



## Vedam - Enchanting Guest!

Dear Readers, Sai Ram!

The visit of Sri K.R. Vedanarayan – 'Vedam' - has been a great success, as you will see from the extra-long 'Special Supplement' this month! The reports were all so delightful that it is too cruel to edit them down. Besides, they help those of you who could not attend any of Vedam's enlightening talks to get a 'feel' for what they were like. And for everyone to share in the whole visit. All of us, who had the privilege of hosting Vedam and showing him around, say the same thing: "What an absolutely lovely man!"

The talk that Vedam gave that I attended in Finchley was very moving and inspiring.

A big thank you to all the teams involved in setting up these four talks. Your energy and drive helped nearly 1,500 devotees attend Vedam's talks in beautiful surroundings and generously catered for.

On Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April more than half the UK Council went to a retreat centre in Gloucestershire, run by Sai devotees, in order to have a weekend away in which to discuss matters that there is not normally time to address at our quarterly Council Meetings. This 'Vision Weekend' was totally informal and gave us the opportunity to discuss many things and bring ourselves back to the true purpose of the Organisation. At times it was very moving as we explored how we can bring 'Love' to the forefront of this Organisation. Ishver Patel kindly facilitated a very creative day for us on Saturday that helped break down mindsets and automated responses. On Sunday we built upon the cleared ground of the day before. There was also much fun and joy in amongst the discussions!

On Wednesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> Kishor Kumar, National Secretary came to visit me and, now that he is very much better following an illness, he is beginning to more fully take up his post. His organising abilities are tremendous and already I feel a sense of relief to have his help at hand.

It was a joy to attend and address the Induction Day for SSLTP 2007-2008, on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April in a pretty village outside Reading. It was a day for the eighteen new candidates to get a taste of what is ahead for them. They will experience a training that would be highly prized in the corporate world, with much individual attention from highly intuitive and knowledgeable facilitators. They will have a lot of fun, which will lighten the seriousness of some of their studies and rigorous assignments.

Yesterday, I was at a lovely Easwamma Day in Region 1 where the children, as is there talent, brought tears to all our eyes and smiles to our faces in some delightful plays for the Region's Easwamma Day.

Enjoy all the good things in the coming month.

**Love and Light,**

**Rosemary Perry, National Chair**

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

## 'Being and Doing'

A Training and Refresher Day

For SSSSO UK Office Bearers

Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup> 2007, Milton Keynes

The UKCC is very happy to let you know that over 125 SSSSO UK office bearers have now registered to attend this training and refresher day next weekend.

**Kishor Kumar, National Secretary**

## Youth Wing

...Did you know that...

...you can access all the volumes of 'Sathya Sai Speaks', the 'Vahinis' and the many 'Summer Showers' free online? Visit [www.ssbpt.info](http://www.ssbpt.info). You can even search through the volumes for keywords and topics!

## 'All Night Bhajans'

Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup> at Abbey Primary School, Bruin Street, Leicester, LE4 5AZ. From 9pm to 6am.

## UK Youth Flight:

**Places still available, open to all!**

There are still places still available for youth and parents wishing to travel to Prashanti in July. The flight dates are: leaving Saturday, 21 July and returning Saturday 4 August. The full cost of the journey is now £700, which includes flight, travel, accommodation, food and other group trip related costs. Places are open to ALL parents of youth too. Please contact me via email [mathan@arulvel.co.uk](mailto:mathan@arulvel.co.uk) or by phone: 07968 967 442, as soon as possible.

## Diary Dates:

For upcoming World Youth Conference monthly meetings: 9<sup>th</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> July.

**Mathan Arulvel, National Youth Coordinator**

## 'Sacred Sound, Sacred Dance'

19<sup>th</sup> May 2007, 10am – 4pm

East Horsley Community Hall, Kingston Avenue, East Horsley, Surrey KT24 0QT

(A multi-faith event and a joint spiritual venture by Regions 1, 2, 3 and 6)

By attending this event you will experience a different view of the same spiritual concepts that we are all familiar with, but, perhaps, have not hitherto explored in this manner. The participants will find the workshops shown below very interactive and educative so that when they leave at the end of the day, they will have the great sense of having learnt something 'new' about the 'old' and familiar.

## Sacred Sound workshop

*"In the beginning there was Sound and the Sound was GOD,"* says the Bible.

Sound is the basis of creation. Sound is also the main common factor amongst all Religions. In this workshop we shall discover how the same sacred sound exists within all of us and begin to realise the power and healing properties of this sound,

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through very simple practices. This workshop will demonstrate the transformative power of sacred sound that is achievable by the devotee's own effort.

#### **Whirling Workshop: Sacred Dance**

Again dance is another common factor amongst all religions of this world. We have seen and experienced many types of dance. In order to give you a new experience, Sheikh Ahmad Dede and the Whirling Dervishes of the Naqshbandi Tradition of Sufism with musicians and whirling dervishes will share with us, a spiritual experience of sacred dance. This ritual, which originated from the great Grand Master Sheikh Jallalluddin Rumi of Konya, is a simple divine tool to connect with the source through movement – sacred dance.

#### **Circle Dancing Workshop**

This is another new experience of the sacred dance – the 'Circle Dance'. This is an ancient ritual originating in various different ethnic cultures for people to gather together in spiritual communion. At this workshop we shall select a variety of dances to give you an experience, to connect you with that sacred place and space within you, through the gentle art of Circle Dancing.

#### **Light Workshop**

Sound and Light are the external manifestations of the cosmic energies. In this workshop the power of light will be explored as to how this source may be experienced within us. The light that comprises the seven colours in the universe can be harnessed for spiritual development, via meditation on white light and on the seven colours collectively and individually. Meditation on the various colours can lead to the general and spiritual well being of mankind. Please contact your Regional Spiritual Coordinators (Regions 1, 2, 3 & 6) for full details of this event.

**Raj Selvakumar,**  
**National Spiritual Coordinator**

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### **Media Training Day**

#### **Let's Put Our "Tricknology" to Work**

Swami has often spoken of our everyday gadgets and gizmos as "tricknology" i.e. unnecessary detractions from leading a more spiritual life. However, as we have seen in the past years, Swami himself is no stranger to technology. Not only this, he has often encouraged us to use our intelligence and talents, as well as the tools we have at hand, for the betterment of society.

