

# Sathya Sai Newsletter, USA

*Dedicated with Love and Devotion to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.*

*In this issue, we contemplate the meaning of **surrender**.*



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# Surrender



*God is all-powerful; God is everywhere; God is all-knowing. To adore this formidable, limitless Principle, man [typically] spends but a few minutes out of twenty-four hours in front of an idol, image, or picture. This is indeed ridiculous; it is practically futile. Adore Him as long as you have breath, as long as you are conscious. Have no other thought than God, no other aim than knowing His command, no other activity than translating that command into action. That is what is meant by surrender. **Render**\* yourself unto Him.*

—Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba  
Discourse of February 23, 1971

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\* *render*: to cause to be or become; to make (from the Latin, *reddere*, to give back)

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: The Sathya Sai Newsletter, USA welcomes photographs, drawings, literary contributions, and regional reports. **Please supply the author's name, location, and contact information when forwarding submissions, and kindly include citations for all quotations, especially the dates of discourses.** Since we are unable to return your submissions, please keep a copy for your files. We reserve the right of discrimination in selecting and editing all materials for publication. Send any of the above items to: Sathya Sai Newsletter, USA c/o Sathya Sai Book Center of America, 305 West First Street, Tustin, California 92780-3108. Phone 714-669-0522. Fax: 714-669-9138. E-mail: [ssnewsletterusa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ssnewsletterusa@sbcglobal.net).

—Barbara Bozzani, Editor

# Sweet Lessons of Surrender

I have been learning some wonderful lessons through experiencing some pretty tough times. A tumor caused my vocal cords to become paralyzed, leaving me unable to swallow, and other complications. Yet I have received a great gift of Baba's grace. Even though I had been praying to Baba and mostly did not have any fear, at times I would get choked, panic, and think I might suffocate. I started crying out to Baba and spent a lot of time in prayer and meditation. I began reading two books of Sai Baba that a friend brought me. Then I began to experience the sweetness of the Lord, and the feeling that I will be all right, regardless of the circumstances.

Baba has said, "Every second of our life is passing away." I thought that I had been doing pretty well as a devotee and of course had things to work on, but now I realize that when I said yes to Baba, He responded by doing whatever was and is necessary to heal me mentally and spiritually. The book I am reading answers a lot of my questions and helps me understand that a great deal more is required of me. Being forced to spend a lot of time in solitude, I am realizing the wonderful sweetness of surrender. Baba does not settle for part of our life. If we really say yes to Him, then sooner or later we will have to yield the ego to Him. Of my own I cannot do this.

How sweet is the Lord, who knows what is necessary to heal our minds, so addicted to this world of illusion. In truth, when I do the Lord's will, my mind is at peace with a sense of love I cannot find in this world. We must realize that when Baba says, *You are God*, He means it, and will enact whatever is necessary for us to realize that.

In wonder and hope, this is now my prayer:

*"May I know You better, that I might love You more,  
and loving You more, I might love all."*

—Harold Ray  
Harvest, Alabama

# What Is Surrender?

*All is God, So Realize the Self*

Sri Sathya Sai Baba often discusses surrender in terms of what it is not, partly because the English word, *surrender*, along with similar much-used terms, does not adequately translate the connotations of the Sanskrit terms *sharanagati*, *atmanivedanam*, and so on. In fact, according to Baba, the English term, *surrender*, can be outright misleading. The subtleties between the concepts of surrender, offering, dedication, sacrifice, trust, and self-realization must be carefully sifted through to arrive at a deeper understanding of this devotional ideal. After all, *self-surrender* is named as the ninth of the nine forms of devotion, implying an attainment just short of complete merger with the Divine.

Certain preconceptions about surrender must be overcome, tossed out, and reformed in a new, broader light. The following excerpts from Swami's discourses provide examples and approaches to aid our quest.

## Offering Everything to the Divine

*As long as selfishness prevails, the Divine cannot be understood.*

—Sri Sathya Sai Baba

The Lord has to be realized through spiritual discipline. This does not mean adoring God in a particular place or in a particular form. It means thinking of God in all that you do, wherever you may be. It may be asked whether this is possible. The answer is: it is possible by dedicating every action to God. During the Navaratri festival (in October) there is a form of worship called *anga-arpana puja* (ritual offering of one's limbs to the Lord; *anga* = limb; *arpana* = offering; *puja* = ritual worship). In this form of worship, all the limbs of the body are offered to the Divine in a spirit of surrender or *sharanagati*.

Surrender means offering everything to the Divine and giving up the idea of separation between oneself and the Divine. There can be no true surrender if there is any sense of separation. There must be the conviction that it is the same Divine who dwells in all beings.

In the performance of *anga-arpana puja*, a form of self-deception occurs. When a devotee says, "I offer my eyes to the Lord" and offers

only a flower to the Lord, he is indulging in a kind of deception. The proper thing would be to say that he is offering a flower. Actually mantras such as, “I offer my eyes to the Lord” (*Netram samarpayami*), are intended to mean using one’s eyes to see only God. The real significance of the mantra is that you think of the Divine in whatever you see or do.

Therefore, the true meaning of the *anga-arpana puja* is to declare the offering of all your limbs in service of the Lord. In other words, whatever work you do should be done as an offering to God. Nowadays selfishness is rampant among devotees, and they love God not for God’s sake but only to get their selfish desires fulfilled. As long as selfishness prevails, the Divine cannot be understood. (October 6, 1992)

## God is Not Separate

*God is not separate from you, for God is in all, everywhere at all times.*

—Sri Sathya Sai Baba

[Swami explains that on the final day of elaborate Vedic rituals such as the annual *Veda Purusha Sapta Yajna* or the *Ati Rudra Maha Yajna*, a valedictory offering called the *puṇahuti* (fullest invocation) is made to the deities or forms of God presiding over various facets of nature.] Usually a number of valuable things are poured and placed in the sacrificial fire, which has been adored and fed during the entire course of the *yajna*. The closing ritual is called the *samapti*, a word usually translated as “the end,” but its real meaning is the attainment of *sama* and *Brahma* (i.e., God-vision). The final offering is of one’s self, the culmination of all the sacrifices rendered all along. The significance of *puṇahuti* is fulfilling one’s earthly life by dedicating one’s self to the Omni-Will or God (Brahman). This is also known as surrender or *sharanagati*.

What exactly is *puṇahuti* or *sharanagati*? The most popular meaning is to declare: “My body, my mind, my possessions, my all—I offer to You.” This is an incorrect interpretation, a sign of total ignorance. It concedes that you and God are distinct entities, which is untrue. God is not separate from you, for God is in all, everywhere, at

all times. How then can you be apart? How can God be a separate entity?

Water, wave, and foam are only apparently distinct. All three are the same; only their names and forms create the illusion of diversity. You cannot give what you do not own. Of course, you can and do announce, “I surrender my mind, my thoughts, my feelings and imaginings to God,” But your monkey-mind escapes from your hold. How then, can you capture it, claim it, and surrender it to God? What authority do you possess to offer something you are not the master of? A Telugu proverb talks about the son-in-law making gifts of the mother-in-law’s property. How can anyone give another what he does not own?

Is your body under full control? When blood starts flowing out of a vein on your hand, you cannot stop the flow. You rush to a hospital and cry out, “Doctor! Doctor! I need a bandage!” When you suffer a stroke and your limbs on one side become paralyzed, you are helplessly unable to repair them. How can you dedicate such a body—over which you have no rule? Such statements as surrendering body, mind, and heart are only rhetoric sanctioned by tradition and long usage. The act of surrender is often characterized as *Atma-arpana* (offering of the Inner Divinity). This expression is even more ridiculous. When you are the Atma in essence, how can Atma or Self offer Itself to Itself?

The body is a composite of the five elements. It cannot avoid disintegration, but the Dweller within the body has no birth or death, no desire or despair, no attachment or

bondage. In truth, that Dweller is the God of Gods, who resides as Atma in you. This is what the seers have experienced. So *Atma-arpana* is a meaningless expression. You have nothing in you or belonging to you that you can claim as yours to offer to God.

Then, what does surrender of the self signify or imply? To experience God as omnipresent, to be aware of nothing other than God—this is true surrender. To see God in everything, everywhere, at all times, is true *sharanagati*. He gives, He enjoys, He experiences. If you offer, and God accepts, you become superior. [In such a case,] how can God be all-powerful? You should not reduce the glory of God through such high-sounding statements.

You may be an erudite scholar who can interpret the scriptures, or you may read or recite the holy books scores of times. Of course, these are good attainments and practices, but one has to carry out one’s duty with devotion and discipline. Devotion is not parading the ochre robe (apparel of a monk or priest); sins will not fade away simply because holy formulae roll off the tongue, and spiritual merit cannot accrue in heaps merely by holding the scriptures in hand and loudly acclaiming them in speech. The real person of virtue is the one whose deeds are in accordance with the words of advice he utters. Devotion cannot tolerate in the devotee the slightest trace of envy or jealousy. Make your daily life holy and pure. Render your life worthwhile through service to man and service to society. That is the most important aspect of surrendering the self. (October 8, 1981)

## Near and Dear, or an Outsider?

*Recognition that the Atma is one's Self is surrender.*

—Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Another example: In a household, each one does a particular job and divides the work. In the evening when the family has finished the work, no one says, “Father, I did such-and-such work and you must pay me.” It is one household, so you don’t ask for payment—you just do the work. When people come from outside the house, you fix the rate and pay them accordingly. When you pay them, it shows they are outsiders, but when they are your own, you aren’t expected to pay them. They do their work out of common interest, without expecting pay.

It is similar with God. When you think of God as nearest and dearest to you, as a member of your family, you don’t ask for pay. The one who surrenders like that is My own and does not have to look for payment. But the one who barter with God saying, “I have done this much spiritual practice, and now you should give me such-and-such a reward”—then that is different; he is an outsider.

The child who is small does not say to the mother, “I want milk,” “I want to be changed,” and so on. Instead, the mother looks after her child’s every need without its asking. When you have surrendered yourself completely to God and become God’s child, you don’t have to tell God what you want. He will give even more than you have asked for. But it is only by love that He is your dearest!

Do spiritual practice [with love] and you get closeness to God; you don’t have to tell Him that you want this or that. Because you are like a little child, He will come and give you even more than what you ask for.

Ego prevents us from getting [this kind of closeness] to God. The ego says, “I have to do this,” or “I have to get all this.” [Instead] you must see that “I am only the instrument of the Lord.” Does the fan make the fan rotate, or is it the current that makes the fan rotate? ... The current is God; you are only the instrument.

... The word, *surrender*, in English, is not quite correct; it is not the right word. It does not quite explain. When you say *surrender*, you are separate and God is separate. That is the meaning you get. But God is not separate. ... *Self-realization*: that is why they call it so. You realize your own Self. You are You. (*Conversations with Sathya Sai Baba*, pp. 6-7)

It is not a question of surrendering or giving to someone else; one surrenders to one’s Self. Recognition that the Atma is one’s Self is surrender. Surrender really means the realization that all is God, that there is nobody who surrenders, that there is nothing to be surrendered, nor is there anyone to accept a surrender. All is God, and there is only God. ... The word *surrender* is worldly language. To correctly describe it, the language of the divine is needed. But because there is no adequate word in English, the use of *surrender* persists. (*Conversations with Sathya Sai Baba*, p. 93)

## What Can Be Surrendered?

*How can you surrender something over which you have no control?*

—Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Intending to go on a journey, you hand over the keys of your car to the chauffeur and sit in comfort and security in the back seat, forgetting the possible troubles on the way. You have surrendered your life into the hands of that man, his intelligence, alertness, and skill. Some people, however, do not fully surrender; they are too egoistic for that! They interrupt the driver every minute with tips, hints, and suggestions about driving, and with questions and doubts regarding the condition of the car or the road! They confuse the driver so much that they inflict accidents upon themselves!

