

**2014**

Sathya Sai Service Organisation

Republic of Ireland, Zone 9, Region 91

**SATHYA SAI NEWSLETTER  
SEP - OCT 2014**

## Dear Devotees of Sathya Sai,

Sai Ram. This issue's editorial, is concerned with the rise in violence, wars and the deprivation of human rights, in the world today. To counter this there are groups springing up in many countries that oppose this growing rise in violence, that come under the heading of "Nonkilling".

There is a worldwide revolution in progress at present. A small number of countries are actively voicing their disgust and opposition to war.

Remember, it was a single pistol shot that rang out in 1914, starting world war one, and its sound reverberated down through the 20's and the 30's, and on through the 1940's. The 20th century was a century of war! And now the new "killing fields" are in the Middle East, and the greatest danger for us is in taking sides in these conflicts.

War is about taking lives - it's as simple as that! Writers, artists and poets have been actively voicing their opposition against such killings, as they have always done, down through the centuries.

I particularly like the following poem, "**Speaking: The Hero**", by Felix Pollac (1909 - 1987):

"I did not want to go. They inducted me. I did not want to die. They called me yellow. I tried to run away. They court martialed me. I did not shoot.

They said I had no guts. I cried in pain. They carried me to safety. In safety I died.

They blew taps over me. They crossed out my name and buried me under a cross.

They made a speech in my home town. I was unable to call them liars.

They said I gave my life. I had struggled to keep it.

They said I set an example. I tried to run.

They said they were proud of me. I had been ashamed of them.

They said my mother should be proud. My mother cried.

I wanted to live. They called me a coward. I died a coward. They called me a hero".

Down through the years there have been many poems like this, and, sadly, there may be many more to come.

In the last century millions of human beings were killed, mostly women and children. War denies one the basic human right, to live in peace.

I shall close with the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty and democracy?"

My thanks to Bill (Balwant) Bhaneja, Coordinator, Nonkilling Arts Research Committee Centre for Global Nonkilling (CGNK).

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**Spiritual progress is not merely intellectual exercise. It is right living, good conduct and moral behaviour. These attitudes are the automatic consequences of belief in a good, just and compassionate**

**God who is watching and witnessing every act. - BABA**

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Swami's on-going work

During the course of an interview on "Souljourns", Narasimhan Murthy, spoke of Swami, during which he mentioned that Swami instructed him to go and purchase 45 acres of land in Muddenhalli, at a cost of R10 crores, (crore=10,000,000) for the construction of schools and hostels. This was done, and the school was opened last June which would house 110 boys, who are offered free education.

While Swami is not present in the physical form, He is continuing His work in building new schools, to educate the future rulers of India. This is an on-going investment in people for the coming Golden Age.

It is an interesting interview, by Jodi & Ted, and well-worth viewing.

(<https://vimeo.com/97850716>)

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**Where there is confidence there is love, and where there is love, there is peace. - BABA**

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The Chancellor Spoke

December 5th 1985

Sathya Sai Baba, spoke on, "Truth plus Love minus the Goals". He began His address with a limerick on the tribe of persons who know little about themselves, but are never tired of finding faults in others. He said:

"He hides his faults, the pseudo-wise, and highlights the faults in others. He knows naught of himself or his Self, and the rest that he knows is best unknown".

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**Be wherever you like, do whatever you choose, remember this well that all what you do is known to Me. I am the Inner Ruler of all and seated in their hearts. I envelop all the creatures, the movable and immovable world. I am the Controller - the wirepuller of the show of this Universe. I am the mother - origin of all beings - the Harmony of three Gunas, the propeller of all senses, the Creator, Preserver and Destroyer. Nothing will harm him, who turns his attention towards Me, but Maya will lash or whip him who forgets Me. All the insects, ants, the visible, movable and immovable world, is "My Body or Form". - BABA**

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LET'S ASK SWAMI!

It was a warm Thursday afternoon in 2006, when Swami paid a visit to Radio Sai, for an interview. Because of the steps into the centre, a special ramp was constructed to enable His wheelchair to enter.

This is a special Q&A session, but it needed editing for space.

**Q:** Welcome to our studio, Swami. Having You here for a question and answer session feels very special. Bhagawan, all our senses are delighted and drinking in joy at Your presence. Blessed are our senses that they can enjoy Your form.

**Swami:** Embodiments of Love! Senses are like life principles for every man. Once you rein in your senses, your life will be peaceful. You should not only avoid evil talk; you should also talk less. Your speech should be short and sweet. Sages like Valmiki and Vyasa and great devotees like Potana composed sacred texts and sanctified their lives. Emulate their ideals and make your life exemplary. Read sacred texts composed by such noble souls. Today, people read books that pollute the mind. It is a very bad practice. Be it reading, writing, seeing, or talking, let everything be good. Do not commit any mistake knowingly. You can experience Divinity in humanity by putting the senses to proper use. One can visualise the divine manifestations and become divine oneself only through sacred use of the senses.

