

ECHO OF HIS CALL



India's National Spiritual Newspaper

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Published monthly in ENGLISH, TAMIL, MALAYALAM, TELUGU, HINDI, KANNADA, MARATHI, BENGALI, GUJARATI, ODIYA, ASSAMESE, PUNJABI, NEPALI, URDU, SINHALA & AFRIKAN

Editor : S. SAM SELVA RAJ

16 Languages

Associate Editor : SIS. SAJINI CHERIAN

Vol. XXXI

JANUARY 2024

No. 01

THE HOLY BIBLE



Please memorize
this portion
Jeremiah 31:23-28

23. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; As yet they shall use this speech in the land of Judah and in the cities thereof, when I shall bring again their captivity; The Lord bless thee, O habitation of justice, and mountain of holiness.
24. And there shall dwell in Judah itself, and in all the cities thereof together, husband-men, and they that go forth with flocks.
25. For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.
26. Upon this I awaked, and beheld; and my sleep was sweet unto me.
27. Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man, and with the seed of beast.
28. And it shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the Lord.

**YOU SHALL BE SATISFIED
WITH MY GOODNESS!**
says the Lord - Jeremiah 31:14.



God will communicate through this message to His children who are eager to know what will happen in their lives in 2024. Please read carefully!

Hon. Editor-in-Chief, Rev. Angeline Selvakumari

A very Happy and Blessed New Year to all our **Echo of His Call** family members!

Thank you so much for your continuous support towards our **Echo of His Call** Ministries. God has graciously blessed us with another year to express gratitude for all His goodness. It is through your fervent prayers and love offerings that we are able to reach thousands of people around the world. We are forever grateful for your support. God will surely bless not only you, but also your future generations for investing your time and your tearful prayers in spreading the hope of the good news to the world. That is God's promise to His

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Echo of His Call

Christian YouTube Channel!

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



from your dearly beloved brother...



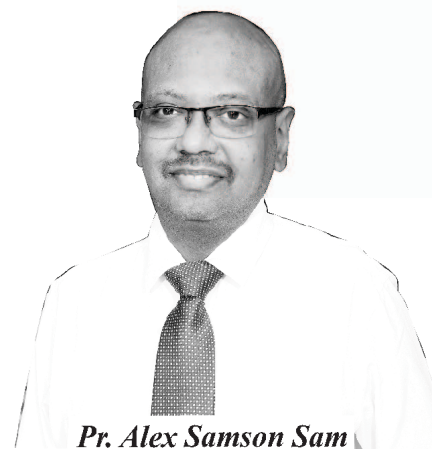
YOU CROWN THE YEAR WITH YOUR GOODNESS, ...

Psalm 65:11

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Grace be unto you, and peace be multiplied -1 Peter 1:2.

I am grateful to God for granting me the opportunity to write this editorial column. My father, Pr. S. Sam Selva Raj, is heavily occupied with travel and other ministry duties, so he has entrusted this work to me. I sincerely appreciate your love and partnership with us over the past several decades.



*Pr. Alex Samson Sam
Managing Editor*

During the month of December 2023, the Lord blessed us with wonderful opportunities to reach numerous unreached individuals. Our New Year Services were also filled with God's blessings. We are confident that the year 2024 will bring even more fruitful blessings to you and your family.

We pray for you regularly and share our daily devotions through our **Echo of His Call YouTube Channel** in English, Tamil, Hindi, and Telugu. Additionally, we aspire to expand our reach to other languages. We earnestly request your fervent prayers for the flourishing of **Echo of His Call Ministries**.



Nehemiah Bible College Key Leaders

We deeply appreciate your prayers and support for **Echo of His Call Ministries**. In this regard, we would like to remind you about our **Nehemiah Bible College**, where classes are currently being conducted in Tamil and Hindi. As we enter the New Year, we plan to expand the college to include English as well. We are thrilled to announce that we are in the

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

final stages of obtaining Accreditation from the esteemed Accreditation Organisation - **Asia Theological Association (ATA)**. We have already received Registered Membership for Accreditation from them. Please pray for all our co-workers as they effectively run the **Nehemiah Bible College** and help us elevate it to the next level.

