

# ECHO OF HIS CALL



India's National Spiritual Newspaper

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Editor : S. SAM SELVA RAJ

16 Languages

Associate Editor: Bro. M. Paulraj

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No. 4

## THE HOLY BIBLE



Please memorize this portion

1 John 4:7-14

7. Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
8. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.
9. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.
10. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
11. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.
12. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.
13. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.
14. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.



## THE CROSS OF JESUS!

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" - (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Bro. M. Paulraj

Once upon a time Cross was considered as the symbol of curse. But because of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, it became no more a symbol of curse but a symbol of salvation and love. Today, millions of men and women bear Cross on their neck as a sign of love and blessing. The Bible says, "**Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree**" (Galatians 3:13). But Jesus Christ made it as a sign of salvation and love! Jesus did not choose to die on the Cross anyhow, but the Jews and the Romans thrust this punishment on Jesus treating Him as a criminal.

### HOW THE WORLD VIEW?

What the world views the death of Jesus on the Cross? The 20<sup>th</sup> Century British poet and philosopher, T.S. Eliot said, "Cross is the symbol of supreme sacrifice. This is a symbol for the whole world. Cross is a legacy given to the world for all time". India's great philosopher Dr. S. Radha krishnan said, "Cross is the symbol of sorrow and suffering"; Thomas A. Kempis, a 15<sup>th</sup> century poet and philosopher said in his book, Imitation of Christ, "Cross is salvation, Cross is life, Cross is

protection from our enemies, Cross gives the goodness of heaven, Cross is the summit of goodness and Cross is the perfection of holiness". According to Paul, for the saved, "it is the power of God".

Many worldly people view that the message from the Cross is foolishness. But to us the saved, it is the power of God. We draw inspiration by meditating the Cross.

### THE HORRORS OF CRUCIFIXION!

Jesus knew that He would die on the Cross, because that was the maximum punishment handed down to criminals. Jesus was considered as a criminal by the hardcore Jews and the Romans. To the Jews He was against the law and a threat to their age old tradition. The Romans want to placate the Jews for their continued dominance. Jesus knew His death before His crucifixion. He told this to His disciples. But they did not take it seriously then. Because, their love towards their master blinded their eyes and minds.

A man condemned to death was treated worse than an animal.

....Contd. to page 4



## ECHO OF HIS CALL - (1969-2019 GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR)

*from your dearly beloved brother...*



“... If thou wouldest believe, thou

shouldest see the glory of God” - (John 11:40)



### OUR MISSION POLICY

We should expound and teach the contemporary generation the undiluted teachings of the ancient and early Apostles. It is the need of the hour.

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Angeline Selvakumari Henry, M.A., M.Ed.

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#### EDITOR, PUBLISHER & PRINTER

Pastor S. SAM SELVA RAJ

Echo of His Call Printers

10, Mohammed Abdullah 2<sup>nd</sup> Street,  
Chepauk, Chennai- 600 005, India.

Phone : (+ 91- 44) 2852 8282, 2852 9293,  
2854 7766

Cell : (+91) 98410 71852, 95661 31858

#### E.mail ID

sam@echoofhiscall.org

biblecor@yahoo.co.in

#### WEBSITES

www.echoofhiscall.org

www.stpaulsmatriculation.com

#### YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Echo of His Call

Dearly beloved in the Lord,

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

It is by your continuous prayer and support that all our ministries, especially our Prayer Ministry, Monthly Magazine in 16 languages, Church Ministries, Bible Colleges, Online Hindi Bible College, Correspondence Courses, Gospel Printing Press, Children's Ministry, Hospital Ministry and Village High School are functioning well. We praise God for all His mercies.

In recent times, we find a lot of opposition and hindrances in many ways to our Gospel work and also to our Gospel workers. When we observe closely we realize that the people who cause these troubles have received a lot of helps from churches and have studied in Christian institutions in their younger days. They are even proud of mentioning the names of such Christian schools and colleges where they had their education. But they now hate Christian Charity Organisations and Churches.

