

# SAI SPOORTHI 2017

Annual Alumni Meet, October 1, 2017; Sathya Sai Grama, Muddenahalli

Report By Dr Sai Lakshmi & Praveen G V



## A Wonderful Day Spent With The Lord

Sai Spoorthi 2017 - the Annual Alumni Meet of the Sri Sathya Sai Educational Institutions was held at Sathya Sai Grama, Muddenahalli. Hundreds of alumni and alumnae from various campuses and across generations had gathered at the Sri Sathya Sai Premamrutham eagerly looking forward to spending the day with their beloved Swami.

Bhagawan arrived at the venue led by the motorbike escorts and Vedic procession along with the ceremonial Poornakumbam. He then proceeded to inaugurate the exhibition stalls that were put up at the entrance of the hall. Various stalls showcased different initiatives undertaken by the alumni at the different educational campuses including the flagship alumni programme – Each One Educate One. Swami accompanied by the Chief Guest and others very benevolently visited each stall, inspected the display and blessed the alumni who had worked towards it. Soulful bhajans were in progress.

Once Bhagawan and the other dignitaries were seated, the morning's proceedings began with Vedic Invocation by alumnae who rendered the Sai Rudram, which was chanted for the very first time in Premamrutham.



The programme was then initiated with lighting of the sacred lamp by Bhagawan, the chief guest – Sri TB Jayachandra, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs and Minor Irrigation, Government of Karnataka; and the other trustees. Floral bouquets were then presented to welcome all the dignitaries seated on the dais.



Thereafter Brother Praveen GV, the Alumni Coordinator, delivered the welcome address. This was followed by a video presentation titled - "Education for Transformation". The video highlighted the continuing mission of Bhagawan in the field of education showcasing the various campuses that were established in the last four years alone, adding up to 14 new campuses in 9 districts of Karnataka with 27 institutions, imparting value based education absolutely free of cost.

The first speaker for the morning was Sri BN Narasimhamurthy, Chief Mentor of the Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Institutions. When the question arose as to how to solve all the problems in today's world, he reiterated Bhagawan's answer to the question was that the only solution was to provide the right kind of education to every child in this world. To prevent the dangers of polarization due to economic inequality that is prevalent today, Bhagawan had declared to provide free education in all His educational institutions without any bias or discrimination.



Sister Deepika Amirapu, a freelance journalist who is also leading all the alumnae initiatives thereafter introduced the Each One Educate One Foundation to the audience. This global movement with its flagship initiative programme of Each One Educate One calls out to every caring citizen in the world to come forward and support the education of at least one child annually in the institutions that the foundation patronises. However, the scope of the programme is not limited to India alone but every country having its own chapter according to the need and necessity.

A short video on the ideology of the programme was then presented. At the end of it, the various trustees of the foundation offered their gratitude to Bhagawan and received His blessings.

The Annual Report on the various alumni initiatives for the year 2016-2017 was then presented by Sister Deepika Amirapu. The highlight was the realization of the targets that the alumni had set for themselves this year i.e. to achieve 100% financial support through the Each One Educate One programme for four of the campuses – Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Niketanam, Gulbarga; Sri Sathya Sai Sathya Niketanam, Hassan; Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Niketanam, Nallakadirenahalli and Sri Sathya Sai Vani Niketanam, Gadag. Various other initiatives like Regional Satsangs, First Steps – First Connect, Eco-sustainable initiatives, etc. were also brought to fore.

After this, the much-awaited One-S mobile app was made available for all alumni and alumnae to download and install on their phones. The app is designed to connect the alumna and alumnus with other alumni and bring them together on a single platform, to stay together thereby enabling to serve together.



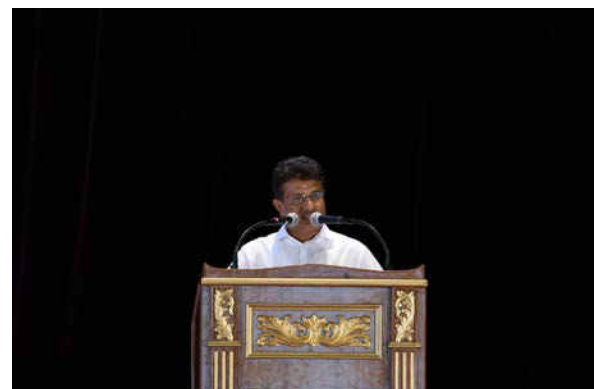
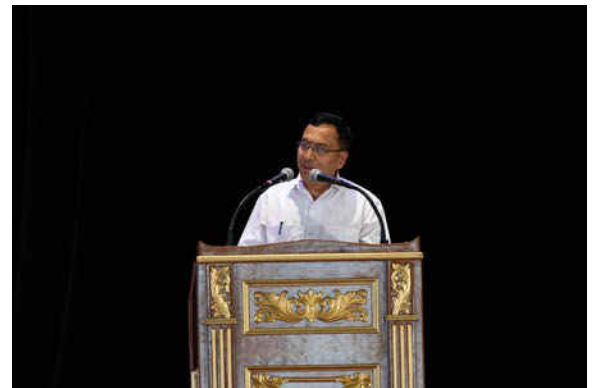
This was followed by the release of the Alumni Charter, comprising of Bhagawan's guidance to the alumni during various sessions over the last three years. The charter illuminates the alumni about their role in His Mission.