Also, please continue to pray for all our ministries, namely **Echo of His Call Ministries**, Monthly newsletters in 16 languages, Multilingual Churches, **BIBLECOR Correspondence Courses**, **Theological Correspondence Courses**, **St. Paul's**

Matriculation School, Gospel Printing Press and our allied ministries.

“The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace” - Numbers 6:24-26.

Your servants in Christ Jesus,

Pr. Alex Samson Sam

Pr. S. Sam Selva Raj

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people. Let us join hands to continue this great work!

I pray that this year the good Lord will continue to grant you wisdom to navigate this world with Godly wisdom, knowledge, good health, strength, and peace of mind. Above all, may He satisfy you with His goodness.

The Bible says, ... **My people shall be satisfied with My goodness...** - Jeremiah 31:14.

What a beautiful promise to hold onto at the beginning of the year! My people will be **“SATISFIED”** with My **“GOODNESS.”** This means that I will not be discontented, lacking, or in want. My God will meet all my needs this year. This year will be a year of experiencing the goodness of God and being satisfied with what He provides. **“... No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him”** - 1 Corinthians 2:9. This is how God is going to lead us this year. Are you not excited? I am very excited because He is faithful to His promises.

Goodness of God!

God, our heavenly Father, has already blessed us with many

good things. However, Satan tries to manipulate our minds and distort our perception, causing us to overlook the blessings that surround us.

Let us examine the example of the Garden of Eden. God blessed Adam and Eve and said in Genesis 1:26-28, 31

Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion (rule, reign over)... Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.

Additionally, God commanded in Genesis 2:17, **but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**

God declared that we would have dominion over everything, but in today's world, it often feels like everything around us has dominion over us, including our phones and technologies.

Take note of how Satan twisted God's words: **You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.** Genesis 3:4,5.

Here, we see the manipulation of Satan's words, enticing Adam and Eve with the idea that they would not die, but instead become more like God. Satan presents his offerings as greater and more powerful than what God can provide. Why does this tactic sound familiar? It is because even today, Satan employs the same formula to lead people astray from the path of God. He presents worldly things as superior, greater, and more powerful than what our loving Jesus has to offer.

Ultimately, when Adam and Eve listened to the voice of the evil one, they lost the most important thing in their lives.

Then the eyes of both of them were opened – but they lost their peace and joy, and hid themselves (Genesis 3:7-10).

... The Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. Genesis 3:23 . **Cursed is the ground for your sake. In toil, you shall eat it all the days of your**

life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face, you shall eat bread. (Genesis 3:17-19).

They lost the goodness of God!!! The joy of having the fellowship of God.

Joy is the evidence of God's goodness – (Acts 14:17).

He has shown kindness (goodness) by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons. He provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.

Many of us confuse joy and happiness. So I researched to find the difference:

- ✳ Joy is a little word. Happiness is a bigger word.
- ✳ Joy is in the heart. Happiness is on the face.
- ✳ Joy is of the soul. Happiness is for the moment.
- ✳ Joy transcends. Happiness reacts.
- ✳ Joy embraces peace and contentment, waiting to be discovered.
- ✳ Joy runs deep and overflows, while happiness hugs hello.
- ✳ Joy is a practice and a behavior. It is deliberate and intentional. Happiness comes and goes blithely along its way.
- ✳ Joy is profound and Scriptural. "Don't worry, rejoice." Happiness is a balm. "Don't worry, be happy."
- ✳ Joy is an inner feeling. Happiness is an outward expression.

✳ Joy endures hardship and trials and connects with meaning and purpose.

A person pursues happiness but chooses joy.

Often peace and joy go hand in hand. When there is peace, there is joy, and where there is joy, there is peace. They are like twin sisters. Joy is one of the goodness of God, and He has promised to satisfy us with His joy by filling our hearts with it.

As Nehemiah 8:10 says, **"THE JOY OF THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH."**

However, Satan tries to distort our perception of God's goodness, just as he did with Eve. Satan tempts us to crave more than what God has offered us, leading to:

1. DISCONTENTMENT!

Eve was not satisfied with what God had promised them. Discontentment is the first enemy

against God's goodness. When we find ourselves saying, "I wish I had that" or "I want more," we are not appreciating and being content with what God has given us, but if we do so, then we will experience Joy.