How often have we gone to the meeting hall and not given a second thought to the devotees handling PA or taking pictures of that all-important Yagna? It is too easy to dismiss the skill and attention that is needed to engage in these important activities that we all ultimately benefit from. On Monday 9th April 2007, the Sathya Sai Information Technology and Arts (SITA) project launched its first workshop in the training of basic technical skills. Superficially, the aim was to train our brothers and sisters, be they budding amateurs or complete novices, to use everyday equipment that we often take for granted, especially at Organisational events such as bhajans or other festivities. However, there is additionally a much deeper meaning to this exercise than first meets the eye. SITA provides its participants the

opportunity to open their minds and hearts to skills and talents to discover inspirational Service opportunities in the Sai Divine mission. As Swami has said, one must give back to society, what society has given to them. At the workshop we were privileged to have with us, PA Systems, Videography, Film-making and Photography professionals who graciously gave up their time in the spirit of service for thirty eight individuals eager and willing to learn new tricks. The workshops were a resounding success, with participants quickly showing aptitude to learn and be incredibly creative. Not only did they learn something at the material level, these individuals had the opportunity to associate with fellow Sai devotees and like-minded people – company that many will find lacking in our busy lifestyles.

The SITA project provides a creative opportunity for you to make much more use of your skills, whatever field of interest you hold – professional or non-professional. You will be amazed how many steps Swami takes towards you when you are prepared to take one towards him. So if it's Service with a skill you wish to offer, then contact the SITA team at [admin@sitaproject.org.uk](mailto:admin@sitaproject.org.uk) who would very much like to hear from you.

Following very positive feedback and calls for follow-up sessions, the SITA team is ready to take on new workshops in other parts of the country, particularly the north of the UK. We will be starting mentoring programmes in fields of PA Systems, Photography and Filming and providing opportunities for people to participate in projects, in these areas, around the country.

#### **SITA Team.**

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### **SSLTP Induction Day 2007**

Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2007 witnessed eighteen candidates embark on a journey of transformation at the Induction day for the Sathya Sai Leadership Training Programme (SSLTP) held in Reading. The programme launching its 2007-2008 session, invited the UK National Chair, Rosemary Perry, and the National UK Youth Coordinator, Mathan Arulvel, (SSLTP graduate 2005-2006) to address this cohort.

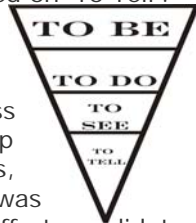
Other guests were former UK Chair and SSLTP facilitator, Phil Heaton, and Steve Perry. The SSLTP Co-ordinating Committee, comprising past graduates and those experienced in leadership training, provided the candidates with key insights into the programme. The SSLTP technical aspects were supported by assistance from the SITA team. Eighteen candidates make up the sixth cohort to undertake this programme since its inception in 1997 following the first World Youth conference at Prashanti Nilayam.

Since 1997, 53 candidates have succeeded in completing and graduating from the programme. These graduates of SSLTP have gone on to play active roles within the Sathya Sai Service Organisation. The Programme consists of eight module days spanning 18 months. The sequence of the module days is arranged in a manner that supports and encourages transformation on an individual level. The aim of the Programme is personal transformation of the individual by

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drawing out or enhancing the latent leadership qualities within them.

This transformation will inspire those around these individuals and prompt transformation in others. At the SSLTP Induction Day, candidates were introduced to the founding aspects and inspiration of the Programme, the 'Mahavakya' (great utterance) on Leadership. This Mahavakya given by Sri Sathya Sai Baba is, 'To Be, To Do, To See, To Tell', which are the building blocks in achieving 'harmony of thought, word and deed'. First Be, then Do, then See and then Tell. This is nicely personified by using an inverted triangle as shown in the diagram below. Note the emphasis on 'To Be' and how it reduces when focused on 'To Tell'.



The candidates aged between 21-50 years were encouraged to continue on their journey of going within which leads to self-awareness and self-transformation. Leadership is not so much about leading others, but more about leading oneself. It was expressed that the greater the effort candidates put in to self-development the greater the transformation. It was also advised that the candidates formulate a goal and work towards it, beginning with the end in mind and moving steadily towards the end goal.

The SSLTP Induction Day was the first meeting for cohort 6 who continue on their journey of self-awareness and self-transformation. May the divine hand of Sri Sathya Sai Baba guide their journey together, so they may play their part in the divine mission, as torchbearers shining brightly.

[Figure above - taken from: 'Sai Baba's Mahavakya on Leadership', by Lt. Chibber]

**Mathan Arulvel, National Youth Coordinator**

## Region 1

### Centre Activities and Events in April

**Spiritual:** 1008 chantings of the Gayatri took place on the fourth Saturday of the month as they do each month. The Regional Bhajan group supported Sri Vedanarayan's talk with Veda chanting and Devotional singing.

**SSE:** Most centres held weekly play practices for the Easwamma Day, Centre and Regional celebrations. SSE students took part in Veda chanting for the evening with Vedanarayan.

**Service:** For Vedanarayan's evening: The Service Team worked at car park marshalling, welcoming and ushering, video and sound, cleaning, clearing and preparing, packing and serving Prasadam for about 450 devotees.

**Youth Wing:** Monthly YAP (Young Adult Programme) meeting was held on the second Friday of the month, and focused on 'Sadhana' (spiritual practice). Youth Members attended a Pre World Youth Conference meeting.

### Easwamma Day Celebrations 2007

Region 1 celebrated Easwamma Day on the 7th May 2007, Bank Holiday Monday. The programme commenced with Vedic Chanting, a March Past and Devotional Songs by children of all centres in the Region. Brixton Sai Centre children performed the first play of the afternoon, entitled 'The Apple Tree,' which highlighted the importance of gratitude in society. Coincidentally, the children of Kingston Sai Centre had chosen and performed the

same script, though this time focussing specifically on gratitude towards parents. The play, 'Sing a Bhajan for Sai', by children of Lewisham Sai Centre, reminded us of the importance and of the true significance of Devotional Singing.

The SSE students of Tooting Sai Centre presented a drama entitled 'Respect for All' following the journey of a young boy seeking to understand the meaning of the word 'respect'.

