

## ***Public Meeting Report – Ponta Grossa –Nov, 5th 2004***

It was held in the SESC Hall – Downtown - Ponta Grossa City – Parana State / Brazil on the 05th of November, 2004 the Public Meeting of Ponta Grossa, belonging to the South II Region of Brazil. The event happened from 7pm to 10 pm. We had a total attendance of approximately 185 people.

The hall was able to support 200 people. At first, there were settled 150 chairs. Soon, there was the need to include more chairs in the remaining room, however, everyone was comfortably accommodated. 95 % of the participants were not members of the Sathya Sai Organization.

The Public Meeting in the city of Ponta Grossa was wonderfully auspicious and harmonic. It was part of the “India Week”, an event that will be showing 33 photographs of India (A4 size) with the indian way of life, photos of Hindu deities, photos of Swami’s works in India and nearby the Ashram, from November 5th to 13th. During the India Week there will be exhibited also videotapes on Sathya Sai Baba.

In a peaceful and calm atmosphere, the Public Lecture began around 7:15pm. The Master of Cerimony, Flavio Borges, President of the Regional Coordinator Committee – South II Region, opened the event saluting all and introducing the lecture’s theme. He read a letter that Swami wrote for the Public and also introduced Professor Hermogenes, representing the Devotion Coordination of the Central Council of Brazil.

Professor Hermógenes spoke about Sai Baba, His Work and His Message. He spoke about his experience with Swami and about the teachings that the Avatar brought to us in this era. One hour and a half has passed since the beginning of the lecture, an opportunity for questions was set. The questions were written in papers that the sevas distributed and forwarded to the table, after selected, handed to the lecturer.

During the time that people were writing the questions down, the master of ceremony talked about the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organization, its finality and functioning, giving phones and activities of the Sai Groups in Ponta Grossa City.

After a 30 minute time of answering the questions the event was formally ended with an explanation about the meaning of Om and of Shanti and a request that everyone chanted both as a thanking for the event. The public seemed deeply interested on the theme because less than 5% left the hall before the end of the event.

After the Public Lecture, The SESC Institution (Ponta Grossa Branch) offered a cocktail showing a small amount of what the Indian Cuisine looks like, serving chapatis, indian deepings, veggie samosas, lassis and indian teas. During the cocktail indian music was played from the CD “Prashanti”, performed by Meeta Ravindra. The same CD was being played when the public was welcomed in the beginning of the event.

When we welcomed the public, brochures with more detailed explanations were handed out about the objectives of the Sai Organization and Sai Baba’s work in Brazil and in the world. The Newsletter “Om Sai Ram” edited by the Regional Coordination Committe – South I Region, containing the Organization’s activities in the Region during the months of November and December.

Before and after the event, many materials of the Sai Foundation were available to buy: books edited in Brazil, Videotapes, CDs of devotional songs and Human Values songs and also the videotape “Sai Baba and His Work”, already translated to Portuguese.

Many people were joyful because they participated of the event. Some were so interested about Sai Baba and his message that decided to go to Curitiba City to participate in the following day of the second Sai Public Meeting of the South II Region. We, from the Sai Groups of the area, clearly saw the public’s satisfaction.

The Planning time for the event was too tight, once we had held the II Meeting of Education in Human Values, in the State University Of Ponta Grossa on the 4th, 5th and 6th of October. However, everything worked out just fine. The SESC Institution sponsored the posters and the brochures to promote the event and also helped to promote the event in the local press, TV and radio.