Nadu. Beginning their programme at 6.00 p.m. with a prayer song dedicated to Lord Ganesh, the singers sang the glories of the Lord in various languages, viz., Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi showcasing their mastery over all these languages. This beautiful programme was followed by Bhajans which were also led by ladies and gents singers of Tamil Nadu. Meanwhile, Prasadam was distributed and clothes and gifts were presented to the participants of both the items of the programme. The programme came to a close with Arati at 7.00 p.m.

VISHU CELEBRATIONS

A large number of devotees came from Kerala to celebrate the joyous festival of Vishu in the sacred precincts of Prasanthi Nilayam. They included about 700 youth of Kerala who participated in a three-day youth conference in the Conference Hall besides taking part in Vishu celebrations in Sai Kulwant Hall.

The programme started at 5.00 p.m. with chanting of Vedic hymns by the Institute students. This was followed by a talk on the significance of Vishu by Sri Jyothilal, Secretary, Government of Kerala.

The distinguished speaker dwelt on the teachings of Bhagavan and observed that man's life on earth was a journey from Nara (human being) to Narayana (God). Man should therefore surrender to God and practise devotion and renunciation to achieve his goal of life, said the learned speaker.

The second item of the programme was a Carnatic vocal music concert by a renowned musician, Dr. Sirkazhi Sivachidambaram. Beginning his concert with an invocation to Guru followed by a prayer to Lord Ganesh, the singer enthralled the devotees for about one hour, presenting a judicious selection of Tamil and Telugu compositions in his mellifluous voice. The concert which started at 5.45 p.m. came to a close at about 6.45 p.m. At the conclusion of the concert, the singer and his accompanying artistes were honoured with shawls. A brief Bhajan session followed this. The programme came to a close with Arati at 7.00 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.

WORKSHOP ON SRI SATHYA SAI VILLAGE INTEGRATED PROGRAMME

An All India Workshop on Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme was held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 21st and 22nd April 2012 to evaluate the working of this programme and prepare guidelines for its future expansion. The venue of the workshop was the Conference Hall near Shopping Complex, where more than 100 delegates from various States of India



along with State Presidents of the Sai Organisation held their deliberations for two days.

Delineating the aims and objectives of the workshop in his inaugural address on 21st April 2012, Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President of the Sai Organisations observed that as per the reports received by him from the various States of India, there has been appreciable improvement in the condition of the villagers of about 1,300 villages which the State Organisations have adopted for all-round integrated development during the last five years. However, it was necessary to evaluate the programme in each State and identify the areas for further development which was the aim of this workshop, he observed.

This was followed by a presentation by Srinivasan Services Trust, a social arch of the TVS Motor Company who have been carrying out development work in over 1,000 villages of Tamil Nadu since 1996 in the areas of health and hygiene, employment, infrastructure, environment, education, economic development, afforestation, agriculture, Bal Vikas, etc.

The deliberations of the workshop continued thereafter on 21st and 22nd April 2012, in which delegates from various States made their presentations. Each presentation was followed by a discussion which helped in finding solutions to the problems faced by delegates in their working. The deliberations of the workshop concluded on the afternoon of 22nd April 2012. In his concluding remarks, Sri V. Srinivasan observed that the States

should expand their programme and try to cover as many as areas as possible for the integrated development of villages adopted by them. But he emphasised that quality was more important than quantity. Since spirituality was the basis of all the programmes of the Sai Organisation, the office bearers of the Sai Organisation going to villages for Seva should have strong spiritual foundation, he added.

SRI SATHYA SAI PREMAMRUTHA DHARA

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Andhra Pradesh made a video presentation along with a cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall on 22nd April 2012. The programme entitled “Sri Sathya Sai Premamrutha Dhara” showcased the remarkable Seva work done by the Sai Organisation of this State in providing drinking water to 108 scarcity-hit villages across Andhra Pradesh during the last one year.

