

UNDER HIS DIVINE UMBRELLA

Mr Vishnu Donger, India



Mr Vishnu Donger is an International Consultant in Drilling Fluids, Oil & Gas Exploration. He has worked in ONGC Ltd for over a decade before venturing into independent consultancy. As a State Coordinator of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, he has been actively participating in various initiatives at State and National Level.



Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba says that He has been preparing us all since several births to come under His fold and work for His Mission and without His call or willingness (sankalpa) no one can step into Puttaparti. I was lucky to be born in a pious and most devoted family and my parents were already in Bhagawan's fold and in particular my mother received a rolled paper photo in 1961 from Bhagawan's divine hands The tastes of spiritual life and Bhajans were readily available in my house during my school days as my father was an ardent worshipper of Lord Rama.

Turning Point:

Perhaps this might be the reason that with a divine call way back forty years ago in April 1976, my life took a turning point when I was given week long training by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation (Shivam) in my native place, Kollapur in Mahabubnagar district, under the directions of then State Convener Sri BV Ramana Rao. There were 156 participants and I was 19 years old then and was in B.Sc. second year. The training program gave me a new life

Touch of Divinity:

This was the time when I was in my post graduation doing my Masters in Chemistry from Hyderabad Central University in 1979 and Swami was on a visit to

Shivam. I was seated among the huge crowd waiting for my first Darshan of God and when Bhagawan walked along the lines. His left foot came on my thigh and that was the first Divine touch (Sparshana). I felt thrilled but did not know the significance and reason for that happening, but I felt later that I was blessed.

In His Vision:

There was a clear indication that I was in His vision. My wife's family were in Swami's fold since 1953. In 1981, before my marriage, their family was granted an interview in which when they prayed to Swami to their son's thread ceremony, Bhagawan enquired (*Won't you do your daughter's marriage?*) (*Come in February I will do marriage*)' (my wife is the second daughter). At that point of time two good alliances, including mine were under consideration by them. When asked for guidance, Bhagawan replied, *perform Vratam, boy's side will come to your house.* Along with my mother, I happened to attend Vratam function in my uncle's house and that was accepted as Bhagawan's direction to approach my parents for marriage proposal.

First Visit to Puttaparthi:

I took up a teaching job in Engineering College in Warangal after receiving my M.Sc. and M.Phil. Degrees. When my marriage was settled with my maternal uncle daughter in 1982, both families went to Puttaparthi to receive Bhagawan's grace in the form of 'performing marriage' and though we waited for almost a month Swami did not bless. During that period I joined the sevadal in Prashanthi Nilayam. In 1983, with Swami's grace, I joined ONGC, one of the top companies in India in oil exploration, as a class I officer.

Marriage in Puttaparthi:

As my uncle's prayers to Swami to bless and grace his daughter's marriage did not evoke any response, finally after three years of waiting, all were reconciled to the decision to go ahead with the wedding. On my insistence that the marriage should be performed in Puttaparthi, a few relatives and both our families reached Prashanthi Nilayam. On the day of marriage, 6th Dec 1985, Bhagawan accepted the wedding card from both the ladies and gents side and blessed us saying *Do it with Ananda!* Immediately after marriage we went to Bangalore and both were blessed with Pada Namaskarams.

Service Opportunity:

In 1985 I was blessed to lead Security office Sevadal duty during Bhagawan's 60th Birthday celebrations. We really had a tough time with heavy flow of devotees and Prashanthi Nilayam was like a mini World. I continued my sevadal service for 15 years without any break while working in Assam and Bombay. Swami bestowed upon me the opportunity to serve as the Seva Samithi Convener in Kollapur of Mahabubnagar dist for nine years. I have also been assigned responsible tasks in Prashanthi Nilayam including running the state office and in the State Organisation which facilitated golden opportunities of darshan, sparshan and even sambhashan, however causal it may have been.

Food in Divine Presence:

There were many times when I represented erstwhile Zone XI (Mahabubnagar, Medak & Ranga Reddy dist) in April Service at Puttaparthi and we used to travel to Bangalore or Kodaikanal after the service to have Bhagawan's Darshan. On a Ugadhi festival day a delicious lunch was served in Kodaikanal under Bhagawan's supervision. I cannot forget that memorable opportunity and I distinctly recall the affection with which Swami personally ensured that everything was served on my plantain leaf.

Blessings to Family:

Swami blessed both my daughters with 'Aksharbhyasam', 'Annaprachinam' and Namkaranam and education in Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Puttaparthi. On one occasion my elder daughter, who is now an ophthalmologist, was blessed with Bhagawan's cream colour robe. She is now happily married to a Sathya Sai University student. My second daughter has been blessed with MBA seat (first batch) in Anantapur SSSIHL campus in 2014.

I have been very fortunate to be actively associated in several service activities of the Seva Organisation. Orphan Boys program has been running in my house and we have now entered the tenth academic year with 5-8 orphans or single parent boys. This activity has provided tremendous satisfaction to all my family members.

Even though my participation in service activities is minimal, Bhagawan's assurance --*take one step to Me and I shall take 10 steps towards you* is true in my life. He has blessed me with a highly successful professional life as I could work with some of the world's best companies in oil & gas exploration and in ten countries including Middle East, Australia, South Pacific and Africa. This may be very little significant but, the most important aspect is wherever I travelled and worked, He has kept me under His Divine Umbrella. I could very clearly see His protective Divine Hand in every moment of my and my family members' life. I am ever grateful to our beloved Bhagawan for giving me a beautiful and most wonderful life.