

SSSO Public Meetings **Uruguay – 2004**

By the Grace of our beloved Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Uruguayan devotees decided to begin a series of meetings in different cities of this country where the message and life of Bhagavan were shared with an audience willing to be near Him.

The cycle of Public meetings began on April 24th in the city of Minas (Department of Lavalleja). The Sai Group of Minas organized, with the assistance of the National Coordination, a Public Meeting to which attended 35 people.

There was a space for questions and answers after the speech of the President of the National Coordination (Mr. Gabriel Pampillón) about life and work of Sathya Sai Baba. Attendees had the opportunity to deepen in Bhagavan's teachings.

Public Conference
Salinas – Uruguay
31/07/04

The last Public Meeting before the National one was organized by the Sai Group of Juan Lacaze (Department of Colonia), the 4th of September. The speakers of this meeting were the National Coordinator of the SSSO and the National Co-Coordinator. It was also showed the video "His Work" before beginning with the questions and answers. The board for answering the questions was formed by the speakers of the day, the National Coordinator of Education and the Coordinator of the Sai Group of Juan Lacaze (Mrs. Zulma Duré).

Public Conference
Juan Lacaze – Uruguay
31/07/04

The Sai National Meeting was the end of all this work. The preparation of this meeting began as soon as the delegation of Uruguayan devotees returned from the Latinamerican Meeting in Buenos Aires. The responsibility of the organization of the Meeting was in charge of the Centro Sai of Montevideo, which is the only center in the country, together with the National Coordination.

There were a lot of meetings, but maybe the most important thing was talked in the first one. The main idea was that all devotees who work for such relevant event could see their work as a real spiritual practice.

The presence of Bhagavan Baba through His instruments was felt from the beginning, inspiring, giving strength, and solving each problem that appeared. To the question how such small organization and with so little resources could be able to do such a big work, Baba answered it as soon as possible solving the big problems in a quick way. In that way, once taken the decision to do the Public Meeting, we could find a very nice place we could afford to. The place Baba gave us as a present, was the Ateneo de Montevideo, with a capacity for 400 people, specially designed for this kind of public events. The diffusion tasks for this events were the first ones to be organized, and the ones that continue up to the end. All the suggestions from the SSSO were respected, and with the help of all the devotees we were able to cover all the aspects of this area like newspapers, radio, TV, leaflets and posters. The response from the media was very good in all senses, and the results of this diffusion campaign is still felt after the Meeting. 380 posters were glued in Montevideo and the 4 cities where there are Sai groups in Uruguay. There were some spots in radios as well as interviews in radios and programs on TV. There was also an excellent diffusion done by each devotee.

Such was the commitment of the devotees that participated that we could assure that from approximately 55 active members of the Centro Sai of Montevideo, more than 45 were involved in some kind of seva for the Meeting. To this we have to add the devotees of the 4 Sai groups of Uruguay who made a wonderful work of diffusion in their respective places, and the devotees, who are not active members of the Center nor of some group, they are always willing to serve at His Lotus Feet.

¿How do we explain this? Only the love for Bhagavan, which is not another thing that He himself manifesting in His devotees' hearts, that can achieve this..

Baba's Grace made that once we made up our minds to organize the Meeting, the presence of Leonardo Gutter (Member of the Prashanti Council) and Marcelo Berenstein (Coordinator of the South Central Council formed by Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay) was confirmed as speakers of the Public Meeting. They made the effort to come from their country, Argentina.

But Bhagavan's infinite Love made that we had also the presence of Dalton Amorin from Brazil (President of the Region 23 which includes the Central Councils of Argentina, Brazil and South), Soledad Vega from Chile (Vice-President of the South Central Council), Sonia Genoud from Argentina (Coordinator of Diffusion of the South Central Council), Kishor Nanwani from Paraguay (Service Coordinator of South Central Council), and María Laura Jaumandreu from Argentina (Coordinator of the Youth for the South Central Council). All of them gave us an example of service and surrender. They printed on us an indelible memory of Love. And if we add that in Uruguay live the Coordinators of Devotion and Education of the South Central Council (Mrs. Ada Fernández and Mrs. Isabel Toyos), and the Coordinator of the Youth for the North and South Central Councils (Mrs. Sandra

Mesa), we can see that Baba gave us the Grace of having all the authorities of the South Central Council together for the first time in Uruguay.

In the morning of October 9th, there was a conference for devotees in the Centro Sai of Montevideo, with these authorities of the SSSO. A very special occasion where besides sharing a beautiful moment of international Sai brotherhood, we had a board with the foreign guests to answer the questions of the attendees.

National Meeting – Conference in the Sai Center of Montevideo
Montevideo – Uruguay
9/10/04

The Public Meeting took place this same day at 6:30 pm. It began with a series of devotional songs interpreted by a chorus of devotees which filled the room with an atmosphere of love and brotherhood. They sang while people accommodated. A series of images of the work of service that the SSSO made around the world was also showed.

The capacity of the place was filled, and it could be seen once more Baba's hand because there were not free seats, but they were not deficient either. Everything was as "Somebody" planned it.

After a brief wellcome and introduction in charge of the National Coordinator of the SSSO, Marcelo Berenstein began his speech. The attention of the gathered audience was complete from the very beginning. Marcelo gifted all of us with a description of our beloved Bhagavan's life and the most important of His message to mankind, His perfect coherence between thought, word and deed. He also talked about how, all of us, spiritual seekers had gotten there.

The audience thanked with a sincere applause Marcelo's words, and gave the wellcome to the next speaker. Leonardo Gutter captivated the audience with his inspired words. He talked to us about Sai Baba the Master, Sai Baba the Protector, Sai Baba the Source of Love. All of this together with interesting personal anecdotes and examples given by Baba. It was also mentioned man's divinity and the way to follow our destiny of returning to the Source. He called the attention of the participants of not loosing the opportunity of having a being like Sai Baba on earth to look for Him, because He will never disappoint us.

His speech was also thanked by a strong applause and immediately after the video "His Work" was showed. The closing was in charge of Marcelo Berenstein who gifted us with some inspiring last words. We can say that Baba's hand touched people's hearts, not only the ones of the people who know Him, but also the ones who got in touch with Him for the first time with this event.

Workshops on the three areas were made in the afternoon as suggested for the national meetings followed by another space for questions and answers. Late in the afternoon the end was with devotional songs.

We can only thank everyone which in one way or another has cooperated for making this dream come true. One thing is sure, nothing could have been done if the spirit of unity would not be present. This unity which is God Himself embracing each heart, like the thread that ties all the pearls, is the Avatar's great gift of Love.

A reality which is our own essence and it has always been in ourselves, and that Sai Baba has revealed to us once more. We know that to the physical reality of this meeting is tied a deeper and more subtle reality, something that we can hardly observe. But nevertheless, the echo that we get from it, it is enough to vivify the divine work commitment to the Avatar's work, working together in brotherhood, full of Love and under His guidance.

Bhagavan, on behalf of all Uruguayan devotees, I surrender the fruit of our work to Your divine lotus feet.

Om Sai Ram