

Shower of Bhagawan's Blessings

We are fortunate to experience the continual flow of Bhagawan's blessings. On November 17, 1999, He blessed the school and Centre building project at Markham. He declared that the school was His project and showered his grace by giving us the opportunity to “make this project”.

On April 27, 2000, He reassured brother Dayal Mirchandani in an interview that the Markham project will happen and that he should not worry about it. He reminded Dayal Bhai that He had told him during the interview on November 17, 1999 not to go here and there and that His blessings were with us for the project. Bhagawan then continued and indicated that we should proceed with the school in the rental building. His benediction this time was to “Start the School”.

A few days earlier, brother Yusuf was also blessed with an interview by Bhagawan and he was given a similar message. Bhagawan stated that He knew about the school rental project. He asked brother Yusuf that he (and Aroon Yusuf) “must do the school work”.

Thank you Bhagawan for such explicit direction and guidance and for removing any doubts we may have had about the sanctity of the task that you have given us.

Our Centre got another opportunity to please Bhagawan by hosting the Presidents’ meeting in April. Brother Raj Samaroo did an outstanding job of co-ordinating the various activities for this event. He spared no effort and it was truly a flawless rendition. Even the organization of the Council meeting at brother Shivaji Pon’s residence was extraordinary with proper setting of the tables and chairs and professional catering of meals and refreshments. Our love and humility in rendering the service did not go unnoticed.

The Centre is now busy making preparations for the 25th anniversary celebration on June 3, 2000. This promises to be another grand event that will bring us ever closer to Bhagawan.



Sai Diary

May 2000

6	Easwaramma Day
7	Bhajan Practice Youth Training
14	Mother’s Day/Parent’s Day Sunnybrook visit
20	Narayan Seva
21	Buddha Jayanti Celebrations
26	Building Project Meeting
27	Narayan Seva
28	Study Circle Youth Satsangh

June 2000

3	25th Anniversary Celebrations Bhajan Sandhya
4	SSE Open House
11	Sunnybrook/Norwood Visit Study Circle
17	Narayan Seva Newcomers’ Evening
18	SSE Field trip
23	Building Project Meeting
24	Narayan Seva: Seniors’ Outing
25	SSE Graduation Study Circle

Sai Sandesh

Start with SAI

The parents of the SSE children of our Centre recently were given a presentation of a new project launched by our youth and still-very-young adults. The project, Start with SAI, stands for **Strive To Achieve Results with Serving And Inspiring**. The presentation was very much appreciated by the parents and the response was 100% (not 99 or 98).

This is how Prakash Lad (assisted by Senior Youth Girls and Youth Boys) describes the project.

The project was inspired by one of the resolutions at the 2nd World Youth Conference. The main goal is to become positive role models for the children in our community.

It is a mentoring program, designed so that the mentors become positive role models for the children and to help them reach their full potential. The mentors work with dedication, discipline and determination in encouraging students to excel in school.



“Start with Sai” is all about:

1. Being a positive Role Model;
2. Building up Rapport; and
3. Commitment

It is similar to the big brother and sister concept and is mutually beneficial.

It was also stressed that “Start with Sai” is not:

1. An extension of SSE, or
2. A program where a Mentor is just a Teacher and not a Guide

The key elements of this program are:



- a) An initial evaluation of the areas of need and levels of concern
- b) Focus on areas of improvement
- c) Continual monitoring of progress
- d) Emphasis on core subjects, e.g. maths, English, French and science
- e) Use of a variety of teaching techniques, e.g. value games, textbooks, computing, and story telling.



The homework/tutoring program which is a sub-component of this would entail:

- a) Focus on elementary and high school students;
- b) Teaching of specific subjects by experienced youth; and
- c) Help in other areas of identified need.

The highlight of the presentation to the parents was a case study where one of the senior youth from the Centre - Mehul Patel - actually mentored a junior youth, Amit Taneja. Amit was asked to recount his experience with and feelings about this mentoring program. Amit spoke on how his confidence increased after Mehul helped him with his subjects. Mehul went out of his way to visit Amit's school and speak to all his classmates on a particular subject that was Mehul's specialisation. This was inspiring to Amit as well as to all of the parents seated in the presentation room.