With 'A Question of Character', Wimbledon Sai Centre gave us a performance of selected scenes from the Ramayana. The Group 2 and Group 3 girls of Merton Sai Centre performed 'The Glory of Womanhood' where a group of young SSE students search for a definition of inspirational womanhood. Sister Karunes Ratnasingham, the pioneer of the National SSE syllabus in the U.K. and group leader of all five 'Sai Mahima' dance dramas, was the first speaker of the evening. Speaking on the tripartite of parent, teacher and student, she highlighted their roles and responsibilities. Drawing from her work as Interfaith Minister and thorough knowledge of Swami's teachings, Rosemary Perry spoke on the importance of spiritual education for the development of this country, especially in today's modern multicultural society. Rosemary not only discussed the relevance of Sai Spiritual Education for people of all faiths, but also introduced herself to Region 1, letting us get to know a little more about her. Dr Mahesh Narayan provided a beautiful summary of many of the concepts covered in the talks and dramas presented that day. He urged the Youth of the Sai Organisation to show their gratitude by returning to teach SSE students. The programme ended with Devotional songs and Aarathi.

**Raj Rajasingam, Chair Region 1, and team**

## Region 3

### The Day We Met SITA!

It was a very bright Easter Monday Bank Holiday and most of us were not aware of what was in store for us. On arrival the registration was very quick and well organised before we were taken to the main hall for a refreshing tea & coffee.

The programme started promptly with 3 AUMS and followed by an excellent presentation on SITA. The members of the SITA team shared their experience, their initial fear / apprehension that they all experienced when they started out and explained how they all benefited in the end. This was a good start for a few of us, who were wondering whether we have made the right decision to be there in the first place!

Soon after the presentation, we were split into three groups – 'Photography', 'Video' and 'PA Systems'. The actual training was very well structured with a short presentation followed by a mini exercise and so on... All the technical jargon was gently introduced and clearly explained.

Apart from the learning, the atmosphere in which we were learning was the best part - as it was very laidback and friendly – not like the formal training course you attend with enormous stress!

All three teams were given an opportunity to apply their knowledge. The photography team created a short presentation on 'Nature', the video team

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came with a clip on 'Values' and the PA team set up the PA systems for the final Bhajans!

All in all, it was an excellent day – well done SITA!

**Sunthar Uthayanan, Chair Region 3**

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### Region 5 - Youth Activities

On Sunday 15th April 2007, the third session of the Region 5 'Inner Divinity' class for Sai Youth took place at Luther King House in Manchester.

This ongoing journey for the R5 Sai Youth began with a message direct from Prashanti Nilayam from Sanjay Vaja, our Regional Vice-Chair. He was leaving Prashanti and he wanted to send his love to his brothers and sisters via a text message. He said that he was determined to overcome the necessity of using a walking aid by the time of the World Youth Conference and his work in the Inner Divinity classes was really helping him to achieve that goal.

We began by doing a perception exercise whereby we looked at pictures on a projector and had to write down our first thought and the first feeling that we had about the image. The point of the exercise was to show how each of us has a different perception (thought and feeling) about the same object. What our perception is of an object teaches us about what is inside us. As Swami says, the world is simply a reflection, reaction and resound of our own thoughts, feelings and actions. Where one person might see a homeless man and perceive him as a human being in need and will then reach out to help him, another may perceive him as someone who doesn't want to work, and will dismiss him and walk by. The thoughts and feelings that we have about everything going on around us - both near and far - reveal to us what we need to learn and change about ourselves. As Swami says, we must learn to transform ourselves into ideal Sai Youth. Ideal means pure of heart. How pure are our hearts? Look at how we perceive the world and that will reveal the extent of our inner purity. The world is nothing but God, but do we perceive it that way?

Our subconscious reveals our thoughts and feelings about an object or situation and this reveals our perception. If we are WATCHing - in other words - *aware* of our **Words**, **Actions**, **Thoughts**, **Character** and **Heart** - then we can learn what we need to change about ourselves, rather than criticising and judging others and desiring *their* change. Everything that we see, feel and think is Swami teaching us about ourselves. If we perceive anything as bad, then that must exist within us too, or we would not be able to perceive it. Therefore, we must recognise it, take ownership of it and then ask Swami to help us transform it into a positive virtue. That is why Swami exhorts us to: *'Think no evil, think what is good. See no evil, see what is good. Hear no evil, hear what is good. Speak no evil, speak what is good. Do no evil, do what is good.'*

The eyes are truly the windows of the soul and the next exercise helped reveal this in a startling fashion. We were asked to stare into each other's eyes for a short time and then note the first thought and feeling about the other person. What was revealed were deep thoughts and feelings about themselves! Thus the 'other' served as a

mirror to reveal something that the observer needed to uncover from within him or herself. Swami always exhorts His youth to constantly live in C.I.A. - Constant Integrated Awareness. In other words, total awareness... to be aware of what is happening, rather than being engrossed by and following the monkey mind. Swami is teaching us all the time, every second, about ourselves and what it is we need to learn and transform.

When we are in Darshan in Prashanti, the experience is sometimes described as a 'laundry' with Swami as the 'washer man'. This is because He intensifies that which we need to learn about ourselves and transform in the light of His infinite awareness, compassion and love. What we see and feel - the constant restlessness and sometimes negative thoughts and experiences - that we go through in Prashanti, are exactly what we need to experience and learn from in order to grow. Thus when we are aware of how Swami is constantly teaching us about ourselves through our perception (thoughts and feelings) about reality, we can learn to quickly transform ourselves and release the negative and give birth to the Divine.

The session culminated with an exercise from Phyllis Krystal's work - the 'Maypole' meditation and 'Figure 8' visualisation, both of which help our subconscious mind to communicate with the conscious mind and ultimately receive some guidance from our Higher Consciousness, rather than from our egos.

In the 'Maypole' meditation, each of us was able to contact our inner divinity - our higher consciousness - and ask for a symbol that would help us to unlock and uncover what we needed to learn from the day's revelations and thus move us a step closer to revealing our inner divinity. When a symbol was shown to us within our own consciousness, this was drawn on a piece of paper and the 'Figure 8' visualisation was practiced. We shall all be practising this for two weeks, in preparation for the next session, when we shall learn how to bring out this positive symbol into our lives.

This fantastic course continues to take us deeper into ourselves, beyond our ego-mind, to help us contact and live in accordance with Divine will and no other. The Region 5 Youth again express their gratitude to Rachel Ennis Cole for facilitating this wonderful and inspirational course.

