

# *Sathya Sai International Organization*

## *Zone 5 Sai Archives*

---

---

### **HONG KONG**

#### History of the Sai Centre:

Sai awareness in Hong Kong was started around 1972/73 by a devotee named Shastri who spoke about Swami to a few people he knew. The movement had its simple beginnings in the office of a devotee named Dorothy Plant, where about 4 to 6 people would gather together, play bhajans on a tape recorder and have prasad. Among the earliest devotees were Takako Comber, Martin Mahtani, Natalie Santos, Ram Hathiramani and Baldev Peswani.

Few other devotees, namely, Maya Melwani, Gopi Jaisinghani, Gope Vaswani, Bhagwandas Daswani, Vasdev Nainani joined later and bhajans took place weekly in four devotees' homes, on rotation. A Bal Vikas class for children was started at the residence of Mrs. Madhu Hardasani in 1977. There were about 20-25 children. There were three to four Bal Vikas teachers. These early devotees also cooked food and started distributing it to street sleepers.

These early beginnings gave birth to an organisation in a property in Burlington Mansion in TST, Kowloon. The premises was registered with the government on 18th April, 1977. Swami gave the name "Shanti Nilayam" to the premises. On 27th April of the same year, the Centre was officially inaugurated and regular bhajans, seva, and Bal Vikas activities started taking place at the venue thereafter.

The first President of the Centre was Martin Mahtani. To accommodate the growing number of devotees, the Centre expanded its premises in 1993. The premises have expanded in size since then.

Today the Sathya Sai Centre is a dynamic organisation with various activities and projects that serve the needs of the Hong Kong community, and continues to grow from strength to strength. There is a vibrant Education Wing, particularly SSE, a very active Seva Wing, and its Spiritual Wing is actively engaged in inter-faith activities in the community.

It also provides many of the Zonal officers and has hosted several Zonal events.

The ISSE, HK was established out of the Sai Centre and with its support the ISSE HK has initiated and sustained teacher training programmes in a number of provinces in China with the support of several universities in China. Additionally, resources have been developed and books written to develop SSEHV globally. The Sai Centre also supports the newly established Fongshun Centre in China.

The photos are items that Swami materialized for a devotee by the name of Mr & Mrs Hasso Moorjani. They first met Swami in 1976 in Whitefield. During their first trip Swami gave Mr. Moorjani a silver pendant. Swami gifted the couple a house in Whitefield on April 4, 1994. Swami would give a lot of attention to Mr. Hasso whenever he visited either Puttaparthi or Whitefield.

## **TAIWAN**

The history of the Sathya Sai Organization in Taiwan dates back to the year 1980 when Sai Bhajans started in the home of Bro. Nari and Sis. Nisha Chugani. In 1982 Bro Nari Chugani approached Sri Indulal Shah for officially recognizing the Taipei Sai Centre. Upon confirmation the three wings: devotional/spiritual/service wings were initiated.

The Sai Centre activities were then moved to the Indian Association prayer hall and Bro. Nari Chugani was appointed the Centre President by Bro. Hira, Zone Chair. In 1993, the Centre was moved to the home of Sis. Deepa Tewani and Bro Naresh Tewani to avoid conflict of interests with other activities of the Indian association.

In 1995, an independent Sai Centre was acquired and all Sai activities continued from there. In the same year, Justice Bhagwati was invited as chief guest along with Bro Hira. From Taiwan, a few dignitaries were also invited. The programme was called "Living with Divinity " A record 200 plus people attended. This was the beginning of Chinese devotees joining the Sai Mission.

In 1996 Swami granted a group interview to the Taiwan devotees and in His Divine grace and blessings, Swami materialized the following:

1. A watch for Bro. Srichand Khatri
2. A gold chain for Sis. Varsha Datwani
3. A 108 crystal bead jasmala for Bro. Nari Chugani

Swami also gifted His personal robes to Sis. Nisha Chugani then Bal Vikas Coordinator and Sis. Bhavna Balani then Bal Vikas teacher.

In 1997 Bro Hira appointed Bro. Nari Chugani as Central Coordinator for Zone 5 countries and his appointment was personally blessed By Swami in the interview room in the presence of Sri Indulal Shah and Bro. Hira. Bro Srichand Khatri was appointed Deputy Central Coordinator.