The programme started at 5.45 p.m. with an introductory speech of the State President of Andhra Pradesh, Sri S.G. Chalam who highlighted the teachings of Bhagavan and stated how these teachings and the Drinking Water Project of Bhagavan inspired the Sai Organisation of the State to execute a project for supplying water to 108 villages of the State. The video presentation started with a video clip of Bhagavan’s Discourse in which He exhorted the devotees to undertake

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NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

OMAN



AUTISM IS A DISORDER of neural development characterised by impaired social interaction and communication. All these signs begin before a child is three years old. For more than two years, about 30 Sathya Sai volunteers from the “Serve And Inspire” (SAI) Group in Muscat, Oman have been



Bringing joy to autistic children in Oman.

bringing joy to more than 20 autistic children through play, teaching, songs, dance and other activities by weekly visits. During these sessions, the parents of the children are given orientation by a doctor and are offered professional advice, including practical guidance on how to deal with these children under various situations. About 40 such families, including Omani families, attend these activities on a weekly basis. Workshops and seminars specially focused on autism are also organised by the SAI Group.

On 25th November 2011, over 70 children including 24 with autism took part in a Special Children’s Group Sports and Fun Festival, organised by about 100 Sathya Sai volunteers. Children wore dresses with colours symbolising love, joy, peace and truth. They enjoyed themselves and performed extremely well, “like stars,” demonstrating the skills they had acquired over three months of intensive preparation. Gifts were presented to all the children.

ARGENTINA

Sathya Sai volunteers in Argentina have been rendering loving service to communities across the country by organising medical camps, eye camps and medical clinics. During the year 2011, five medical camps provided more than 2,200 medical consultations in general medicine; paediatrics, obstetrics/gynaecology (OB/GYN), dermatology, cardiology, ear/nose/throat (ENT) speciality, dentistry, ultrasound diagnosis, medical imaging and high-tech diagnostic tests. Medicines were also distributed free of cost. The dental department prescribed and fitted prostheses free of cost and distributed toothpaste and toothbrushes to all who were served. In some medical camps, hair-dressing services and treatment for lice were provided, and some even provided veterinary services. On 26th November 2011, a medical camp was hosted in the city of Gonzalez Catan, Buenos Aires, where





Sathya Sai volunteers rendered medical help to more than 2,200 patients in five medical camps held in the year 2011.

nine doctors and more than 45 volunteers lovingly provided over 225 medical consultations. Immunisation services were also rendered. Throughout the year 2011, twelve eye camps were hosted, serving about 450 people and distributing over 350 prescription eye glasses free of cost. Workshops focusing on human values and hygiene/preventive care, with a focus on AIDS, alcoholism and family violence were organised along with the medical camps. In addition to the medical camps, free medical clinics operating on regular schedules were set up across the country, providing general medicine, paediatric, psychological, dental and vision services, along with workshops on preventive care.

HAITI

It has been more than two years since the massive earthquake on 12th January 2010 caused devastating effect on the lives of the Haitian people. With dedication, enthusiasm and love, Sathya Sai volunteers from Haiti, Dominican Republic and other



Sai volunteers continue to render help to children in relief camps of Haiti.

countries, supported by the Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation, continue to assist people still living in makeshift lodgings at large camps. Thousands of needy children are cared for at various Sai relief camps through the provision of food and other required assistance. On 24th and 25th December 2011, Sathya Sai volunteers celebrated Christmas with the children by playing with them and serving food. Toys were distributed on 25th December to about 2,000 children living in the Sai relief camps through a visit by Santa Claus. Children were filled with joy and received the toys with smiling faces, and hygiene supplies were distributed to older children. On Christmas Day, Sathya Sai volunteers sang Bhajans and thanked Bhagavan for allowing them to be instruments of His divine love.

KYRGYZSTAN

Kyrgyzstan is a landlocked country in Central Asia, bordering Kazakhstan, China, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Bishkek in the north is the capital and largest city. On 21st January 2012, a dozen Sathya





Sai volunteers celebrating New Year with orphan children in Kyrgyzstan.

