

# ECHO OF HIS CALL



India's National Spiritual Newspaper

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Editor : S. SAM SELVA RAJ

16 Languages

Associate Editor : DR. A. RICHARD SAMUEL

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No. 08

## THE HOLY BIBLE



Please memorize  
this portion

Psalm 103:8-17

8. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.
9. He will not always chide: neither will He keep His anger for ever.
10. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
11. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him.
12. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.
13. Like as a father pitieth His children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.
14. For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust.
15. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.
16. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.
17. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children;

## THE VALLEY OF ACHOR: A DOOR OF HOPE!

Pr. Angeline Selvakumari



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! I thank God for His grace that has kept us through the past 7 months of 2023. For some, this could have been a blessed year so far; not so for others. For some, this could have been the worst year of their lives; for others, it must have been the most productive! What we need to remember in every situation is that God is good, and whatever He does is good! He will make all things work for good (the good, the bad, and the ugly) if we keep our hope, our trust, and our confidence in Him. In His time, everything will turn out to be a blessing because He is a faithful God and a good father.

As I was reading the book of Joshua, I was deeply disturbed by the incident that happened in the Valley of Achor. A very sad and violent story. **A place where Achan and his whole family were stoned to death and burned in fire; so the Israelites called this place the Valley of Achor (Joshua 7:25,26).**

....Contd. to page 4

## Echo of His Call

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



from your dearly beloved brother...



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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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## YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Echo of His Call

“The Lord bless you and keep you”

- Numbers 6:24



THE NET BREAKS! THIS IS YOUR TIME!!

Most beloved children of God!

We greet you lovingly in the matchless name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Having global perspective, we wish to take the gospel of Jesus Christ all over the world by all means. Our following ministries move forward beyond the boundaries:

1. **Echo of His Call** Magazine in the 16 languages by post and by e.mail.
2. **Theological Correspondence Courses** (languages in Tamil, English & Hindi)
3. **Church Ministries** (Main Church and Branch Churches)
4. **Nehemiah Bible Colleges** (Chepauk & Santhoshapuram – Tamil & Velachery – Hindi)
5. **St.Paul's Matriculation School** (English Medium)
6. **Echo of His Call** Printing press
7. **Echo of His Call** YouTube Channel that uploads 5 minute God's message at 5 A.M. everyday in Tamil, Telugu, Hindi and English. Sunday messages are also uploaded. There are other media ministries also.



Some of the Graduated Students along with Pastor Sam - 2023

For all the above ministries, God is providing His grace. This is being confirmed by your prayers, encouraging words and support. As we do this ministry truthfully and honestly, the devil is trying to attack us with his cunning schemes which we cannot openly talk about. Will you pray for us?

The activities of our **Nehemiah Bible Colleges** are developing very fast. The Lord who helped us to start the Bible Courses by post (BIBLECOR) and the Theological Correspondence Courses, has now helped us to offer new regular courses (Evening & Residential).

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





*Nehemiah Bible College - Santhoshapuram – Special meeting*

The meeting of the special guests and theological scholars of our **Nehemiah Bible Colleges** was held on 4<sup>th</sup> June at our ministries' campus in Santhoshapuram in regard to restarting Bible College at Santhoshapuram.

It was also prayerfully decided to start the third **Nehemiah Bible College** in Santhoshapuram campus and offer C.Th., Dip.Th. and B.Th. and so we are actively involved in that work. God's people may raise a question in their hearts: "Why to start a new ministry when there are already a lot of struggles and problems in the ministry?" It is true that God is pressing hard in our hearts to venture into a new plan. So we cannot remain silent. Everything will happen according to the Lord's will.

We have only one life and that too passes away soon!! It is my heart's desire to do whatever possible for our Lord Jesus Christ.



Already we have more than 200 full time workers and volunteers of God who are in our ministry. Though we lack workers and finance, we move forward to conduct this new college scheme holding on to the Bible verse that says. **Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith.** (Habakkuk 2:4). "Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back. My soul has no pleasure in him". (Hebrews 10:38)

In Luke Chapter 5, we read, how the Lord Jesus Christ enabled the disciples to catch a lot of fish which was beyond their capacity. They caught a large number of fish so that their net was almost breaking. They had to ask for help to the other boatmen, as they couldn't handle that by themselves.

**So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.** Luke 5:7.

Likewise, the Lord has blessed all the ministries of **Echo of His Call** abundantly doing countless miracles and giving us a large number of souls as a ransom.