**Neil Bisarya, Youth Co-ordinator Region 5**

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### Region 7

#### Easwaramma Day Celebrations

The Patchway High School in Bristol was the venue for an inspiring and colourful day's programme to celebrate the life of Mother Easwaramma, the Chosen Mother of our beloved Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The programme was attended by 100 devotees including 23 SSE students from the Region who, by Swami's Grace, performed a play entitled 'Your Life is My Message', in which they enacted scenes from Swami's early life to illustrate some of the invaluable lessons that are taught at SSE. Children from the Cheltenham Group also performed a song and a narrative. Further inspiration was drawn from the enthralling, uplifting and captivating speech delivered by our

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dear brother Ho Lim, who together with his wife Usha has the distinction of being entrusted by Swami to nurture the precious souls that attend the Sathya Sai School in Leicester. Ho spoke of some of his experiences with Bhagawan and the very direct hand that He plays in moulding our futures and preparing us all for the opportunity to be instruments in His Divine Mission.

Usha then answered questions and highlighted the benefits of a value-based education system to children of all backgrounds. She also spoke of the outstanding Ofsted inspection report and the future plans for the school, after all, "Expansion is His Life". As if the atmosphere was not sufficiently electrified, we were treated to an energetic, human values-based game designed and hosted by Deepak Fakey from Leicester.

The programme drew to a close with a tribute to the strength of character and ideal example set not just by Mother Easwaramma, but also by other Divine souls in the form of 'Subamma' and 'Pedda Bottu', both of whom played such inspirational roles in Bhagawan's Mission.

Swami's presence was palpable throughout the day and all who attended left with an appreciation for the selflessness, devotion and fortitude of a pious and illiterate woman, who through her exemplary character shaped the futures of millions of people around the world. After all, it was in fulfilling His mother's three desires that Sai Baba, commenced work on three projects, which continue to expand and benefit the entire globe.

#### **British Institute of Sathya Sai Education**

Prini Wimalachandra, one of Swami's students, attended the SSEHV training course in Pinner at the beginning of April. Currently living in Cyprus, she writes, "This course helped me to internalise the values, examine how the values have affected my behaviour and attitudes and how I could improve myself. It has helped me to be more aware of my feelings, thoughts and actions."

Wonderful news from Newcastle that fifteen schools are asking for Sathya Sai Education in Human Values courses to be taught there, which is a tribute to the very hard-working volunteers who have dedicated themselves to this work over the years. The establishment of SSEHV teaching is a service activity that Region 5 is dedicated to championing.

Dipak Fakey, who runs the hugely successful 'Good Values' Club in Leicester, has been invited by a representative of 'Sure Start' to facilitate several workshops at St Matthews Estate Community Centre there. Participants will be people from the local estate and the workshops will be based on introducing the SSEHV programme, EHV clubs, values games, activities and advice on how to run a 'Values Club'.

Malaysia reports that SSEHV material has been downloaded from our web site and translated into Chinese (yet another language!) with a few adaptations to align with Chinese culture.

Mrs. Randa el Masry reports from Egypt that the UK's 'SSEHV Workbook 1' has been professionally translated into Arabic. This will be a great help for the North African and Middle East countries.

**Carole Alderman, Director BISSE**

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## **Ladies Wing Unfolding - Slowly and Surely**

Please let your Regional Chairs know as soon as a Ladies Representative has been appointed in your Centre or Group. Establishing these posts will expedite the forming of a more solid structure at Regional level. The forming of a new Ladies Wing has been recommended to take place from the Centre and Group level up – so that the foundations are firm and the activities are arising from the real needs and wishes of the Centre and Group lady members. Take the time to explore now, some of the directions that you would like to move towards and some of the issues that you would like to address. These will become the firm foundations of Regional and, eventually, National initiatives.

**Rosemary Perry, National Chair**

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## **Sathya Sai Schools**

Sathya Sai School Leicester is pleased to receive a donation of conference chairs from BISSE. These will be conveyed by Youth going to Leicester for the 'All-night Bhajans' on a coach – so it a multi-Wing effort.

**Prabodh Mistry,**

**Sathya Sai Schools Representative**

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## **Sathya Sai Bookshop**

The bookshop has a regularly updated website  
Please find it at:

**[www.srisathyasaibookcentre.org.uk](http://www.srisathyasaibookcentre.org.uk)**

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**The SSSSO UK Website  
is to be found on:**

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

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## **New Little Baba!**

The United Kingdom Central Council would like to send all good wishes and congratulations to fellow Council Member, Jey Sivaloganathan, Chair Region 7, and his wife, Senta, upon the birth of their beautiful little daughter on April 18<sup>th</sup> 2007.

**UKCC**

**SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT**

**Diary of a Sai Sanskrit Scholar's Visit to England!**



**Sunday, 8 April**

**Gayatri Bikoo, R2 Service Co-ordinator, and Senthil Kumarathevan, R2 Spiritual Co-ordinator:**

Our brother in Sai, K.R. Vedanarayan, ('Vedam'), esteemed Vedic Scholar and Teacher of Sanskrit at the Sathya Sai Secondary School in Puttaparthi, as well as leader of the men's Nagasankirtan in Prashanti Nilayam and leader of the student Vedic Chanting before Darshan, arrived in London on the 8th April 2007 at London Heathrow, at around 6pm. Though he has visited many countries, this was his first visit to the UK. A small welcoming party, comprising Ishver Patel our Central Co-ordinator, Rosemary Perry our national Chair and us were present to greet and welcome him.

It was easy to spot Vedam from afar as he came through the arrival gate fully clad in crisp white Prashanti attire, making no distinction between where he had come from and where he was going. After introductions and some friendly chat - and some concern over Vedam's mislaid luggage, we went our separate ways with Vedam accompanying us to his first port of stay, Gayatri's home.

In the short drive to our destination, we tried to ascertain Vedam's preferences for food and places he might like to visit, and so on... It soon became apparent that Vedam has no likes and dislikes as such and to explain this he stated that, "When one leaves things to the will of God, the best possible outcome is always experienced!" The white Prashanti attire reflected not only his external spotless appearance but also his unblemished internal balanced state – true Prashanti (highest peace) characteristics through and through.

This was also evident in the evening, when planning the next day's excursion, we use the word 'planning' very loosely - as it soon became apparent that we were just instruments in Swami's play. When surfing the information highway, the first link we came to, was a sightseeing tour of London on a boat on the River Thames with a joint ticket offer for a trip on the 'London Eye'. "This is ideal", we thought - or HE thought - as this would allow Vedam to see the landmarks of London from good vantage points, both from above and from the river itself. Lo and behold, this is not an all-

year round offer and is only available at certain times of the year. Its first day of opening for this year started on the 9th April 2007 ...the next day! ...Co-incidence? Or God-incident!