Sai volunteers from Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre in Bishkek celebrated the New Year with a group of more than 55 orphans. The celebration included songs, poems and dances featuring Santa Claus, the Snow Maiden, an Oriental dragon and other mythical figures. Gifts were distributed to the children.

On 12th February 2012 (Cancer Protection Day), seven Sathya Sai volunteers from Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre in Bishkek visited a local hospital and performed a concert for about 40 children suffering from different types of cancer, bringing solace to these children and their parents. At the end of the concert, gifts were distributed to the children.

DUBAI

Following Bhagavan's teachings on the importance of maintaining the purity and sanctity of the environment, Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisation of Dubai has been assisting the Emirates Environment Group (EEG) with its cleanup campaign over the past several years. Pursuant to a

request by the EEG, Sathya Sai volunteers presented a special exhibition, "Educare: the Route to Global Happiness" on 12th December 2011, in joint commemoration of the 40th year of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the 10th anniversary of the EEG cleanup campaign. The exhibition, inaugurated by the former Environmental Minister of UAE, Sri Kindi, focused on the inherent relationship between the five human values, the five elements of nature and the five sense organs of the body, presented through a series of colourful posters. The posters illustrated how the five elements (space, air, fire, water and earth) were integral components of every



The exhibition in Dubai on "Educare: the Route to Global Happiness" attracted a large number of visitors and school children.

aspect of nature, including human beings. Members of the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) Wing of the Dubai Sai Organisation explained to visitors how the balance of these elements in nature is essential for good health, happiness, peace and global harmony. The concept was well received by environmentalists, teachers, students and members of the corporate

community. The exhibition included separate counters for children where the concepts were presented through fun activities including quizzes. School children of various disciplines and cultures (Arabic, Indian, Filipino, American and French) visited the exhibition, accompanied by their teachers. All who viewed the exhibition were inspired by the wonderful message of Bhagavan, and teachers requested further references in order to carry the message to their schools. This is an indication of the universal, simple and profound application of Bhagavan's teachings.

ITALY

On 17th and 18th December 2011, Sathya Sai volunteers including Sathya Sai youth brought joy to 10 needy people by organising Christmas celebrations at the Mother Sai Complex. Sathya Sai volunteers baked a cake to celebrate the birthday of a guest who had been diagnosed with cancer of the brain. The volunteers brought happy smiles to the faces of the guests by dressing up as clowns and creating a joyful atmosphere with a divine mix of coloured balloons, bubble-blowing and the singing of melodious songs. Gifts lovingly wrapped by the Sathya Sai youth were presented to the needy during a special appearance of Santa Claus.

POLAND

On 18th December 2011, 18 Sathya Sai volunteers including Sathya Sai youth from various parts of Poland presented a special Christmas programme for

the people living in a nursing home in Warsaw. The programme included an approximately 90-minute presentation of songs and poems. Almost all the audience joined in joyfully and sang along with the Sathya Sai volunteers. The residents of the nursing home thanked the Sathya Sai volunteers and commented that it was the first time they had heard a choir sing with so much love and warmth. About 75 gift packages and snacks were distributed to the residents of the nursing home during the performance.

– **Sri Sathya Sai International Organisations**

BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh: A Sarva Dharma Pillar was constructed at Yellamanchili in Visakhapatnam district, a few metres away from the place where Bhagavan presided over Vidwan Maha Sabha and addressed a large gathering of about 50,000 devotees way back on 27th March 1965, during His visit to Yellamanchili. The pillar, beautiful and sublime in architecture with artistically engraved emblems of five major religions, was formally inaugurated at 10.45 a.m. on Sunday, 18th March 2012 exactly 47 years after Bhagavan's visit to the place. Surrounding the Sarva Dharma Pillar at a vantage point, Swami's sayings were put up on a board. The piece of land where the pillar was constructed was enclosed with a steel railing, and the tiled inside space was set aside for the devotees to sit and meditate.