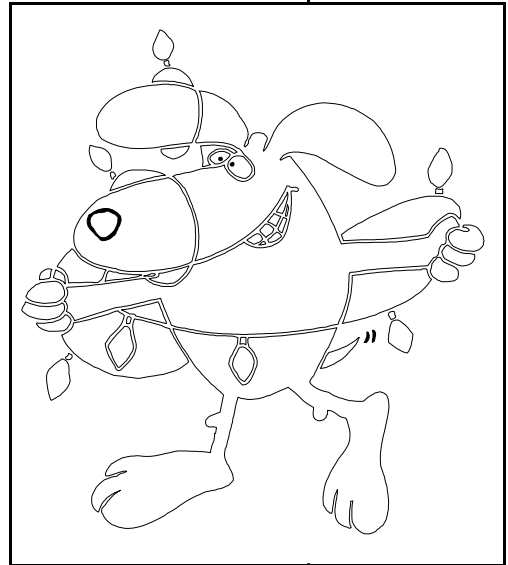
To all the mentors involved in this project, we can only say “Go Mentors Go”.

Let us keep the light burning. For more information on this program, please contact our youth, or Prakash Lad.

-Sai Reporter

Things We Can Learn from a Dog ...

1. Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joy ride.
2. Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
3. When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
4. When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.
5. Let others know when they've invaded your territory.
6. Take naps and stretch before rising.
7. Run, romp and play daily.
8. Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.
9. Be loyal.
10. Never pretend to be something you're not.
11. If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
12. When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.
13. Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
14. Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
15. On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
16. When you are happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
17. No matter how often you are scolded, do not buy into the guilt thing and pout .. run right back and make friends.
18. Delight in the simple joys of a long walk.



Education should be for developing human qualities not for securing jobs.

Education is for living a wholesome

life, not

merely

earning a

living.

God's Answer to the Y2K Bug

The LORD is my programmer, I shall not Crash.

He installed His software on the Hard Disk of my Heart.

All of His commands are user friendly.

His directory guides me to the right choices for His Name's sake.

Even though I scroll through the problems of life,

I will fear no bugs, for He is my Backup, His password protects me.

He prepares a menu before me in the presence of my enemies.

His help is only a keystroke away.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

And my file will be merged with His and saved forever.

AUTHOR: UNKNOWN



SPIRITUAL LADDER

WHY FEAR WHEN I AM ... ALSO

One day, some devotees were called into the interview room. One of the ladies complained to Baba, "Swami, that Seva Dal outside, the head Seva Dal, we are frightened of her, because of the way in which she speaks to us".

Baba leaned forward and said, "I will tell you a secret I am also frightened of her".

During the Tamil New Year (April 1995)

discourse, Swami referred to a previous speaker and said "Mugundan

mentioned in his speech that if you take ten steps, Bhagawan will take a hundred steps towards you". Swami

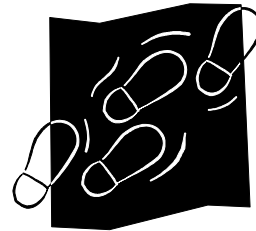
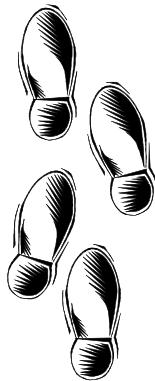
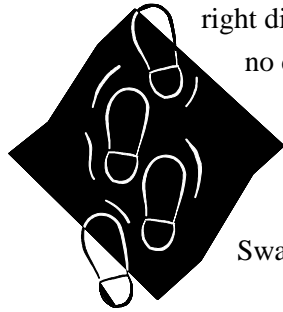
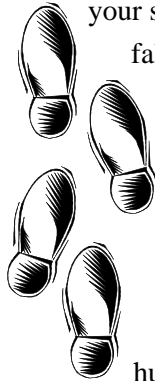
went on to say with a mischievous grin, "It depends on in which direction you take your steps. If you take ten steps towards evil, falsehood, injustice and wickedness, will I take hundred steps towards you ? No, Never."