Be steady, have faith, and reach the goal safely. Life is the car; your heart is the key. God is the chauffeur. Surrender to Him and be rid of further bother. Travel safely and arrive happily.

Many declare that they are surrendered to Me, using the word *arpana* (offering). They have dedicated their mind, body, wealth, their all—so they proclaim! But still they continue with their “I did it,” “I feel so,” “I think so,” “I like it,” “I do not like it,” and so on. The [ego]-“I” raises its hood so that it may receive homage or praise. It is a big lie, sheer falsehood, to claim that you have surrendered. The word *arpana* is thrown about without any value or purpose, to deceive those who do not delve into its authenticity.

[Consider this:] How can you surrender something over which you have no control? You are the slave of your mind, of your passions, of your prejudices—yet you dare claim that you have surrendered your mind, thoughts, and plans to God! While you are [still] struggling to escape the coils of the mind and the stranglehold of the passions, how can you dedicate them to Me? No. You need not boast of such bravery, such sacrifice, such devotion. I neither need nor ask for such a declaration. It is ... enough if you believe that God is everywhere, at all times, and that you are yourself no different from Him. When you yourself are God, to whom do you surrender? Think this over deeply and attain that realization. (February 23, 1971)

## The Nine Paths of Devotion

*If the devotee sincerely practices any one of these paths, he can attain Me.*

—Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Devotees should grow up like infants in the lap of the mother and thereafter become sages who can rely on their “own” strength and be free. Still, both have the same source of strength, the Mother. Those who grasp this secret of the path of devotion are indeed fortunate—those who develop one-pointed devotion and straighten the traits of their character, who transform themselves into infants in the lap of the Lord, and who get everything done by Him as He wishes.

... [In the days of the Rama Avatar,] when Sri Rama came to Sabari (an illiterate tribal woman), she asked him—while Sri

Rama was gladly partaking of the feast of roots and fruits, selected and reserved by Sabari for Him after herself tasting every individual item: “Lord! I am but a woman. In addition, I am of feeble intellect. Above all, I am low-born. How can I praise You? I do not know what to do or how!”

Sri Rama smiled and replied, “Sabari! My mission is only the kinship of devotion. I have no kinship of race or caste. Of what use is status, wealth, and character, without devotion? Like the cloud that does not bear rain, wandering about in the sky, these people without devotion are at the mercy of the winds, however much status in society, wealth, power, and fame they may possess. Devotees reach me through nine paths. Any one of these nine paths takes them to Me.”

Sabari then prayed to Sri Rama to tell her about the nine paths of devotion, and Sri Rama responded: “Listening to stories of God (*sravanam*), singing the glories of the Lord (*kirtanam*), remembering and repeating the names of God (*Vishnusmaranam*), offering one’s actions at the feet of the Lord (*padasevanam*), revering nature and all life (*vandanam*), worshiping God through ritual (*archanam*), being a servant of the Lord (*dasyam*), befriending God (*sneham*), and the path of surrender, yielding fully to the Lord’s Will (*Atmanivedanam*).”

If the devotee sincerely practices any one of these paths, he can attain Me. I am bound by these nine forms of devotion. That is why you have been able to obtain so easily this opportunity of seeing, touching, and speaking with Me—an opportunity that even yogis find too difficult to get. You have

realized life’s purpose today. (*Prema Vahini*, pp. 83-84)

More than following any or all of the nine forms of devotion, it is the inner feeling or motive behind the forms of devotion that is important. Your inner feelings must always be pure. Of all the nine forms of devotion, friendship (*sneham*) is the most important, because only when you cultivate this feeling of friendship with God can you reach the final stage of self-surrender (*Atmanivedanam*). (February 3, 2003)

### The Hard Path and the Easy Path

*Though the two paths are basically the same, their practices are different.*

—Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Those who follow the above nine paths are of two kinds: (1) the followers of the hard path, and (2) the followers of the safe and easy path. These two paths are sometimes referred to as *bhakti* (love of God) and *prapati* (absolute self-surrender). That is to say, the baby-monkey practice is *bhakti* and the baby-cat or kitten practice is *prapati*. Devotion has to be unintermittent, uninterrupted—like the flow of oil poured from one vessel to another. Though the two paths are basically the same, their practices are different. Without love, nothing can be acquired in this world. Only when there is love does the attachment, in its turn, produce the desire to protect and guard.

In both the above paths, the love is equal, no doubt, but in actual manifestation, there is a difference. In the baby-monkey path, the

young monkey has to rely on its own strength to protect itself. Wherever the mother might jump about, the baby monkey has to attach itself fast to the mother's belly and must not release its hold, even if pulled apart! So too, the devotee who loves God has to stand the tests at the hands of the Lord and hold on to the Lord's Name at all times, under all conditions, tirelessly, without the slightest trace of dislike or disgust, bearing the world's ridicule and criticism, and conquering the feelings of shame and defeat. The exemplar of this *bhakti* path is Prahlada, that first among devotees.

The *prapati* path, the way of the kitten, is of a different attitude. Here, just as a kitten simply continues mewling in one place, placing all its burdens on the mother cat, the devotee places complete trust in the Lord. The mother cat holds the kitten in its mouth and removes it to more elevated places and transports it safely, even through very narrow passages. The devotee places all his burdens on the Lord and surrenders fully to His Will. Lakshmana is the exemplar of this path. Lakshmana renounced all obstacles in his path, such as wealth, wife, mother, home, even sleep and food—and not for a day or month or year, but for a full fourteen years—to serve Rama. He felt that Sri Rama was his all, his happiness and joy, that He would grant him everything that he needed, and that his life's purpose was only to follow Him, serve Him, and surrender his will to Him.

The discipline of *prapati* is far superior to the discipline of *bhakti*. The characteristic of *prapati* is complete self-surrender, in

all respects. So if all burdens are placed on God, and if He is followed ceaselessly and unfailingly, He will certainly provide everything. This is the nature of the *prapati* type of devotion. (*Prema Vahini*, pp. 85-87)

The greatest obstacle on the path of surrender is egoism (*ahamkara*) and “mine”-ness or possessiveness (*mamakara*). This obstacle has been adhering to your personality for ages, sending its tentacles deeper and deeper with every succeeding lifetime. It can be removed only by the twin detergents of discrimination and renunciation. *Bhakthi* (devotion) is the water to wash away this dirt of the ages, and the soap of repeating God's name, meditation, and communion (*japa*, *dhyana*, and *yoga*) will help to remove it more quickly and effectively. (August 1, 1956)

Dedicate all your thoughts and aspirations to God and surrender yourselves to the Will of the Divine. Surrender may appear to be difficult, but it is not so. It is in fact like keeping your money in the bank; you can withdraw your money whenever you need it. Similarly, when you have entrusted all your concerns to Bhagavan, you can draw from Him whatever you need. Sometime or other your [material] wealth will go, but once you have earned the grace of God, you can feel secure and satisfied. (July 17, 1988)

—Sri Sathya Sai Baba

*There is no strength more effective than purity, no bliss more satisfying than love, no joy more restoring than devotion, no triumph more praiseworthy than surrender.*

—Sri Sathya Sai Baba  
February 23, 1971

# Reverie

*Can you trust Me enough to believe Me  
When I tell you that you're wonderful?*

*Is your confidence in My wisdom profound enough  
To let Me lead you to yourself?*

*Do you know that I hold you in My heart,  
Even as your fear lets go of Me in yours?*

*Is your strength great enough to let go,  
Knowing that I am with you always?*

*Know that your longing for Me is  
But a reflection of My great longing for you.*

*The bliss that you feel is your love for Me,  
Purified and returned to you.*

*Have you the insight to know that  
I am you, becoming Me?*

*Do you have the courage to look inside  
And face the perfection of yourself?*

*Come to Me, then, for surely  
I have been coming to you since the beginning of time.*



—A Devotee  
Southwestern United States

## Swami, We Invite You...

Pranams at Thy Lotus Feet!

The Sathya Sai Baba Center of Fort Walton Beach, Florida, cordially invites our beloved Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to our country, the United States of America. We invite You into our humble hearts, our homes, and our dreams. We welcome You with love.

Om Sai Ram!

Om Sri Sai Ram, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba,

You are my God. You are my father. You are my godfather, my guru, my master, my guide. I think of this *bhajan* (song of devotion) as my invitation:

*Ana hi padega, Baba, ana hi padega.*

Baba, You must come; O Baba, You must come.

O Lord, Your devotees are calling out to You,

To You we cry out, the world cries for You.

O Lord, give us Your support.

Shirdi Sai, we call to You; Parthi Sai, we call.

Krishna, we call to You; Rama, we call.

Jesus, we call to You; Allah, we call.

O sacred One, Om Sai Ram,

In all forms You have come.

*Ana hi padega, Baba, ana hi padega,*

Baba, You must come, Baba, You must come;

Of course I want You to come in person, but I abide by Your will. If Your physical presence is not Your wish for me, then please come to me in my dreams, in my meditations. Let me see You more vividly in these. Let me feel Your presence each day, in everything and in every person around me, until I reflect only You in my thoughts, words, and deeds.

—Rod & Jorja Kelley  
Fort Walton, Florida

Beloved Baba,

Please come to America. Please bless us with Your presence and let Your light shine on America. We need Your love and Your light to lift us up and strengthen our faith for You. We need to feel Your love for all.

*Sai Ram,*

—**Marina Falzone & Cecil Bailey (Marina's father)**  
Milton, Florida

Sai Ram Dearest Swami,

We welcome You to the United States of America with love. Swami, let us see Your fragrant form with Your love, grace, and protection. For all who love and cherish You, my heart sings:

*Door of my heart, open wide I keep for Thee.*

*Wilt Thou come, wilt Thou come, Sai Baba, come to me (and all of us).*

*Will my days fly away without seeing Thee, my Lord?*

*Night and day, night and day, I look for Thee night and day.*

You are my everything. I am Yours. I surrender everything to You, Swami, at Thy Lotus Feet. We long for the nourishing love of Your grace and protection. Thank You, Lord, for all Your timely protection and love.

I remain always with love,

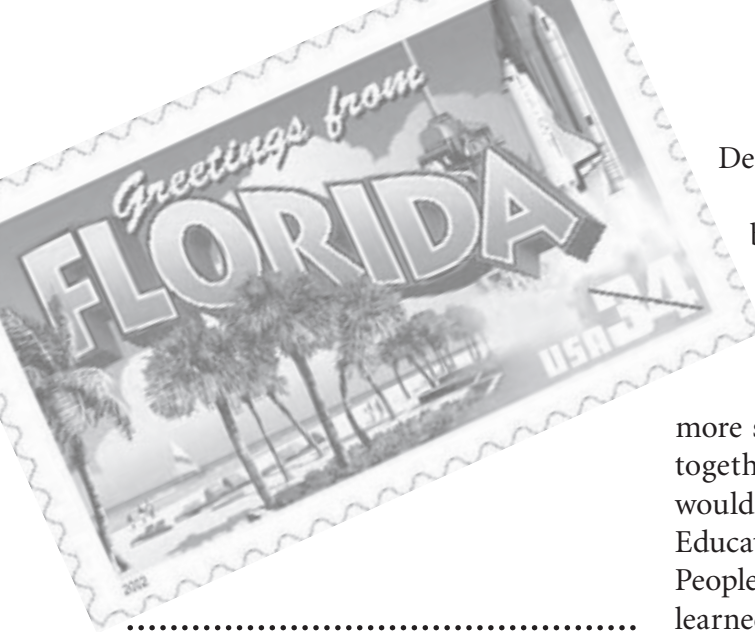
—**Somalatha Calnaido**  
Pace, Florida

Dear Sai Baba,

We do not know Your plans and will wait, but we do know that You are a God of love. Thus, through love we kindly invite You to stop by in America, and partake of the devotion of those who are not able to travel to India to see You. We also thank You for the inevitable transformation and impact that Your coming will have in this whole country.