What is the reason behind this hatred? When we go deep on this, we understand that part of the blame rests on us as our servants of God and educationists in those days fail to impress on them the importance being honest and show compassion to all. They also did not act with true commitment!

Let me explain this with an example. In the Government High School where I studied, there was a teacher named Mr. Thomas, a member of the Catholic Church and another teacher named Mr. Johnson, a member of another Christian Church. They set a high standard in their teaching method, interest and talent. They set good example in their actions, dress and manners. So many students imbibed their qualities and came out of those educational institutions as men of good character with real fear of God. I am also one of them.

On the other side, we see many people who studied in Christian schools and colleges and some who attended Christian Churches just for some help. Many who received new life because of the medical treatment they obtained from Christian hospitals, now hate and oppose God's Word and God's servants! This is because of

**Our Ministries:** ❖ ECHO OF HIS CALL Monthly Magazines (16 languages) ❖ BIBLECOR - Postal Courses (3 languages)

❖ Online Courses ❖ Theological Correspondence Courses (2 languages) ❖ Church Planting ❖ Nehemiah Bible Colleges

❖ Gospel Printing Press ❖ Great Commission Partners ❖ St. Paul's Matriculation School ❖ Crusades ❖ Community Development



the shortcomings of Christians, Christian workers and Christian Educationists. A good part of the fault rests on us. We failed to imbibe Christ in them.

In future, we Christians must understand the real calling of God upon our lives, set good example in our prayer life, do wise acts and charitable activities, so that, those who see us also do the same and have the fear of God. Our servants of God, and teachers in schools and colleges must come forward to live true Christian life reflecting our Lord Jesus Christ in all areas of our life. Then only we can

expect real deliverance of people, from all bondages.

**"...Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" – John 8:32**

Let the family of **Echo of His Call** take this into their heart and remember in their prayers!

*Your servants in Christ Jesus,*

**Pr. S. Sam Selva Raj & Alex Samson Sam.**

(+91) 98412 71858 / 98410 71858,

E.mail : samselvaraj333@gmail.com



## News from the Nehemiah Bible College



Our ministries were greatly affected economically due to Covid 19 during the past few years. By God's grace, we are trying to overcome all the hard situations. Glory to God.

to computerize and maintain the books and bring them to the use of students of the Nehemiah Bible College, we have the following urgent needs:



According to the norms prescribed by Asia Theological Association (ATA), to which our College is authorized as 'Registered Candidate for Membership', we are supposed to have a full-fledged library with atleast 8,000 books for our students' daily use. We had nearly 2,000 books already. We had no source to buy the remaining books and keep them in order. But we have been praying for this need for a long time.

In answer to our prayers, a friend of ours, donated nearly 4,000 books. With great effort, we could buy 18 Steel Shelves by God's grace and keep them safely and in order.

Now, we have to upload their titles and other details of these books in computer and maintain them in proper way, which involve great financial expenses and hard work. Already we find difficulties in managing the monthly expenses regarding support to our Nehemiah Bible College faculty members, pastors and workers, expenses towards printing paper, cost of materials related to the Printing Press, travel expenses etc. We do not publicize our needs for such things. But we meet these expenses every month by exercising great faith and prayers and investing great efforts. At this time, in order

1	Two computers - each costs of Rs.55,000	} - 110,000 Rupees
2.	Software for the computers	} - 20,000 Rupees
3.	To upload and make necessary entries of the books	} - 30,000 Rupees
4.	Other expenses	} - 10,000 Rupees
	<b>Total</b>	<b>170,000 Rupees</b>

We have difficulties in meeting these urgent needs. Please pray sincerely with a burden for this need. If the Lord inspires your heart, you may help us by donating some amount or one of the above mentioned needs or the whole amount. It is not our habit to compel our friends to help us. We are sharing this because you are our co-worker. Please do not misunderstand us. Kindly pray for this request.

