

ECHO OF HIS CALL



India's National Spiritual Newspaper

English ₹ 10/-

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Editor : S. SAM SELVA RAJ

16 Languages

Associate Editor : SIS. SAJINI CHERIAN

Vol. XXXI

YEAR OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, 2024 MAY

No.05



THE HOLY BIBLE

Please memorize this portion

Psalms 75:1-9

1. Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare.
2. When I shall receive the congregation I will judge uprightly.
3. The earth and all the inhabitants thereof are dissolved: I bear up the pillars of it. Selah.
4. I said unto the fools, Deal not foolishly: and to the wicked, Lift not up the horn:
5. Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck.
6. For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.
7. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.
8. For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.
9. But I will declare for ever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

OUR LORD'S MOTHERLY HEART!



As a mother comforts her child,
so will I comfort you - Isaiah 66:13.

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

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who blesses us with Heavenly blessings. This month holds special significance as Echo of His Call extends heartfelt wishes for a Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers worldwide. While such occasions bring joy to many, they may also evoke feelings of sadness for some. Before dismissing this message, thinking, "I am not a mother, why bother reading," consider this: Mother's Day is a celebration for all who embody the nurturing spirit of motherhood. Whether you are a father, brother, uncle, sister or aunt who has assumed the role and responsibilities of a mother, today is your day to commemorate and rejoice in your sacrificial love.



....Contd. to page 3



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



from your dearly beloved brother...



But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;
He is their strength in the time of trouble.

Psalm - 37:39



Dearly beloved in Christ,

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”
(1 Peter 1:3).

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering prayers and steadfast support. May God richly bless you for your generosity and commitment to His work.

The 'Vacation Bible Schools for Kids', conducted during the third week of April, were a resounding success, with God's abundant blessings evident throughout. Hundreds of children hailing from diverse neighborhoods in Chennai, including Chepauk, Velachery, Balaji Nagar, and Santhoshapuram, were enriched with the teachings of the Holy Scriptures through a meticulously planned curriculum. We praise God for His providence and extend our deepest appreciation to all the dedicated servants of God who contributed tirelessly to this ministry.

We are in the final stages of completing the publication of Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj's autobiography in book format. We request your

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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Echo of His Call



Pr. Sam Selva Raj's Autobiography Team

testimonies, which may be up to ten lines, detailing how God has impacted your spiritual growth through his ministry. Additionally, we would appreciate it if you could provide a photo for inclusion in the autobiography.

As we embark upon the month ahead, we are called to swift action. It is imperative that we support the fifty graduates from our Bible Colleges as they prepare to conclude their studies. These devoted individuals will soon venture into remote and challenging regions to commence their ministry endeavors. The Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for the 1st of June 2024, marking a significant milestone in their spiritual journey. Meanwhile, classes for the new students at Nehemiah Bible College are set to commence on the 3rd of June, 2024.

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

We humbly request your fervent prayers for the identification of students proficient in reading and writing Hindi for our **Nehemiah Bible College**. Additionally, we beseech the Lord's guidance and provision for all endeavors undertaken within this ministry. Let us unite in prayer, seeking God's divine intervention in the recruitment of both students and faculty for our Village High School and **St. Paul's Matriculation School**.

In the face of numerous challenges, obstacles, and pressing needs, our reliance on prayer is more crucial than ever. We earnestly implore your continued

intercession on behalf of our ministry, knowing that it is only through God's grace and mercy that we may overcome every hurdle.

As we uphold you in our prayers, may the boundless grace of our Lord be poured out upon you abundantly. Amen!

Your servants in Christ Jesus,

Pr. Alex Samson Sam

Pr. S. Sam Selva Raj

(+91) 98412 71858 / 98410 71858,
E.mail : sam@echoofhiscall.org

For Your Kind Attention!

Our 5 minute **Echo of His Call** YouTube messages are being broadcasted from 2.00 A.M. in Tamil, Telugu, English and Hindi (everyday). You can receive the Grace of God by watching the messages.

Moreover, save my mobile numbers (+91) 98410 71858, (+91) 98412 71858 (personal) in your mobile phones.
- Pr. S. Sam Selva Raj

....Contd. from page 1

MOTHERLY LOVE OF GOD!

Contemplating unconditional sacrificial love leads me to reflect on the love of Jesus Christ, who willingly gave His life on the cross for our salvation. His selfless act, offering His life so that we may live, exemplifies an extraordinary love. While we often perceive God's love in paternal terms - guiding, protecting, disciplining -



Scripture also portrays God's maternal characteristics in numerous instances.