The Sai Centre of Taipei was managed by:

Srichand Khatri, Sheelu Daswani, Nisha Chugani, Bhavna Balani, Raju Balani, Bhavna Nainani, Kenny Nainani, Deepa Naresh, Naresh Sharma, Jai Datwani, Varsha Datwani and Ratan Punjabi

### **SSEHV:**

The first teacher training was held in 1996 by Dr Art Ong Jumsai and Sister Lorraine Burrows. SSEHV weekend classes commenced from 1997 and Sathya Sai Kindergarten started in the year 2000. Br Huang Pang Chu was the principal. Sister Huang – school custodian – was assisted by sister Yue Su Yin.

The teachers were Sister Mary Teng Mei yun, Sister Linda Lo Mei Lan and Sister Lin yi Ling. In 1995 Sister Huang received a 9-stoned ring materialized by Swami in Sai Kulwant Hall. The SSEHV kindergarten activities were under the guidance of brothers Srichand Khatri and Nari Chugani, and later taken over by Sister Bhavna Balani.

In the year 2005 Bro. Nari Chugani was appointed Zone 5 Chairman by Dr Michael Goldstein.

## **GUANGZHOU, CHINA**

The purpose of the organization is to unfold the path to divinity and experience the Unity of divinity. With this perspective in sight the Sai organization took birth in Guangzhou, China.

### **At the outset**

The history of the Sathya Sai Organization in Guangzhou, China, dates back to the year 2004 when Sai Bhajans started in devotees' homes on a monthly basis. In the same year, Brother Nari Chugani who was the pioneer of the Sai movement in Taiwan moved to China. In a few months' time, in the year 2005, the Sai Bhajans were centralized in the community centre in a popular residential area in Guangzhou. From then on the Sai Saga beautifully unfolded in Guangzhou.

China is a country where it is necessary to exercise caution with regard to religious or spiritual activities. However, in consonance with the law of the land, the mission of the Bhagawan in China has been carried out in Guangzhou in a quiet and yet consistent manner. The Centre has three wings, viz., Bhajans, Seva and the Spiritual wing. The Sai activities are presently managed by: Bro. Nari Buxani, Bro. Kenny Nainani, Bro. Ratan Punjabi, Sister Dimple Buxani, Sister Bhavna Nainani, and Sister Latha Reddy.

China SSEHV has been carried out by ISSE, Hong Kong since 2003.

### **Bhagawan's Assurance to devotees in Guangzhou**

Bhagawan's way of showing His Omnipresence is unique and one such incident reinforced the faith of devotees in Guangzhou. It was an overwhelming miracle. Brother Nari Buxani, who has been the Seva Coordinator since 2004, had identified "Huling Home", which is a home for the mentally challenged in Guangzhou. This place was home to more than 30-40 local Chinese brothers and sisters (age 10 to about 55) who were physically and/or mentally challenged. A proposal was made to visit that home. One Sunday, food items were bought and taken to "Huling Home". A framed photo of Baba was also taken with the intention that perhaps it could be hung up there. As the Sai devotees introduced themselves to the management team, a lady, who happened to be one of the chief administrators, saw Baba's photo and very excitedly said "This gentleman was here yesterday (Saturday). He wore the orange robe and had a crown of hair...exactly same as in the photo. He said that tomorrow, food will come to your place to be distributed among everyone" (please note this may not be verbatim but the gist has been maintained). Brothers Nari Buxani and Nari Chugani had goose-bumps and were moved

tremendously. Since then Seva is rendered to the inmates of the home once in a month by way of spending time with them apart from distributing food, fruits and other necessary things.

### **The Unfolding Sai Saga**

As has been the Divine Will, apart from regular bhajans at the centre on Sundays and festivals, and seva at Huiling home, the devotees here have had the privilege of inviting Dr.Pal Dhall and Mrs. Tehseen Dhall for seminars on dynamic parenting which were very well received by the participants. Also, the Sai Centre in Guangzhou has been fortunate to welcome guests like Sri G. Venkatraman of Radio Sai, Prof Anil Kumar and Dr. Narendranath Reddy. These visits have always recharged the Sai fraternity here with renewed energy and clarity of perspective for the organization. The centre had introduced the Sathya Sai Education (SSE), i.e., Balvikas for children. It was successfully run for a few years under the guidance of Brother Ratan Punjabi.

## **FUNG SHUN, CHINA**

In 2006 Ganesh puja and bhajans began at the home of Bro. Nin who is presently in charge of the Fung Shun Centre. In 2009 the puja and bhajans were moved to the home of Bro. Tsoi. In 2010 they purchased a land and started to build the Fung Shun Centre which was inaugurated in 2012. On October 10, 2016 the Fung Shun Centre celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary since they began Sai bhajans.

Jai Sai Ram