We signal to you readers also to come and see our ministries! Come and see our ministers of God!! You will realize how our faith on the Lord Jesus Christ is working.



Though we don't have any regular financial income, the Lord is sustaining His people everyday, who put their trust in Him. He is faithful. **He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.** 1 Thessalonians 5:24.

Our nets are breaking because of the souls. A lot of ministries without any advertisements! Numerous servants of God!! We struggle to administer!!! Come forward to join us in some way or other. Lend a helping hand to **Echo of His Call Ministries** that has a net that is breaking with souls. **Echo of His Call Ministries** is entering into the 55<sup>th</sup> year this 10<sup>th</sup> of August. His eternal grace is conducting our ministries till now. Kindly pray that our problems and difficulties change soon. Please support.

Do whatever you can! Do whatever you are induced to do!!

May the grace of God be with you!

*Your servants in Christ Jesus,*

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

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....Contd. from page 1

The Valley of Achor, which means “trouble” or “affliction” and how it then became “A Door of Hope”. A place that was known for affliction, trouble, failure, curse, death, destruction, and disappointment - how did it turn out to be a place of hope, new life, and a new beginning? I don't know how many of you are reading this, but I am right now in the Valley of Achor, where everything is dead and lost and nothing is working for me. I am on the verge of giving up. There is no point in persevering. I have tried. But alas! There is no way forward. I have good news for you: the same valley that was a symbol of failure and destruction became a door of hope, and I pray that the same God will make your life more beautiful, colourful, and meaningful. Because, He is God and He can do great things out of nothing.

Let us first see the significance of the Valley of Achor. For that, we need to understand the previous battle. The battle of Jericho under the new leadership of Joshua was a significant victory for Joshua and for the people of Israel. Through something beyond their comprehension, they were able to experience the supernatural power of God. The victory was beyond human strength. They saw how God himself fought for them. Once they experienced the great victory, they became complacent, just like us. When we get the blessing of God, we get comfortable, tend to forget who is the source of the blessing, and relish in the blessing. Not realising that the same blessing can also become a snare for us. May our blessing not turn into a snare for us! So the people of God, after the great victory of Jericho, were faced with fighting against Ai, a relatively small city. They had just won a

battle against a powerful Jericho, so they did not hesitate to fight against the small, insignificant Ai. Forgetting that their previous victory came from God, not their own strength. Now they decided to go and fight against Ai. It turned out to be a great disaster.

**So about three thousand men went up, but they were routed by the men of Ai, who killed about thirty-six of them.**

**They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this, the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water.** Joshua 7:4,5.

**The hearts of the people melted in fear.** One moment they were enjoying the goodness of God through the victory of Jericho, then suddenly a small city chased them

....Contd. to page 6

### Special News!

1. Our convocation of **Nehemiah Bible Colleges** for the year 2022-2023, was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June at the campus of BKN, Purasawalkam. Twenty two students (boys & girls) graduated and were sent into the field of ministry.
2. In Chepauk and Velachery, Chennai, the **Nehemiah Bible Colleges** started functioning from last 5<sup>th</sup> June in Tamil and Hindi.
3. In our Santhoshapuram campus, our **Nehemiah Bible College** started from 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 functioning in Tamil.
4. Our **St. Paul's Matriculation School** started functioning from 12<sup>th</sup> June for lower classes and 14<sup>th</sup> June for higher classes. New students are getting admitted in the School.

**Brethren, pray for us.** (Thessalonians 5:25)

## RESIDENTIAL BIBLE COURSE NEHEMIAH BIBLE COLLEGE, Chennai.



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

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# GREAT COMMISSION PARTNERS

TO SHARE (Galatians 6:2)

SUPPORT (Romans 12:13)

SPEED UP (II Timothy 1:6)

**PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS - From 2023 August 19 To September 18**

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



## ✝ PRAISE GOD FOR...

- August 19** ⇒ Blessing us to restart **Nehemiah Bible College** at Santhosapuram on the 3rd July 2023.
- August 20** ⇒ Blessing us to start B.Th. Course in **Nehemiah Bible College**.
- August 21** ⇒ Providing new Principal, Rev. John Stanley for Our **Nehemiah Bible Colleges**; Chepauk, Velachery and Santhosapuram.
- August 22** ⇒ His guidance in Central Government formalities and e-filing towards Registered Newspaper of India (RNI) for our publications in 16 languages..
- August 23** ⇒ Blessing us with dedicated employees who carry out their duties with oneness of mind.
- August 24** ⇒ Helping Bro. Indrajith Roy to recover from his recent illness.
- August 25** ⇒ Blessing us with partners who support us morally and financially.
- August 26** ⇒ Blessing our 55th Anniversary Celebrations held on the 10th of August 2023.
- August 27** ⇒ Blessing our Youth fellowship for girls and boys at our Main Church.
- August 28** ⇒ Blessing the Autobiography works of our Senior Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj.
- August 29** ⇒ Blessing our **Nehemiah Bible College** faculty and their family members.
- August 30** ⇒ Blessing our **St. Paul's Matriculation School** principal, staff and students.
- August 31** ⇒ His mercy towards our Prayer Partners, Subscribing Partners, Faith Partners, Life Partners and Great Commission Partners and their families.
- September 01** ⇒ Blessing our ministry with dedicated Associate Editors who support **Echo of His Call** magazine ministry.
- September 02** ⇒ Blessing our **Echo of His Call** ministries with external support from plate makers, plate grinders, screen printers, etc.

- September 03** ⇒ Protecting all our staff members and their families.

## ✝ PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

- September 04** ⇒ The safety of our Senior Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj and his family members from all evil forces.
- September 05** ⇒ Our Printer, Assistant Printer and all the staff in the Printing Press.
- September 06** ⇒ Rehabilitation of Christians who are suffering due to attacks against them.
- September 07** ⇒ Admission of deserving students for our Residential and Evening **Nehemiah Bible Colleges** for the academic year 2023-24.
- September 08** ⇒ Our Co-workers who are involved in teaching and translating course materials for our **Nehemiah Bible College**.
- September 09** ⇒ Christian preachers to preach the gospel perfectly without adulteration.
- September 10** ⇒ Servants of God who are doing ministry in prisons.
- September 11** ⇒ The speedy recovery of our English Associate Editor Dr. A. Richard Samuel from his illness.
- September 12** ⇒ The complete recovery of Mrs. Suwarta, wife of our Marathi Associate Editor Rev. Shashi Tiwari from her illness.
- September 13** ⇒ Meeting every alcoholic and evil doer to come to repentance.
- September 14** ⇒ The blessing and protection upon all Christian Organisations and Churches.
- September 15** ⇒ His mercy and grace to be poured out on the State of Manipur and to have peace among Meitei and Kuki Tribal communities.
- September 16** ⇒ His magnanimity in allowing and leading our Senior Pastor's writing of his Autobiography.
- September 17** ⇒ Welfare of **Echo of His Call** believers and their families belonging to main Church and branches.
- September 18** ⇒ Our Senior Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj to be blessed with new visions for his multifarious ministries.

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and destroyed them utterly; now they are sitting in great fear. Joshua could not understand what went wrong, so he went to God and fell flat before the ark of the Lord. There is no better place to be, than in the presence of God. When we are faced with struggles, battles, and pains that we cannot handle, we need to learn to go and fall at the feet of Jesus Christ. However, most of the time we forget this precious place and decide to speak to our friends and family, calling ministers - don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with doing that - but the first place for us to be at the feet of Jesus Christ, which Mary knew very well! Fall at His feet just like the Canaanite woman, who fell at the feet of Jesus Christ for her daughter's healing. Jacob held the angel of God and said, I will not leave you until you bless me. As you read, if you are expecting something from God, first fall at His feet! It is better to fall at His feet instead of a man's feet. And say, "Lord, I will not leave you until you do something in my life".

When Joshua fell before the ark of the Lord, before God could do anything, God showed Joshua what he needed to do in order to get God's favour. Helping him to find the missing piece of the puzzle - the cause of their defeat. Dear Friends, if you have been praying for God to change something in your life, first ask God, "Lord, what is that you want to change in me", before asking God to change our circumstances. **The Lord said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? Israel has sinned! ... That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies..."** Joshua 7:10-12.

God was very direct to Joshua in giving the reasons for experiencing this catastrophe. God

explained to Joshua that it is the disobedience of one man that has caused the defeat of the entire nation. They failed to follow God's instructions completely. Dear friends, obedience is an important element in keeping our lives aligned with God's will and favour. Obedience is better than sacrifice, not partial but complete obedience. Partial obedience is complete disobedience! If God has asked you to do something, don't hesitate, don't doubt, and don't think about the consequences, just do it!