Isaiah 66:13 depicts God as a comforting mother, and Matthew 23:37 compares God's love to a mother's sacrificial and unconditional love.

On one hand, we encounter God as a strict disciplinarian, correcting and teaching us; on the other hand, we witness Him as a nurturing mother whose love is unconditional, covering our shortcomings, and providing sustenance without judgment.

On this special occasion, I pray that God will envelop you in His motherly embrace, offering continual support and companionship, especially during moments of loneliness. May His presence reassure you, comforting you with His unconditional love every step of the way.

MOTHERS FROM THE BIBLE!

In contemplating the maternal attributes of God, my

thoughts gravitated towards several mothers in the Bible who exhibited exceptional fortitude in raising their families amidst challenging circumstances. Among these, one figure stands out prominently: Hagar.

1. WHO WAS HAGAR?

Many may be familiar with her tale, but for those unacquainted, allow me to introduce her. Hagar, a name signifying "Forsaken" or "Flight," epitomized a life of obscurity, devoid of recognition and often subjected to ridicule. Originally a slave girl from Egypt, she found herself in the household of Abraham and Sarah, a couple bereft of children. Suddenly, Sarah,

Kindly Pray!

Summer Vacation Bible School will be conducted by our ministries all over India during the months of April and May 2024. We need your prayer.

- Editor

in an unexpected turn, bestowed her to Abraham in marriage, hoping for progeny. In an instant, Hagar's status transformed from a lowly servant to the second most significant woman in the household. Subsequently, she conceived and bore a son, Ishmael, further elevating her status. Undoubtedly, Hagar must have reveled in her newfound importance, evident in her demeanor and interactions, particularly towards Sarah, Abraham's primary wife. Abraham, too, likely rejoiced at the prospect of an heir to carry on his legacy, unaware that God harbored different plans for his lineage. However, Hagar's attitude, tinged with condescension towards Sarah, soured their relationship. Sarah's resentment escalated, resulting in mistreatment towards Hagar. Eventually, when Sarah bore a son in accordance with God's promise, she recoiled at the notion of her own son, Isaac, sharing inheritance with Hagar's offspring. Consequently, Sarah compelled Abraham to exile Hagar and Ishmael. Thus, Hagar found herself in the wilderness, abandoned by her husband, echoing the very essence of her name's meaning. Alone and destitute, she wandered with her son, Ishmael, a poignant testament to the trials faced by mothers in biblical narratives.

2. UNWILLING PARTICIPANT - HAGAR!

Noone consulted Hagar about her marriage to Abraham, nor did anyone inquire if she desired to depart from him. Throughout her life, her choices were dictated by others, rendering her an unwilling participant. How many of us can

empathize with this sentiment of being an unwilling participant? Hagar's lack of autonomy is glaring - she had no voice of her own. Whether man or woman, one may lament, "All my life's decisions have been made by someone else; no one sought my input, no one cared about my wishes or desires. I now find myself living a life shaped by decisions made by others.

"Dear friends, the Bible assures us that "all things work for good" if we place our trust in God. Though it may seem inscrutable at present, nothing occurs without God's allowance. He possesses the power to transform even dire circumstances for our benefit. Such is the omnipotence of the Lord Jesus Christ - he can alter any situation in our favor. Although we may not comprehend, akin to Hagar, what God has ordained for us, He orchestrates everything to align with our favor if we entrust ourselves to Him. As Psalms 31:15 states, **our future lies in His hands**. Therefore, take solace if

you find yourself traversing a desert akin to Hagar, uncertain of what lies ahead, or perhaps unable to envision a future at all. Remember, God remains in control; He will guide your paths. Simply grasp His hand and surrender your will to His, mirroring Hagar's example.

The Bible recounts in Genesis 21:14, "Early the next morning Abraham took some



Hagar with her son in the desert

....Contd. to page 6

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TO SHARE (Galatians 6:2)

SUPPORT (Romans 12:13)

SPEED UP (II Timothy 1:6)

PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS - From May 19 To June 18, 2024

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



✝️ PRAISE GOD FOR...