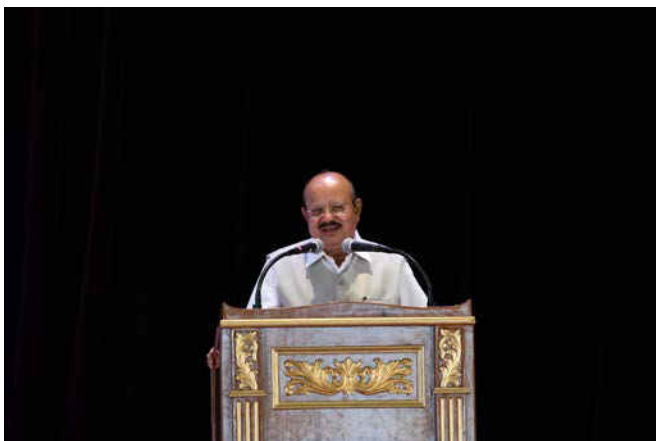
There was also the launch of the inaugural edition of the Each One Educate One Newsletter comprising of campus stories and updates, upcoming institutions, interesting and heart-warming anecdotes, etc.

Representatives of the alumni and student communities then addressed the gathering. The first speaker was Dr. Suresha Kodapala, a leading neurologist and alumnus of the Alike campus. He spoke of the journey of the Hassan campus and how various alumni had come together to unitedly support it. He also reminded all of how one must first - Be, then Do before telling others to do the same.

The next speaker was Miss Javali Battu, pursuing her First year Arts at the Sri Sathya Sai Centre for Human Excellence. Expressing her gratitude to Bhagawan, she described her journey towards becoming a Sai student purely by Bhagawan's grace.

Dr Sathish Babu, a leading endocrinologist and alumnus of the Muddenahalli campus led the audience through the Divine Mother and Child Health Programme, a unique initiative by Bhagawan to cater to the needs of rural women and children. Several alumni doctors ably lead the programme as a token of their gratitude to their alma mater.





Guru Vandana, one of the traditions of the Annual Alumni Meets, pays homage and gratitude to the teachers of the institution for their indispensable role in molding the students. Three teachers were felicitated – Dr. Vinodini Mahishi – a gynecologist and obstetrician who gave up her career and on Bhagawan’s command is serving as the Chairperson of the Sri Sathya Sai Vani Niketanam, Gadag campus; Sri K Sanjeeva Shetty – who served as a dedicated teacher and able administrator at the Alike campus for 50 long years; and Sri GM Ananthamurthy – who served as the Principal of the PU College at Alike for 22 years, and upon retirement served as the Chairman of the Mandya campus.

This was followed by the keynote address by the Chief Guest - Sri T B Jayachandra, Minister for Law & Parliamentary Affairs and Minor Irrigation, Government of Karnataka. He expressed his gratitude to Bhagawan for allowing him to be present on this occasion and also Bhagawan’s gift to his district of Tumkur in the form of a new educational campus very soon. He concluded by promising to extend all support to ensure the speedy and smooth functioning of the upcoming campus – Sri Sathya Sai Karunya Niketanam.

Bhagawan then blessed everyone with His Divine message.

Aarthi was offered to Swami followed by prasadam being distributed to one and all.



## Post Lunch Session

After lunch, alumni and alumnae had a chance to visit the exhibition stalls and use the time to interact with the elders and teachers. Bhagawan in His immense kindness had agreed to address the alumni and alumnae exclusively in a late noon session. The Hrudayamandir was made ready for this special treat with the Lord and a jhoola was placed for Swami, harking back to the days of Trayee sessions in Brindavan. As Bhagawan arrived, He walked amidst each row speaking to almost every alumnus and alumna there that evening. Many gave letters...others asked for guidance on personal matters and Swami's kindness overflowed.

Swami then gave His address to the alumni. He outlined the way of life, He wanted His alumni to take to. A life of selflessness and sacrifice...a life of faith in Swami...a life of surrender to Swami...surrender of one's mind and actions. He urged each one to find the time to converse with Swami at least for sometime during one's day and share their problems, fears, and sorrows - as Swami was ever too keen to talk to each one of us. Swami spoke of the 3 resolutions He had made when He was young and the purpose to which He would dedicate His life. These three pledges were - to save all of humanity and give them the highest joy; to give the poor and the downtrodden what they lack (that is the definition of love); to guide those who have strayed away from the path of goodness back to the path of Dharma. This is the 'Dheeksha' that Swami took upon Himself or pledged and everything that Swami has ever done fits into one of the 3 tenets.





Swami narrated an interesting anecdote - once a person from Canada came to Swami and asked Swami, "Swami give me more and more money so I can do more and more Swami's work. Swami replied, "You do more and more work and I will fill your pockets up with more and more money!"

## Evening Cultural Program

After the wonderful and intimate session, another treat awaited all - the evening cultural program by the alumni in the Premamrutham hall. The play presented by the alumni included alumni and alumnae of all campuses and across generations, was an offering of love to Swami. The theme of the play was the story of how the alumni and alumnae had found a new connection with their Lord by getting connected with His work. The program was replete with rich visuals and vibrant soul stirring music. Bhagawan was very pleased with the presentation and blessed the troop profusely, even granting permission to stage programs, each year, every year, during the alumni meet. The grand finale of the day saw the Premamrutham hall glowing with lit candles that were passed out to all alumni celebrating the very special day with their Lord

Overall this alumni meet was full of moments with Swami throughout the day and eventful with the launch of Each One Educate One Foundation

**You can watch the video recordings of the morning and evening session at the below links –**

Morning program - [https://youtu.be/Zvdid\\_wcYHw](https://youtu.be/Zvdid_wcYHw)

Evening Program - <https://youtu.be/3yE0YfhiaKI>