



# The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust Africa

Founder-Ācārya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda

## THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BBT AFRICA CONFERENCE DURBAN 2015



CELEBRATING THE



OF SRILA PRABHUPADA'S  
VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

In Honour of His Divine Grace

**A. C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI PRABHUPADA**

Founder-Acarya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness

## Post Conference Report 2015

## Introduction

The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust (BBT) Africa's 6th Annual Conference that was held on the 8th August 2015 at the Playhouse Theatre in Durban, South Africa was an unprecedented event in the history of the African BBT, boasting a record attendance of over 430 local and international conference delegates.

Since 2010, this annual conference has been held in countries such as Kenya, Mauritius and Ghana with host countries seeing significant increases in their book distribution efforts post conference.

This was a landmark year where we also celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Śrīla Prabhupāda's visit to South Africa in 1975, acknowledging the early days and the bright future of ISKCON in South Africa.



## Conference Highlights

The aim of the BBT Africa conference was to stimulate discussions in all matters of book production, printing, distribution and translation of Śrīla Prabhupāda's books in African languages with various stakeholders in order to discuss issues relevant to book distribution and publication in their regions, inspiring and cultivating the spirit of team work and *Sankirtana* in order to fulfill Śrīla Prabhupāda's instructions regarding the distribution of books and BTG magazines in Africa.

We were joined by prominent dignitaries and leaders in our society:

- His Holiness Jayadvaita Swami (Senior BBT Africa Trustee);
- His Excellency Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi (President of the Inkatha Freedom Party, Traditional Prime Minister to the Zulu Monarch and Nation, a Member of Parliament, and well-wisher of BBT and ISKCON);
- Mr Neren Singh (Member of Parliament);
- Mr Ashwin Trikamjee (President of the SA Hindu Maha Sabha);
- His Holiness Bhakti Caitanya Maharaj (GBC for South Africa);
- His Holiness Bhakti Gauravani Goswami;
- His Holiness Bhakti Carudesna Maharaj and;
- His Holiness Bhaktivinoda Swami

This annual event provided BBT Africa the opportunity to:

- showcase and launch new book titles and covers that were published and available for distribution;
- share book production efforts underway;
- listen to and assess challenges that different regions face;
- highlight opportunities that were available to attract and reach the people of Africa;
- present ways on how BBT Africa can be of service to their various stakeholders;
- highlight BTG opportunities and its importance in Africa;
- discuss the implementation of effective preaching strategies in order to expand the book distribution network.

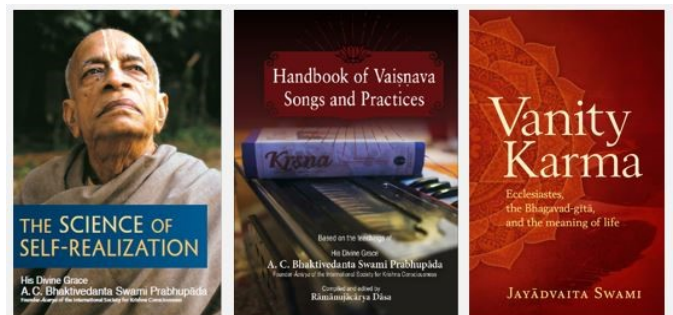
We were provided with information about the sacred order of book distribution, its importance and how Śrīla Prabhupāda's books change people's lives. A perspective from the Global BBT and the work of the BBT internationally was presented covering topics such as The Bhaktivedanta Archives, Copyrights, BTG and Editing.

We received feedback on book distribution efforts from various countries and had the pleasure of listening to inspiring book distribution stories despite challenges and personal safety risks that book distributors have to endure in spreading Krishna Consciousness.

The conference was a tremendous success and reinvigorated enthusiasm for carrying out Śrīla Prabhupāda's mission of distributing books across the African continent.

## New Book Titles & Covers Launched:

*The Science of Self-Realization, Handbook of Vaisnava Songs and Practices, and Vanity Karma*



## In The Eyes of Participants

***These are just a few of the comments that were made by conference delegates:***

HG Govardhana Das: *"The conference had the desired effect and BBT Africa has found a place in the hearts of many many devotees."*

HG Smitha Krsna Das: *"Thank you to a wonderful group of hardworking devotees who made the BBT Africa conference an amazing and enlivening experience. Intelligent, sincere and dedicated devotees."*

Akina: *"It was my first conference and it was a fantastic experience. Feel so honored to have been there and I met so many wonderful devotees."*

Magan: *"A very inspiring conference, certainly have encouraged devotees present to start book distribution."*

Wendy: *"It was so great meeting all of you and sharing in this year's conference success!"*

Pradan Ramlall: *"Thank you to the BBT team for the most well organised conference."*

Radhe (SSRRT): *"The conference was very informative and inspiring! I enjoyed it, thanks!"*

Reena Singh: *"You are right, the conference was absolutely divine, the atmosphere was beautiful. I enjoyed every second. Thanks to all!"*

## Śrīla Prabhupāda on Books

One should engage in practical service to the Lord. In our Krsna consciousness movement, all our activities are concentrated upon distributing Krsna literature. This is very important. One may approach any person and induce him to read Krsna literature so that in the future he also may become a devotee. Such activities are recommended in this verse. Such activities will always remind the devotees of the Lord's lotus feet. By fully concentrating on distributing books for Krsna, one is fully absorbed in Krsna. This is *samadhi*. (SB 10.2.37)

This book distribution is the essence of our mission. (Letter to: Rupanuga – Bombay 18 December, 1974)

Whenever there is any publication in any language, it enlivens me 100 times. (Letter to: Hamsaduta: — Mayapur 19 October, 1974)

## Conference Resolutions

1. Increase BTG Subscriptions by 1200 in the next 12 months.

2. Distribute 100 000 books for ISKCON's 50th Anniversary.

## Conclusion

To those that attended the conference, we hope that you have gained insights into the work of the African BBT, made new connections and learned innovative and simple ways to expand your efforts in spreading Krishna Consciousness. For your convenience, we have provided links to the conference photos, videos, interviews and presentations that are available for download on our website:

<http://www.bbtafrica.co.za>

If you were unable to attend in person this year, we invite you to peruse the materials online as they contain valuable information, experiences and strategies for book distribution that you would find interesting.

We hope you can join us next year for our 7th Annual Conference. The destination will be confirmed soon and details will be released in the coming months so that you can plan ahead. So, keep in contact with us, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and subscribe to our mailing list and database.

These channels of communication will inform you about the work of the BBT, information on new translations and book releases, projects that we are currently working on and programs that we would like to implement with you to increase our book distribution and BTG subscription efforts.

Yours in the service of Śrīla Prabhupāda,

The BBT Africa Team