- May 19** ⇒ Our **St. Paul's Matriculation School, Nehemiah Bible College, and Theological Correspondence Course**, dedicated to serving the needy.
- May 20** ⇒ Blessings upon our translators, associate editors, co-ordinators, and their families.
- May 21** ⇒ Protection for our Senior Pastor and his family members from all manner of evil forces.
- May 22** ⇒ His merciful embrace extended to our Prayer Partners, Subscribing Partners, Faith Partners, Life Partners, and Great Commission Partners, along with their families.
- May 23** ⇒ The growth of our **Bible Correspondence Course** and **Theological Correspondence Course**.
- May 24** ⇒ Gratefully acknowledging the miraculous provision for all our ministry needs.
- May 25** ⇒ Extending blessings to all members of our Main Church and branch Churches.
- May 26** ⇒ Seeking divine protection for all nations amidst chaos and the threat of war.
- May 27** ⇒ Despite political and religious opposition, our Christian ministries continue to thrive.
- May 28** ⇒ Advocating for the empowerment of women across all sectors of society.
- May 29** ⇒ Blessing our **St. Paul's Matriculation School** with good Christian Teachers and Principal.
- May 30** ⇒ Blessing our Pastors and Senior Leaders of the Main Church and Branch Churches.
- May 31** ⇒ Safeguarding our **Echo of His Call Ministries** staff and their families.
- June 01** ⇒ Giving new students for our Residential and Evening **Nehemiah Bible College**.

- June 02** ⇒ For our **Gospel Printing Press** and the dedication of its efficient workers.
- June 03** ⇒ Rejoicing in the increasing subscribers and testimonies for our Five-Minute YouTube messages.

✝️ PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

- June 04** ⇒ Deliverance from evil spirits of violence and murder among youth, and for them to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- June 05** ⇒ Peace to reign in all families.
- June 06** ⇒ Upholding the good reputation of Christian Educational organizations worldwide.
- June 07** ⇒ Christians to embody the Word of God and cultivate Christ-like character.
- June 08** ⇒ Our ministerial expansions and the global spread of the gospel.
- June 09** ⇒ The success of our Senior Pastor's autobiography.
- June 10** ⇒ Invoking divine protection against malevolent forces in all Churches.
- June 11** ⇒ Peace between nations and economic development.
- June 12** ⇒ Empowering us to share the gospel in unreached areas.
- June 13** ⇒ The expansion of our Ministries in various aspects and dimensions.
- June 14** ⇒ Blessings and protection be bestowed upon all Christian Organizations.
- June 15** ⇒ Admission of deserving students for our Residential and Evening **Nehemiah Bible College** for the academic year 2024-25.
- June 16** ⇒ Admission of new students for our **St. Paul's Matriculation School** for the academic year 2024-25.
- June 17** ⇒ Our supporters, well-wishers, and friends who sustain our ministries through prayer and financial contributions.
- June 18** ⇒ That we be granted numerous visions to further the advancement of His Kingdom on earth.

....Contd. from page 4

food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy." She went on her way and wandered into the Desert of Beersheba (Genesis 21:14, NIV). Abraham, a wealthy man, perplexingly offered only some food and a skin of water. One would expect him to provide more generously - perhaps sending servants and ample provisions with Hagar. However, he did not. Perhaps Abraham intended for Hagar to experience God as her provider and refuge, though his motives remain unclear.

Hagar, abandoned and alone, faced the daunting task of raising her son as a single mother in the desert. With no financial support or family to lean on, she endured immense hardship. The Bible says - "For your Maker is your husband - the Lord Almighty is His Name, the Holy One of Israel is His Name" (Isaiah 54:5). The Bible assures such women that God is their husband and provider, offering solace and encouragement.

3. HAGAR AND HER SON!

The ordeal was undoubtedly exhausting for both Hagar and



Hagar wept for her son

her son, culminating in the son's collapse. Witnessing her child's impending death must have been heart-wrenching for Hagar. In Genesis 21:16 (KJV), it is written, "Let me not see the death of the boy."

She wept, desperate to keep her son alive, yet ultimately powerless. Imagine the anguish of watching the one thing you hold dear slipping away. In her darkest moment, Hagar turned to the Lord, crying out for help and solace.

In contemplating the beautiful characteristics of a mother, we witness how God employs mothers as conduits of blessings to their children.

A MOTHER'S FERVENT SUPPLICATION TO GOD FOR HER SON!

(a) WHEN THE MOTHER CRIED, GOD PERCEIVED THE DIRE NEED OF HER SON!

In verse 17, when their water supply dwindled, both Hagar

and her son relinquished their strength, succumbing to despair. Hagar, overwhelmed with anguish, could not bear to witness her son's demise. They roamed aimlessly in the desert, devoid of direction or hope for the future. As their provisions depleted, the looming threat of her son's death became unbearable.

And she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, 'I cannot watch the boy die.' And as she sat there, she began to sob. (Genesis 21:16)

When a mother cries out, God takes notice of her child's plight. Through our prayers, God not only hears but also sees our tears and feels our anguish. Each tear shed is stored in God's bottle (Psalm 56:8). As mothers pray and intercede for their children, God attends to their needs. While the Bible recounts God hearing "the cry of the boy," it was the mother's cry that precipitated God's response. God not only responds to audacious cries like Hagar's but also to silent pleas like Ishmael's.