**Q:** Swami, the senses help us to appreciate the wonderful creation around us. You have just told us that they help us achieve the ultimate goal of life. But then, the ultimate goal in life is to be in bliss always, right? Why do the senses lead us astray? It seems as if they are distancing us from the ultimate goal in life...

**Swami:** This is due to the perversion in the world. We are striving for happiness in the worldly matters. Buddha struggled hard for bliss in spiritual field. That is real happiness. That is permanent happiness. That is eternal bliss. That is immortality. Whatever we are doing are all mistakes. But you seek forgiveness. One should never desire forgiveness. One should desire the suitable punishment for the mistakes done. Then alone we will be freed of the

mistake. If anyone commits a mistake, he is imprisoned. It is only to atone for the mistakes that one gets punishment in jail. Once the punishment is complete, the person is released. When we atone for our mistakes, we are freed. We commit many kinds of sins, but we are not considering them as sins. We think that these are but natural to us. That is not so.

**Q:** Swami, is this karma in effect all the while (with us) or is it random? I mean, if I misuse my senses, how will I suffer?

**Swami:** While considering the five senses, vision is very powerful. The eyes contain 40 lakh light rays, (lakh=100,000). We have been wasting these light rays in many ways. So, the human body is decaying day by day. All our looks, all our pleasures, all the effects, are responsible for reducing the life-span of man. Every time you have a bad-look, many lakhs of light rays in the eye are damaged. That is the reason why one develops eye-defects. People think that it is cataract and undergo medical treatment and taking medicines. In the doctor's opinion it may be a cataract, but in reality this is the effect of a bad vision or bad looks. This cast of bad looks is what affects the eye and becomes eye defects. So, we have to control our vision.

**Q:** Is this the case only with the eyes? The same must happen with other senses also, is that right, Swami?

**Swami:** The second one - Tongue. The tongue has more than three lakh taste buds - three lakhs. We get addicted to the various tastes and get lost in their enjoyment. Thus we

lose the powers the tongue is capable of. It is not that we use the tongue only to eat tasty things, we also utter useless words. We hurt others. We use harsh words to injure our fellow beings. In this way, the tongue cuts short the lifespan.

The bodies may be different but the Spirit is the same in all. The one who is pained and the one who causes the pain are the same. So, we should not speak in a manner that hurts. Therefore Swami tells us to, 'Talk less'. But you neglect that teaching. It is in the future that you will realise the hazards of talking too much.

Keep telling yourself, 'Anger is a bad quality. It will lead to bad actions and ultimately put me to ruin.' Whenever you are angry, sit quietly in one place and drink cold water. Chant the Divine Name. Then your anger will gradually subside. Through prayer and contemplation on God, you should try to control the evil qualities in you.

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**The wise use their money, intelligence, skills, aptitude and opportunities to help others and make their lives happier. - BABA**

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What or who is God? When the answer to this question is sought, one discovers that God is the glory immanent in Nature. The earth rotates on its axis at a speed of thousand miles an hour. As a consequence, we have alternations of day and night, which helps us to live on this globe. Besides, it moves around the sun at the rate of 66,000 miles an hour, causing the seasons which bring rains for crops and

vegetation which sustain human life. The earth does not profit in the least by these rotations but human beings survive, enjoy life and prosper on account of them. Nature must indeed be laughing at the sterile frenzies, the endless pursuits, and the countless miseries to which human beings submit themselves to, in their search for achieving the unachievable! You must search in Nature the sacred lessons it holds for you; then, you will understand how deep and how everlasting is the Truth that it conveys to you!

- BABA

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#### Q&A

**Q:** You are believed to have performed miraculous cures to the extent of resurrecting the dead. There are cases where you reportedly have saved people from drowning and other accidents in distant places. Medical experts have attested to remote controlling surgical operations performed by you. How do you manage these?

**Swami:** By my own sankalpa - that is, divine will and power. As an Avatar, this power is intrinsic, inherent, total and natural to my will and decision. I need no mantra (mystical formula), no Sadhana (spiritual practice), no tantra (sacred writings) and no yantra (pilgrimage) to perform the so-called miracles which are natural to my state. My powers are simply the expressions or assertion of the reality of godliness which merges me with everything, everywhere, at all times and places. The miracles belong to the boundless power of God.

Now coming to the main points of your question, this healing phenomenon has a dual aspect. I can cure, save, and even resurrect people provided they are in spiritually receptive condition. It is like the positive and negative currents of electricity. My capacity to heal can be compared to the positive current. Your devotion to me is the negative current. Once the two come together, the devotion provides what is called the miracle of healing.