Romans 15:13 reminds us that the **God of hope fills us with joy and peace as we trust in Him, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Discontentment steals away our joy, which is contrary to what God has promised. Instead, we should learn to be satisfied with the goodness of God. Let us learn to be happy with what God has given us and cultivate a spirit of contentment and thankfulness from the beginning of this year.

2. DISAPPOINTMENT!

Another illusion that Satan creates to take away our joy is

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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 2024 January 19 To February 18

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



✝ PRAISE GOD FOR...

- January 19** ⇒ Enabling us to conduct Christmas and New Year Celebrations in our Main Church and Branch Churches, allowing us to celebrate in a meaningful and impactful way.
- January 20** ⇒ His mercy towards our Prayer Partners, Subscribing Partners, Faith Partners, Life Partners, and Great Commission Partners, as well as their families.
- January 21** ⇒ Blessing our Pastors and Senior Leaders of the Main Church and Branch Churches.
- January 22** ⇒ Blessing Our **Global Vision for Youth and Kid Care Ministry**.
- January 23** ⇒ Blessing our YouTube ministry with 5-minute messages to reach the unreached people.
- January 24** ⇒ All the activities of **St. Paul's Matriculation School, Nehemiah Bible Colleges, and Theological Correspondence Courses**.
- January 25** ⇒ His blessings for our publications in 16 languages, which are printed in our Printing Press and sent to mission fields.
- January 26** ⇒ For meeting all our financial and spiritual needs of the previous month.
- January 27** ⇒ Blessing our field missionaries and their families.
- January 28** ⇒ Our Senior Pastor, for his commitment to propagate the gospel through multifarious ministries.
- January 29** ⇒ Blessing our **Echo of His Call** staff and their families with good health and divine protection.
- January 30** ⇒ Blessing the youth with enthusiasm to participate in all our Church activities.
- January 31** ⇒ Protecting our Senior Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj and family from all evil forces.
- February 01** ⇒ Blessing us with the prayer and financial support of our partners.

February 02 ⇒ Blessing all our Associate Editors and their family members.

February 03 ⇒ The power of God's Word in our Sunday Services at the Main Church and Branch Churches.

✝ PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

February 04 ⇒ The blessing and protection of all Christian organizations and Churches.

February 05 ⇒ The good health of our office staff and printing staff.

February 06 ⇒ The protection of our Evening and Residential **Nehemiah Bible College** students.

February 07 ⇒ Broadcasting messages of Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj in additional languages on our **Echo of His Call YouTube Channel**.

February 08 ⇒ Our co-workers who are involved in teaching and translating course materials for our **Nehemiah Bible College**.

February 09 ⇒ The peace of Israel, Palestine, Russia, and Ukraine.

February 10 ⇒ Updating of **Nehemiah Bible College** Library books in KOHA software.

February 11 ⇒ Safety of our Senior Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj and his family members from all sorts of evil forces.

February 12 ⇒ Economic recession prevailing in the world to come to an end.

February 13 ⇒ The violence against missionaries and servants of God to be stopped.

February 14 ⇒ The safety of all women and children all over the world.

February 15 ⇒ The success of our Senior Pastor in writing his autobiography.

February 16 ⇒ The youth and outreach ministries of **Echo of His Call**.

February 17 ⇒ Necessary funds for **Echo of His Call Ministries** this year.

February 18 ⇒ The eradication of the Corona Virus and new infections from all the countries of the world.

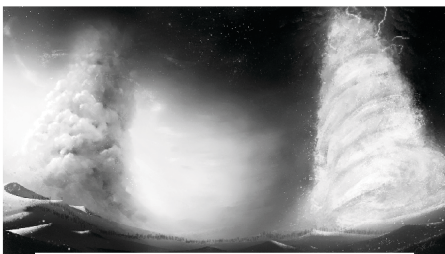
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“Disappointment.” Whenever there is an expectation, there is bound to be disappointment.