From the bottom of my heart,

—**Klebber Piazza**  
Pensacola, Florida



Dear Baba,

Coming to this country would benefit our country in the following ways: an inevitable growth in the practice and belief of love, betterment in the people through the education of the five values, and more social gatherings for people to come together. If You were to visit the U.S., it would result in the expansion of Sathya Sai Education (SSE) and the practice of *bhajans*. People might apply the values that they have learned, and as an effect, make life happier than it once was. People who are Sai Baba devotees probably have dreamed of going to India in order to visit You. However, their dreams of visiting You would come true when it is You who visits them, not the other way around. From personal experience I know that participating in *bhajans* is fun, and I would greatly encourage those who are interested in Your teachings to attend. My wish would come true through Your entrance into the U.S.—that everyone interested in Your teachings would finally be able to see the One who is Love and attend a *bhajan* to enjoy the experience of singing to God.

With love,

—Josh

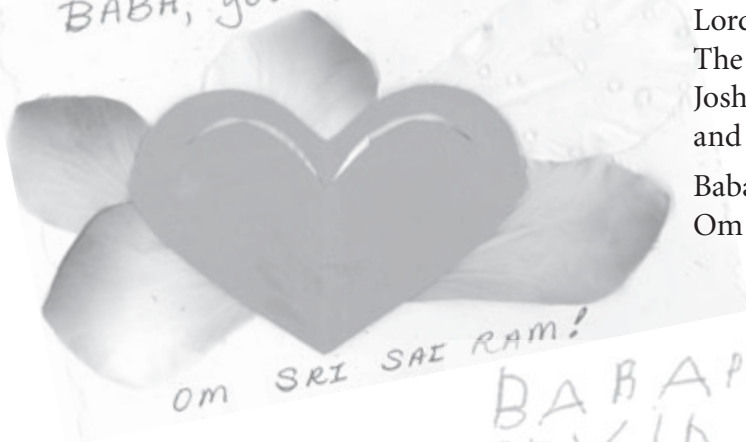
Hi Baba.  
Love,  
Chris

Dear Baba,

It would be a very great honor and blessing for You to visit us in America. We would absorb all of Your blessings so we can become better as a country. You'll do all of us good if You come. Your footsteps, Your arm motions, Your voice, and Your face would swarm throughout the country as we soak in the moment of You with us. We would be grateful and appreciative of Your arrival. We read Your books, listen to Your songs, and believe in Your quotes and stories, thinking "What will become of me and my future? Why, if only I was there with Baba, how much it would help me." But we are so far away, and we don't have a chance to visit because of money. Please Baba, join us for a visit.

—Matthew Rodkey

BABA, YOU HAVE OUR HEARTS



Lord,  
The children of our Center—  
Joshua, Matthew, Devin, Damian  
and Christopher—want to see You.

Baba, You have our hearts.  
Om Sai Ram

OM SRI SAI RAM!

BABA PLEASE COME  
DEVIN  
DAMIAN

Please bring some of that sweet  
honey called amritha.

Love, Damian

Baba, please come.

—Devin, Damian,  
Mom, Dad, Scooby

Dear Baba,

We hope that You visit our country.

Love, Mike



Please  
of that  
honey called  
Amritha

Our Dear Beloved Father,  
Please come to visit us in the United  
States. We are longing for Your love and  
Your presence. Oh Lord, please bless us  
with Your love.

With Love Always,  
Michael, Lillian, Joshua, Matthew, and  
Christopher Rodkey  
Fort Walton, Florida



Love, D.



*Om Sai Ram*, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba,  
Dear Lord,

If it be Thy will, we beg of You to grace  
us with Your physical presence in our  
country.

—**Rajadorai Calnaido**  
Pace, Florida

I think we in America are ready for Your  
inspirational wisdom. I realize it will happen  
when we're ready—just hoping the time is  
now. Until then . . . *Om Sai Ram*

—**Simca Lynn**  
Navarre, Florida

Dearest Swami, the Lord of All Hearts, and definitely of mine,

I write today, as You always know anyway, to add my words to the many from America, or U.S. as many people say, to ask You to come to America (and especially for mine and the Sai Choir's sake—to Southern California), mainly because we all want You to. Many loving devotees have great difficulty getting together enough money to make the trip to Puttaparthi, though I know when You deem someone ready and deserving, You clear the way for them (those kind of miracles are so sweet!). It would also fulfill Your promises of long ago—at least as we took them to mean, coming in the *maya* physical plane. It is wonderful to read that You are walking more and getting around the *darshan* lines more, which I take to mean that my mealtime prayers are having a good effect upon You. There are so many followers and devotees nowadays that I think the general public will look in awe, wondering, “When did all this happen?” You know without me saying that You will be well taken care of and assisted in Your travels through the States, and I'm sure with just a little advance warning, we will outdo ourselves in taking care of You and having the most colorful and respectful gatherings for the benefit of all (and hopefully for You as well). Please strongly consider our request.

Now before I close, I want to take the opportunity to thank You for all the wonderful health changes that have been taking place in this body. Since being in close proximity to You on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December, 2005, when we were all so happily, blissfully gathered to sing to You, and You, Yourself were full of happy bliss, several wonderful things have been happening. Well, I should stop and give someone else a chance to be heard by You, dear Swami. *Jai Sai Ram!*

Love,

—**Russ Lisenby**  
Tustin, California

Dear Baba,

Please come visit us in the United States. Here are a few reasons why we think You should visit us: Well, first, some people can't travel to India, but You can travel. Here, another one is that the world needs to know who You are and what You can do. And one more reason You should come to the U.S. is to come and see all the people who are sick and need Your help, like how You gave my *nanima* (grandmother) one more week to live. There is so much to ask You and tell You. Just one little request: please come and stay in my house. Thank you!

Love,

—**Kanna, Age 11**

Sacramento, California

Dearest Baba,

Please come and visit us in America, so that all those who are unable to travel can see You—and also for those who haven't had the privilege to know You, yet would have the opportunity to see You. Baba, please consider our request and grant us a visit to the U.S. I know You are omnipresent, but the world needs to know that. I am sure Your visit would benefit us all. See You soon.

Your Loving Daughter,

—**Divya Vaswani**

Sacramento, California

Dear Baba,

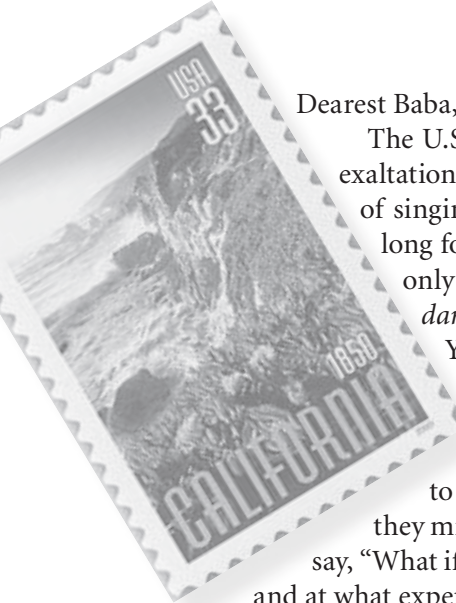
I am writing this message to You to please come to America. People in America want to see You and believe You are real (the Americans). Some of the Sai family can't come because of money, health, time, or ignorance. I would love for You to come to America and shine Your blessings to everyone. My wish is that everyone would start appreciating You for everything You have done. I would be the most happy Sai devotee if You would come stay in our house. I have so many questions to ask You. Thank you.

From Your most devoted student of Your grace,

—**Karan Vaswani, Age 12**

Sacramento, California





Dearest Baba,

The U.S. choir has just finished a weekly practice, and I am filled with exaltation and yearning. I cannot thank You enough for the sacred privilege of singing in Your Divine Presence the day after Christmas, 2005. We long for You to come to us. We have prepared a banquet of songs that only begin to satisfy the hunger that lives in us daily for Your Divine *darshan* (*seeing you*). If you do not come to quench our thirst for

You, how are we to explain to those who know us why we have so much trouble during the long spaces between our trips to India?

It is becoming very difficult to tell those who watch us leave, what compels us to spend every vacation traveling once again

to India. We try to put it into words, to somehow frame it in ways they might understand. To those who love Jesus and long to see Him, we

say, "What if Jesus were here right now? How far would you travel, how often, and at what expense, would you go to catch a glimpse of that Beloved?" But, alas,

our words fall on minds that cannot comprehend the enormity of what is happening now as we speak to them. The Lord, the One who sent Jesus into the world, is Himself walking the earth and consecrating it with His power and glory! He is, now, saving all of us from one manmade disaster after another and performing miracles daily. He transfixes the attention of those who have eyes to see Him and transforms the hearts of those fortunate enough to be near Him.

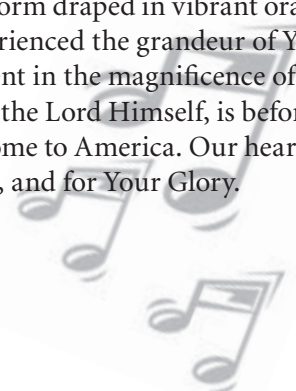
How can we possibly explain this tremendous love that touches the core of our being when we think of You, and the thrill of our hearts when You come near us? It is impossible to explain. Others watch our tears as we tell our stories, and some have come to You to have the experience themselves. But many, many more, Baba, wait for You to come to them so they can experience You. There is no way to tell them. They must experience You for themselves. Your smile is so enchanting. Your eyes are so infinitely deep; Your voice, like water; Your energy, so powerful; Your love, so personal and all encompassing.