It is man's mind that is really responsible for his illness or health. He himself is the cause or motivator of either. So when it comes to healing or curing, the necessary faith has to be created within his mind for the purpose. All I do is to invest him with confidence, will the confidence, will and power to cure himself. It is my abounding love reciprocated by the intensity of the devotee's faith in me that produce the desired result"

**Q:** Swamiji, would you say that Chaitanya, Sankara, Balarama, Mohammed, Zarathushtra were Avatars?

**A:** No, Balaram was not an Avatar. Zarathushtra, Buddha, Christ, Mohammed, Sankara and others were Matha-uddhakara, that is to say they were leaders of men who came to uplift the religions.

**Q:** Swami, what is the greatest sin?

**A:** Envy is the greatest sin, vanity, envy and egoism, these three are akin. They cut at the root of man's real nature. To feel proud that you are a bhakta is also a blot. Though you may be a mountain, you must feel you are a mound; though a mound you should not pretend to be a mountain.

**Q:** What is the highest dharma we can follow?

**A:** Implementing truth into action is dharma. There is no dharma higher than truth. Search for truth, the fostering of morality, these ideals are essential for the realisation of the Godhead. Truth is something that is not modified by time or space. It must be the same forever unaffected and unchanged, then alone it is truth. It should not be proved false by some subsequent event or knowledge.

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### **Vegetarianism by Famous Advocates**

"But for the sake of some little mouthful of flesh, we derive a soul of the sun and light, and for that proportion of life and time it had been born into a world to enjoy". - Plutarch (circa. 44-120)

"For as long as men massacre animals, they will kill each other. Indeed, he who sows the seed of murder and pain cannot reap joy and love". - Pythagoras (580 BC)

"Nothing will benefit human health, and increase chances for survival of life on earth, as much as the evolution to a vegetarian diet". - Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

"If a man aspires towards a righteous life, his first act of abstinence is from injury to animals". - Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910)

"The greatness of a nation, and its moral progress, can be judged by the way its animals are treated". - Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

"We manage to swallow flesh only because we do not think of the cruel and sinful things we do. If after our pity is aroused, we persist in throttling our feelings simply in order to join others preying upon life, we insult all that is good in us". - Rabindrath Tagore (1861-1941)

(Marc Ingelreist, "Sai Ram" publication)

Following-on from there, Swami asked all His devotees, in fact all spiritual aspirants, to refrain from meat eating, consuming alcohol and smoking, but on the occasion of His Birthday on 1994, He asked everyone, devotee or not, to refrain from eating meats, or drinking intoxicants. We cannot call ourselves Sai devotees while we fatten on chickens, washed down by an alcoholic drink.

Swami stated, "Alcoholic drink is utterly obnoxious. It degrades the addict. It makes him forget God. The drink addict is not conscious of what he says or does. The very sight of such a person is revolting. Alcoholics have caused misery to their wives and children by wasting all their money on liquor. Of what use to the world are such derelicts?"

"In addition to liquor, many are addicted to smoking tobacco. Today, cigarette smoking is the cause of many diseases like asthma, lung cancer, eosinophilia and heart ailments".

"Those who aspire to become true devotees of God must give up meat, liquor and smoking. Change must take place at the individual level. By renouncing these three, you will benefit yourselves, as well as society and the nation. Expecting that you

will carry out Swami's wish, and thereby promote the wellbeing of your family and nation, I bless all of you."

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**You seek too much information and not enough transformation.**

- BABA

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**Do not worry! If you are devoted to Me or to any other form of God, that is enough to wipe out the effect of all karmas of all past births.**

**You should spend at least a few minutes every day in the thought of God. You may have committed sins as big as mountains, but if one small ray of Grace falls on you, all your sins will be burnt in a flash. - BABA**

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The Banyan Tree

*By Deepak Arjandas Bharwani*

There stands a banyan tree on the mountain path leading from Prashanti Nilayam to the University. It is no ordinary tree. It is the Dhyana Vriksham, the Tree of Meditation; and it is the Thapo Vriksham, the Tree of Spiritual Austerities. On 29 June 1959, (ashadha Poornima, i.e., the full moon day of ashadha month) Bhagavan materialised a thick copper plate of 15" x 10" inscribed with alphabetical letters of great spiritual potency (Beeja Aksharas). He deposited it in the earth at a spot specially chosen on the hill behind Prashanti Nilayam, and over it

planted this banyan tree. On that sacred occasion, He addressed devotees and declared: "This tree is the Bodhi Tree, under which Gautama Buddha sat, meditated and received spiritual illumination. This is the Tree of Enlightenment (Jnan). Lord Krishna is known as Vata Pathra Sai (reposing on a banyan leaf), because during the period of Pralaya (ultimate merger of all creation in the Infinite), He assumed the microcosmic form of Bala Krishna (Krishna, the Baby) and reposed on a banyan leaf. This is the tree referred to by Sri Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita. If aspirants (Sadhakas) meditate and undertake spiritual austerities here, they will attain fulfillment of their desires, success in their efforts, control of senses and steadiness of mind." With reference to planting of this tree, one of the lines in the Ashtothara Satha Namavali reads: "Sadhaka-Anugraha Vata-Vriksha Prathishthapakaya Namah."