We often expect God to answer our prayers exactly as we pray and expect. When our desires are not fulfilled, we become disappointed and discouraged. The problems and challenges we face seem to drag us down even further and hence feel disappointed. For example, we may desire a certain job or promotion, but when we achieve it, we realize that it comes with its own set of challenges and stress. The work-load may become overwhelming, and it no longer satisfies our initial expectations, like -- “I thought it would be like this”, or, “I wish it was like this”.

Stressful situations can lead to unmet expectations, causing us to mourn and complain without realizing it. In the process, we lose our joy and peace, and this, my friend, is something that God cannot tolerate.

The people of Israel experienced this when they left Egypt. After 430 years of crying out to the Lord, they were led by Him with a pillar of cloud by day and a



A Pillar of Cloud and Fire

pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:21). They were filled with joy and dedicated a whole chapter (Chapter 15) to praise His name. They danced, sang, rejoiced and celebrated.

Remember, as you draw closer to God, Satan will bring challenges and diversions into your



They started to complain

path. They faced a challenge when they had no water to drink for three days (Exodus 15:22), and they started to complain. They forgot the goodness of God that had brought them out of bondage, curse, and slavery, granting them freedom. It is unfortunate that we tend to forget the goodness of God so easily, having a short memory.

They started to complain (Exodus 15:24). How many times have we complained, forgetting the goodness of God. Just because they



Twelve wells with seventy palms

did not get water for three days and their expectations were not met, it brought disappointment. Disappointments steal our Joy and Peace!

But God's ways are higher and greater than our thoughts. Despite their complaints, God had prepared not just one well, but twelve wells for the Israelites (Exodus 15:27), One for each tribe, I guess. God foresaw the possibility of disputes among them and

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NEHEMIAH BIBLE EVENING COLLEGE

Chepauk & Santhosapuram, Chennai.



Medium : Tamil



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PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MINISTRIES AT THE HEAD QUARTERS

1. Prayer Service : 24 hours
2. **BIBLECOR** - Bible Correspondence Courses :
English, Tamil & Hindi
3. **ECHO OF HIS CALL** - Monthly Magazines :
English, Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Hindi, Kannada,
Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Odiya, Nepali, Assamese,
Punjabi, Urdu, Sinhala & Afrikan.
4. Nehemiah Bible Colleges (Three Centres) (Evening / Residential)
5. Theological Correspondence Courses: English & Tamil
6. Great Commission Partners (Network of Pastors)
7. Training Programmes
8. Crusades
9. Literature Distribution and Follow Up
10. Gospel Printing Press - Publications
11. St. Paul's Matriculation School - Village English High School
12. Sunday Schools : 8.30 a.m. & 4.00 p.m. Sunday
13. **Tamil Services : 8.00 a.m. & 10.00 a.m. Sunday**
14. **Hindi Service : 4.00 p.m. Sunday**
15. **Telugu Service : 5.00 p.m. Sunday**
16. **English & Tamil Service : 6.00 p.m. Sunday**
17. Women's Prayer : 5.30 p.m. Wednesday
18. Men's Prayer : 7.00 p.m. Friday
19. Discipleship Meeting : 6.00 p.m. Saturday
20. House Meetings : 6.30 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday
21. Special Holy Communion : 6.00 a.m. 1st day of each month
22. Ministers Review Meeting: 5.30 p.m. First Saturday
23. Parents' Prayer : 4.00 p.m. First Sunday
24. Night Prayer : 9.30 p.m. Second Friday
25. Fasting Prayer : 9:30 a.m. Third Saturday
26. Holy Communion : Second Sunday Services
27. Youth / Kid Prayer : 10.00 p.m. daily
28. Staff Devotion : 9.00 a.m. daily
29. Office : 9.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.
(except Sundays)

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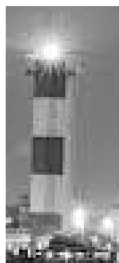
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PIT TO PALACE

(Life experiences of Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj)

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



CHENNAI LIGHT HOUSE!

The darkness in your life will soon transform into brightness!

Many years ago, I was greatly affected by various afflictions in my ministry. At that time, I had many questions in my mind. I thought I could have lived just like any other man in this world and should not have entered the Lord's ministry. If I had done so, I could have retaliated against those who caused problems in my life, in my own way and with my own strength. Moreover, I could have taken shortcuts to solve my financial problems. I wondered whether it was my own desire to become the Lord's servant or if it was truly God's call in my life.