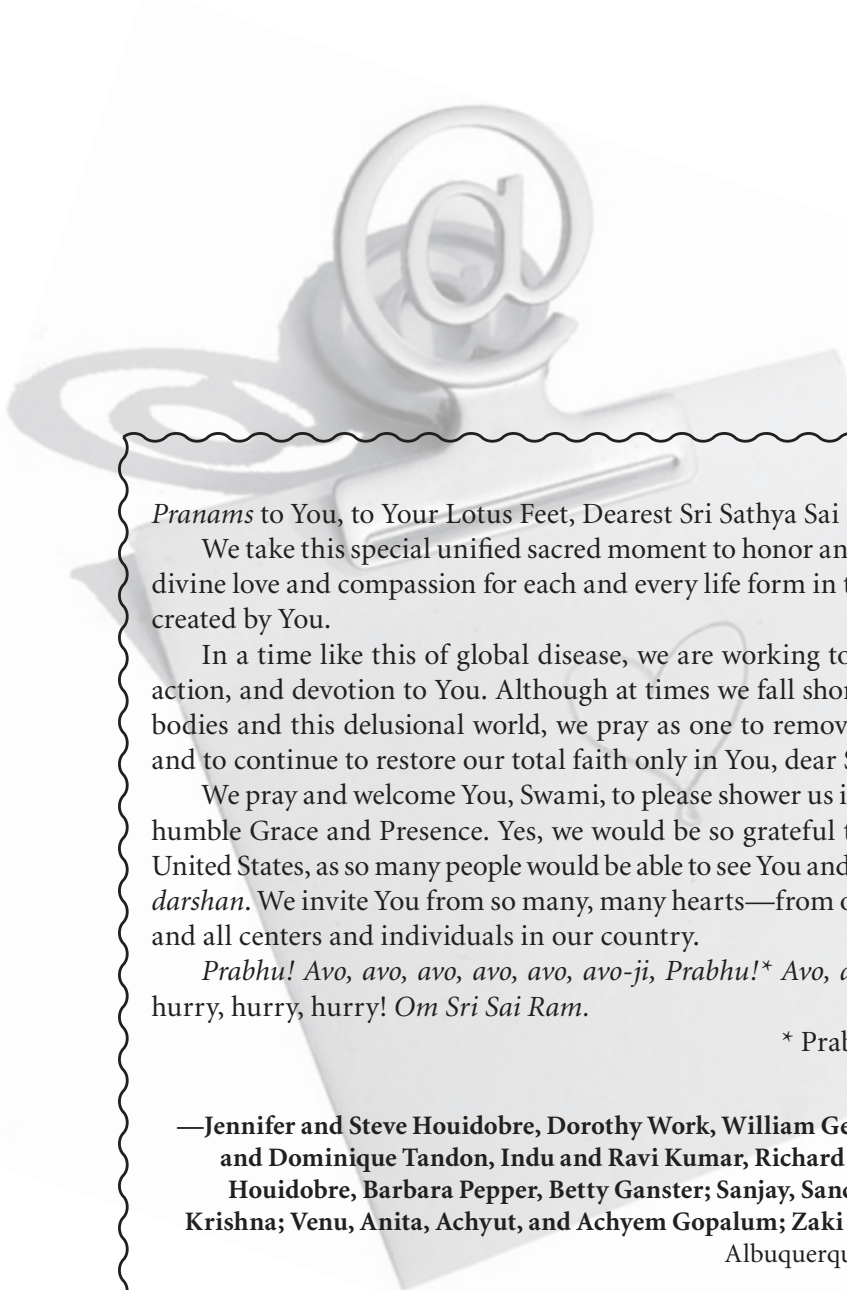
How do we explain that we sit for hours without book or pen just to catch a glimpse of the crown of Your hair behind the flashing glare of a windshield? How will they know the yearning that compels us to shush the screaming pain in our legs and wipe the drips from our brow one—no, a hundred more times—just for the chance to let our eyes rest on Your radiant, splendid form draped in vibrant orange? Only You can make them understand. For once they have experienced the grandeur of Your presence, words will escape them as well, and we will all fall silent in the magnificence of this precious and unique moment in history. The Holiest of Holies, the Lord Himself, is before us making sacred the secret places of our hearts. Come, Swami, come to America. Our hearts need to become sacred once again through Your Power, Your Will, and for Your Glory.

Humbly, in Deepest Reverence with Love,

—Susan Kehr

Huntington Beach, California





*Pranams* to You, to Your Lotus Feet, Dearest Sri Sathya Sai Baba!

We take this special unified sacred moment to honor and focus on Your ongoing divine love and compassion for each and every life form in this world—as we know, created by You.

In a time like this of global disease, we are working to be earnest in our lives, action, and devotion to You. Although at times we fall short, being attached to our bodies and this delusional world, we pray as one to remove these useless obstacles and to continue to restore our total faith only in You, dear Sai.

We pray and welcome You, Swami, to please shower us in our country with Your humble Grace and Presence. Yes, we would be so grateful to have You come to the United States, as so many people would be able to see You and experience Your Blessed *darshan*. We invite You from so many, many hearts—from our Albuquerque Center, and all centers and individuals in our country.

*Prabhu! Avo, avo, avo, avo, avo, avo-ji, Prabhu!\* Avo, avo, avo, avo, avo-ji, and hurry, hurry, hurry! Om Sri Sai Ram.*

\* Prabhu = Lord; avo = come

—Jennifer and Steve Houdobre, Dorothy Work, William Geiger, Sarita Prasad, Rajan and Dominique Tandon, Indu and Ravi Kumar, Richard Berry, Randy and Juanita Houdobre, Barbara Pepper, Betty Ganster; Sanjay, Sanchita, Surith, and Sarthak Krishna; Venu, Anita, Achyut, and Achyem Gopalum; Zaki Hashim, and Roma Kalra  
Albuquerque, New Mexico Sai Center

# An Invitation

As the Sun sets ever so gently into the Pacific,  
wasn't this You saying goodnight  
after evening bhajans?

As the Sun rises over the East and New York,  
wasn't this You saying "get up"  
and go to morning prayers, when at Parthi —

And now we are supposed to invite You to this land —  
just one room in "Your Mansion,"  
as You called it —

You who told the Redwoods to grow and grow some more —  
and carved out Yellowstone, with its golden halls,

And we are supposed to invite You  
to this land — that only appeared  
after You spoke OM . . .

Thus — with the utmost humility and reverence:

Dear Lord Sai —

As our hearts form the bridge  
between Parthi and this land —  
the paper to record the invite —  
Your words — as You recite —

The envelope, the seal — so as to keep it real —  
and yes the stamp of love,  
for isn't that what draws You near?

And as the Sun doesn't forget to set —  
or rise again over New York,  
this land as never before  
needs Your Guiding Hand —

And as You called many to Parthi — years ago,  
and none can describe You —  
that's for sure —

Maybe You will decide to visit —  
who can say?  
This bridge is there,  
The stamp has been set —

Swami — You are most humbly invited.

You have given us a Guiding Hand like none other,  
with visions of Your Divinity  
that said "Go within" and  
find Me there.

Swami — You are the best of all that is good.  
This is my own experience.

I can't invite You.  
At best I can hope and pray  
for Your visit —

And live what You teach,  
follow the dictates of conscience,  
and leave the rest  
to Your Divinity —  
Your Omniscience.

—Michael Hollander

## 2006 Spring Seva Day

Based on the inspiring experience of our first annual Regional Seva Day, Region 1 Sathya Sai Baba centers opted to hold a second Regional *Seva* Day on Saturday, April 8, 2006, in addition to already-scheduled service activities throughout the year:

**Norwalk, Shelton, and Silvermine, Connecticut, Sai Centers** joined forces at the Norwalk Emergency Shelter for cleaning the kitchen, sorting food and clothes, painting the 95-bed dormitories, corridors, and common hall, and serving a sumptuous lunch for 200 people.

For a second year, the **Sai Center of Essex Junction, Vermont**, volunteered at the local emergency free food shelf, which was opened specially on a weekend for low income people to pick up a variety of groceries. The need for the food shelf to be opened on a Saturday and the success of the *seva* day resulted in the opportunity to provide a regular, monthly *seva* in this location.

**Sai Centers of Central Connecticut** jointly hosted a reading awards ceremony for the children of an inner city school in Hartford. Surprisingly, a total of 80 children from lower-income and dysfunctional families participated. Such an awards ceremony had been mandated but left unfulfilled. We photographed the children receiving their award certificates from the mayor, and a framed

print was provided to each child the following week. All the honorees and their parents were served a wonderful vegetarian meal after the ceremony, and everyone present enjoyed the festivities and appreciated the effort.

**Boston-Area Sai Centers** had a turnout of 50 members for several activities in a shelter and a nursing home. The shelter service included:

- providing personal care items and a hot lunch;
- helping with painting and refurbishing the fourth floor of the shelter, and the great hall, which is used for daily Alcoholics Anonymous meetings; refurbishing of a large recreation room and adjoining areas; and
- children preparing posters of Swami's teachings for use at the shelter.

The nursing home activities included:

- children and teachers preparing handmade greeting cards for residents;
- conducting a music program on both floors of the facility; and
- visiting with all residents while handing out the greeting cards.

Twenty **Buffalo, New York, Sai Center** members, working with Habitat for Humanity, helped rebuild and renovate a house. Though untrained in building construction, the group of multidisciplinary professionals otherwise

did a marvelous job of insulating, painting, and covering the interior partitions (walls) with drywall. They converted a dark, dingy basement into a bright, warm place, in part by singing *bhajans* while painting in the relative quiet of the basement.

The Habitat for Humanity site supervisor was thrilled at the amount of work accomplished by the group in just four hours. He lauded how quickly the Sai volunteers acquired and excelled in the needed skills. The future owner of the house was equally moved and grateful.

Seventeen volunteers from **New York's Wappingers Falls Sai Center** provided general health information, consultation, and logistical support at a local church in inner-city Poughkeepsie, New York. An informed consent allowed the doctors to test and screen 46 clients attending the event.

Twelve members of the **Ithaca, New York, Sai Center** provided staples for the cupboard off the "Friendship Center" and made sandwiches for serving the homeless and the needy.

Twenty-six members of the **Syracuse, New York, Sai Center** visited a local nursing home and interacted with over 30 wheelchair-bound residents. The residents' faces filled with joy at hearing the children sing with such devotion and love. Some even followed along with the words. After the singing, children distributed flowers, cookies, and personalized cards to each attendee, helped by older members of the Sai center, to facilitate more personal interactions. Even the little children went up to the residents and talked to them. Because of the success of the event, the group decided to go to the nursing home more often, possibly once a month.

Members from the **Southern Maine Sai Center** visited 30 World War veterans in a local nursing home, playing piano, singing *bhajans* and veteran songs, and sharing Swami's teachings. The elders enjoyed the program, commenting that they had not experienced a performance and sharing of love like this in several years. They requested that we come back more frequently.

**Rhode Island Sai Center** members prepared hot food for a local homeless shelter. Other parents and children visited a nursing home and sang to entertain the residents. Also they passed out "Happy Spring" cards made by the children.

On another day, the **Norwalk, Connecticut, Sai Center** expanded its previous medical camp in the Stamford area through an event on November 5, 2005, with 82 volunteers serving 305 adult and 48 child patients. Approximately twenty different health checks, screenings, consultations, and informational presentations were made available to the attendees.

In addition to the *Seva* Day programs and medical camps, devotees in Region 1 have been active in two separate prison *seva* programs. About fifteen members carry out a service called Imparting Decision-Making Skills in three prisons and two juvenile detention centers. Also, a volunteer program called "Self-Awareness Integration" (SAI), analogous to Sai center study circles, has been initiated in a New York county jail and in one high-security prison.

—Sathya Sai Baba Centers of Region 1

### Just Do It...

For more than fifteen years, our Sathya Sai Center of Memphis, Tennessee, delivered soup to a local homeless shelter. A couple of members did so every week, and once a month the whole group prepared and served salad, sandwiches, and soup to men, women, and children at the shelter. We all really enjoyed this project and had a very good relationship with the shelter.

Then one day, all of a sudden, they informed us they no longer needed our services. At first, we were upset. We liked the routine and had become very comfortable with this service opportunity. But Swami opened our hearts and eyes to see that He had different plans for us, in projects where the need was equally great.

That very week, one of our members received a call from Hope House asking for help. Hope House provides child care from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., for children of parents who have AIDS or who are HIV-positive, while the parents go to work or school. The Hope House staff invited our members to help spend time with the kids, entertain them, and bring food. We all were very excited, took on this project immediately, and have continued for almost two years. It is going very well. Each month, we celebrate kids' birthdays and bring lunch.

Also that same week, we received a call from the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association

(MIFA). This organization coordinates many service programs in Memphis, including delivering meals to the elderly, counseling alcoholics, aiding battered women, and offering job training. MIFA wanted our group to entertain groups of kids while their family members were receiving job training. Again we were thrilled at the opportunity and accepted the invitation. Instead of just playing with the kids, we developed an EHV (Education in Human Values) program, so that all our activities would be based in the values of Love, Truth, Peace, Nonviolence, and Right Action.