The banyan lives forever. It is immortal (Amara Vriksham). Growing into a mighty tree by itself, it drops innumerable root-like extensions from its branches to the earth, which in turn becomes fresh roots and extends the tree in all directions. The process goes on and on, providing an ever-increasing area of cool shade and shelter to people. I do not hesitate to assert that Bhagavan is likewise providing ever-increasing zone of protection and peace for the benefit of the entire humanity. This Thapo Vriksham is certainly Kalpa Vriksham (wishfulfilling celestial tree), identical with Bhagavan. Those who are in intense distress and are tired with the ups and downs of life, those who are on spiritual quest,

those who ardently desire something pure, those who are progressing on the path of spiritual enlightenment - all such persons gather at the feet of Sri Sathya Sai and attain tranquility, supreme peace and equanimity. Truly is Baba Himself a Thapo Vriksham where all spiritual austerities achieve fulfillment! Prashanti Nilayam is verily the Thapovanam."

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**You blame God because you announce yourself as a devotee too soon, and expect plentiful grace. Grace cannot be claimed as such; first God must accept you! Let God be your Guru, your path, your Lord. - BABA**

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#### I TREAT EVERYTHING ALIKE

##### Divine Discourse

"Society today is racked by jealousy and hate. Jealousy is a disease, which gives rise to hatred. Develop forbearance and goodwill. That is the cure for jealousy. I have often declared: "My life is My message". Often many have extolled me or derided me. I do not get elated by praise or depressed by criticism. I treat everything alike (samathvam). "Samathvam yogam uchyathe". That equalmindness is yoga. What do I lose when someone criticises me? That is his opinion. It does not affect me. Those who criticise Baba are suffering from a disease, like those who reject a sweet because they suffer from diabetes. The fault lies not in the sweet, but in the person who is unable to relish it. They know that Baba is engaged in beneficial activities and they want Him; but



because some of their selfish interests are not served, they turn against Swami. That is a malady. When you see the facts in this light, you will realise the Truth.

Today you have to cultivate a serene equanimity that rises above these trifles. The development of equanimity is more important than the growth of centres. You should recognise the Divinity in one and all. The Supreme Spirit dwells in all beings. Bulbs are many, but the current that illumines them is one. Develop this spirit of oneness. Unity will lead to Divinity. Many who are working in the Organisation do not recognise the need for unity. Lack of unity breeds enmity and groupism.

The Organisation exists not for My sake, but yours. When Swami administers what may appear as bitter medicine, it is for your own good. God is the physician for the ills of human existence. You may not relish the taste of His medicine, but whatever Swami does, says or gives, is all for your good. Above all, unity is the foremost need of the hour. Nations are many, but the earth is one. All are denizens of the earth. All are children of Mother Earth. Recognise this Truth."

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**You are all Atmas and that is how I always see you. My advent is for My devotees. I am a devotee of My devotees.** - BABA

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Many Names, One Form

*By S. Sai Giridhar*

There was a gentleman who came from Indonesia. He is a devout

Muslim. His guru Radeen Saheed was a Sufi saint who lived in the 15th century. He used to practice the teachings of his guru and the name that resounded in his heart and mind was, "Allah ho Akbar".

When he went to Prasanthi Nilayam as part of a team which was here to study the wonderful education system which Bhagawan has designed, he had an extraordinary experience.

He was seated in the moral class which happens every Thursday in the University. And after this presentation during which a distinguished elderly devotee had spoken on the nature of the Avatar, our beloved Bhagawan, he comes to me and says, "So, does Sai Baba often come to you and give messages like this?" I said, "What are you saying?" He replied, "Does Sai Baba often come to you to give such beautiful benedictions?" I said, "Did you see Sai Baba?"

Brothers and sisters, this gentleman has never come to Prasanthi Nilayam earlier and before he reached here he did not know anything about Swami. And he continued, "Yes, when the talk was going on, in the huge chair which you have kept on the stage, I saw Him come and sit there. And after the talk was over, He got up, came in front and spoke to us. He then said, "Move from everybody to every soul. Move from every soul to one soul, and move from one soul to God."

What an extraordinary experience this gentleman from Indonesia had, but what a profound message Bhagawan was giving us, "Call Me by any name, I will be there for you."

Last year some of us had gone to Badrinath and we happened to meet a yogi who spoke to us at length about Bhagawan and he said, "You will be mistaken if you think that Bhagawan is far away from you." He said, "No, it is very, very easy to bring Bhagawan to you." So we were all eager to know how. "Very simple," he said. This is an assurance which Bhagawan Himself has given and if you practice, it will happen. "First purify your thoughts, then forget everything about everything else, dive your mind deep into your heart, fill your heart with love and call out once, 'Sai Ram', and Bhagawan will come rushing to you."

