



We have much to learn from them to mould our work on the right lines to meet the challenges of these modern times.

In closing, I only express gratitude to Bhagawan on behalf of all the delegates assembled here for permitting us to hold this conference in the Divine presence and for all the arrangements that HE has made for our comfort, our care, our food, our accommodation. Bhagawan has done all this. Even a thousand mothers would not care as much as our Lord for His devotees. Jai Sai Ram.

Dr. Michael Goldstein

The third speaker, Dr. Michael Goldstein, Chairman of Prasanthi Council, added his welcome to the delegates, noting that “every five years over the last 35 years our beloved Bhagawan Baba has graciously permitted us to assemble in His Divine presence to reflect upon what we have done.” He further said:

Drawing upon His Divine inspiration, we strive to perfect our ways, and to become worthy of bearing His name on this spiritual organization. What has been, is, and will be in this saga of God on earth will comprise the sacred volumes of holy scriptures for the societies and civilizations of humankind that live in the centuries and millennia of the future. This is indeed a momentous time.

The plan for this conference has changed. At first we who have responsibility for the planning of this great event intended to draw out the program for many days. We planned to ponder the mysteries of man's spiritual sojourn and the dilemma of this spiritual Organization. Our beloved Bhagawan Baba, in His infinite Love and wisdom, knowing always what is best for us, has curtailed our zeal and put a ceiling on our desires. Instead of wasting time, Bhagawan Baba has aptly given us sufficient time to do the needful.

What is the dilemma of this spiritual Organization, the Organization that bears the Divine Name of the Kali Yuga Avatar, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba? What is our dilemma?

Our dilemma is to realize Unity, Purity and ultimately Divinity as an Organization. A group of spiritual aspirants, we as individuals are striving for that end, following the inner light. Sometimes we go astray. But our beloved Swami curtails our wanderings. We return to the only true path for man, the spiritual path, the path of selfless Love, the path to the realization of our Divine heritage. Now, we as a group aspire to act collectively in the world in a manner



that is spiritually authentic. We aspire to create an environment that is conducive to the self realization of all peoples by raising Divine consciousness. Our dilemma is that we, who are imperfect, join together to act collectively to manifest perfection in the world.

Only by the Grace of our beloved Lord, Bhagawan Baba, can such a feat be accomplished. Only He can melt away our impurities and smelt the pure ore of our noble intentions. What must be done in this unique conference, this meeting of spiritual aspirants, this gathering of Love? Swami says, “always be careful.” We must proceed with loving care. While order and understanding are prerequisites to accomplishment, bureaucracy is antithetical to spiritual progress. Therefore, let's beware, lest we institutionalize mediocrity. And let us take care, lest we trivialize Divinity. When we give up our 'control,' when we forego the machinations, manipulations, and politically contrived controlling and selfish actions, then we become the chief beneficiaries. We become capable of genuine spiritual experience and accomplishment. Clearly, we need faith; we need heart, we need Love. We need Bhagawan Baba's Grace to achieve our goals.

...What is the Sri Sathya Sai Organization? It is composed of people who have been called by Him through their conscience to follow His teachings. Thereby we uplift ourselves spiritually. In so doing, we contribute to the redemption of mankind. First, the beckoning of the Divine indweller, the individual; then, the coming together of like minds. Then groups organized to have collective spiritual meetings and activities. Then the geographical division into groups of various sizes, ranging from small Sai groups to large Centers with hundreds and even thousands of members – nations and groups of multiple countries in a hierarchy of organizational management.

The current status of the Organization, as stated by Sri Indulal Shah, includes thousands of Centers and groups in hundreds of countries. They are engaging in spiritual activities, falling under the three wings of the Organization, devotion, education and service, representing the tri-marga of Bhakti, Jnana, and Karma Yoga.

The theme of the 8th World Conference is Unity, Purity and Divinity. Ultimately, we seek to develop the perspective of Unity, the experience of Purity and the bliss of Divinity. That is the goal of this conference and the aspiration of each and every one of us. Beloved Bhagawan Baba has taught us that Unity, Purity and Divinity are not three distinct things, but rather three stages of spiritual progress in our spiritual sojourn as human beings. The human life wasted