We too pray for you. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you more and more!

-Editor

...Contd. from page 1

Nobody cares for them. Before crucifixion, the condemned criminal would be beaten mercilessly by leather whips on bare body. The whips branches off at the tip to 3 or 4 terminals tethered with broken bone pieces or barbed iron pieces. They used to give 39 lashes at one stroke on the back and could be repeated. They would make the criminal almost lifeless. Jesus was given the same punishment for no fault of His. The Roman Governor Pilate declared: "I found no fault in Him". But the scribes and the hardcore Jews cried for His death and got the punishment imposed on Jesus. They spilled the innocent blood! The Psalmist prophetically said years back, "**The plowers plowed on my back; they made their furrows long**" (Psalm 129:3).

### JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED!

Usually the place of crucifixion would be outside the city/town. The victim was to carry the wooden cross along the streets to the site. The victim's crime of conviction would be written on a board and hung on the victim's neck so that others would see. The soldiers were merciless that the victim's private part alone would be covered by a small piece of cloth and leaving the rest of the body uncovered. They had to bear the extreme heat of the day and the cold of the night. The victim's back of the body would be a plowed field.

At the site of crucifixion, the victim would be asked to lay on the wooden cross, stretching his two hands and placing the legs overlapped. Then their hands and legs would either be tied or nailed. The hands and legs of Jesus were nailed! Jesus was nailed on the Cross on Friday. The Cross would be put into a hole and straightened by rope work. The nailed / tied person would hang between heaven and earth. As Saturday was a Sabbath day for the Jews, they

would not allow any body to hang on the Cross on that day. If the victim dies on Friday itself, his legs or hands would not be broken or if his life still persists on the body, the soldiers would break his hands or legs, increase pain and hasten death. Some hang on the cross for days, go mad, cry like anything and then they give up life in total disarray.

Here, Jesus gave up His life after the sixth hour of His crucifixion on Friday itself. He was crucified at the 9<sup>th</sup> hour IST, drank the cup of sin, curse and sickness at 12 Noon and gave up life at 3 P.M. So His limbs were not broken. A soldier on suspect pierced the body of Jesus by his spear and confirmed the death of Jesus, as blood and water rushed out!

Jesus Christ uttered seven set of words on the Cross, which are as follows:-

1. Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do (Luke 23:34).
2. Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise (Luke 23:43).

3. Jesus said to His mother, "Woman behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" (John 19:26,27).

4. "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? (Matthew 27:46).

5. After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" (John 19:28).

6. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" (John 19:30).

7. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit". And having said this, He breathed His last (Luke 23:46).

### JESUS DID NOT THROW HIS LIFE!

Jesus came into the world as an innocent lamb as a "sacrifice".

**"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:**

**"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body**

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## NEHEMIAH BIBLE RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE, Chennai.



### Medium : Hindi

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Qualification : 10th Standard & above  
**Rush for admission!**

**Contact : The Chairman, Nehemiah Bible College.**

10, MOHAMMED ABDULLAH 2ND STREET, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI - 600 005, INDIA.  
Phone : (+91-44) 2852 8282, Cell : (+91) 98410 71852 / 95661 31858  
E.mail : sam@echoofhiscall.org / Website : www.echoofhiscall.org

**\* ONLINE CLASSES ARE AVAILABLE \***





# GREAT COMMISSION PARTNERS

TO SHARE (Galatians 6:2)

SUPPORT (Romans 12:13)

SPEED UP (II Timothy 1:6)

**PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS - From 2022 April 19 To May 18**

(Please take this sheet out, fold it and keep it in your Bible and pray continuously)