Once a year MIFA has a big get-together to honor its individual and group volunteers. They knew us as the "Sai Group," and when our turn came, they called us up and handed us a plaque inscribed with the name, "Sathya Sai Baba"! How appropriate! We were all so happy to see that they had honored and thanked our Swami. (See page 39.)

Then, over a year ago, Jack Feely, Region 4 president, shared news of a very successful medical camp conducted in the St. Louis area. Some of our members wanted to do the same thing in Memphis. We discussed the project almost every month, but nothing seemed to work out.

Finally, we approached MIFA and asked if we could conduct a medical camp for them. They were very excited. They gave us a

beautiful place to use and promoted the camp to the residents of a special community they have developed to help homeless people find jobs and get back on their feet.

When we started working on the plans, we did not know who would show up or how many doctors would help us. We ended up having more volunteers than we needed. Some of the volunteers came because they had heard about the project from somebody else; we never called them directly. In fact, a handful of volunteers came all the way from Little Rock, Arkansas. We checked height, weight, medical history, blood glucose, cholesterol, and vision. We also provided drug counseling and lots of information on various ailments.

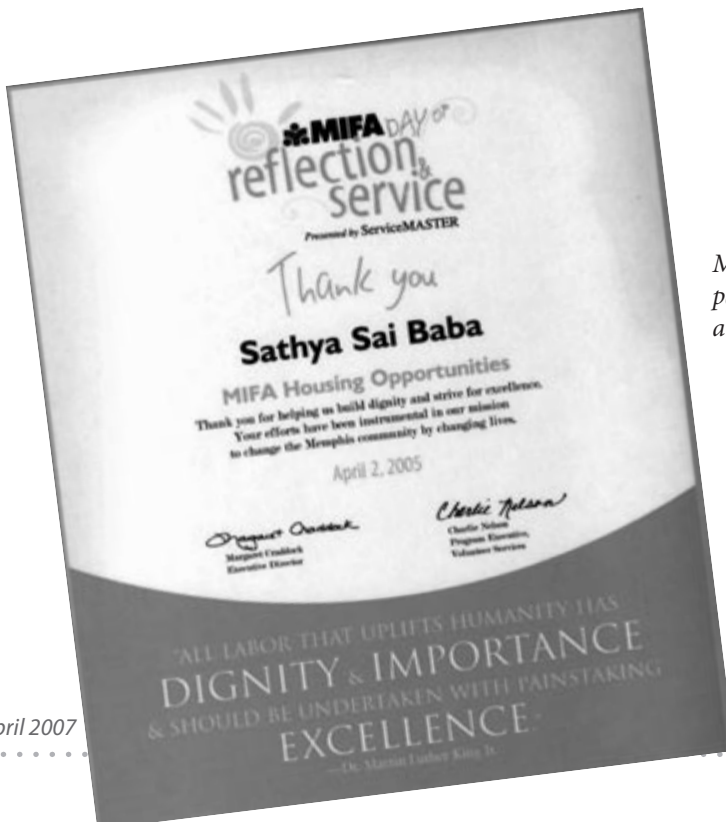
The camp opened at 9:00 a.m., and by lunchtime we had examined 80 people—a perfect match to Swami's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday! After

lunch, we thought the crowd might slow down and it would be time to wrap up, but every time we started closing the camp, somebody would enter the building needing a health check. This went on until exactly 4:00 p.m. The MIFA representatives were so happy that they invited us to come back and give similar camps twice a year. We have since conducted another camp, in the fall of 2006.

All these projects taught us good lessons. We learned to be open to new experiences and accept all projects as opportunities to serve. Many times, we think that we are the doers and that we know what's best. But truly, Swami is in the driver's seat, holding the divine map. All we have to do is *just do it* and leave everything else to Him!

—Vijay Surpuriya

Sathya Sai Center of Memphis, Tennessee



*MIFA plaque awarded for participation in 2005. Devotees also conducted a medical camp in the fall of 2006.*

## Ashland Free Medical Clinic

The Ashland Free Medical Clinic (AFMC) is a first of its kind—a stand-alone regional medical service project. The clinic, located in the Ashland/Cherryland area of Alameda County in Northern California, provides

free, high-quality health care to people who are unable to pay for such health care. This service is offered to anyone in need, regardless of nationality, social class, color, gender, or religion. *Love All, Serve All and Help Ever, Hurt Never* summarize its operational principles.

The Ashland Free Medical Clinic is run by Dr. Joe Phaneuf, Regional Sai Medical Services Coordinator, and staffed entirely by volunteers who provide the administrative and medical services necessary to operate the clinic. In addition to Sai devotees who form the core of the volunteer pool, the AFMC staff includes dedicated volunteers from the surrounding community and local clinics and hospitals of a well-known HMO, Kaiser Permanente.



*Love All, Serve All and Help Ever, Hurt Never summarize the Ashland Free Medical Clinic principles.*

Patients come to the clinic for various health concerns, including viral illnesses such as the common cold, flu, sore throats, earaches, bronchitis, minor aches and pains, urinary tract infections, and other non-emergency conditions.

Treatment is offered also for chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, smoking addiction, and asthma. While at the clinic, all patients are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to be screened for diabetes and risk factors for heart disease, such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

Qualified health educators provide patients with health-related education and counseling, encouraging patients to take an active role in their health maintenance. In addition to actual medical attention, patients receive needed medications free of charge. Besides adult non-emergency primary care, AFMC offers dermatology services for patients of all ages. We have a goal to add specialty services such as pediatrics and ophthalmology.

“...the main reason for this service is our own personal transformation.”

The Ashland Free Medical Clinic ([www.afmconline.org](http://www.afmconline.org)) is located in the medical offices at San Lorenzo High School, 50 East Lewelling Blvd., Room S5, San Lorenzo, CA 94580-1699. For the initial visit and any new health problems, AFMC recommends that patients arrive at 8:30 a.m., as only a limited number of patients can be seen, on a first come, first serve basis.

AFMC funding came from interesting sources. We of course made prayers to Swami. Without being asked, various government officials and private individuals have made donations to help meet clinic expenses for medications, supplies, and insurance.

It is the policy of the Ashland Free Medical Clinic never to solicit funds, but we do apply for grants. Currently at AFMC, we have opportunities for the following additional volunteers: medical doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, phlebotomists, and bilingual (Spanish/English) interpreters.



*AFMC volunteers attend to the clinic's first patient.*

What is our spiritual motivation for operating the clinic?

• Although we do our best to provide free, high-quality medical care to those who cannot afford it, the main reason for this service is our own

personal transformation.

- As Sai devotees, we all strive to see Swami (God) in all patients.
- *Your service to your patients is My padnamaskar (your chance to touch My feet). I cannot give you anything higher than that. —Sai Baba*

—Dr. Srinivas T. Rao  
Service Coordinator, Region 7



## Oxnard Community Service and Medical Screening

*No matter how gigantic the task, you will succeed, for  
I shall be with you all the way!*

—Sri Sathya Sai Baba

On Sunday, October 15, 2006, devotees from Region 8, Pacific South, conducted a medical, dental, and vision screening camp and *grama seva* (community service project) in the city of Oxnard, California. The Sai-devotee organizers from Southern California were fortunate to have the support of major centers of influence in the community who acted as co-sponsors for the event. These included Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, who allowed use of their parish hall and school for the event, St. John's Regional Medical Center, and St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital, who provided medical tests at no cost to those attending the screening event. News media also supported the effort through public service announcements in the newspapers and radio, as well as calendar listings on the radio stations' websites.

The local community, known as La Colonia, is mostly populated by Hispanic families. In an effort to inform as many residents as possible, Sai devotees met on weekends prior to the event and walked throughout the community distributing flyers door-to-door. Local businesses were also very receptive and allowed us to place stacks of flyers on their counters and display flyers on their front doors and windows.

St. John's Regional Medical Center provided professional bilingual medical volunteers. Local eighth-grade students whose teacher is a Sai devotee provided additional help with Spanish translation. In all, 26 physicians provided services to 650 patients, including both primary care physicians and specialists in heart, lung, bone, skin, and pediatric medicine. Cancer screenings were conducted for both women and men through mammogram, Pap smear, and prostate screenings, as well as other blood tests. Positive findings were followed up by local clinics and St. John's Hospital.

All age groups received over 300 dental examinations by seven volunteer dentists; volunteer optometrists and ophthalmologists provided vision testing for acuity, glaucoma, and related conditions. Community service organizations also participated and offered Medi-Cal and food stamp information, and nutritional and psychological counseling.

To follow Baba's example of distributing food and clothing to those in need, each family received 30 pounds of nonperishable food items, including rice, beans, sugar, corn, flour, canned vegetables, salsa, crackers, cereal, peanut butter, and jelly. Blankets, towels, diapers, toiletries, and snacks were also handed

out. Baba indeed demonstrated that He “is with us all the way.”

VIPs attending the event included: Reverend Ricardo Alba, Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church; Fernando Gamboa, Consul General of Mexico; Dr. Thomas Holden, Mayor of the City of Oxnard; John K. Flynn, Ventura County Supervisor; Michael Murray, President, St. John’s Regional Medical Center; Jerry Conway, President, St. John’s Pleasant Valley Hospital; Reverend Christina M. Fernandez, Vice President of Mission Integration, St. John’s Hospital; and Gloria Chinae, Director for Community Health Education, St. John’s Regional Medical Center. Each was most impressed with the number of services provided and the numbers of volunteers.

Each VIP received a folder describing the event. Upon learning that the camp had been organized by the Sathya Sai Baba Organization, the Consul General of Mexico, Mr. Gamboa, commented, “Oh, I know Sai Baba. He is well known in Mexico!”

Baba tells us, *You should believe that service is a path to God-realization. Service to man will help divinity blossom within you. It will gladden your heart and make you feel that your life has been worthwhile. Service is by God, for God, to God.*

Over 200 volunteers were graced by Baba to participate in this event and to have the opportunity to serve Him through those who attended.

—**Courtesy:** Sri Sathya Sai Pacific Region Newsletter, Volume 8, November 2006

—**Photography by** Victoria Hargreaves



## Lessons Learned

*From the Ati Rudra Maha Yajna*

“Once you make a firm resolve, Swami will help.” We had a firm resolve to attend all days of the *Ati Rudra Maha Yajna*, scheduled for August 9-20, 2006, and His magical Will made it happen. By August 7, news was buzzing increasingly about the upcoming *Yajna* functions. At first our plans were to witness only a few days of this unprecedented occasion, and it certainly was not on our agenda to stay until the closing ceremony.

But when we visited with a staff member of the ashram bookstore—who shared with us and confirmed what we kept hearing regarding the magnificence and immense benefits of witnessing and being in the presence of the *yajna*, and in the presence of the Avatar—our thoughts began to shift. Groups were changing travel plans and foregoing personal obligations in order to make it to the event. Ironically, my husband, Sunil, did not have work-related limitations, as he was officially on vacation until August 21.

But it was another commitment—family—that threatened to keep him, and us, from staying through the end of the *yajna*. Swami teaches us the importance of family, the love and respect we owe our parents, and our first and foremost duty to this institution. It had been many years since we had seen Sunil’s father, and a family trip to Malaysia was overdue.

Also, Krishna Sai, our two-year old son, had never met his grandfather, and this trip would mark a significant event, for on August 16, *Krishna Janmasthanmi* day, we were to celebrate Krishna Sai’s *Mundan* (ritual haircutting) ceremony in Malaysia, among family and close friends. This had been in the works for over a year—with much joy of anticipation. Not visiting Sunil’s father, not having the *Mundan* ceremony in Malaysia, and not fulfilling the deep commitment to family was beyond unthinkable; it was absurd. Yet, the notion of staying in Prasanthi throughout the entire *yajna* ceremony crossed Sunil’s mind, and persisted.

