

Sri Sathya Sai Baba Public Meeting
Seattle, WA
USA

On 22 January 2005, a public meeting was held in Seattle, Washington (USA). This meeting was about the life and teachings of our beloved Lord, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. About 240 people, made up of devotees and newcomers to Sai Baba, attended. The meeting took place at Town Hall in Seattle. The beautiful auditorium was a fitting venue for the occasion.

Attendees were welcomed and seated with love and respect by ushers and were shown a short slide show depicting quotes from Swami and several beautiful pictures of our Bhagavan. The meeting began with introductory remarks about Swami and the Sai Organization and the introduction of speakers by the regional President of the Sai Organization.

The two distinguished speakers addressed the needs of an audience made up of people from diverse backgrounds. Dr. Michael Goldstein, Chair of the Prasanthi Council, delivered a powerful and uplifting talk on Swami's Divinity, His Love, and His mission. He exhorted everyone to follow Swami's example and realize their own Divinity. Dr. Narendranath Reddy, member, Prasanthi Council, emphasized the practical nature of Swami's message. He urged everyone to "Follow the Master, Face the Devil, Fight to the End, and Finish the Game" He connected Swami's teachings to the message of Jesus Christ. As part of the meeting, "His Works" DVD was shown. In addition, a free copy was presented to each family.

Books by and about Swami were made available in a bookstore. Many attendees availed of this facility. An information booth was set up to answer questions about Swami, the Organization, and the local Sai Baba Centers. The visitors enthusiastically received the information about local Centers.

First time attendees, young and old, were introduced to Swami's life, His message, and His Humanitarian works. In his talk, Dr. Reddy referred to our own bad qualities as the Devil in the quote Face the Devil. A 12-year-old child remarked to her mother about getting rid of her own bad qualities. One young man shared how the wisdom shared by the speakers has broadened his vision and opened his heart. One devout Shia Muslim, commented how Swami's four Fs resonated with his own religion. In his own words, following the Master meant one's own conscience, facing the Devil is facing one's own weaknesses and bad qualities, and fight to the end stands for never giving up.

This meeting demonstrated that the teachings of Swami are universal and transcend the boundaries of religion, nationality, age, etc.