## ✝POINTS FOR PRAISE

- April 19** ➔ God blessed our Easter Sunday Services, held on the 17<sup>th</sup> April.
- April 20** ➔ God graciously helped us to enter into unreached areas with the Gospel.
- April 21** ➔ God blessed all the activities of our Echo of His Call Ministries in the last month.
- April 22** ➔ Let us praise God for all our Associate Editors and their family members.
- April 23** ➔ God blessed Men's Meeting in our Main Church.
- April 24** ➔ God blesses our publications in 16 languages which are printed in our Printing Press and sent to mission fields.
- April 25** ➔ God blessed our Main & Branch Churches with more believers.
- April 26** ➔ Let us praise God for our supporters for their prayers and support.
- April 27** ➔ Praise the Lord for the State Co-ordinators and their fellowship.
- April 28** ➔ God blessed our Women's Meeting in our Main Church.
- April 29** ➔ Praise the Lord for His blessings on our Hindi Online Theological Course.
- April 30** ➔ Praise God for our **St. Paul Matriculation School, Nehemiah Bible College and Theological Correspondence Course.**
- May 01** ➔ Praise God for the great commitment from the Mission workers.
- May 02** ➔ Praise God for the abundant blessings for our Pr. S. Sam Selva Raj and family.
- May 03** ➔ Praise God for protecting staff of **Echo of His Call Ministries** from Corona Virus.

## ✝POINTS FOR PRAYER

- May 04** ➔ Kindly pray for the war between Russia and Ukraine and peace has to be needed all over the world.
- May 05** ➔ God to provide necessary funds for **Echo of His Call Ministries** in this month.
- May 06** ➔ Let us pray for all the Christian Organizations.
- May 07** ➔ God should give new strength to our Co-ordinators and Pastors.
- May 08** ➔ God to bring more dedicated workers to our **Echo of His Call Ministries.**
- May 09** ➔ Pray for the eradication of the violences against women and children.
- May 10** ➔ Let us pray for the eradication of Corona Virus from all countries of the world.
- May 11** ➔ Let us pray for the workers of our mission field.
- May 12** ➔ Let us pray for our Prayer Partners, Subscribing Partners, Faith Partners, Life Partners and Great Commission Partners and their family members.
- May 13** ➔ Pray for the bereaved families who lost their loved ones due to CORONA fever.
- May 14** ➔ Let us continue to pray for our English Associate Editor, Bro. M. Paulraj for his complete healing.
- May 15** ➔ Pray to God for the success of our Senior Pastor in writing his autobiography.
- May 16** ➔ Pray for peace all over the world.
- May 17** ➔ Pray for the believers, leaders, prayer warriors of our main Church and branch Churches.
- May 18** ➔ God should continue to protect our Senior Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj and his family members from all sorts of evil forces.

....Contd. from page 4

**You have prepared for Me.” “In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.”**

**“Then I said, 'Behold I have come – in the volume of the book it is written of Me – to do Your will, O God'”-**

(Hebrews 10:4-7)

So, the death of Jesus as a sacrifice was a pre-ordained one! The Bible says, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”** (John 3:16). Jesus Himself said, **“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life”** (John 3:14,15).

### RESURRECTION OF JESUS!

Jesus died on the Cross on Friday afternoon. But He rose from the dead on the third day, Sunday early morning! Death could not hold Him! In His own words, He said:

**“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death”** (Revelation 1:18).

Before the death and resurrection of Jesus, the dead among the righteous were resting on the upper Chamber of Hades (Isaiah 57:2) where as souls of the wicked were in the lower chamber where there was never ending fire and sulphur and brimstone. The righteous dead, though they did not have any torments, they were exposed to the din and cries of the wicked dead lying below. The spirit of Jesus descended on Hades, preached the Gospel to the resting righteous and brought them back to the third heaven, Paradise! (2 Corinthians 12:2-4, Ephesians 4:8,9; Psalm 68:18). Jesus gave the righteous dead, (from Abel to John

the Baptist) dignity and recognition for their work. We are not sitting over judgement on Adam. Being the first man chosen by God, the fallen Adam may receive grace, from the Almighty God.