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**When the heart is filled with good thoughts and feelings, all that comes out of the senses - your speech, your vision, your action - will all be pure. - BABA**

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#### A Dog's Prayer

*By Piero Scanziani*

Lord of all creation, make the man who is my master as faithful to others as I am to him. Cause him to love his family and friends as much as I love him. May he be the guardian of his blessings as I guard him and his possessions.

When I wag my tail, Lord, may he have a ready smile and be grateful as I am quick to lick his hand. Grant him my patience. Teach him to wait without complaining as I wait for his return. Give him my courage. Keep for him the youthfulness of my heart and the cheerfulness of my thoughts.

Lord of all creatures, as I am always truly a dog, grant that my master may always truly be a man.

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**If each one does his duty, in the spirit of dedication, the Light can illumine all, but, if the doors of the heart are shut against the Light, how can darkness disappear? You cannot sit back, and expect the Incarnation to bring Peace and Joy into you. The Incarnation comes to warn, to guide, to awaken, to lay down the path, and shed the light of Love on it. But, man has to listen, learn and obey with hope and faith. - BABA**

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#### Culture & Spirituality

"The ancient sages lived long years in good health because of their physical and spiritual discipline. Students should follow their example to make their lives sublime. They should stand out as the inheritors of their great spiritual legacy. Only then will they shine as living exponents of Indian culture. There is no difference between culture and spirituality. In fact the culture of all countries is based on spirituality. The two are integrally related.

Dividing cultures on the basis of nationality or religion is a sign of narrow-mindedness. Religion is a much-misunderstood word. Religion really means Realisation. It is the same common experience for all who realise God." - BABA

**Work as if you were to live a hundred years; pray as if you were to die tomorrow.** - BABA

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Vibhuti in Prison

The following article appeared in the Quarterly Sai magazine published by Peggy Mason, back in 1990, she wrote:

In Oct. 1989 I had a request from Elaine James, asking me to visit a prisoner in the Woman's Prison, in Rochester, whose name was Kavita. I duly wrote asking to make arrangements for me to visit her.

I received a reply from a Roman Catholic priest, suggesting I might like to go to the prison the following week. After I had agreed, I began to wonder what would be expected of me, not having been to a prison before. I sent out a thought to Swami for His help and guidance. I still had no idea what I would take with me that would pass inspection, precious books might be torn up and vibhuti confiscated. These thoughts had no sooner crossed my mind when the phone rang; it was H.R., telling me that a prisoner there had discovered vibhuti on her book about Baba. Here was Baba telling me there was certainly a place for vibhuti in a prison, and He had made sure it had got there, too! This was more than coincidence since it happened two days before my visit there. H.R. also told me that there was also another prisoner interested in learning more about Sai Baba. How wonderful if a group could be started in the prison!

My visit there went well, and lasted 2 1/2 hours, though I had been told at the gate that visiting time was half

an hour! Furthermore, Kavita and I were left alone in a classroom to talk about Baba to our heart's content! The Anglican Chaplin then invited me to come and talk to him about Sai Baba and to bring with me any literature I might have. Again I asked Baba for guidance.

On the morning of my visit a large envelope popped through my door, and found it full of magazines and books, and when I opened the first magazine, it had an article entitled Bhajans in prison.

I would like to thank those for their generous contribution of books and magazines which I shall be able to get to the prison shortly.

Christine Draper.

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**God is in you, around you, behind you, above you, beside you.**

- BABA

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SATHYA SAI BABA

(Peggy Mason's Quarterly Magazine, 1984)

Ivana Milkeoc, of Bosnia, lived in a small village all her life. She married a local man and had three children. Their house had a vegetable garden and kept chickens. Life was hard but she had all she required and got by, enjoying the domestic life, watching her children grow and caring for them the way mothers do throughout the world.

Then, one morning, the soldiers came. Her husband refused to leave their home so they shot him dead in front of her and the children. Ivana

and her eldest daughter, Alna, aged 14, were then repeatedly abused by the soldiers before being thrown out of their home with nothing.

Eventually they were picked up by aid workers, but their trauma had left a legacy with the family. Alna could not speak and would not go near any of the male aid workers. She attached herself to one volunteer, Annette, but still she would not, or could not, speak.

One day, Annette, gave her a small stray puppy. She looked after it for several weeks, then one day the puppy made a mess on the floor and Alna shouted "Bad dog, bad dog!" Then realising she could speak again, she fell into Annette's arms sobbing. News of the breakthrough left even the most hardened aid workers in tears.

Happily, the family are now reunited with relatives and are trying to rebuild their lives with hope. This is just one of many thousands of tragedies that have ruined so many lives through man's inhumanity to man.

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**God's descent is for man's ascent. - BABA**

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Swami's Talk at Gurupurnima, 1989

"The physical body is subject to certain limitations. For instance, there is the continuous process of inhaling and exhaling air. It has been found that by slowing down the time taken for inhaling and exhaling, life can be prolonged. The faster the process of breathing the shorter becomes the life span. There are

examples to show how this rule operates.