After inaugurating the majestic pillar, the State President Sri S.G. Chalam appealed





Sarva Dharma Pillar to commemorate Bhagavan's visit on 27th March 1965 to village Yellamanchili.

to one and all to live up to the teachings of Bhagavan in unity and harmony. The District President Sri V.R. Nageswara Rao read out the letter Swami wrote then to one of the devotees by name Narasimha Murthy about His proposed visit to Yellamanchili which materialised on the 27th of March 1965. It was announced that the 27th of March would be celebrated every year as the anniversary day of Swami's historic visit to Yellamanchili. A few devotees of those days, Smt. Kattamuru Mahalakshmi, Smt. M. Sridevi, Smt. Kameswaramma and Sri M.A. Adinarayana were felicitated

by the State President. Sri O. Ramanayya, the donor of the site, offered Mangal Arati to Bhagavan.

Gujarat: Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi of Surat and Adajan jointly organised Shirdi Sai and Sathya Sai Katha (story) at Sri Sathya Sai Seva Sankul, Althan, Surat from 17th to 23rd March 2012. Sri Babanandji narrated the Divine Leelas of Shirdi Sai and Sathya Sai for seven days. Nearly 800 to 900 people devotedly came to listen to the Katha everyday. During all these days, eminent people from the city were invited as guests and many service activities were conducted. A blood donation camp was organised on the first day. On the following days, sewing machines and tricycles were given to the needy and medically



Sewing machines for the needy.

treated mosquito nets were distributed in the children's ward at the Civil Hospital. Narayana Seva was performed on the last day of the Katha.

Maharashtra and Goa: To commemorate the first anniversary of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Maha Samadhi, the State of Maharashtra and Goa organised a programme entitled "A Tribute to the Legend of Pure Love."

The event saw some of the most eminent luminaries of the legal, business, educational and political fraternity highlighting the dire need to follow the path of human values shown by Baba as a panacea for the ills of the modern world. This was done by means of a panel discussion. The panelists were: Justice P.N. Bhagwati, former Chief Justice of India and presently Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University, Justice Mohit Shah, Chief Justice of Mumbai High Court, Justice Y.V. Chandrachud, Smt. Geeta Reddy, Minister for Heavy Industries, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Sri Karun Shrivastav, former Municipal Commissioner, City of Mumbai, Prof. Zharapkar and Sri Gunit Chadha, CEO, Duestche Bank, Far East and Africa.

Recounting his experiences with Bhagavan Baba, Justice Bhagwati elucidated on Swami's teachings that the true form of spirituality was to do one's duty with love, truth and righteousness. Smt. Geeta Reddy observed that Swami is the living example of the magnanimous power of love as it was only His love that could attract millions of people from all over the world to the holy precincts of Prasanthi Nilayam in spite of the fact that Bhagavan Himself went abroad just once in His lifetime and that He spoke most of the time in His mother tongue, Telugu.

Justice Mohit Shah highlighted the need for divine guidance in the arduous and often confusing task of deciding which interpretation of the law would render

justice in a case. He too agreed that it was only when work was done with a spirit of selflessness and commitment that it could be made beneficial to the nation. Sri Gunit Chadha mentioned the need for values to be integrated in our education system so that we do not end up promoting the 'individual' over the 'team'. Prof. Zharapkar highlighted the need to get the right perspective of happiness as something independent of material status. Sri Shrivastav elucidated the need to feel pride in one's work as an essential contribution to the overall good of society.

The panel discussion examined why in spite of knowing what was the 'right thing to do,' people failed in following the voice of their conscience. The way ahead according to all panelists was to have an abiding commitment to one's chosen vocation, performing one's duty as an indispensable link in promoting the overall welfare of society at large.