### JESUS SENDS ANOTHER COMFORTER!

The risen Jesus Christ, who sits at the right side of God in Heaven, has sent the Holy Spirit, the Comforter as we see in Acts 2:1. Now, Jesus no more dead, He is very much alive and lives among us! The Bible says, the Lord God who gave even His own Son, how He shall not give us all things?

**“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”** (Roman 8:32).

### WHAT IS THE EXPERIENCE OF PAUL?

Paul was a rebel to the people of God. He belonged to the

tribe of Benjamin. He studied the law. He was a Pharisee. According to the law he could not be persecuted. But on his way to Damascus with his friends, armed with letter from the High Priest, to persecute the Christians who were living in Damascus, all in a sudden was flattened by a beam of light. He could not see. Lord Jesus spoke to Him. He said, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And Paul said, “Who are you Lord?” And the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads”. A man astonished and trembling said, “Lord, what do you want me to do?” And the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city and you will be told what you must do?” (Acts 9:4-6). There Ananias, a disciple of Jesus met him and prayed over him. He regained sight. The Lord selected the rebel to preach the gospel to the kings and gentiles. Then he became the prime disciple of Jesus Christ and made him ready even to die for the

## NEHEMIAH BIBLE EVENING COLLEGE

Chepauk & Santhosapuram, Chennai.



**Medium : Tamil**



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E.mail : sam@echoofhiscall.org / Website : www.echoofhiscall.org

propagation of the gospel. The Lord calls all the people to serve Him. He served God till his last breath!

### WHAT AN INDIVIDUAL CAN DO?

Paul narrates his own experience. **“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; ...”** (Galatians 2:20). In simple terms, he died with Christ and the person now lives in him is, it is Christ!

It is the will of God that all should come into the fold of Christ, get the greatest gift of Salvation and live for Him and enter into Kingdom of God. Paul beseeches everyone:

**“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service”** (Romans 12:1).

He also says, **‘... do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God’** (Romans 12:2). The Lord wants a dedicated life from everyone to live with Him and in the second coming, when we hear the trumpet of God, get the experience of transformation, ascend to heaven and meet the Lord Jesus in the clouds in mid air get resurrected by the Resurrection Power of Jesus and enter into the gates of Heaven and meet the Father, the Almighty God, who sits on His throne (Psalm 11:4).

### WHERE THE WORLD GOES?

The worldly people are enticed by Satan by his deceptive methods and draw them to the dizzy raptures and enticing pleasures of the world, robs of their peace and make them lunatics and drive them into his world. The world now

thrives on his show! They did not realize the death trap wound around them! They seldom give ear to the Word of God. The teachings of the Cross are anathema to them. They boast of many things of their self and world. They boast of their palatial houses, boat like cars, the richness at their disposal, bank balance, wife and children and so on, but bereft of Christ. The Pandemic Covid 19, swept away many of them in no time. People were on the run in search of an oxygen cylinder! Many died without it. The cloud bursts made life difficult in many parts of the world. Recently in European countries China met rain of the dimension of breaking all human records of over 1000 years! The landslips, eruption of volcano, earthquakes etc. make life difficult for the people. Yet they do not humble themselves and stop boasting of their possessions! The Bible says:

**“Thus says the LORD : Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight, says the LORD”** (Jeremiah 9:23,24).

On the earth, the Lord Himself exercises loving kindness, judgement and righteousness in the earth. The Lord is supreme. There is no power on earth or heaven which is superior than the Lord Jesus Christ who created the heaven and earth. Which is why St. Paul says:

**“But God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world”**

(Galatians 6:14).

For Paul, the world is not thrown open wide but has been crucified or restricted. And he to the world. The world cannot use him as it likes, but has been crucified! A man of God composed a song like this in Tamil, “Menmai Parattuven”.