With such thoughts in mind, I knelt near the Chennai Light House at the Marina Beach and wrestled in prayer at around 10 p.m. one night in the year 1976. I had no one to support me during that difficult day. Everyone had left me. My eyes were fixed on the lighthouse.

The light was designed to rotate at a specific speed in order to guide ships towards the shore. While observing the rotating light, I noticed that it would shine brightly for approximately 15 seconds and then dim and darken for the next 10 seconds.



As I continued to observe this alternating pattern of light and darkness, I gained a new perspective and felt encouraged. Additionally, I received a clear message from God, stating, “The darkness in your life will soon transform into brightness.”

Dear Reader, do you find yourself in great danger or are you facing terrible affliction? Do not be discouraged! Light and darkness may come and go, but the Lord Jesus Christ remains constant throughout time. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The God of our forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, will hold your hand, protect you and save you.

Only believe in Him!!

....Contd. from page 6

provided abundantly so they could camp there by the waters.

If we look in the Bible, we see that all great people of God had to go through disappointments. Abraham, Noah, Jacob, Samuel, Eli, Hannah, Jeremiah, David, Job, Nehemiah, Peter, Paul and many more powerful individuals in God's kingdom all experienced disappointments and brokenness. It is through these trials that their faith

was tested and refined, ultimately leading to growth and a deeper reliance on God. But in the midst of their disappointments, God fulfilled His plan. He is able to do the same in your life this year. God has a plan, and He will fulfill it despite your disappointments and brokenness. Are you feeling disappointed today? Are you feeling broken? Rest assured, God is working behind the scenes. Don't lose hope. He has engraved you in His palm and will not forget you.

He will complete what He has started in your life.

3. DISCOURAGEMENT!

The third weapon that Satan uses to steal the goodness of God from our lives is discouragement.

We see an example of this in the story of Martha and Mary when they complained to Jesus, ...**Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.** John 11:32.



Martha and Mary complained to Jesus Christ!

Sometimes, God allows us to experience losses, such as the loss of loved ones. Some of us may have gone through this in the past year, and it can be incredibly discouraging. We question why the Lord didn't intervene, why He didn't answer our prayers. However, the Bible reminds us that **Jesus wept**. John 11:35. We have a High Priest who understands our pain, tears and brokenness. **For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have One who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin.** (Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus cries when you cry, He feels the same pain, and He is in the midst of your trials because He knows that it produces faith. Therefore, do not be discouraged. God delayed His return to Bethany because He wanted to strengthen our faith and show that He is the author of our lives. He declared, **...I am the Resurrection and the Life ...** John 11:25. In order to demonstrate this truth, someone had to die—a brother, a friend, a son, a husband, a father—so that He could teach us perseverance.

Bible encourages us to **“consider it pure joy when we face trials of many kinds because we know that the testing of our**

faith produces perseverance”. (James 1:2-3). So we should not give up on our faith. **WE ARE NOT QUITTERS!**

This year, God will enable you to restart what you have given up in the past. It will be a year of rebuilding, where you will see things finished and not left undone.

God is walking with you in the midst of your trials, defeats, shame and failures. He is the Fourth Man walking in the fire with you. This is the year where you will see the fruit of your perseverance.

So, dear brothers and sisters, when you face trials and disappointments, when sorrow takes away your peace and joy, and when things don't go as planned, remember to consider it pure joy. This is what the Bible teaches us. We have a High Priest who goes through all of this with us. There is another in the fire standing next to me, next to you. The goodness of God brings Peace and Joy in the midst of it all because He is the Prince of Peace!



Jesus Christ brings Peace and Joy!

You are not alone, and you don't have to face it alone!

Don't give up, persevere, and rise from where you have fallen!

Satan tells you lies, but don't listen! God knows and He allows!

URGENT

We require approximately 1000 Hindi Christian books for our **Nehemiah Bible Colleges**. Kindly inform us about the possibility of obtaining theological Hindi books.

- Pr. S. Sam Selva Raj, Editor
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of ECHO OF HIS CALL, Chennai
(ATA Candidate)

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