The programme concluded with a resounding rendition of Bhajans by Sri Raviraj Nasery, a leading vocalist blessed with numerous opportunities of performing before Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Rajasthan: A two-day Annual State Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Rajasthan was held on 4th and 5th January 2012 in Chitlangia Dharamshala, Sri Ganganagar City, wherein nearly 160 devotees participated. The theme of the conference was "Our Life is His Message." Adoption of villages by all Samithis for SSSVIP, National



Narayana Seva, Bal Vikas, Parthi Yatra, cultural programmes at Prasanthi Nilayam and maximum utilisation of electronic media, etc., were emphasised by the State President of Rajasthan, Dr. Shaktawat in his welcome address. Prof. Mukundan, the Chief Guest of the conference, narrated a number of his experiences with Bhagavan and exhorted the participants to do more Seva to become perfect instruments in the Divine Mission. Dr. S Jagdish, a faculty member of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning shared his experiences of student life and later as a teaching faculty. The programme ended with distribution of Vibhuti Prasadam and Mangal Arati.

Tamil Nadu: A disaster awareness and training programme was conducted at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam on 17th and 18th March

2012 by a Disaster Management Team from Tamil Nadu comprising 14 trainers assisted by State Faculty Members.

On 17th March 2012, the first session commenced at 8.00 p.m. with introduction followed by disaster management of floods. Thereafter, nine important rescue knots were taught to the participants.

On 18th March 2012, awareness was provided about disasters like earthquake, cyclone, tsunami and landslide with the help of videos. Post-lunch session was all about practicals and demonstration on emergency methods of rescue. The final session of the awareness programme was about first aid, in which all the pros and cons of first aid were explained. Around 75 students of the Institute took part in this training.

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selfless service to help the villagers and solve their problems. The video presentation showing the problems of the villagers as also the various stages of the execution of the project was befittingly supplemented with a commentary in Telugu and English. The concluding part of the video presentation showed the joy and satisfaction of the villagers who expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for the solution of their acute problem of drinking water. The programme came to a close with a joyous dance by the youth of Andhra Pradesh. The participants were offered clothes at the conclusion of the programme. This



The programme "Sri Sathya Sai Premamrutha Dhara" concluded with a joyous dance by the youth of Andhra Pradesh.

was followed by Bhajan and distribution of Prasadam. The programme came to a close with Arati at 7.00 p.m.

Effulgence of Divine Glory

A LIFE~CHANGING EXPERIENCE!



IN AUGUST 1979, A renowned astrologer aged 83 years, Sri Pakala Suryanarayana, known to our family for many decades, stayed with us for a few days. He told me, “Shastry, soon you will come in contact with a Viswa Purusha – a divine personage well known to the world!” Initially I did not take his words seriously. After a week, he again said, “At 12 noon on 28th October 1979, you will have the Darshan of the Living God of Kali Yuga! He will talk to you!” Even this authoritative statement did not make any impact on me, although I became curious. But when the octogenarian astrologer returned and repeated the earlier assertion on 16th October, I asked him, “Who is this Living God?” He replied, “Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba!” I had heard about Baba though I did not know much about Him. I wondered how could an ordinary person like me ever approach Sai Baba and have an audience with Him. But Suryanarayana reiterated, “He will surely speak to you. Remember, it will be at 12 noon on 28th October!”

The circumstances so conspired that on 27th October I was at the Brindavan Ashram of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, near Bengaluru along with one of my good friends, Sri Gopalakrishna Yachendra, a

member of the royal family of Venkatagiri. Nothing eventful happened that evening though I saw Bhagavan Baba for the first time from a distance. But I eagerly looked forward to the next day, a Sunday. Both of us travelled from Bengaluru and reached the Ashram premises around seven in the morning. Thousands of people had already gathered for the daylong Bhajan under the huge peepul tree. Baba granted Darshan at eight and moved amidst the devotees, but He did not come near us. After He returned to the Mandir, Bhajans continued but most of the devotees left. Sri Gopalakrishna said, “Swami will come out only in the evening. Let us leave now and return by that time. He will not call anyone for an interview either, however great one may be, until evening.” These words could not sway my belief that Baba would come out at noon! My faith in the words of Sri Pakala Suryanarayana was complete. Quite unwillingly, Gopalakrishna continued to sit beside me.