**Monday, 9 April**

The next morning, we started our day with a visit to Madame Tussauds, a major tourist attraction in London set up by wax sculptor Marie Tussaud. Vedam was quite impressed by the expertly created waxwork models of celebrities, kings, queens and famous people all dressed in the costumes of their times. He was keen to hobnob with them and was photographed with Mahatma Gandhi, Amitabh Bachan and even Hitler, with the self-assurance that he is already with the Kings of Kings! He reflected, "Man has created these forms of wax with such expertise, but ONLY GOD can infuse life". We left the museum for a rendezvous with the Region 2 Chair and Vice-chair for lunch.

**Subita Mahtani, R2 Vice-chair:**

Now, what better place to take Vedam for South Indian food, than North West London?

Lunch consisted of typical Idli, Dosa, Potato puri, Pineapple juice and Masala tea, a pleasant break for all those present and a reminder of home for dear Vedam.

However, food was not the main event for us... It was spending time with this wonderful man, sent to visit the UK and impart his knowledge and share his experiences. Talk focused on his various travels, his everyday life with Swami, and what he had learnt over time in the presence of the Divine. It was enlightening and inspiring to hear about different countries, to consider what we have in common and yet be inspired by the differences.

What was most endearing was when Vedam spoke of Swami, his respect and love was so apparent that he automatically had our undivided attention. One could see his heart smile when he reiterated the message he just received, telling him that Swami had asked about him and was concerned that he had arrived safely in the UK and that he had not been in Darshan!

Vedam's gentle smile and natural kindness made it a delight to listen to him, making us want to hear

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more and more. It was a pleasure and an honour to spend this time made valuable by being with such a learned and giving individual.

**Gayatri Bikoo R2 Service Co-ordinator and Senthil R2 Spiritual Co-ordinator:**

After lunch, we headed off to the River Thames for the guided boat tour of some of London's most famous attractions from a different perspective away from the hustle and bustle of the city. It was a glorious day with the sun shining brightly as we sailed along the Thames, a river steeped in history from the earliest times, enjoying the scenery, historic sights and architecture and passed by some famous London landmarks, such as the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, the Tower of London etc.

Next was like a 'Ferris wheel' ride: the 'London Eye' with its 32 enclosed capsules rotating the full 360 degrees to give breathtaking views of the breathtaking skyline and distinctive architecture of one of the world's major capital cities. Camera in hand, Vedam captured every moment and every angle, relishing the opportunity to take photographs and forever being in a state of gratitude to Swami for bestowing such Grace on him. The camera is Vedam's constant companion as photography is one of his dearest interests. Looking at his pictures, which he was kind enough to show us later, he could have easily been Swami's official photographer with his knowledge of light and shadows. We rushed home for a quick change before going to the airport to pick up the returned luggage and enjoy a delightful supper at Sri Ajit Popat's home in West Drayton.

### **Tuesday, 10 April**

On Tuesday, Nilesh Khatri, Chair of Harrow East Centre took Vedam to visit the oldest and largest castle in the world, Windsor Castle. Built in the 1070s the castle is the official home of the Queen with its splendid state apartments, superb art collections and the chapel which is the burial place of ten sovereigns and setting for many Royal weddings! An afternoon visit to the spectacular 'Swami Narayan Temple' in Neasden was followed by a drive to 'Little India' (Southall and Alperton) with lunch at Pizza Express. Vedam returned home briefly to be picked up by Ishver for a visit to a gathering of Swami's ex students. The late-night drive home through some of Central London's illuminated attractions, caused Vedam to stop the car every few seconds to take another photograph!

### **Wednesday, 11 April**

Wednesday started with a visit to 'Bhaktivedanta Manor', which was donated by the late Beatle, George Harrison, in 1973, to the 'International Society for Krishna Consciousness' and is its UK headquarters. Lunch was relished in the open air, surrounded by beautiful greenery, and a farm with working oxen!

Keeping our connection with nature, our next visit took us to Woburn Safari Park amid its wide-open spaces where the animals roam freely and behave

naturally. As we drove through, we experienced the ecstasy of being among some magnificent creatures such as bears, rhino, elephants, lions, tigers, giraffes, apes and monkeys, with a sometimes mistaken feeling of being in Africa! One monkey, perhaps a long lost relative, came up to the windscreen to take a closer look! When we quickly closed the windows, Vedam reminded us, in his own sweet way that we should never be afraid, "Because if there is love, the animals will feel it and will never cause us any harm!" After the safari drive, we walked around the many enclosures of the 'Foot Safari' and brought our trip to a close with a fun train ride to some of the park's attractions. Later, we drove through some beautiful, scenic, countryside to take Vedam to his next host family: Prabodh Mistry's home in Oxford where we were warmly welcomed and enjoyed a scrumptious supper together. Our deep gratitude to our most beloved Swami for giving us the privilege to look after one of his angels!

### **Wednesday, 11 April**

**By Prabodh Mistry,**

**Sathya Sai Schools Representative:**

Gayatri Bikoo brought Vedam to us in Abingdon near Oxford, where we were privileged to be Vedam's hosts for the next 3 days.

At the very outset, Vedam stressed that we should carry on the way we normally do and he will fit around us.

### **Thursday, 12 April**

We visited the nine centuries old and internationally renowned, Oxford University. It is a collegiate university, with some 39 self-governing colleges, which are spread throughout the city of Oxford and a student population of over 18,000.

We started the visit at the Theology faculty's building for Hindu Studies, called 'The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies', which was founded in 1997. The principal aim of the Centre is the study of Hindu culture, religion, languages, literature, philosophy, history, arts, and society, in all periods and in all parts of the world. We were shown round their library and learning facilities and met two post-graduate students. Then in the afternoon we visited the University's Sheldonian Theatre, which was built in 1699 to the design of Sir Christopher Wren who, at that time, was Professor of Astronomy at the university. We climbed to the top of the theatre building to have a bird's eye view of many of the colleges and to appreciate how they are spread around the city. Later we visited an exhibition ride (called 'The Oxford Story') that explained the history of the University and went inside the grounds and buildings of Christchurch College.

As we walked to various colleges and famous landmarks we came across many beautiful parks and walks, including along the riverbanks. We must have walked many miles during the day. We ended the day back in Abingdon with house

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bhajans (being Thursday) led by Vedam, host family members and friends.

Compton School in North London, for Vedam's first talk.