Swami followed on saying,

"The steps should lead upwards spiritually. If you climb ten steps, I will help you to climb a hundred steps. You should move in the

right direction, not the wrong one. You have no concept of God's concern. Your thoughts are on thamas (inertia) while God's thoughts are on thapas (penance).

Swami concluded amidst the laughter.



Association
with the
evil minded
is like
companionship
with a
poisonous
snake.

Easwaramma Day Competitions

Competition! Competition! Competition!

The word itself is associated with winning and losing. However, unlike other competitions, Easwaramma day competitions in our Centre are held in a spirit of love and sharing that mother Easwaramma had for the children. These competitions help the children think, contemplate and bring to fruition what they have learned in SSE. It promotes participation with other Sai brothers and sisters to do research on their topics.

Children are allowed a period of three weeks to prepare for these competitions.

This year, these competitions were held on March 26th at York University. All the classrooms were setup beautifully to receive the Lord and the judges. This year's topics were as follows:

Pre-SSE: Why do I say prayers?

Group 1A: Why do I say prayers?

Group 1B: Who am I?

Group 2: Value Games

Group 3 Girls: Skits on values

Group 3 Boys: Debate (The extent of believing in God; Is Seva better than prayers?)

Children were judged on organization, content, delivery and originality. The loving efforts put in by the children was evident, for the judges had a difficult task in deciding on the winners. We are sincerely grateful to the team of 14 judges for accepting this responsibility. One had to be present to appreciate the sincerity, honesty and innocence of the Pre-SSE and Group 1A children in answering the question why they

say prayers. The value games were very thoughtfully and strategically designed. We are sure Mattel and Fisher Price would love to get a copyright on the games. The views presented by Group 3 boys certainly confirmed their belief in 'Seva is the path to God'. Group 3 girls clearly demonstrated in their presentations that love without duty is indeed Divine.

At the conclusion of the evening, the winners were awarded the prize ribbons by the judges and all were treated with some refreshments. Children enjoyed putting their thoughts in action.

The names of the winners are as follows.

Pre-SSE

1. Shiyane Srikantharajah
2. Brannavy Jeyasundaram
3. Vedyam Naipaul & Priyan Lad

Group 1A

1. Nikesha Patel & Rajesh Sankat
2. Mithula Lokanathan & Amrita Chandrakumar
3. Chandica Prasad

Group 1B

1. Janany Jeyasundaram & Anil Sankat
2. Kunal Ranchod & Vaishnavi Yogendran
3. Jyoti Ramdhin & Anil Ganesh

Group 2 Girls

1. Sharda Samaroo, Saiis Shivagnahnam & Sunita Sankat
2. Mathura Santhirasegaram, Sharanya Rajendra & Dipti Tankala
3. Kanjana Brodie, Phulasela Inpanathan & Laamina Jambbotharam

(Continued on page 6)

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Group 2 Boys

1. Raghav Sandhu, Divesh Mistry & Hiten Mistry
2. Varun Goyal, Sonesh Chattlani, Rahul Killer & Siyamalan Subramaniam
3. Premanand Gopie, Drew Tamakuwala & Anoshan Chandrakumar

Group 3 Girls

1. Anchal Sharma, Monika Vohra, Arvindi Sukhram & Vani Kulachandran
2. Abiramie Panchalingam, Sonal Chopra, Suganja Selvaratnam, Puja Tamakuwala

Group 3 Boys

1. Munish Taneja, Nimesh Mistry, Abi Brodie & Lavesh Chattlani
2. Nikesh Mistry, Murali Kulachandran, Dhiren Patel, Birunthanan Inpanathan & Haseel Bhatt

Honourable Mention: Abi Brodie, Dhiren Patel, Akash Balgobin & Prashanth Lad

Our deepest gratitude to our ever merciful beloved Bhagawan for showering His divine grace on all the children. We are truly proud of all our SSE children!!