We grew tense as noon approached. Each minute that passed seemed longer than a day to us. To my utter amazement and joy, the gates of the Mandir were thrown open a few minutes before twelve! Both of us were awestruck to see Bhagavan

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Attribute of a Saint

Chinna Katha

SAMARTHA RAMDAS WAS the Guru of Sivaji, to whom he imparted spiritual teachings since his childhood. From time to time, he used to go along with his disciples to meet Sivaji to know about his welfare and tender him necessary advice on important matters. Once when he was going to meet Sivaji, his disciples felt hungry and thirsty on the way. As the Guru walked some distance forward, the disciples looked hither and thither to find something which could satiate their hunger. As they walked forward, they saw a field of sugarcane at one place. Unable to control their hunger, all of them entered the sugarcane field, pulled out a sugarcane each and started relishing it. In the meantime, the owner of the sugarcane field came running and beat the disciples of Ramdas severely with

a stick. As the disciples ran towards their Guru, the owner of the field also came following them and complained to the Guru about the despicable conduct of his disciples. Samarth Ramdas apologised to the owner of the field on behalf of his disciples for their folly and chastised his disciples for their lack of restraint.

After some time, the Guru and his disciples reached the palace of Sivaji. Sivaji himself came out to meet his Guru, offered his salutations to him and took him inside the palace. As he conducted his Guru to the bathroom to enable him to take bath, Sivaji saw red scars and blisters on the back of his Guru. Sivaji asked his Guru with great concern, "Swami! What is this? Has anybody beaten you so ruthlessly?" But Ramdas did not say anything. When



The sugarcane field owner complained to Guru Ramdas about the bad behaviour of his disciples.



When Sivaji asked Guru Ramdas what punishment he prescribed for the sugarcane field owner, the Guru told him that it was we who had to pay damages to the owner of the field.

Sivaji asked the disciples of Ramdas about this, they narrated with great fear and shame all that had happened on the way. Sivaji was not surprised that his Guru's back bore the marks of the beating of his disciples because he knew that it was the attribute of a saint to take upon himself the sufferings of those around him.

Sivaji was very angry with the owner of the sugarcane field. He sent his soldiers to summon him to the royal court. Presenting him before his Guru, Sivaji asked his Guru, "Swami! Tell me what punishment should I give to this man?" Looking at the sugarcane field owner who was trembling with fear, the Guru said to Sivaji calmly, "Dear son!

The mistake lies with my disciples, not with this man. In spite of being my disciples, they could not control their craving for food and plucked out sugarcanes without the permission of the owner of the field. Isn't it an offence committed by my own disciples? It is we who have to pay damages to the owner of the field. Being a king, you remit the tax payable by the sugarcane field owner on his field.

An ideal Guru is always ready to take upon himself the punishment of the offences committed by his disciples. Samartha Guru Ramdas took upon himself the suffering of the beating of his disciples.

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walking towards us. Exactly at 12 noon, He stood in front of me! With a loving smile on His face He asked me, "Bobbili Shastry, how are you?" Even as I wondered how He knew my name and place, He moved towards an old lady who sat nearby. He heard her intently, gently waved His hand and materialised Vibhuti for her. Then He walked back and offered His feet to me to take Padanamaskar! I was lost in bliss and rested my head on His Lotus Feet. While doing so, I was blessed with the greatest divine experience of my life. I saw the effulgent form of Lord Venkateswara holding Sankha (conch), Chakra (discus), Gada (mace) and Padma (lotus)! It was a life-changing experience for me. Thrilled to

the core of my being, as I stood in front of Him, Bhagavan commanded, "Shastry, the time has come for you to dedicate yourself to the service of humanity. The need of the hour is national integration – achieving unity in diversity. Start your mission in this direction!" I was in an ecstatic trance for some time and when I opened my eyes, I saw Baba gently moving away! Gopalakrishna was thrilled beyond measure and he said, "Shastry, this is the most wonderful experience I've had in forty years of my devotion to Bhagavan!"