Elephants and men inhale and exhale 12 to 13 times per minute. By adhering to this time scale, man can expect to live for 100 years. Snakes and tortoises breathe at the rate of 7 to 8 times per minute. Consequently their average life span extends to 200 or 300 years. Monkeys, dogs and cats breathe at the rate of 30 to 40 times per minute. Hence their average life span does not last beyond 12 or 13 years. The rabbit breathes at the rate of 40 to 50 times per minute. Its lifetime is barely 5 to 6 years.

The faster the rate of respiration, the shorter is the lifetime and vice versa. How is the breathing to be regulated? Breathing should be so slow and quiet that, if fine powder is put near the nostrils, the powder will not be disturbed. The practice of yoga helps to slow down the rate of breathing in this manner". (The science of mind control)

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**If you cannot pray for the total welfare of the community around you in whom God lives, how is it possible for you to worship an invisible God? The first thing you have to do is to look after the welfare of the living community around you. - BABA**

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The Infinite Golden Aura of Sai Baba  
*by Dr. R.N. Shukla*

Once, a few decades ago, several internationally acclaimed Indian Scientists, associated with ISRO (Indian Space Research

Organisation), wished to meet Baba after a conference at Bangalore. I had the good fortune to accompany them to Puttaparthi. Next day in the morning, a special meeting was arranged for the five of us, scientists, in Baba's sitting room. Baba spoke to us elaborating on ancient space-science and research in the culture of India, Bharatiya Samskruti. He mentioned about the contributions made by Maharshi Vishwamitra, Rishi Bharawaja and others. He also spoke about the Gurukul traditions of ancient India, citing the famous.

Rishi-Gurukuls of Sandipani, Mahamuni Agastya and others along with the specialty disciple of each. As we were leaving, Baba blessed the scientists by gifting each of us with astrally procured and materialised diamond pearl rings, emerald pendants and so on. Everybody got overwhelmed by Baba's gifts and the depth of his discourse on ancient scientific developments.

Dr. V.G. Bhide, one of the scientists, was blessed with an emerald ring. All of a sudden he approached Baba, with his emerald ring in his palm and prayed thus, "Baba, you have blessed me by this ring, created astrally, for which, I am very happy and convinced. But Baba, for my curiosity, can You kindly make this ring disappear now?" Baba just gave a broad smile and said, "Dr. Bhide, I have personally done nothing at all! But as your meeting with Me is over now, we must dispersed!" We all came out of the hall somewhat unhappy, but suddenly I got a thought and I turned to Dr. Bhide and asked him to open his palm containing the emerald ring. There was no trace of the ring! It had vanished! This was a practical lesson

taught to us scientists not to suspect and question those realised beings who have taken human form and descended amongst us purely to shower their grace and love on all mankind.

### Baba's Aura

In July 1991, I had a chance to go to Bangalore. My wife was anxious for Baba's blessing. I was also invited to deliver some lectures at the University in Prasanthi Nilayam. We decided to go by the Kurla express from Mumbai, get down at Dharmavaram from where Prasanthi Nilayam is about 40 kms away. But both of us slept through and missed getting down at Dharmavaram. We woke up only when the train reached Bangalore. We were a bit perturbed at this. However, to our great happiness, our co-passengers in the train told us that Baba was at Bangalore and we could see Him the next day morning at nearby Whitefield. What a blessing!

Next day, we had Baba's Darshan and Pada-sparshan. The Vibhuti He gave us had the cheerful fragrance of the night queen flowers (Ratrani). But this was during the day! Both of us were totally awestruck by this experience. I was then requested to give a talk before devotees in the College Auditorium, along with two others. Baba told each of us to talk on particular topics for 40 minutes. Baba said, "Dr. Shukla, you talk on Cosmic Energy, Dr. Philips on terrestrial Chemistry and Dr. Chu on the Baba Biography, a book written by Dr. Chu. General discussions will follow in the end". I insisted on being permitted to study and read Baba's Aura, which He allowed after some initial reluctance. Aura is the human

bio-energy picture, a normal electromagnetic current voltage measurement done through social meters. Presently, aura detection is done by PIP Camera (Poly Phase Contrast Photography).

Using an accurate multimeter, I read 5 volts and 8 amperes as voltage and electric current readings, as Baba's Aura. This was recorded thrice and the readings were the same. Baba then laughed and asked me whether I was satisfied with the readings, and asked me to take the readings again. I took another set of readings. The multimeter hands initially refused to move, but suddenly clicked to record infinity voltage and amperes readings! Baba could increase His own internal energy and convert His human bio-energy into small tiny nano-gold particles that emerged out of His skin as 'shining lustrous golden Aura' as measured later by our PIP Camera. This recording was done just by us but also by the Japanese, German and Dutch scientists present in our group. We were all so startled! But Baba told us jokingly that we should merge in Baba and become B.A.B.A - double graduates of Baba's Spiritual University - Being, Awareness, Bliss, Atma!