### Friday, 13 April

First we made a quick stop at the Harwell Chilton science campus, in Oxfordshire. Especially to take a look at the building that houses the most powerful microscope in the world, called the Diamond Light Source. It is housed in a futuristic doughnut-shaped building which covers the area of some five football pitches. Due to the short notice of the visit we were not able to go inside the building.

Then we drove to Wantage, a traditional market town that was the birthplace in 849 AD of King Alfred the Great and Vedam took some pictures around the statue of the king, in the market square. We then took a short walk to a large 13th century Church of St Peter and St Paul, which contains tombs of the Fitzwaryn family whose members included Dick Whittington, Lord Mayor of London.

Then we drove to the White Horse at Uffington, passing through several small villages and quick-stopping at East Challow and Childrey for several photos of the beautiful and colourful hills and fields. The White Horse at Uffington is one of the most impressive sites close to the ancient 'Ridgeway', a path, which traverses the steep chalk downs brooding over the Vale of the White Horse. At this point we came across three people on horseback (a mother and her two children), who we subsequently noticed going along almost every hill and mountain top that we could see. Other sites we saw were Dragon Hill and the ruins of Uffington Castle – all of which have been the subject of legend and folklore for over a thousand years.

In the afternoon we drove to the town of Woodstock where we saw Blenheim Palace (from outside only) and then through one of the most scenic routes to the town of Chipping Norton. We took a walk and photos, as well as visiting some shops (including a second hand book shop – which was memorable).

In the evening, Vedam was taken to see the centre of Abingdon town for a gentle walk in the town and along the river Thames. Abingdon is situated in the beautiful Vale of the White Horse and is probably the oldest continuously inhabited town in England. It stands at the confluence of the River Thames and River Ock, and thanks to its riverbank site, was important to both the Romans and the Saxons. A Benedictine monastery called Abbandun was founded in the 7th century, from which it derives its name.

### Saturday, 14 April Day

This day was planned to be a gentle and relaxing one. After lunch and a short rest, we took a gentle walk, from Abingdon, through several fields, to the quaint and quiet village of Sunningwell. Here we saw an old church, talked to local people and listened to church bells before returning through the fields. In the late afternoon we drove to

### Saturday, 14 April Evening

By Regions 2 & 3 Combined Planning Group, under Satesh Melwani Chair R2 and Sunthar Uthayanan Chair R3:

#### 'An Evening with Vedanarayan'

On a beautifully warm and auspicious (it being the Tamil / Sinhala New Year) Saturday, about 450 people gathered at the Compton School, Finchley, to listen to a discourse presented by the Vedic scholar, Mr. Vedanarayan. Being the person charged with organising the Vedic Chanting at Swami's Darshan, and a Sai devotee for over 40 years, he is well qualified to give us an insight to the significance of the Vedas, and its impact on society.

The event was a joint Region 2 / Region 3 venture, and was opened with a moving Vedic Chant by our Guest Speaker with Youth from Regions 2 & 3, followed by three uplifting Devotional Songs. Sunthar Uthayanan, the Region 3 Chair, then introduced Mr. Vedanarayan, who promptly took the stage. Quoting from the 'Upanishads', he commenced by paying homage to Swami and his immortal omnipresence. He said Swami's vision was four-fold: the narration of the Vedas, the nurturing of the Vedas, the nurturing of scholars and the establishment of Dharma whilst giving protection to his devotees. For 'Dharma' to flourish, one needs to know the Vedas. He emphasised that Love is all-important. The only way to overcome hatred is through love.

Love is also important in our relationship with animals. Vedam narrated how Swami, whilst on his visit to East Africa, had approached a lioness with cubs, much to the amazement of his hosts, who feared for his safety (since lionesses with cubs are notorious for their protective ferocity towards strangers). Swami had calmly taken a photo and returned to his vehicle. The power of love had even disarmed a mothering lioness!

Vedam implored us to develop selfless love to conquer all hatred. Being a good person was not enough, he said – one had to overcome ego. Mr. Narayan then related the story of Vamana, the reincarnation of Vishnu in the form of a dwarf. Vamana had approached the egotistical King Bali and asked for a piece of land, which was three of his (Vamana's) steps in length. Though his advisors had cautioned him that Vamana was no ordinary dwarf, the King readily agreed to the request, his ego swelling that God had actually come to him with a request. At this point, Vamana grew in stature to become a massive being. The first step took in the entire Earth; the second took in the Universe. Where was he to put his third step? The King, totally humbled, offered his head for Vamana to put his foot on. Therefore, the way for all of us to conquer ego is to surrender at the feet of our Lord. We can only see the Lord within ourselves if we control our senses. This leads to liberation.

Swami is all knowing and all seeing, and we should use our 'buddhi' (intelligence) to differentiate between right and wrong. Swami has been known



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to show his displeasure, but always in a loving way, to devotees who have strayed. One should always have compassion for one's fellow beings.

Vedam related how Swami has undertaken the Water Supply Project to ease the difficulties of a particular village not having easy access to potable water. The villagers had come on an arduous journey to Puttaparthi to thank Swami, but before they could say anything, Swami thanked them for allowing Him the opportunity to do service for them! The message was clear - when we do service, we serve God! Considering evil, Vedam said that in the old days, evil could be isolated. At the time of the Ramayana, evil was confined to one island (Lanka); then, at the time of the Mahabharatha, it was confined to one clan (the Kauravas) but at the present time (Kali Yuga) good and evil is within all human beings. Swami's mission on Earth is to remove the evil in us and bring out the good.

Moving on to Vedic Chanting, Vedam said that this was begun upon Swami's request. Initially, the chanting was only at the morning Darshan, and done by the students. Evening Darshan chanting was by Vedam and three other members of staff. Swami had said that the Vedas are the common wealth of all religions. The Vedic Chants offer a protection of spiritual armour.

At the disaster at the Bhopal chemical plant in December 1984 (often cited as the world's worst industrial accident), several thousand people living near the plant had been killed and thousands more injured - but in one village, everybody survived unscathed. When investigators probed, they discovered that the villagers had undertaken Vedic Chanting and fire-worship regularly. This had protected them from harm.

Vedam gave some advice regarding learning Vedic Chants.

The best way is to listen to the Chants (rather than learn from books), and fix the tune in one's mind. Then one should learn the words three at a time. The tone of Sanskrit words is all-important.