### THE VALLEY OF ACHOR!

#### 1. Symbol of Humiliation and Disgrace!

God's instruction regarding Jericho was very clear. He said, **By all means, abstain from the cursed things, lest you become cursed when you take of the cursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it** (Joshua 6:18).

But Achan decided to take a few things that looked beautiful in his sight, and not only that, he hid them as well. Poor Achan underestimated the power of God to see things through. God was really angry with Achan! **When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.** Joshua 7:21.

Achan's choice and his decision had a serious consequence. It had a huge impact on Achan's wife and children - to the extent that they gave their own lives for the sin of their father. His wife and children were stoned to death in front of the whole nation. It brought humiliation not only to him but to his entire family.

Everything that we do in secret has serious consequences outwardly. Achan thought he stole

## NEHEMIAH BIBLE EVENING COLLEGE



Chepauk & Santhoshapuram, Chennai.

**Medium : Tamil**



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it in secret and hid it in secret. But God brought it to light, and Achan and his family were punished. Let us be careful about what we do in secret. **For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.** Ecclesiastes 12:14. Take a minute to take this as an opportunity to ask for God's forgiveness, so that our children do not get affected by our secret actions.

Our action does not end with one person. It has a huge domino effect. My choices, my decisions, and my disobedience will have a great impact on future generations. However, thank God for the cross of Calvary. **For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.** Romans 5:19.

I was looking at the story of Achan from his family's perspective. What would his children and wife have thought about this situation? Nothing is said about their participation in this sin. So, for the benefit of doubt, let us take it for granted that they were not aware of it. One fine morning, you were singled out by the entire nation. Accused, humiliated, and put to shame for something you were not part of because it was someone's fault.

Maybe as you are reading this, you are thinking I am in this situation because of someone's fault. Why should I be penalised for that? How is this fair? Why is God not doing anything about it?

On the other hand, they might have known something - they may have seen that he was hiding something but kept quiet about it. I'm thinking, "Why should I bother? This is called silent participation. Sometimes we need to understand that we cannot keep quiet when things are done against the Lord. We must be able to stand for what is right.

Israel stood guilty before God because of the sin of Achan. Only one person acted in disobedience, but all of Israel was held responsible. Why would God punish the whole nation for the transgression of one man? How did sin come into this world? It is because of one man's disobedience, and it did have an impact on the whole world. But thank God that one man's obedience (Jesus Christ) brought us salvation! Achan's sin had a profound impact on the whole community!

## 2. Symbol of Hidden Sin!

Achan's disobedience led him to hide his sin. No one knew about what he did. His greed, covetousness, etc. ended up costing

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# PIT TO PALACE

(Life experiences of Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj)

*“Whoever reads, let him understand” (Matthew 24:15)*



## BELIEVE HIM FOR MIRACLES!

During early days of my ministry in the year 1971, I applied to the Post Office in Chennai and got a Post Box bearing Number 2957. This was very necessary for me in those days to receive my letters

since I had no permanent address.

I faced heavy financial strain during those days as I had to run the ministerial activities by the income from my monthly salary. Several times I had to undergo starvation and face financially difficult times. But God was with me and I was able to trust Him for all needs of my ministry and life and I could see the hand of the Lord on me.

On one occasion in the year 1976, I was not able to pay the bills for printing **Echo of His Call** magazine. I prayed for several days and I did not receive any reply from God. I had no other source except canceling the Post Box facility and receive back the deposit amount of Rs.500.

So I went to the Post Office and gave an application to the Post Master to cancel my Post Box



**Who remembered us in our lowly state, for His mercy endures forever; (Psalm 136: 23.)**

facility and pay back the deposit amount of Rs.500 paid by me. He tried to convince me explaining the difficulties to get a Post Box and delayed action on my application. I was so sad about my helplessness. Finally, the Post Master cancelled the Post Box facility and paid back the deposit amount.

But when I returned from the chamber of the Post Master, one of the staff members of the Post Office by name Mr. Govindan met me and asked for the reason for cancelling the Post Box. I shared my bad financial situation with him. He immediately arranged for some money and took me back to the Post Master and helped me to get back the same Post Box for the ministry, by giving much pressure. We are still using the same Post Box for our ministry. Glory to God!

During all the ups and downs of my life, God has been faithful. He has sent His angels to help me in times of poverty, sickness and other needs. He is a great God. The same God can perform any miracle in anybody's life at any time. Dear reader, you can also believe Him for a miracle in your life.

\*\*\*\*\*

not only his life but that of his family too. God knows everything, as the Psalmist says in 139.

