



9<sup>th</sup> January 2008

## G+O+D = Joining Together

Dear Readers, Sai Ram!

Happy New Year! How exciting it was to see the rather auspicious 1-1-08 come round after the chimes of Big Ben faded away!

When you read this I shall be in Sydney, Australia, visiting my sister and helping her celebrate a rather significant birthday!

Of course I shall be back here in good time for the National Conference on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and I look forward immensely to hearing the Keynote Speakers and the other talks and items planned for that day.

Conferences are all very much about bringing people together and over the years I always marvel at Sai conferences and the rather miraculous and seemingly effortless way that people who 'need' to meet are unerringly drawn to fall into conversation and discover something really pertinent, helpful and useful to them! It could be a linking up with someone who is working on a similar project, has a similar idea - or even a piece of advice on diet - or a really good book to read!

The divine hand takes ours and leads us into these fortuitous collisions. When I first attended a large Sai conference I came away feeling that the day had been very concentrated in some way. Over the years I have come to believe that something quite extraordinary takes place when so many of us are gathered together in large numbers - almost like the Darshan experience. For there is no doubt in my mind that when we all deliberately congregate in the name of our dearest Teacher, consciously dedicating our day to him, that the presence of the divine is drawn to manifest there.

So, I invite you to come with a warm, open heart, clear of expectations and judgements, to find out what great connections, marvellous miracles, joy and magic can occur when we all join together in sacred intent in the name of the Purna Avatar! There is an opportunity too, to learn of what the past year has held and meant for us around the UK, to celebrate the good work done and to get the feel of what we would like to achieve, with the grace of God guiding us, in 2008.

By the next issue of 'Love and Light' there will have been some office bearer changes on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January all round the country. To all those who are leaving their posts having

UK WEBSITE: [www.srisathyasai.org.uk](http://www.srisathyasai.org.uk)

completed their time: I offer you a big 'thank you' on behalf of the UK Central Council. To all those who have the courage, enthusiasm and drive to take on posts for the coming term I offer you all a big 'thank you' too! Without you all there would be no infrastructure to support this Organisation. Praying for many Divine inspirations and Blessings in our Organisation's year ahead.

**Love and Light,**  
**Rosemary Perry, National Chair**

## SSSSO UK National Conference 2008

### 'Stepping Out into Action, Walking Forward in Practice'

Saturday February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008, Bentley Wood High School, Clamp Hill, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 3NA

Albert Einstein wrote: "The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing". I once remember seeing a house on fire in a nearby street. It was interesting to see how some people just stood outside and watched as the house burned, whilst others talked about doing something but failed to muster any courage. I will never forget an old man kicking the door down against the blazing flames, overcoming fear and all safety for his life, to ascertain if anyone was trapped inside the house whilst everyone watched on waiting for the fire engines. There is also a similar analogy today within the Sai Organisation.

We too have people who stand on the periphery and fail to be part of this sacred organisation.

There are some who talk that they would like to be involved and make a difference but end up procrastinating and delaying for another day and then there are those forgetting themselves, sacrificing all by getting involved and making a difference no matter how big or small, whether it is folding blankets after bhajans or running the local Sai Centre.

The Annual National Conference of the Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisation is an opportunity for all devotees of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to come together and

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identify ways of working together in a spirit of unity and harmony. The Annual National Conference provides an opportunity for you to make a difference, not just in your local Sai Centre or local community but also more profoundly within yourself. It enables you and provides you with the right tools to lead meaningful and purposeful lives; it also gives you the opportunity to be a part of this sacred organisation. The programme promises to be both spiritually inspiring and enriching and we are extremely fortunate to have with us an eminent international speaker this year, Dr Thorbjørn Meyer, Chair of Zone 7 in Europe. Dr Meyer and his wife, Mrs Marianne Meyer, from Denmark will each speak separately on their experiences in the context of the theme for the day. As highly experienced office bearers at many levels within the Sai Organisations in Europe they both have a wealth of experience to share with us. They will be speaking on 'Sai Baba, Transformation and Eye-Openers!' We are also very pleased to have some of our former National Chairs come back as honoured guest speakers to address us on the day's theme. If you would like to attend please register your name with your respective Regional Chair or go to the organisation website for further information.

**Shitu Chudasama, National Vice-Chair, on behalf of the National Conference 2008 Planning Group**

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## Region 5

### Christmas Celebrations - Newcastle

Christmas celebrations went off really well on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2007.

A candle was lit from the Divine Jyoti of the altar and this light of love was passed from one person to another while Om was chanted continuously.

This symbolically showed that we are all candles lit with the light from the same common source – Swami - and are all filled with the Universal 'Sabda' (sound) – the *Pranava* (life breath).

Mrs. Muriel McLaughlin read out a short story about the birth of Jesus Christ. A Carol Service then followed this. The words of the carols were projected on a power-point screen for everyone to follow and join in. The carols ended with Bhajans and Aarathi.