Saying a word in a different tone could give it the totally opposite meaning. He related the following story: An 'ashura' (a demon) was chanting a Sanskrit verse asking for strength to be conferred on the enemies of Indra, in order that he be defeated. But, by reciting the crucial word in the wrong tone, the 'ashura' actually conferred strength on Indra to defeat his enemies! When chanting the Vedas, the sound vibrations of the words themselves confers protection, as evidenced by the example from Bhopal cited above. There are five ways of chanting the Vedas (e.g. Samhita, etc.), with 'Gananaam Tvam' (thou art wisdom) being the highest form.

After an intermission for three 'Bhajans', Vedam continued his talk, this time relating his personal experiences as a devotee of Swami. He related incidents in his career when he had been reluctant to undertake tasks that were at Swami's suggestion to him (such as to study Philosophy at Postgraduate Level and even to later study Sanskrit). He found that, whenever he did indeed undertake them, they always led to success. This was sometimes extraordinary, such as when he

won the Prize for being top student in Philosophy, a subject he was not at all at home with (having studied Biology for his Undergraduate degree and had wanted to take Botany). He also won an All India Presidential Award for Best Teacher 2004, teaching Sanskrit, a subject that he had vowed never to touch again after he left secondary school!

In fact, Swami had been telling people a year before the Award was given that Vedanarayan had won it! The moral of the story is that one should let Swami enter one's life and run the show. Vedam ended with his personal experience of the curative powers of Swami's 'vibhuthi' when he had become severely ill with malignant malaria. Conventional medicine had not worked - his liver had begun to decompose, and his kidneys had stopped working. On saline for several days, the doctors had given up all hope. Only when Swami had visited him, and applied materialised 'vibhuthi' had he made a recovery. We were yearning to hear more but the time had come to end the day. Subita Mahtani, Vice Chair of Region 2, gave a Vote of Thanks to all concerned. She said that invitations to speak are offered to great people but it takes a good person to accept them. We all concurred with this. This had been an evening that had helped us all progress on the path of spirituality, and for that we were eternally grateful to Mr. Vedanarayan.

## Sunday, 15 April

By Raj Rajasingam Chair, Region1:

'An Evening with Vedanarayan' was held on Sunday 15th of April 2007. The evening began with Vedic Chanting and a few Devotional songs, before Dr Mahesh Narayan took to the stage and provided a witty introduction to Sri Vedanarayan.

Vedam based his talk on some of the messages contained within the Bhagavatham and used them to reveal the profundity of some of the simplest sayings of Swami, such as 'Head in the forest, hands in society.'

Speaking on topics such as 'Sadhana Bhakti' (spiritual discipline through devotion), 'Prema Bhakti' (spiritual discipline through Love) and 'Karma Yoga' (union with God through action or duty), he kept all of us enraptured for over two hours, drawing tears from our eyes at the heart wrenching stories of Saint Gora Kumbhar, Karna, and many others. There was a short break, but even then, the incredible atmosphere that had built up in the packed hall filled with over 450 devotees, was maintained and reinforced by the continuous singing of bhajans until Vedam took to the stage again.

For the second part of the evening, Vedam entertained us with the story of how he came into his 'Dancing Avatar' as well as the story of how he had come to teach the subject he most disliked, Sanskrit, at Swami's college. He finished by exhorting us to 'live', saying 'Karishye Vachanam Tava' ('as thou sayest so shall I act/ whatever you command I shall do'). For, if we do this, he

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assured us, then our Lord will hold on tightly to us and never let go.

Geetha Maheshwaran, gave the Vote of Thanks and gave special thanks to Swami for sending his most precious son to be with us that day, in addition to the Council members and Service team who had made the evening possible.

### Monday, 16 April

Having spent Sunday focusing completely on Swami in order to prepare for his talk, Vedam was ready and enthusiastic for a Monday packed with sightseeing (and photography!) at Hampton Court Palace and Richmond Park with a quick peek at the Wimbledon Tennis Courts before dinner. It was refreshing to spend the day with someone who truly saw Swami in all of creation. Looking over all the day's photos that evening Vedam commented that a certain picture would have looked even more beautiful if Swami had stood where he had been standing.

Even though Vedam spent only a short time with us in Region 1, we had already become attached to someone who was clearly so devoted to our beloved Bhagavan, and we were sorry to say goodbye to him. We thank the Lord for entrusting us with his dear son for those few days, and pray that Vedam has received from us at least some part of the huge amount that he gave to all of us within Region 1 during his stay here.

### Tuesday, 17 April

**By Rosemary Perry, National Chair:**

Having been giving our house the spring clean of its life for quite a few days before Vedam's expected arrival it was a strange feeling when Vedam arrived the day after he was due to be with us. Sightseeing in R1 was all consuming and Vedam explored all of Richmond Park with relish. Raj and I sensibly agreed that a good night's sleep was in order for them and they should come next morning. It gave us a chance to sit quietly in a really, really, tidy house for once! Vedam and Raj arrived at about 10am next day. My monkey mind worried about us doing our planned sightseeing and would we still get back in time for our evening visitors and in time to cook for everyone! Why do these silly thoughts arise? We set off with a picnic basket and our first port of call was... Portsmouth! We showed Vedam the historical dockyards and went on board HMS Victory, Admiral Nelson's flagship. When he went aboard in his crisp white suit with 'Nehru collar' and epaulettes, I thought he might get a full naval salute and be piped aboard! Vedam photographed everything. When he said that each photo would bring back the moment to him – we knew that it really would. Vedam told us that he prepares an album of all his travels after he returns to Prashanti and shows it to Swami.

From 'Old Portsmouth' wonderful images of all types of water transport on a choppy, milky green sea with the new Millennium Tower soaring in the shape of a sail, will go in front of Swami's eyes! The old houses, the cobbled streets – it was all a

delight for Vedam. Our picnic was in Southsea on the promenade built along the sea defences that skim the Solent's edge. Vedam told us how much the sea is an innate part of him and described his early years in Kerala and his delight in Nature and the waterways of that unspoilt part of India. We all sat enjoying the hazy view, the sunshine and the delight of being together with an amazing connection to talk about – our devotion to Swami. Feeling sun-drenched – even Vedam thought it was hot – we returned home and enjoyed an evening of Satsang with a few friends.