On our way out of the bookstore, the staff member left Sunil with an affirmation of confidence and full trust in Swami, “You just need to make a firm resolve to stay for the *yajna*, and let Swami handle the rest.” Surely those were well-intended and most benign words of wisdom, but the lasting effect was much more tumultuous than we could expect. Soon after, Sunil decided that he had made his firm resolve and could not miss this golden opportunity of being in the presence of Swami during this most auspicious *yajna*. No other commitments or duties compare to our duties to the Self, and nothing could be more important or valuable. “We can always

go to Malaysia next year, but this *yajna* is a once-in-a-lifetime event,” he said.

I could not deny the power and significance of the *yajna*, but from my perspective, there was an even higher calling—that of duty. As strong as Sunil’s sentiment to stay, was my commitment to go. While we had no internal conflicts on the right or wrong thing to do, we clearly had an external conflict between our egos. Finally, we decided that Sunil would stay in Prasanthi, and Krishna Sai and I would go to Malaysia—both following our heart, mind, and conscience.

## God’s Plan

This was our plan—and then there was Swami’s plan! So many times Swami places us in circumstances to test our faith, our level of surrender, and willingness to let go and let God. I wasn’t sure how the family would handle Sunil not coming to Malaysia, but now it was truly beyond our control. We both felt right in our own decisions, and had to trust our Guide within.

This Guide took us “outside the box” and showed us a plan that couldn’t be better. When Sunil called his mother and family to update them, he invited them to Prasanthi—to not miss this wonderful opportunity, and what better place to have Krishna Sai’s *Mundan*—in Puttaparthi! This meant canceling the elaborate *Mundan* plans, foregoing planned tours of Malaysia, and letting go of our desires and set plans that had been brewing for a long time. It risked appearing selfish and insensitive to the family’s hopes and expectations. Yet...the result was beautiful—perfect! Not because

the idea was good, but because with love and harmony, the family understood, respected our decision, and excitedly joined us for the entire *yajna*. It turned out so, because it was God’s plan, not ours.

Although the days leading up to the *yajna* were challenging, once Swami took care of everyone’s arrangements, we reaped the benefits of His infinite grace. The family attended all eleven days of the *Ati Rudra Maha Yajna*, and we emerged from the experience with keen awareness of several lessons. By way of overview, according to the head priest, this *yajna* took place during an auspicious and rare astrological configuration. The *Rudram* (synonymous with Lord Easwara or Shiva) was chanted 14,641 times—that is, eleven times by eleven priests at each of eleven *yajna* stations for eleven days. Besides these, quite a few students and devotees also chanted along. The atmosphere was charged with divine energy; it was a scene straight out of ancient times.

Swami declared that the *Rudram* is the essence of all the Vedas, and that this *yajna* is performed for the welfare of the world, in that it protects and fosters the divine nature in human beings, while rejecting and diminishing the demonic qualities. We took this to mean that the effect of the *yajna* provides a force that universally supports any positive thought or action and subdues the negative in all.

Each evening, various speakers expounded upon different aspects of the *yajna*. Ex-Vice Chancellor S. V. Giri explained that the *Ati Rudra* is a most energetic, powerful, and agile chant, and that it

represents youthful qualities. He observed that it is no coincidence that youth managed this very important *yajna*. He urged youth to engage in selfless service activities.

## Develop a Spirit of Sacrifice

One of several meanings of *yajna* is “sacrifice.” The inner meaning of sacrifice is giving up one’s bad qualities. In His concluding discourse on August 19, Swami elaborated: *The most important point I would like to stress is that you must develop a spirit of sacrifice. Man may have several desires. All those desires have to be offered to God to please Him. Do not confine yourself to the self. “Help” is better than “self.” Whatever activity you undertake, consider it as something done for satisfying your heart, for the uplift of your Atma. This yajna is conducted to realize the Atma Tattwa (principle of inner divinity), not with a view to achieve some physical and worldly benefit.*

*You have participated in this sacred yajna for your good, your welfare, and the welfare of humanity at large. This yajna is not merely for a few individuals; it is for the entire world. The mantras chanted here have mixed in the air and spread to the entire universe. These sacred sounds entered our hearts and purified them. Hence, do not think that the mantras chanted in this yajna are confined only to this place. They have spread to the entire world. This yajna is not only for the benefit of India, but for all the countries in the world.*

## Faith and Surrender

On the opening day, August 9, Swami extolled the Karnataka State Youth Coordinator,

Vinay Kumar, saying, *The expenditure for conducting this yajna involves a large amount of money. He (Vinay Kumar) went round all alone and arranged for the materials for conducting this yajna. I wish that every state should have such dedicated seva dal (service) leaders. He is doing a lot of service. I am very happy about his service. He declined all offers of help for conducting this yajna, saying ‘Sai is with me; He alone will help me.’*

This provided us with an excellent example of faith and surrender. Vinay depended solely and completely on Swami, who took care of all the details necessary for the successful execution of the *yajna*. Swami paid immaculate attention to the details, sat long hours through both morning and evening programs, and gave ten discourses during the course of the *yajna*. Swami acted as a perfect host, personally presenting various gifts to all the priests in the presence of all. Wow—the length Swami will go to help us, if only we fully depend on him!

In one of his talks, Vinay Kumar explained the extent of Swami’s help and attention to detail: “The dates were fixed by Bhagavan very meticulously. The location of the *Shiva Linga* (consecrated focal object of the *yajna*, symbolizing Shiva and all of creation) right in the center of the Hall was by His direction. In our ignorance we had suggested earlier that the *Shiva Linga* be placed on the left side. He made sure it was placed right in the center. Out of His mercy, Bhagavan said, “Every person sitting in the Hall, even the last person in the Hall, should be able to see the *abhishekam* (ceremonial bathing) being performed to the *linga*.”

Every *homakunda* (sacrificial fire pit) and the layout of the *yagasala* (ritual enclosure) were personally decided by Bhagavan. The coloring of the fire pits, the selection of the *linga*, the methodology for setting up the ceremonial area—all were advised, directed, and put into action by Bhagavan.”

This reminds us of Swami’s words, often quoted by Phyllis Krystal in her talks: *Surrender, trust, and accept*. Surrender completely to God, trust that God knows best, and accept whatever comes as the right and best outcome.

## A Call to Youth

Being young adults for most our lives, we noticed how much emphasis Swami placed on the Karnataka youth group, who organized this unprecedented *yajna*. Swami was not only pleased but also encouraged all youth to step up their efforts. We took back with us a sense of urgency and responsibility to further dedicate our lives to serving God. On August 13, He stated: *The youth must come forward with enthusiasm to remedy the situation [in society]. The youth are the right people to bring about a change for the better in the country. The physical energy, acuteness of the senses, and intellectual sharpness present in youth are not to be found in other sectors of the society. If youth take a firm resolve, they can achieve anything. The youth should take a pledge to utilize their strength of senses, mental energy, physical energy, and intellectual and*

*Atmic power for the benefit of society. They have to conserve the divine energy of their senses and strive for the welfare of society. They must protect their country. Then only do they deserve to be called real human beings.*

Life is one big university, and every day is a lesson taught. This Prasanthi trip was an accelerated experience that saturated our lives with His many lessons, and much grace thereafter. Our biggest lesson was in offering our whole selves to Him. In His discourse on August 12, Swami said, *Do not put undue burden of responsibilities on yourself. God is there to shoulder the responsibility of everyone. Where is the cause for worry, when God is there to take care of us? You keep on worrying because your understanding of this truth is only theoretical. You should not be like that. Once you offer everything to God, you should be free from worries. You can experience peace only when you are free from worries.*

On the final day, Mr. Narasimha Murthy (warden of the Brindavan Boys Hostel) distilled his forty years of experiences with Swami in the following words of wisdom: “Look behind and thank God; look ahead and trust God. Look around and serve God. Whom you see around you are not others; they are your own Swami. Look within and see God. Finally, look through and be God.”

—Sunil and Sangeeta Lekhi  
Forest Hills, New York

Swami’s discourses, pictures, and additional details about the *Ati Rudra Maha Yajna* may be found at the following website: [http://www.sssbpt.org/Pages/Prasanthi\\_Nilayam/adirudram.htm](http://www.sssbpt.org/Pages/Prasanthi_Nilayam/adirudram.htm)

# Oneness with God and All

*October 2006 YA Retreat in St. Louis*

With Swami's Grace, Young Adults of the Mid-Central Region came together for a two-day retreat in St. Louis, Missouri on October 28-29, 2006, with the goal of dwelling on "Oneness" and realizing that we are all connected by none other than His divine energy!

## A Unifying Service Project

The retreat began with a service activity at the Self-Help Home for Retired Teachers in the St. Louis community. Young Adults helped rake leaves, plant rose bushes, dig up weeds, and plant new flowers for spring. This beautified not only the historic home but also the locale in general! The project was very invigorating as we dirtied ourselves in the garden. We had a delightful chance to talk to some of the residents who would be taking care of the plantings. This project was an excellent way to start off the retreat because it brought us all together, working toward one cause, and energized us for the next events!



*Starting off the retreat by planting new flowers at the Self-Help Home for Retired Teachers*

developing and realizing our oneness with Swami in our hearts.

They began by briefly introducing themselves, telling how they met Swami and several incidents whereby they realized His omnipresence, omnipotence, and omniscience. These incidents brought them quickly into the Sai fold. Wendy pointed out beautifully that at first Swami gives us the experience of His miracles to start our faith, and then He gives us suffering to build our faith and really integrate Him into our lives. His grace is easy to understand when things are going well, but it is very difficult to maintain the same awareness during times of trouble and despair. Ups and downs in life ultimately facilitate our union with God.

She said that grace is the result of our faith. Grace is not getting what we ask for, but getting what we need. Suffering helps us

## Oneness: Day 1

Our speakers, Jeremy and Wendy Hoffer, spoke to us about Unity or Oneness—about

detach from a false sense of the world, so it is also a form of God's grace. Suffering helps us recognize that life is precious and teaches us appreciation. Faith and grace are related. Grace is showered for the development of faith. It also works the other way, because grace increases with faith. Most of the time, grace comes to us through difficulties, which facilitate our union with God within.

Wendy described the world as a giant Parthi (Puttaparthi), and that we must be the same outside Parthi as we are in Parthi. We have to treat others the way we treat them in Parthi. Wendy then related her experiences at the first World Youth Conference (WYC) at Puttaparthi in 1997. She encouraged us all to attend the upcoming WYC in July and not miss this golden opportunity.

Next, Jeremy narrated his experiences with our sweet Lord and some of the lessons he learned in the process. He mentioned that to foster union with God, one needs to surrender, and by surrendering, we create the love bond that signifies oneness with God!

In the course of his talk, interspersed with stories of Swami's *leelas* (divine sport), Jeremy mentioned that Swami, being God, is extraordinary, but at the same time He is super-ordinary! He is so tangible, so real—and if we realize this, we will learn there is no distance between Him and us! His super-ordinary nature is a lesson for us. Swami's hospitality is a good example.

We were also reminded that friendship with God is the step right before unification with God in the nine-fold path of devotion. Speaking about friendship, Jeremy said that a true friend is one with whom you can be

your real self. We can be our true self with Swami, and we can establish any relationship with Swami. It is our choice.

Swami peels the layers that cover us and helps us be one with Him. Unless we have a one-to-one bond with Swami and are united with Him, there is not much spiritual significance in activities like devotional singing or service projects that we undertake.