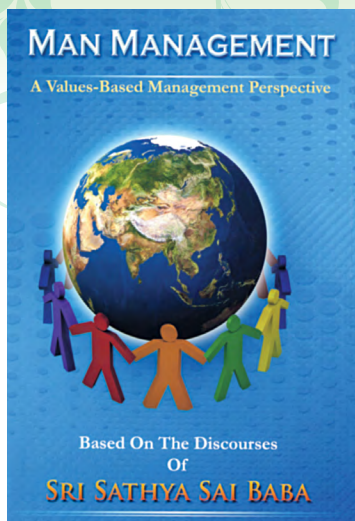
Thus, my life was transformed on that day and it took a new direction. I decided to traverse the path laid down for me by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba!

– Excerpted from "Sathyam Sivam Sundaram - 7" by Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy.



Book Review

Values-Based Management



MAN MANAGEMENT A Values-Based Management Perspective

Sri Sathya Sai Students
and Staff Welfare Society,
Sri Sathya Sai Institute of
Higher Learning, Prasanthi
Nilayam - 515134

Copies available at:

Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana
Trust, Publications Division,
Prasanthi Nilayam. ₹ 200.00
(paperback) ₹ 300.00 (hard
bound)

THIS BOOK IS BASED on the Discourses of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Founder Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher

Learning, who in His divine vision not only set up the School of Management, but also provided exemplary guidelines in His Discourses for the development of professionally sound and socially responsible managers who embody noble values and unblemished character to run the business organisations successfully without compromising with moral and ethical principles enshrined in India culture and ethos. Laying the emphasis on the transformation of the individual for the transformation of the world, Bhagavan says, "Men are more valuable than all the wealth of the world, for it is they who determine the effective utilisation of all other resources." The vision that Bhagavan gave to the Institute was to prepare change agents who would influence the organisation and people around them through personal example, exemplary conduct and dedicated selfless service along with professional competence. They would curb their desires, reduce their wants, live in spiritual austerity so that tensions of competitive socio-economic system would be dissolved and they would dedicate themselves to the good of society and the nation.

In His divine vision, Bhagavan visualised what was ailing the corporate world and bringing about widespread chaos in the financial world affecting the fate of millions of individuals and ruination of nations. Most corporate debacles are caused by unscrupulous individuals holding high positions in powerful business houses. In their myopic vision, they look for quick gains and indulge in all sorts of malpractices. Bhagavan Baba therefore laid great



stress on the inculcation of human and ethical values in the future managers of corporate houses. He therefore not only designed a course for management studies based on human values, but also gave a series of Discourses to students and teachers which provide specific guidelines to corporate executives on the need and significance of ethics and morality while dealing with various work-related issues concerning the individual, organisation and society at large. Baba emphasises that the transformation of society begins with the individual; if individuals at the decision-making level change, the entire system would be transformed. It is the inspired individuals who can bring about a sea change in the working of corporate houses by their strict adherence to values and work ethics.

There is a lot of talk in India today about corruption which is endangering the progress and stability of the nation itself. What is the root cause of corruption and how corrupt practices can be eradicated? It is quite revealing what Bhagavan has said about this great malady. He says, "There is widespread concern in the country about corruption. Many people question Me: When will corruption end in the country? My response is: Who is responsible for this corruption? Is it the government alone that is responsible for corruption? It is also the business people who are responsible in their own way for this corruption. For their selfish reasons and private gains, business people have been funding those in power and making them more and more powerful. If business people live up to right values and principles, all this corruption can end in a moment."