*I will exalt His name*

*I will exalt His name*

*I will exalt only the love of Jesus!*

*Cross in my horn, Cross is my refuge,*

*Praise to thee Jesus, Praise to thee.*

*Praise to Jesus of Calvary!*

*I was crucified, I was crucified*

*It is not I, but Jesus*

*I shall show in me!*

*I will carry the Cross, I will carry the Cross,*

*I will endure suffering*

*For the glory of Jesus!*

This should be the song of every Christian!

Our God is a Triune God. He manifests as Christ, as the Angel of the Lord, that is the Lord of blessing and protection; He manifests as God, the Lord of action; and the Lord God, the ultimate God who gives all. He has another manifestation too, the God of Eternity, i.e., present before creation, during creation and after creation. Which is why our God is an awesome God!

St. Paul wants to know the Lord more and more. He was not satisfied with the mere knowledge of Jesus as the Christ. Jesus Himself said, **“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent”** (John 17:3).

In his quest for Christ, Paul says that the things once he considered as gain; that is his ancestry, richness, knowledge in the law, Roman citizenship, etc. he counted all those things as loss for Christ. For the excellence of the

...Contd. to page 9





# PIT TO PALACE

(Life experiences of Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj)

*“Whoso readeth, let him understand”* (Matthew 24:15)



## GOOD CIRCUMSTANCES PROVIDED BY GOD

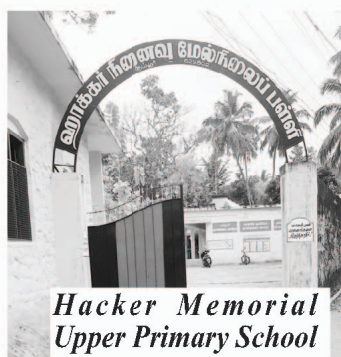


After completing my Primary School Education in a Government School in a small village, Kannatuvilai, my parents admitted me in a Christian

Mrs. J. Saroja Thangavadivu, Mrs. Ethazh, Mrs. P. Lisi, Mrs. Suseely and others whose dedication moulded me into a God fearing person. As I had



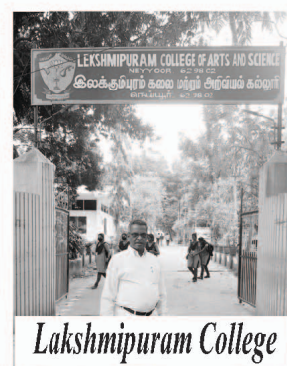
Government School, Kannatuvilai



Hacker Memorial Upper Primary School



Government High School, Eraniel



Lakshnipuram College

Middle School, Hacker Memorial Upper Primary School, Neyyoor with an intention of bringing me up in spiritual ways. I was taught English for the first time in this school from my 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. It was in a small town, Neyyoor, which was 5 kilometers away from my house. My parents trained me to walk 10 kilometers everyday to go and return. I was attracted towards the love, wisdom, dedication and sacrifice of the teachers of that School. Then I studied in Government High School, Eraniel and Lakshnipuram College of Arts and Science, Neyyoor.



Mrs. B. Annabai Moses, Mrs. Stella Hepsibah and Mrs. J. Saroja Thangavadivu (Left to Right)

certain physical ailments I had inferiority complex and avoided to mingle with other students. My teachers Mr. C. Devadhas, Mr. Sundararaj, Mrs. B. Annabai Moses, Mrs. Stella Hepsibah Chellappa and Mrs. J. Saroja Thangavadivu had an important role in uplifting and motivating me.

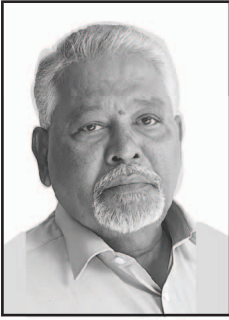
The divine love and concern shown towards me by the teachers led me towards the living God, Jesus Christ. They also taught me how to love the poor and downtrodden people with infirmities. Many deep secrets from the Bible were also taught by my teachers in that school. I learnt by-heart the following Chapters of the Bible: Psalms 1, 2, 23, 91, 121, 136, I Corinthians Chapter 13, Mattew Chapters 4, 5, 6 in my young age. I also learnt the importance of hard work, honesty and straight forwardness. These experiences only motivated me to start and run **St. Paul's Matriculation School** when I grew up. My close classmates Bro. B. Emmanuel Manoharan,