Jeremy encouraged all the YAs to review and reflect on the discourse that Swami gave during the World Youth Conference on July 19, 1997. He said Swami has His timeline for everything. He also said that the bottom line is, "Swami wants us to make our best effort. He rewards us with that which is best for us." Swami's last words to Jeremy were, *Remember Swami. Remember Swami. Remember Swami.* Remembrance leads to union with Him. The guest speakers then facilitated a couple of ice-breakers and team-building activities that yielded these key take-aways:

- Communication is *very* important.
- To understand another person, we need to let go of pre-set ideas.
- We need to be meticulous in our observations and communications.
- We have to be united to accomplish any task.
- We experience closeness with one another and feel happy when we can understand each other.
- In life, we have to be open to everyone.

Jeremy and Wendy then fielded some questions from the YAs, followed by brainstorming about the “SAI 81” project as an offering for Swami’s 81th birthday. The day came to an end with dinner and a few games arranged by the St. Louis YAs.

## Oneness: Day 2

Day 2 began with a soothing session of guided meditation followed by a few yoga and breathing exercises. This was followed by a presentation by the Lexington, Kentucky, Young Adults on their Educare mentoring program at the Lexington Traditional Magnet School. The idea started in 2002 and gradually evolved into the current program. (See page 38.) As part of this initiative, the youth came together to do mentoring and formed a club called “Character is Power”—in short, CHiP. This mentoring program for kids typically begins with an icebreaker followed by a short Educare lesson. Then the kids get help with their homework and also an incentive of snacks. The mentors form special bonds with the children—a love bond, if you will. We learned that this is a real example of oneness in the community. The Lexington YAs have volunteered to train interested youth in this Educare program, for implementing in other regions.

The Lexington YA presentation was followed by Jeremy and Wendy Hoffer. Having spoken about oneness with Swami on the first day, they spoke about oneness with the people around us on the second day. Jeremy pointed out that many frustrations arise from our inability to work with others. If we develop our bond with Swami inside

first, then it will not be difficult to work with others. Having been blessed with the golden opportunity of organizing the previous two World Youth Conferences at Prasanthi Nilayam in 1997 and 1999, Jeremy said that the nature as well as the reward of YA activities is not about the projects being done, but about working in unity. In other words, the reward is the joy derived by working together. YA activities at best represent working together very hard to accomplish the task at hand.

Jeremy described his association with the Hyderabad Youth in India, especially their love for Swami and Swami’s love for them. These youth sacrificed even their jobs to dedicate themselves to the *grama seva* (village service) projects. In doing so, they completely surrendered to Swami with tremendous faith, for Swami told them, “Give your lives to Me for now, and I will take care of you forever.”

Jeremy gave several examples of how united they were. The youth performed pilgrimages to Parthi on bicycles, and with Swami’s motivation, initiated *grama seva* projects on their annual bicycle pilgrimages. This gradually grew into the more extensive *Grama Seva* project and eventually evolved into the *Grama Seva* Trust.

On one occasion in Parthi, they asked Swami for an interview, but Swami said they were too large a group to fit in the interview room. After *darshan*, all the youth assembled and the leaders, Gopi and Uday, polled the group to see how many would be willing to stay back if Swami called only a few of them for an interview. Every single hand in the

group went up—all were ready to let go of the coveted interview opportunity, for the sake of others in the group! This was just one example of the unity in this group.

Jeremy spent a year with the Hyderabad boys. He felt the reason for the unity in the group was their love for each other; there was no jealousy, and the leaders were exemplary. The leaders sacrificed anything and everything in their personal lives for the welfare of the youth. Jeremy quoted Swami as saying that youth has nothing to do with age; rather, *Youth is determination*. Youth is the willingness to bend one's back for others.

Wendy then gave examples from the Colorado youth group. The Colorado youth committed themselves to a service project that demands them to get up early every Sunday morning and assemble by 5 a.m. to make breakfast for one of the old-age homes. She was quite surprised to see all the YAs assemble every Sunday morning for the activity.

She reminded us not to forget the goal behind any of our activities. Swami doesn't need our services. She quoted Swami: *The world is beyond redemption by human effort. One can at best save oneself by trying to save the world.* The world is all His handiwork, anyway. She advised us to focus on the goal of unity in all our service projects, because

the real purpose is the *sadhana* (spiritual discipline) of working together. We need this oneness for ourselves, not for Swami, and not to help the world. We need this unity to accomplish anything.

More team-building activities followed Wendy's talk—"cooperative musical chairs," "crossing spider-web," and "turtle crossing." After just these simple games, we felt so much closer to each other. In the debriefing that followed, some of the important points

brought out were:

- We should have full trust in the group.
- We should be ready to sacrifice our ideas to try new ones.

The retreat came to a close with a very vibrant session of devotional singing and a *bhajan* medley.

We all felt very inspired and took home several lessons, both at a personal level and a group level. We pray to Swami to give us the determination to put these lessons into practice, stay united, and march toward Him in oneness!

—Prasanna Kankanala  
and Preethi Rangachari  
St. Louis, Missouri



*Group members feel much closer to each other after team-building games.*

**Lexington Traditional Magnet School**

350 NORTH LIMESTONE

Lexington, Kentucky 40508

TELEPHONE (859) 381-3192

June 2, 2006

Dear SAI Young Adults,

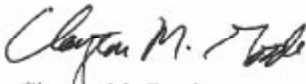
On behalf of the Lexington Traditional Magnet School (LTMS) students who were fortunate enough to participate in your mentoring program during the spring semester, I want to express the deepest appreciation. We have been working hard to help our students who come from challenging life circumstances understand the importance of their education. Many of these students lack a positive role model at home and the opportunity to work with a mentor provides powerful guidance and support.

As we witnessed with their speeches during the last mentoring session, the students enjoyed working with you and the experience made a difference in their lives. The students began understanding that education is the key to a fulfilling and successful life. The tutoring sessions help give them the confidence that they can learn and become successful students if they make the personal commitment to work hard and make education a top priority.

It was truly wonderful to see how your relationships with the students strengthened with each mentoring session. The students became very comfortable with you and realized that you cared about them and wanted to see them succeed in school. This is very special for students who often do not receive this in their home lives.

Many of the students have asked me if we can continue the mentoring session during the 2006-2007 school year. Clearly, we would love to have you working with our LTMS students once again. Your dedication and commitment to young students makes a difference in their lives and is greatly appreciated. We hope to see you again in the near future.

Sincerely,



Clayton M. Goode  
LTMS Principal

## World Youth Conference to Take Place in July, 2007

*Sai Ram, Young Adults!*

Sai greetings to all! The theme of the World Youth Conference (WYC) 2007 is “**Ideal Sai Youth: Messengers of Sai Love.**” Swami has accepted and blessed the tentative program presented to Him by Dr. Narendra Reddy, and approved the three-day youth conference, to be held in Prasanthi Nilayam during “Guru Purnima time.” Although Guru Purnima falls on July 29, the exact dates of the conference are not yet confirmed, so if you plan to attend, please keep the last week of July open. If you will be involved in preparations or presentations, we suggest you keep the last two weeks of July available.

As we plan and prepare for the upcoming conference, let us utilize this golden opportunity to strengthen ourselves as a national group and become unified as USA “Ideal Sai Youth”! Let us live and breathe Sai’s message in our daily lives through our personal *sadhana* (spiritual practice). Let us also study His teachings, learn ways to practice them, and become messengers of His Love.

To create a national pre-conference YA program, planning teams have been established to develop programs that will serve as guides to all young adults, at local and regional levels. From study circle topics, to service project ideas, to regional retreat workshops—all the activities will focus on the WYC theme: “**Ideal Sai Youth: Messengers of Sai Love.**” Members of the various planning teams will contact the regions for input and collaboration of ideas and effort.

As we prepare for the upcoming World Youth Conference, the national YA website, [www.saiyausa.net](http://www.saiyausa.net), will serve as the authentic source of all WYC 2007 news, and allow for updates of ideas by and for young adults. Please sign up at the site if you haven’t already.

Registration forms for the WYC 2007 are now available. You can register online at [www.saiyausa.net](http://www.saiyausa.net), download a PDF to print out, or contact your local or regional young adult representatives for registration forms and information. We look forward to working with you all in preparation for this wonderful opportunity!

—**Daniel Scovill and Sangeeta Lekhi**  
YA Representatives to the USA Central Council

# The Monkey and the Kitten

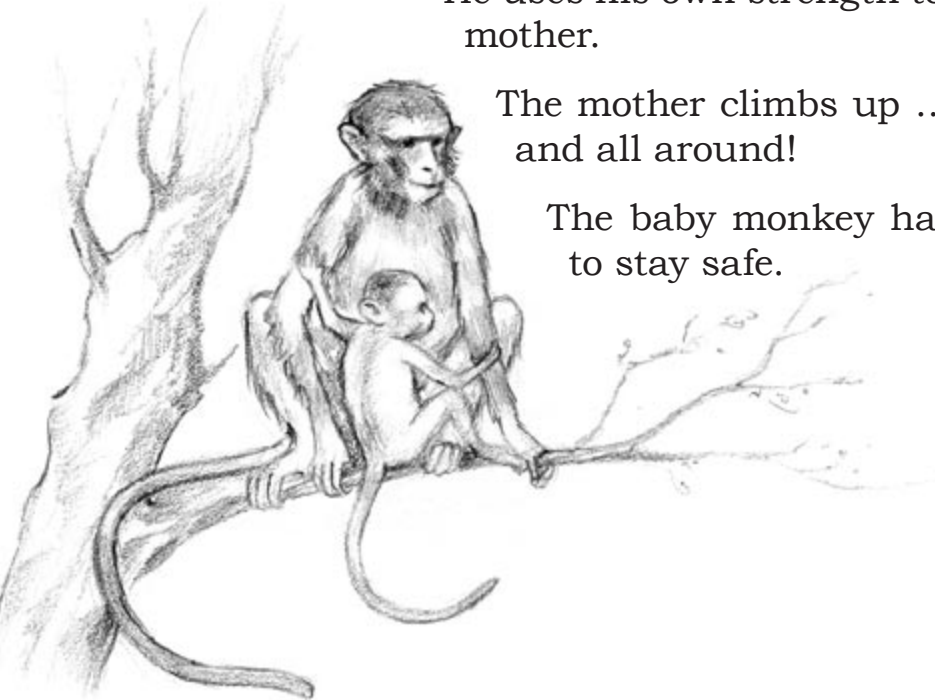
Baba says:  
If you love God with complete trust,  
He will protect you.  
He will guard you from all harm.  
There are two ways—**HARD** or **EASY**:

The **HARD** way is like the baby monkey.

He uses his own strength to hold on to his mother.

The mother climbs up ... and down ...  
and all around!

The baby monkey has to hold tight  
to stay safe.



The **EASY** way is like the kitten.

The kitten says, “Mew, mew!” The mother cat knows when there is danger. She takes the kitten in her mouth and moves him to a safe place.



She may move him to higher ground. She may take him through tight places that are hard to get past. The kitten doesn't have to move himself.

Baba says: Be like the kitten. Surrender fully to God, who will take care of you. **The easy way is best!**

—Illustrations by Ashwini Jambotkar



## Repeat the Name of Rama

“Wake up, wake up, sleepy head.” Hari’s dad gently shook him, trying to wake him.

“Oh, no,” thought Hari. “The day has come.” This was the day he had dreaded. He was going to travel by himself to Arizona to spend a week with his grandparents, and Hari was scared. It was only a two-hour flight, and

his grandpa would be waiting for him when he arrived. But even so, Hari was worried. His thoughts went round and round:

“What if the flight is turbulent?”

“What if Grandpa isn’t there to greet me?”

“What if the plane accidentally goes to some other airport?”