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**You clamour for further experiences of My Divine nature and ask that your faith might be strengthened thereby.**

**To know the taste of sea water, putting a drop on the tongue ought to be enough. There is no need to drink the whole ocean!**

**Is not one experience enough? Well, let Me ask how can the limited know the depth of the unlimited? How can an ant delve into a mountain? It is beyond you to know how or why I create things in My hand. Or think, you find it difficult to look after one family of yours; imagine My plight Who has to listen, tackle and solve the problems of tens of thousands of families with Prema which is even rare among the parents. No, you are incapable of gauging Me.**

– BABA

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He Taught Me The Essence Of  
Christianity!

*By Fr. Charles Ogada*

(Father Charles Ogada was born in Uturu, Nigeria. He is a Roman Catholic priest and is founder of the Spiritan Self Awareness Initiative, a humanitarian organisation involved in self awareness through community development. He is the author of the book, "The I Am Principle: the Christ Within")

Stopped! Yes, everything stopped and came to a standstill. My world finally collapsed. Like the gap between two breaths I was lost in an emptiness which left me breathless. Neither alive nor dead I was caught in a contradiction beyond my comprehension. Although my body was cold and my mind numb I could still feel an inflated sensation as if I was floating outside the body. Then I realised what it was - it was futility. The search for God had led me nowhere. Like a body severed from its life breath, my soul had been

pinning in vain for the eternal Source of its being.

This happened during the ninth year of my studies in a Catholic theological seminary. I ran to my professors and inquired whether they had found the remedy for my soul's malady, but none had the good solution. Instead they told me to pray. But I could not. Stripped of every concept, I was made to stand without a stand! It was during this critical time that Sai Baba came into my life, like a lamp that lit my steps to Self awareness. It happened like this. There was this professor who taught us a course in comparative religion. He was an elderly priest who seemed to be different from the ordinary. During lecture he mentioned the name "Sai Baba" as an example of a living avatar. As I heard that name, something very strange happened within me. It was as if the scales covering my inner "I" suddenly fell off and I could see some dim flickers of my Self radiance. For the first time, I was able to breath - it was a soul breath!

Then Swami came to me in a dream. He was pure Light robed in radiant red. With a circular wave of His hand, He created a whirl of energy which drew me to Himself like a divine magnet. He hugged me and like a river merged in the ocean, "I" dissolved in His Love! Beyond words and concepts, He revealed to me the Truth of myself - "I am He. He is me. We are one". When I woke up from that dream, I was born again. That was the beginning of my God awakening. I Am the One I Am looking for. I Am God. And all I have to do is to awaken and manifest my inherent divinity.

But why was this Truth hidden from me? No one taught us that the Christ is within each and every one of us and that we could rise to this Christhood as Jesus did. We were led to believe that the "Christ" is a personal prerogative of Jesus even when Jesus Himself preached the contrary. Jesus once said to His followers, "The things I have done, you can do, and greater things than these you can do" (John 14:12). On another occasion, when the religious authorities accused him of making Himself equal to God, He said to them, "I am God, but you too are God" (Cf John 10:34).

Sai Baba taught me how to be like Jesus; how to awaken the 'Christ Within' and how to manifest this power as a transforming energy in the world. For me, this is the greatest message of Sai Baba, a message which all the avatars and great masters have preached and lived. The awakening of our inherent divinity is the key to our global transformation - the dawn of the Golden Age. This awakening should be the focus of world religions today and Sai Baba has given us the key.

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Peggy Mason's Sathya Sai Magazine

Winter 1984

Dr. V.K. Gokak had been with Baba at one o'clock to discuss certain matters connected with a festival which was to take place. At three o'clock he had occasion to go to Baba's room again. To his utter astonishment he found the room piled high with covered buckets containing food - masses of them.

"But what is this, Swami?" he asked. "How did all these get here?" Baba smiled and answered, "Not by human means. The van that was bringing them is in trouble. It wasn't going to arrive." Baba had teleported the entire contents of the van!

An Avatar assumes human form in order to take human evolution a step higher, to usher in a new age, when the need for intervention is very great, as indeed it is today. "In order to save someone from drowning," says Baba, "one must jump into the water," - that is, incarnate.

"I came in response to the prayers of saints, seers and seekers", or, as the Krishna form stated in the Bhagavad-Gita, "When virtue declines and evil flourishes... to save the good and destroy evil-doers, to establish righteousness and truth, I am born from age to age." But in the present Kali Age, says Baba, it is not a question of destroying evil-doers. The scale is too great. It is a question of destroying evil, not by force, but by love and transformation.

The same divine principal has been made manifest in all Avatars, minor or major, but in varying degrees. Jesus was the vessel in whom a ray of Divine Spirit was made manifest to fulfil a certain Avataric mission.