This is the revised and enlarged edition of this book which was published earlier. The present edition of the book was released by the Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Baba on 21st August 2009 on the 23rd anniversary of the Management School of the Institute. The revised edition is divided into nine parts and presents valuable insights into all dimensions of management in government, business and industry. It is a Bible for corporate executives, business leaders, financial giants and all those concerned with the art and science of management.

.....

Inspired individuals can change the working of corporate houses.

.....

The principle of Love is the greatest unifying force which unites all spiritual practices, all the creeds, the goal of life and all the scriptures. The foremost path for the spiritual aspirant is the path of complete surrender to the Lord for earning His love and grace. The devotee offers everything he has to the Lord, in the same manner in which a bride renounces all that she had before marriage in going to the home of her husband. God's love cannot be got without such renunciation by the devotee.

— *Baba*

Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital

Prasanthi Nilayam - 515134

Email: hrmgh@sssihms.org.in , Phone 08555-287256, Fax 08555-289409

Applications are invited for the following post

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Apply to the Medical Superintendent, Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Prasanthi Nilayam, with full bio-data and a photograph immediately.

– Medical Superintendent

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences

Prasanthigram, Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up the vacancy of a Pharmacist Gr-III in SSSIHMS-PG, Puttaparthi

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Pay scale / emoluments (at min. of basic): Consolidated pay during 1st year Rs 7,500/- , 2nd year Rs 9,000/- , 3rd year Rs 12,000/-. Placement in the grade with pay band Rs 5,200-20,200 with Grade pay Rs 2,400/- at a starting basic pay of Rs 9,910/- in 4th year.

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For any further details and other information about the Institute, please visit our website (www.psg.sssihms.org.in).

Candidates may furnish their bio-data in prescribed form which can be downloaded from the website: <http://psg.sssihms.org.in/pages/Careers.htm>) or on a white paper.

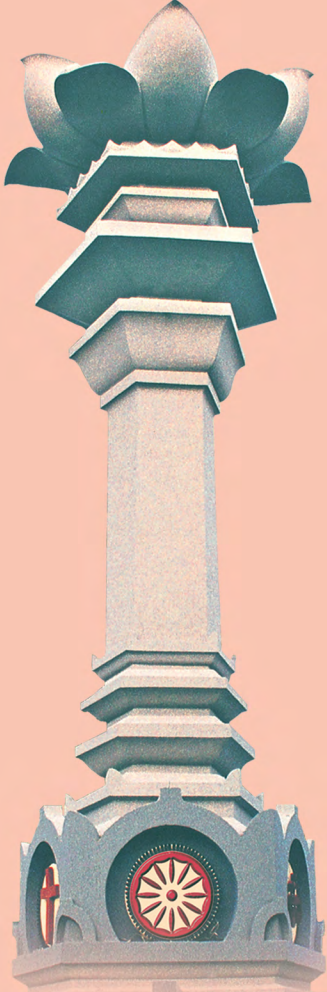
Completed applications, along with copies of qualifying degrees and experience, D.O.B. proof and two passport size photographs may be sent by post to the Director, SSSIHMS-PG, Puttaparthi - 515134, Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh.

Applications may also be sent through e-mail (humanresourcespg@sssihms.org.in) along with scanned copies of certificates and photo.

Original certificates, D.O.B. are to be shown at the time of interview.

Last date for receiving applications is: 15/05/2012.

– Director



Practise Silence

Whatever you do, have the Name of the Lord on your lips and deep-seated faith in your heart. Thereby, work will be transformed into worship. Today you have to open your heart and close your mouth. But people are doing exactly the opposite. This is treason to God. Practise silence as far as possible. The ancient sages practised Mounam (silence) as a spiritual discipline. Today people indulge in excessive talk over the trivial and the unimportant. When silence is practised, bliss will manifest itself. The one who talks much will do little. The one who acts will talk little.

– Baba

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