### Wednesday, 18 April

Dr Mahindra Patel dropped by in the morning – he had returned from Prashanti where he now lives the day before. We would now be four of us on our day trip! We began with a drive through some of Hampshire's sweet little hamlets where chalk streams channel into watercress beds and the tail of the dragon-like South Downs coils in the landscape with dramatic poise. 'Old Winchester Hill' is an extraordinary place. It sits on one side of a fantastic narrow ridge where the land simply falls away each side. The four of us followed a track and, once, when I looked back at Vedam, Mahindra and Steve all chatting and walking, it looked just like a surreal scene from 'The Last of the Summer Wine'! Mahindra was wrapped in a thick woolly balaclava and scarf and Vedam was straight and tall in his immaculate white suit, whilst Steve was walking sideways talking, with his arms waving!

We entered one of my favourite places - the vast and ancient Yew wood. Eventually, we emerged and came out onto the peninsula-like hill fort and saw the Isle of Wight and the Solent shimmering on the horizon on one side of us and the crumpled hills encrusted with gorse and yew trees surrounding us on the other. Next we visited the cathedral city of Winchester and took Vedam around the Cathedral environs and on a circular walk that takes you alongside the clear shallow rushing River Itchen with its chalky, flinty bed, and past the characteristic high flint and stone walls of the Bishop's residence and back through the old narrow streets to the start. Was it a coincidence that we met two Sai devotees, Tina and Cormac, doing just the same thing in the sun? That night Vedam joined our monthly 'Fountain Meditation' group. Everybody adored him and he fully joined in the guided meditation and a friend's birthday celebration with gusto!

### Thursday, 19 April

With another picnic stashed in the car along with Vedam's luggage – plus my clothes for the Council's 'Vision Weekend' in Gloucestershire we set off on yet another fine day though sad that it was our last day all together. Our first stop was enigmatic Stonehenge in Wiltshire. Vedam gave us some interesting insights from a 'Vastu' (the Vedic art of geomancy and siting buildings correctly) perspective on its positioning. We then wound our way into the mysterious and vast complex at Avebury. First, we looked at Silbury Hill – the

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largest man-made mound in Europe. Then into the stone circles themselves. Since I do believe that the ancients recognised and marked the significant earth energy lines that run through there (known in England as the 'Michael' and 'Mary' lines) it was great to have Vedam's views. Where the lines pass between two massive stones, Vedam spontaneously sat down – he noticed with interest that he had not done this anywhere else. The lines go right round the Earth and are marked in a variety of ways according to the country they go through. At about 6.30pm we made our rendezvous near Bath with Kumi Pillay, who would be looking after Vedam in Region 7. Steve caught the train home from Bath and I drove on to Gloucestershire. What a wonderful man Vedam is! He is so entirely unpretentious and warm and 'in the world' in a lovely way... seeing God everywhere and in everyone – living joyously in the present.

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April

#### Dr Kumi Pillay, Bath Centre:

During his brief stay in Region 7, Vedam was shown around Bath and the surrounding countryside. The beauty of the scenery enthralled him; we were continually stopping to take photographs – whilst Vedam was always attributing this to God's Grace and magnificence.

### Saturday, 21 April

'Inspiring', 'insightful' and 'enthraling' are words insufficient to describe the Region 7 Satsang with Sri Vedanarayan in Bristol on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April. The event took place at our Regional SSE venue where classes were cancelled that morning so that all the teachers and students could attend. Devotees travelled from as far afield as Reading, Bournemouth and London to hear him speak.

#### Jey Sivaloganathan, Chair Region 7:

During our journey to the UKCC 'Vision weekend' retreat when we stopped - once again - to take photographs, Vedam commented, "This moment will not come again". Living in the moment in constant communion with Swami is his way of life. We are blessed by Swami to have him in our Region and he left a lasting and inspiring impression on all he came in contact with.

### Monday, 22 April

#### Ramesh Mistry, Region 4 Chair:

On the morning of 22nd April 07 Vedam left the UKCC Vision Weekend held at the Asha Centre, Mitcheldean, near Gloucester to go to Leicester, travelling through some of the picturesque countryside of Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire arriving at Soar Valley College, in Leicester, just after midday. The place was buzzing with activity in preparation for the afternoon programme with Vedam. Both the Leicester Centres provided the lunch for all those attending from not only the other Centres and Groups in Region 4 but for those arriving from Region 5 as well.

The Programme started with Vedam chanting and GDS (group devotional singing) by the Youth of the Region, Vedam joined this session endorsing Swami's emphasis on the importance of Vedam chanting. He then talked for over an hour on 'The Qualities of a Devotee'. The talk was full of Swami's sayings on the subject as well as Vedam's personal experiences and his thoughts on the subject. It was very inspirational as well as very thought provoking for all who were present.

During the tea break he met up with the Regional Co-ordinating Committee in a separate room, giving an opportunity for them to ask any questions or seek some clarifications from him on spiritual matters.

After the break he concluded his first session and then talked about his experiences with Swami. It was very moving when he mentioned how Swami cured him from an illness which was life threatening. He also talked at length on the importance of understanding that what Swami says and does is for the welfare of all as well as his love for the whole mankind. His love is the love of a mother that is a never-ending love. The Programme concluded at 4.45pm with Aarathi performed by Vedam. Nearly 350 people attended this programme including 15 from Region 5.

Vedam stayed in the Midlands with us until Tuesday. On Monday, he was taken to Stratford Upon Avon to see Shakespeare's birthplace, walk around the canal and park area and see the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. The day was cloudy with some rain every now and then. This was the only day it rained during Vedam's visit and he said that the night before he had prayed to Swami for some rain, as he wanted to see what it was like during wet weather in UK. So his wish was fulfilled.

From there he travelled to Warwick to see Warwick Castle. It is the best castle to visit in the UK due to the wide range of events and attractions that can be seen. He thoroughly enjoyed the walk through the castle, taking a number of photographs. He was fascinated by its history and the way the whole castle was preserved with lifelike displays of various craftsmen/women at work as well as showing the home environment in medieval times. He was able to walk around the whole castle including the towers, the Victorian Rose Gardens and the Peacock Garden. After lunch we took him to Kenilworth to see Kenilworth Castle. As the Castle was under repair, he was only able to see it from outside and take a number of photographs from various vantage points. It was a very enjoyable day for him. He constantly thanked Swami for making it possible for him to do all the sightseeing in the UK. On Tuesday, he travelled back to London to pick up some of his luggage and then went on to Heathrow Airport for the afternoon flight to JFK. He thanked everyone in the Region for the loving welcome he received from all; he said it made him feel as if he was near Swami. It was a very enjoyable and very inspiring two days with Vedam. We thank Swami for giving us this great opportunity.