Photo taken on the retirement day of Mr. C. Devadhas (Sitting : 4th person from Left to Right)

Rev. Kesari, Mr. Muthaiah (Headmaster), Mr. C. Devadhas, Mr. Sundararaj, Mrs. Stella Hepsibah Chellappa, Mrs. B. Annabai Moses,





Bro. B. Emmanuel  
Manoharan



Bro. G. Jeyananda  
Paulmony (late)

Rev. Sam Yesudas, Bro. Charles Pern Bentley, Bro. Humphry Winister, Bro. Thangarasal, Bro. Harrison Festus Joel, Bro. Ravi Devadhanam, Bro. D.D. Rajan, Bro. Audson Mohan, Rev. Dr. A. Selvaraj, and Bro. G. Jeyananda Paulmony . were my spiritual friends. They are now the frontline ministers of our Lord Jesus Christ, but two of them viz., Bro. Harrison Festus Joel and Bro. G. Jeyananda Paulmony are now with the Lord.

Thus the Lord God formed a strong foundation step by step, so that I could emerge as a servant of God, who could love the Lord's ministry and the depth of spirituality. ■ ■ ■

....Contd. from page 7

knowledge of Christ, he considered all things a loss. For gaining Christ, he counts all things a loss. He also wants to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death (Philippians 3:7,10,11)

Father Berchmans sings:

Oh my King your presence is suffice,

Always sufficient to me,  
Thy presence, thy presence  
Thy Godly presence!  
Still I know you more,  
Still I come closer to you!

### JESUS CALLS!

**“Come to Me, all you who labor  
And are heavy laden,  
And I will give you rest”**

(Matthew 11:28).

This call is not only for His own people, the Jews, but for the whole world, irrespective of nation, race and language. Jesus said, **“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me”**

(Revelation 3:19,20).

The Bible says; **“And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world”**

(1 John 2:2).

Jesus embraced the Cross for the salvation of the world. The Lord wanted to fill His Kingdom by a large contingent of people from the first segment, that is from Adam to Jesus Christ! He had plans for another segment through His thousand year rule as King of kings in the world! Then He would not die for another time as the inhabitants are the one selected by God from the 12 tribes of the Jews by sealing their foreheads by angels during tribulation.

Now grace and mercy flow from the Cross! In the ancient past people found grace from the ark, kept inside the Holy of holies behind a long veil. But now it is the Cross of Jesus! People who look at the Cross die for themselves and live for Christ. And those live, live for Christ and inherit the Kingdom of God.

### CALL TO DISCIPLES!

The call to disciples is different from that of the call to believers. The call to disciples involves greater suffering and sacrifice. It is not easy for all to renounce self, family and home. But those renounce such worldly things and follow Jesus is a great thing! They will be awarded with greater honours! His disciples chose such a calling and they became apostles. Today many people call themselves apostles! without any record of sacrifice, planting of churches and so on.

Jesus said, **“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me”** (Mark 8:34). Peter said to the Lord, **“See we have left all and followed You”**. Jesus answered and said, **“Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children, or lands for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time – houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecution – and in the age to come, eternal life”** (Mark 10:28-30). Those who give for the Lord won't go poor! And the Lord again told Peter; **“Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me, will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel”** (Matthew 19:27,28).

The Cross brings so much of blessings to the follower. But the teaching of Cross seemed to be madness to many. They are caught in the clutches of Satan and march towards destruction. However, every Christian who tasted the love of Christ and cherishes the greatness of Cross, should call those marching people and bring under the love of Christ so that they too save themselves. Today thousands come under the love of Christ and the greatness of Cross! For us, the teachings of Cross is the power of God! Amen!!

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