Baba said: "Jesus was a Master born for a purpose, the mission of restoring love, charity and compassion in the heart of man." When we asked: "Was Jesus an Avatar?" Swami replied, "Yes." But He has qualified this statement by saying that Jesus had some divine powers, but not the full powers (the sixteen Kalas or attributes) of a major Avatar.

There have been only two previous Poorna Avatars (fully divine incarnations) - Rama, 11,000 years ago, and Krishna, 5,000 years ago, when conditions in the world were very different to what they are today. We are now privileged to be living, at this momentous period in our history, when the third Poorna Avatar is in our midst, for our sakes.

Sai has said, "Rama, Krishna and Baba appear in different dress, but it is the same entity, believe Me... I am new, and ever ancient. I come always for the restoration of righteousness, for tending the virtuous and ensuring them conditions congenial to progress, and for educating the blind who miss the way and wander into the wilderness"...

"The Lord is Love itself. He comes in human form so that you can talk to Him, move with Him, serve Him, adore Him, and achieve Him, so that you can recognise your kinship with Him. I declare that I am in every one, in every being."

In conclusion, Swami said, "When there is a small local disturbance a police constable is enough to put it down; when the trouble is threatening to develop into sizeable proportions a police inspector is sent; when it grows into a riot the Superintendent of police himself has to deal with it. But when, as now, all mankind is threatened with moral ruin, the Inspector General comes down - that is, the Lord."

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**The world today is in the grip of a fearful moral and spiritual crisis. People everywhere are feeling frustrated and helpless and anxiously wondering what is in**



**store for humanity. The hopes rose by the advances of science and technology have proved illusory. While science has overcome the barriers of time, distance and nationality, it has done little to promote better understanding between man and man, and nation and nation. Never has there been so much distrust, hatred and violence as is witnessed today in almost every country. But a new dawn is breaking and a new age, the age of Spirit, is fast coming upon us... That is why there is a hunger for Spirit today in almost every country of the world. - BABA**

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Are You Missing Your Mission?

*By Christopher Barnes*

The history of mankind is measured by the progress of a few great Souls who have achieved and expressed their vision of perfection. These heroes, leaders and teachers have brought civilisation to where it is today. Should we feel any gratitude for their guidance then we should transmit that which we receive in a purer form to our successors.

Sadly we live in an age of shrinking moral values. We have the choice to either harden our hearts or share in the slide to depravity or we can stand against the moral decline. Baba's devotees are one of the voices of society's conscience and when we ignore His Word we fail to support His mission.

Devotees are privileged to be in touch with the Avatar of the Age. It's for us to steer civilisation away from savagery to serenity. We have

therefore a responsibility to ourselves and to mankind to reveal His ideas by word, prayer and example to our neighbours.

Without this transmission, our understanding is in vain. Misused or hoarded knowledge cannot purchase a heavenly estate and acquires instead an arid wasteland. Only correctly invested knowledge yields wisdom as its return. It is this wisdom which guides us home.

Baba has made His mission abundantly clear in His teaching and if we are to act as His agents, it is our duty to follow this to the best of our ability. Any form of loving service falls within this category but there are wishes that Baba has expressed. If we wish to assist Him so that He may walk beside us then we must listen and act on His aims.

For instance, He requests we do not make any unnecessary expense or full for Him of over His birthdays. Any gifts which are given to Him are immediately sold and the money given to poor. He allows us to glorify Him out of His kindness but He does not seek this admiration. His principle purpose is to assist mankind and praise does help Him towards this goal.

To aid His mission effectively it is necessary to prioritise our steps to serve His stated main purpose. But what is His Final Purpose?

He says that His task is to reverse the course of deteriorating morals in society throughout the world. His fundamental object is to awaken in man the awareness of the Divine inherent in him. The Sathya Sai Education in Human Values is the path Swami has given us for this. At

the Crew Retreat in 1999, Dr. Jumsai laid down a challenge to the U.K. He pointed out that when you give material benefit to the poor the relief is temporary but if you draw out the human values in another it will have lasting effect.

Therefore there is nothing more beneficial to society or an individual than teaching human values.

Taking these ideas to heart the Thailand Sathya Sai Organisation declared EHV as the national Seva and every single devotee helps in some way to this end. Because of this an SSEHV school was founded there in 1992 and the Thai Government has passed a law declaring that the aim of education is to ingrain good character.

It is sad that this country has not followed Thailand's example and fostered Swami's repeated wish to give education priority over all service. For instance in His discourse on 31-1-1974, He states, "I am depending upon you, students, for a great transformation in outlook, a great revolution. Students of the Sathya Sai College must lead this movement."

We need to ask ourselves how to bring Swami's vision into actuality. We do not achieve this by dispensing our energy and time celebrating Baba's birthday in ways of which He would approve.

Perhaps the way forward is for all Centres and Groups to resolve that their Seva is to give priority to education. Support for this in all fields is required which includes training, finance and establishing contacts in schools. With prayer and effort the doors will open and the

dream of a new bright millennium will come to fruition.

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