Hari dragged himself out of bed and pulled on his clothes.

“Don’t forget to brush your teeth, Hari,” his mother called from downstairs. She and the rest of the family would be joining Hari and his grandparents after a few days.

Hari was eight years old. He was ashamed to admit that he was afraid. When his parents had first brought up the subject of traveling alone, he felt excited and happy. He loved his grandparents and knew

that spending a week with them would be lots of fun. He had been to their home many times. He loved their little terrier, Scottie. They had promised to take him horseback riding, and they kept a shiny red bicycle in the garage for him and his sister.

"Is your suitcase packed, Hari?" asked Mom. "Don't forget your jacket, as the plane sometimes gets chilly." At the mention of the plane, Hari had a sick feeling in his stomach. He couldn't tell his parents. They would think him silly. But how was he going to say goodbye and board the plane all by himself?

Hari slumped down in the corner of the car as they drove off to the airport. He felt sweaty and weak in the stomach. He wanted to shout, "Take me home. I don't want to go by myself." Instead, he shrank back in the seat and clenched his fists tightly.

His mom looked back at him for a moment and then asked, "Hari, are you feeling all right? You look very pale."

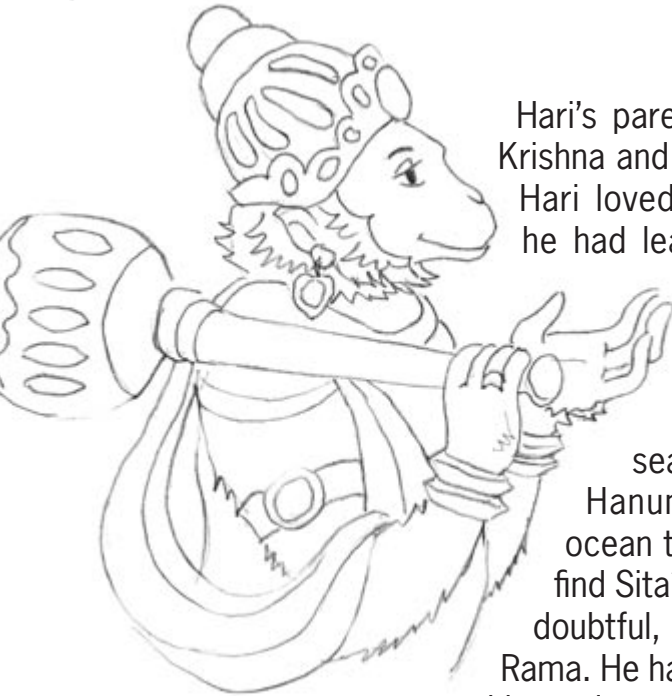


"Now is the time to tell them," Hari thought. He opened his mouth to speak, but words wouldn't come.

"Hari," Mom said softly, "Are you feeling nervous about this trip?"

"Yes, yes," Hari blurted out. "I am."

His mom thought for a moment. "Hari, do you remember the story of Rama and his faithful companion, Hanuman?"



Hari's parents had told him stories about Krishna and Rama since he was very young. Hari loved singing the Rama songs that he had learned over the years. He tried to remember details about the brave and loyal monkey, Hanuman.

Dad called from the driver's seat, "Hari, do you remember how Hanuman jumped across the huge ocean to the island of Lanka in order to find Sita? Instead of becoming worried or doubtful, Hanuman repeated the name of Rama. He had faith that Rama would care for him and protect him from any danger."

"Will Rama help me on this trip?" Hari asked quickly.

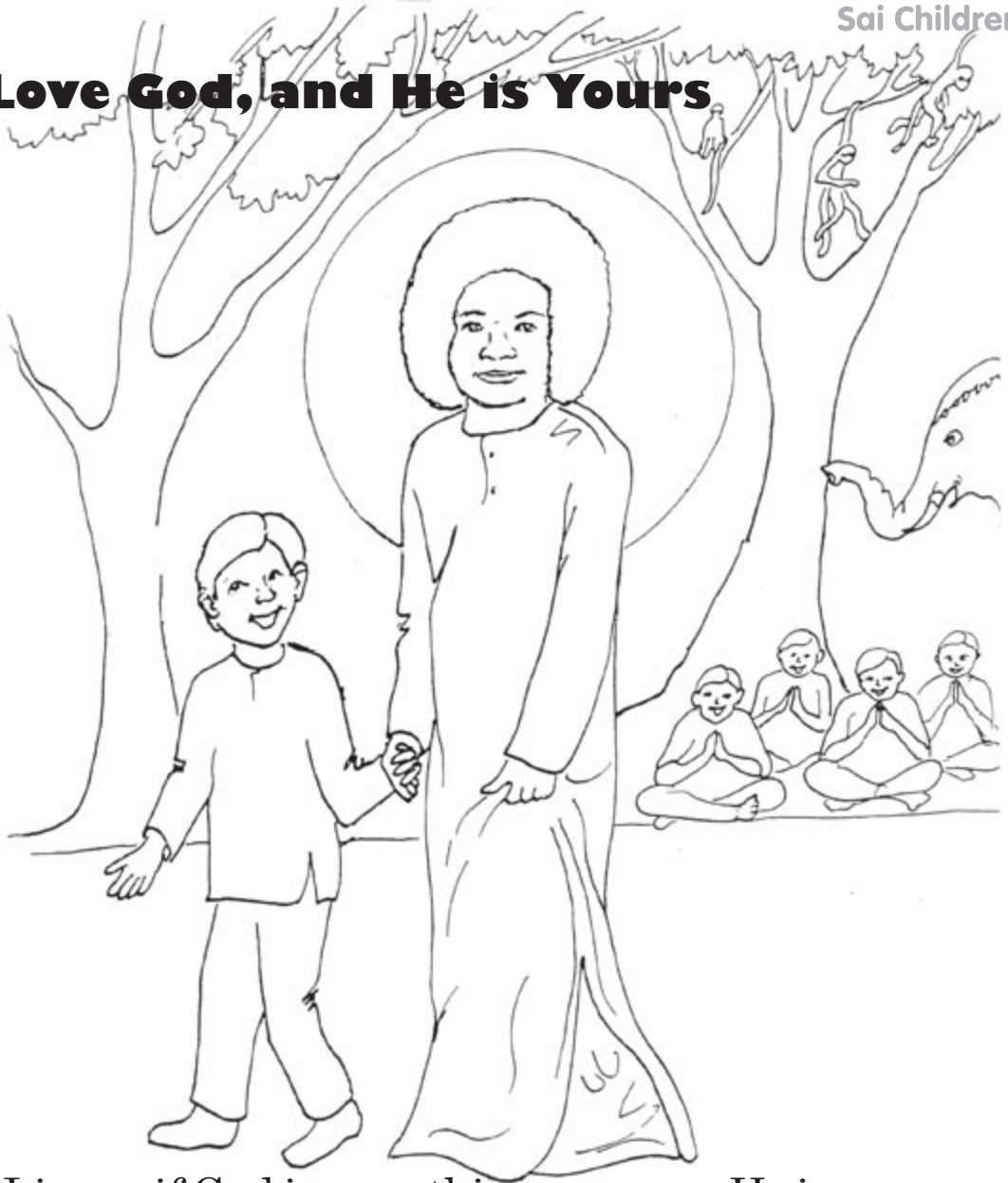
"Rama will be with you every moment of the trip," Dad replied. "Repeat His Name, and He will sit by your side and give you courage and confidence."

Hari straightened up in the car as they approached the airport. Soon he would be boarding the plane by himself. No, he wouldn't be alone. He would have Rama by his side. Hari knew that now everything would be all right.



—Illustrations by Phyllis Wohlberg

# Love God, and He is Yours



Live as if God is something you own. He is yours,  
so take Him everywhere with you. Love Him,  
and always think of Him in every action.

# Announcements

## New Contact Information for Physicians Wishing to Volunteer in Prasanthi Nilayam

Dr. Venkatraman Sadanand is the Medical Director for this project. For further information about our year-round (except March-May) rotation of physician volunteers serving at the Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital in Prasanthi Nilayam, please contact Dr. Sadanand; email [v.sadanand@utoronto.ca](mailto:v.sadanand@utoronto.ca), or telephone 818-357-5653 (land line) or 312-320-2818 (cell). Please add the prefix 001 if you are calling from outside the USA or Canada, or the prefix 1 if you are calling from inside the USA or Canada.

—Dr. Narendranath Reddy,  
Chairman, International Medical Committee,  
Director, Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

## Upcoming Newsletter Themes

From time to time a theme emerges during the course of assembling an issue of the *Sathya Sai Newsletter, USA*, allowing us to dig deeper into a subject and mine for new gems of understanding through the opportunity for extended contemplation. For example, Swami was definitely pulling the strings behind the scenes for the focus on *Surrender* in this issue. Some topics we might explore “in depth” in future issues include:

- Self-Confidence/Courage • Practical Spirituality: Education Starts at Home
- Silence/Prayer • Love and Service: Values in Action

We invite your submissions on these themes, in light of the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The topics are not assigned to any particular upcoming issue; we will leave that to Sai and see what turns up in our “inbox.” As a reminder, kindly provide citations for quotes, and dates of discourses when quoting from Swami, in your submissions.

—Newsletter Team  
[ssnewsletterusa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ssnewsletterusa@sbcglobal.net)

*Sathya Sai Newsletter, USA*, c/o Sathya Sai Book Center, 305 W. First St., Tustin, CA 92780-3108

## 2007 Festival Dates - Prasanthi Nilayam

|                          |                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| March 20, Tuesday .....  | Ugadi (Andhra and Kannada New Year) |
| March 27, Tuesday .....  | Sri Rama Navami                     |
| April 14, Saturday ..... | Tamil New Year; Vishu               |
| May 2, Wednesday .....   | Buddha Purnima                      |
| May 6, Sunday .....      | Easwaramma Day                      |
| July 26, Thursday .....  | Ashadi Ekadashi                     |
| July 29, Sunday .....    | Guru Purnima                        |

# Sathya Sai Book Center of America

305 West First Street, Tustin, California 92780-3108

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## **NEW ARRIVALS: CDs**

***My Sweet Lord*** English devotional songs sung and performed by Cass Smith, a musician and song stylist. He has been to India more than twenty times to absorb Baba's eternal truths, which have found expression in his melodic renditions. T-SCE-159 \$6.00

***I Keep Feeling Your Love in Me*** This CD also features English devotional songs, as sung and performed by Cass Smith. T-SCE-160 \$6.00

***The Second Coming is Here*** This CD contains additional English devotional songs, through the musical stylings of Cass Smith. T-SCE-161 \$6.00

***Baba Sings – 1*** This CD features a compilation of spiritual songs and compositions sung by Baba on various occasions. T-SCE-170 \$6.00

***AUM*** This CD contains *Omkar* (the sound of *Om*) repeated nonstop so that the listener can attune himself/herself with its auspicious divine vibrations. T-SCE-169 \$6.00

***Baba Teaches Shiva Panchakshari*** This CD is a live recording of Bhagavan teaching the mantra, *Aum Namah Shivaya*, one of the most popular mantras for aiding meditation and concentration, during Maha Shivarathri 2004. T-SCE-168 \$6.00

***Close to You*** This CD features instrumental Sai *bhajans* arranged by Deepak Kumar Khazanchi. T-SCE-171 \$6.00

## NEW ARRIVALS: VCDs

*These discs can be played on TVs or computers equipped with CD or DVD players.*

**Truth is My Name** Glimpses of Sri Sathya Sai in His forties and fifties, filmed by Richard Bock, Hollywood filmmaker, during the 1970s and 1980s. T-SCE-130 \$9.00

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