**O Lord, You have searched me, and You know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; You are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue You know it completely, O Lord.**

When we hide our sins, it has a serious consequence. The

place where it is hidden will be brought to light. **My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from me, nor is their sin concealed from my eyes.** Jeremiah 16:17.

God knows our hidden secrets. We need to spread them out before the Lord. His grace is more than sufficient so that we will not be dealt like Achan. God knows the desires of our hearts. The internal motivation behind what and why we do everything to bring to light -

even what is in the dark. If we want to move away from the place of defeat, humiliation, and embarrassment, we need to come clean before God. Be honest with God; unlike the Old Testament days, we have the blood of Jesus Christ that will intercede for us and wash us if only we ask.

**Achan replied, “It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from**



**Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath." So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath. They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and spread them out before the Lord.** Joshua 7:20-23.

Please let us examine ourselves. Do we have hidden sins in our lives? How do you spend your time? What do you do when no one is watching? What kind of programmes do you watch on your phone? Are you spending more time with social media rather than having time with God? Are you talking about our problems, or are we claiming our promises? Do you have a secret life? It is time to have a heart-to-heart talk with God. **What we do behind the locked doors matters! Read God's Word more and pray more.**

### 3. A Symbol of New Beginnings and Hope!

The Valley of Achor, which was a symbol of humiliation, defeat, embarrassment, shame, and death, became a symbol of new hope and new beginnings. It became the Door of Hope. Hosea 2:15. How is it possible?

After the death (the Lord's punishment) of Achan and his family, the entire nation of Israel sought the Lord in repentance. Once the Lord dealt with the sin, He restored His favour. He was no longer angry with them. Again, we are so blessed by the cross that we don't have to bear the punishment anymore. When we confess our sin,

He is faithful to forgive us. **There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will sing as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt** Hosea 2:15. It became a place of blessing.

Maybe as you are reading this, you are thinking you have come to a dead end; there is no way out; there is no hope; everything around you is so negative; you might have just heard a very depressing message; you might think this is the end, a full stop! My dear brothers and sisters, the Lord Jesus Christ came into this world to make impossible things possible. He was able to make a dead womb give life; a dead man was raised again; eyes closed were opened; where there was no way, he was able to open up ways. Are you feeling completely hopeless? I have great news for you. The Lord will lift your head in the same place where you were put to shame. He will exalt your horn and anoint your head with oil in the presence of your enemies. For that to happen, we need to do something. We need to be honest with God, declare things that are not pleasing in His sight, and ask for His forgiveness and help so that we don't repeat them again and again.

It is important to restore our relationship with God. Once our relationship with God is made right, God will change your full-stop into a comma, a story to be continued with some exciting, great pages to be written by our Lord. All that you lost will be restored when your relationship with the Lord is restored.

The same place (the Valley of Achor), a place of unrest and pain, will become a place of rest

when you seek the Lord. **Sharon will become a pasture for flocks, and the Valley of Achor a resting place for herds, for my people who seek me.** Isaiah 65:10.

Dear brothers and sisters, the journey from the Valley of Achor to the Door of hope is a:

- A journey from humiliation to hope
- From brokenness to building something new
- A journey of disappointment, defeat, despondency, death to a delightful destination
- If we decide to handle our problems, and troubles joining hands with God-who gives us hope
- If we decide to make our sorrow/ Valley of Achor an occasion for learning
- If we decide to see 'Tribulation worked patience, and patience experience, and experience hope.' That is the order
- We need to learn that without having the first two—Tribulation and patience—we cannot have hope
- We need to believe he has led me and been with me in all the previous occasions, there is no way, he is going to leave now
- No correction will be a pleasant experience, it will be hard, painful, and disturbing but the end result is definitely a blessing.

I pray that when you submit yourself today into the hand of God, He is able to do more than what you ask and imagine. May your Valley of Achor become the Door of hope in Jesus' Name!

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- Editor

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IFSC : SBIN 00 00 249  
SWIFT CODE : SBI NIN BB 455

#### 2. Bank : ICICI Bank

Branch : Anna Salai, Chennai-6  
Name : Echo of His Call  
A/C No. : 6038 0502 2319  
IFSC : ICIC 000 6038

#### 3. Bank : State Bank of India

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Branch : Triplicane, Chennai-5  
Name : Echo of His Call Educational Trust  
A/C No. : 1023 2923 805  
IFSC : SBIN 00 00 249

Google Pay: 98410 71858  
PayPal : SAM SELVA RAJ

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