A 'Reading and Reflecting' exercise with charts illustrating sayings and stories from the life of Swami and Jesus Christ demonstrated the similarities in their teachings. The programme concluded with a quiz and beautiful candles were given as prizes for the winners.

The night ended with some tasty cakes,

mince pies etc with juices and tea.

### Study Circle

The Study circle on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December had a different format. A video showing the World Youth Conference held in July 2007 at Prashanti that included Swami's 'Inaugural' and 'Valedictory' addresses was screened. Devotees had the pleasure of seeing Swami giving the discourse in wide screen. Printed copies of the discourse were circulated and it will be discussed in detail during the subsequent study circle next month.

### Gifts of Love

Christmas hampers were distributed to refugees and to destitute women. Members gathered together to beautifully pack 20 hampers with 21 items in each to spread the love of Sai amongst the needy at Christmas. Bhajans were played in the background all through the packing and the presence of Swami was evident. Everyone's heart was filled with joy when they saw the beautifully packed hampers. It re-established the fact that service done with love gives immense bliss.

**Yogesh Solanki, Chair Region 5**

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## Region 6

### Christmas Celebrations – East Horsley

The Region 6 annual Christmas Satsang was hosted this year by the Woking Group, who heard, six days before the meeting on December 16th, that the proposed venue had been closed due to illness (for the first time in 15 years). Where could the Region find another venue at such short notice? With typical Sai serendipity, another was found that perfectly suited our needs. We started in a large hall, which gave us a stage at just the right height to clearly see the play 'Mother Teresa' and also for us to hear the Woking Youth singing Christmas Carols and reading some relevant quotes; they were accompanied by a piano and keyboard. 'Mother Teresa' was directed by Bahnoon Agnew (R6 Spiritual Coordinator) and became the focus of binding force for the Group. It portrayed the sick and destitute treated with compassion and love by Mother Teresa and her Nuns. Eddie and Ranjana Appoo sang devotional songs accompanied by guitar. We moved at lunch time to a smaller more intimate room and Barbara Jarrett talked about the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 'Biogram of Recovery' and how she understood each of the 12 steps and their effect in her own recovery. She opened her heart to us and we felt very privileged. Barbara ended this spiritual path with the well-known AA serenity prayer:

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*'God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.'*

We sang Christmas Carols together, and learned that whenever 'The Drummer Boy' was sung at Christmas time in Prashanti, Swami would walk into the room!

Raj Selvakumar, National Spiritual Co-ordinator, talked about the true meaning of Christmas and how 'Love conquers all'. We finished with Eddie and Ranjana Apoo singing together a beautiful and very inspired blessing to the tune of Aarathi and dedicated to the 'Father Christmas' of all: our beloved Swami!

**Philippa Malcomson, Chair Region 6**

### Sathya Sai Bookshop

The bookshop has a regularly updated website.

Please visit it at:

[www.srisathysaibookcentre.org.uk](http://www.srisathysaibookcentre.org.uk)

DVDs are often being compiled and released along with new interesting books.

### The SSSSO UK Website

is to be found on:

[www.srisathyasai.org.uk](http://www.srisathyasai.org.uk)

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### BISSE

British Institute of Sathya Sai Education

Information on the Sathya Sai Education in Human Values Programme can be found on:

[www.sathysaiehv.org.uk](http://www.sathysaiehv.org.uk)

Love and Light SSSSO UK  
Significant Diary Dates 2008 please ask your  
Centre or Regional Chair for details

Month	Date	Event
February	2 <sup>nd</sup>	SSSSO UK Annual National Conference
February	16 <sup>th</sup> / 17 <sup>th</sup>	Regional Conferences
March	1 <sup>st</sup>	UKCC Quarterly Meeting
March	8 <sup>th</sup>	NWC Meetings
May	31 <sup>st</sup>	UKCC Quarterly Meeting
June	8 <sup>th</sup>	NWC Meetings
August	22 <sup>nd</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>	National Retreat Stourbridge
September	6 <sup>th</sup>	UKCC Quarterly Meeting
September	13 <sup>th</sup>	NWC Meetings
November	19 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies' Day
November	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Birthday
December	6 <sup>th</sup>	UKCC Quarterly Meeting
December	13 <sup>th</sup>	NWC Meetings

"What is the significance of the advent of the new year? It is not necessary to wait for twelve months for the new year to appear for one to do what he wants to do. The year is made up of seconds, minutes, hours, days and months. Every second is a new moment in one's life. Why then wait for a new year? Every one should strive to render help to the people every second of his life and lead a noble and ideal existence. It is necessary for man to understand the truth underlying this dictum. ...People's actions alone are responsible for the good and bad things they experience. The year does not bring any evil with it. ...Time does not bring in its wake any good or ill. Only human actions account for these reactions. Good actions have good results and bad actions have bad consequences. As you sow so shall you reap. ...Have good thoughts and do good deeds. Act according to the dictates of your conscience. The secret of happiness lies within you, not outside."

*Sathya Sai Baba*