WHY I DO PRAYERS



Shiyani is with her mother, sister and herself with Baba.

She says Baba says not to watch TV, not play for long time. She prays 4 times.

Character
is
knowledge.

Character
is power.

Character
is life
itself.

Character
is the
hallmark
of true
education.

Fun and laughter with Sai Baba

a) A young man was asking Swami whether he should continue his studies with an M.Sc.

Swami said, "Not MSc, MRS."

"But Swami there isn't a degree called MRS" the young man started to say, before he realised Swami was advising him to get married!

b) Swami: Why have you come?

G.L.: Because we love you, Swami!

Swami: (repeat) Why have you come?

G.L.: To recharge our batteries, Swami.

Swami: To recharge your batteries? Why? Is Swami a workshop?

Everybody burst out laughing.

c) Once in an interview room, a devotee at the back was half squatting while Swami was talking. Suddenly, Swami turned to him and said: "Sit down. You are not a giraffe!"

d) A barrister was in the habit of taking drinks, and he would come home drunk. His wife went to Swami to complain. In the interview, Swami asked her, "Does your husband practice behind the bar or in front of the bar?"

e) One devotee said to Swami at a darshan line, "I missed you."

Quickly Swami answered back, "How many times?"

f) A devotee asked Swami to solve India's financial problems by transforming the Indian Ocean into oil.

Swami replied, "If I did, someone like you would probably toss a lighted match into it."

g) A male devotee once asked, "Swami, you have the power to choose any kind of body, you could have been six foot tall with big muscles. Why didn't you?"

Swami straightened up and whispered, "The ladies like this form..."

h) At a discussion, Swami asked "Do you know why a Committee does not function?". Silence. Then Swami said "The very name COMMITTEE suggests only one thing: COME TO TEA!"

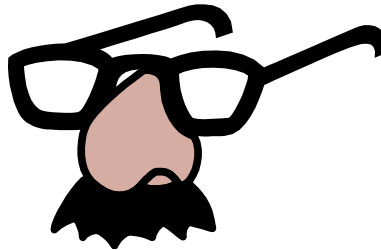
i) Once in Bombay, the leader of the water drilling team asked Swami "Swami, can we drill here?" Swami said, "Yes, you can drill there." They thanked him and began the frilling, while Swami went into the Dharmashektra.

After several days of drilling and still no water, they drilled deeper but still without any success. Then the drill leader went to see Swami to

enquire, "We have been drilling there but there's no water." Swami replied, "Yes, I know there is no water there, but you did not ask me whether there was water there; you just asked me whether you can drill there."

The lesson: We must be specific, sharp and clear when asking Swami. He will grant what we ask for. So think before we ask.

j) "Polishing my feet!" Swami said to a Phillippino devotee who was sitting massaging His feet during an interview. "But I love your feet so much!" enthused the devotee. "Take them, then!" said Swami with a wave of His hand.



The \$20 Bill

A well known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" Hands started going up. He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this."

He proceeded to crumple the dollar bill up. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air. "Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now all crumpled and dirty.

"Now who still wants it?" Still the hands went into the air.

"My friends, you have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless.

But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value. You are special - Don't ever forget it!

You will never know the lives it touches, the hurting hearts it speaks to, or the Hope that it can bring! "Never let yesterday's disappointments overshadow tomorrow's dreams."

DO YOU WANT TO HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION FOR UPCOMING CENTRE EVENTS??

P.U.S.H.

Just P.U.S.H.

When everything seems to go wrong, just PUSH. When the job gets you down, just PUSH. When people don't react the way you think they should, just PUSH. When your money looks funny and the bills are due, just PUSH. When you want to tell them off for whatever the reason, just PUSH. When you ask the question, when is my ship coming in? (as I often do), just PUSH. When people just don't understand you, just PUSH. Not to continue on with when, when, when, etc. let me tell you what it stands for:

- P-ray
- U-ntil
- S-omething
- H-appens

If your life is going just well and you have nothing going wrong, just remember you are truly BLESSED and you too should continue to PUSH for even better blessings.



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