

SRI SATHYA SAI CENTRAL COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA
National Spiritual Wing

Thursday, 08 April 2010

Greetings and Loving Sai Ram to all spiritual aspirants and devotees

SPIRITUAL 2 – NATIONAL SPIRITUAL WING PROPOSAL:

The spiritual wing of the Sai Organisations is the bedrock of all activities. Every member is first a spiritual aspirant. Bhagawan said, *“Your organisations must endeavour to promote **faith in God**. If that base is absent, worship, bhajan, puja, good works - all become meaningless automatic ritual, done under social compulsion. **Inner transformation**, which is the fruit, can be acquired only when these are done with faith. Faith can grow only from the root of **inquiry**. Faith is made firmer by inquiry. You must encourage inquiry by the members whom you contact and welcome their efforts to gain first-hand experience”* (All India Conference, 1967 Apr21).

He also said, *“Every member of the Sathya Sai Organisation has to be a saadhaka (**spiritual aspirant**), one who is practicing the discipline of conquering his egoism and greed”* (First World Conference, 18 May 1968).

The promotion and fostering of Faith in God as well as performing any deed with GENUINE PURPOSE should become the primary objective of every spiritual wing. The devotees in South Africa need to undergo a “healing” process this year, breaking the shackles of blind rigidity. This has to be the endeavour of everyone on Central Council, Coordinating Committees, thus filtering to the groups and centres. Bhagawan is and should be the ONLY focus.

Our plan for spirituality should therefore be modelled with practices at Prashanti Nilayam as far as possible because the universe’s perfect example is there (with a little adjustment towards local cultural needs).

The fundamental objectives of the organisation as stated in the charter are:

1. TRANSFORMATION – *“to help the individual to become aware of the Divinity that is inherent in him and to conduct himself accordingly;*
2. PRACTICE – *“to translate into practice in daily life, Divine Love and perfection” and “to ensure that **all human relations** are governed by Truth, Right Conduct, Love, Peace and Non-violence”*
3. FAITHS – *“to make devotees of the **religions** more sincere and dedicated in the practice of **their respective religions**”*

According to the charter, *“**all work should be looked upon as service dedicated to the Divine – without expecting any material reward of appreciation but solely as a means of winning God’s Love and grace**”*

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE SPIRITUAL WING:

We need to remind ourselves, all the time, of the purpose for which we are in the organisation. This could be achieved when the outcome of every action, programme and activity of the organisation is viewed with the spiritual basis in mind.

PLAN FOR THE SPIRITUAL WING:

1. **Personal Transformation** – to pursue the personal transformation of every member on an ongoing basis. A regular audit or introspection needs to be done by every member and centre. We could focus on basic individual spirituality (Sadhana) by **encouraging** the practice of the 9 point code of conduct as a way of life. The focus being:
 - Meditation
 - Japa (remembrance)
 - Prayer (Sai & other faiths)

SRI SATHYA SAI CENTRAL COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA
National Spiritual Wing

- Vedic Chants
 - Sai Literature
 - Speaking (softly, lovingly and not ill of others)
 - **Give members opportunities to facilitate & participate in activities**
2. **Social Compulsion** - to break down the regiment approaches of enforcing behaviours by admonishment & instilling fear. Devotees & members should be given every opportunity in activities of centres & regions to express love and should be corrected (for mistakes) with love and tolerance
 3. **Different Needs** - prepare office bearers to be aware of the different spiritual levels of members (*not necessarily years in the organisation*), look for opportunities to develop them spiritually and to avoid being judgemental
 4. Provide guidelines of **formats for public bhajan** and other spiritual programmes
 5. Provide guidelines for **bhajan lead-singers** (*especially downplaying the ego*)
 6. Provide guidelines for **Study Circles** and the enhancement of study circle leaders (in order to promote beneficial study circles). Bhagawan said in 1968 at the first world conference, *“about study circles: I am not for indiscriminate reading of books however valuable they may be. Much reading confuses the mind; it fosters argumentation and intellectual pride. What I insist upon is putting the things read into practice---at least, a thing or two”*
 7. **Vedic Chants** – to promote vedic hymn learning and chanting with specific reference to the Ganapati Prathna, Sri Rudram and Purush Suktam. Bhagawan said, *“It is Swami’s wish that the Vedas be spread to every country, so that every human being, irrespective of religion, caste, nationality, etc learns Vedas and chants them”* (Discourse, 2006 Aug 9)
 8. Make recommendations to **‘books and publications’** division about:
 - Periodicals, newsletters, etc
 - Audio – visual material
 - Books & other aids (*get synopsis from devotees on books they have read*)
 9. **Unity of Faiths** - encourage centres to adequately prepare for the observance of religious & other spiritual occasions (*Prashanti Nilayam can be our reference standard*)
 10. **Newcomers** - Develop and implement *on an continuous basis*, a “Newcomers Induction” about the Sai Organisation and basic spirituality
 11. **Foster faith in Swami** by conducting regional sessions – the focus will be “reminding ourselves of our purpose in the Sai Organisation, the advent and mission of Sai and the Leelas or pastimes of Mother Sai”. This can also be done by promoting the ‘Sri Sathya Sai Sathya Narayana Katha distributed by Swami during December 2009, reading the Tapovanam, etc. This would be a continuous process. (*see point 12*).
 12. **Promote international and national speakers** on a regular basis to talk on spirituality and their experiences - as a means to develop and/or strengthen devotees’ faith in Swami.
 13. Establish a National Spiritual Team

SRI SATHYA SAI CENTRAL COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA
National Spiritual Wing

14. To consult with other countries for 'good spiritual practices' that can be recommended in South Africa
15. **Unity** - International programmes such as cultural item/drama at the Lotus Feet, decorations during Christmas, Pre-world conferences, etc – to be used for developing unity
16. **Develop the spiritual foundation at our centres** thereby unfolding into a purposeful service organisation and keep them stable

Dr Goldstein (Prashanti Council), mentioned in his talk in SA in 2010: *“the spiritual progress of a Sai Centre is not measured by the number of programmes that it has conducted, or number of people attend, but by the quality of loving interactions between of the people who attend”*

We pray to Swami for guidance every step of the way. Let His will be done!

Sai Love

Kishan Bodalina
National Spiritual Convenor