....Contd. to page 9

NEHEMIAH BIBLE COLLEGE

Graduation Service, 2023-2024

Venue : BKN Hall, Vepery, Chennai - 07.

Date : 1st June, 2024 (Saturday)

Time : 5.00 P.M.



About 50 students will complete their studies and will be sent to the mission field.

We need 75 students for the Tamil and Hindi courses for the academic year 2024-2025. Please pray for this request. Admissions are going on for the next academic year 2024-2025.

MAIN CHURCH PROGRAMMES

1. Prayer Service : 24 hours
2. **ECHO OF HIS CALL** - Monthly Magazines :English, Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Odiya, Nepali, Assamese, Punjabi, Urdu, Sinhala & Afrikan.
3. **BIBLECOR** - Basic Bible Courses (English, Tamil & Hindi)
4. Theological Correspondence Courses: English & Tamil
5. Nehemiah Bible Colleges (Chepauk, Santhoshapuram & Velachery)
6. Great Commission Partners (Network of Pastors)
7. Training Programmes – Seminars & Retreats
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 (Chepauk) : 10.30 a.m. Sunday & (Velachery, Balaji Nagar & Santhoshapuram) 3.00 p.m. Sunday
13. **Early Morning Service** : 5.30 a.m. Sunday
14. **Preliminary Service** : 8.00 a.m. Sunday
15. **Tamil Service** : 8.30 a.m. Sunday
16. **Youth Meeting** : 11.00 a.m. Sunday
17. **Fellowship Lunch** : 1.00 p.m. Sunday
18. **Hindi Service** : 4.00 p.m. Sunday
19. **Telugu Service** : 5.00 p.m. Sunday
20. **English & Hindi Service** : 6.00 p.m. Sunday
21. Feedback Time : 7.30 p.m. Sunday
22. Women's Prayer : 5.30 p.m. Wednesday
23. Men's Prayer : 7.00 p.m. Friday
24. Discipleship Meeting : 6.00 p.m. Saturday
25. House Meetings : 6.30 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday
26. Special Holy Communion : 6.00 a.m. 1st day of each month
27. Ministers' Meeting : 6.00 p.m. First Saturday
28. Parents' Prayer : 4.00 p.m. First Sunday
29. Night Prayer : 9.30 p.m. Third Friday
30. Fasting Prayer : 9:30 a.m. Second Saturday
31. Holy Communion : Second Sunday Services
32. Youth / Kid Prayer : 10.00 p.m. daily (over phone)
33. Staff Devotion : 9.00 a.m. daily
34. Office : 9.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. (except Sundays)

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PIT TO PALACE

(Life experiences of Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj)

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

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES - JOB 19:25

In the early days of my ministry, I endured numerous trials and hardships sanctioned by God. Financial constraints weighed heavily upon me, rendering the prospect of establishing a permanent ministry headquarters unattainable. Consequently, I found myself constantly on the move, changing residences and offices frequently.

In the year 1980, affliction struck me with particular severity. Plagued by fever and excruciating pain coursing through my body, especially at my neck, I found myself in a dire predicament. Compounding my distress was the fact that the area where I ministered was predominantly non-Christian, leaving me isolated and unsupported by the local populace. During the depths of my illness and loneliness, I reached out to a friend, pleading for his company for just one night. Despite my past assistance to him, he callously declined. Left to suffer in solitude, I endured a night of unimaginable anguish.

The following morning, kind souls transported me to a Government Hospital, where I was abandoned once more to confront my affliction alone. After enduring agonizing days, the medical authorities determined that surgery was imperative. However, given my circumstances, I harbored reservations about undergoing such a procedure and turned to prayer instead. Pouring out my heart to God, I articulated the myriad challenges I faced in my ministry, despite having the option for worldly comforts. **The Lord listened to me when I explained my ways to Him** (Psalm 119:26).

Then, one fateful night as I fervently prayed, I sensed the divine touch of God's healing hand upon me. Conviction flooded my being, and I promptly relayed my experience to the attending physician. Responding with empathy, the doctor remarked, "I



Divine touch of Jesus Christ!

understand. Many Christians refuse treatment, claiming Jesus Christ has healed them. You too make such a declaration." He then graciously discharged me without pressing for surgery or prescribing medication. Truly, God manifested His power in accordance with my faith, delivering me from affliction as I had believed in Him.

God healed me completely nearly 36 years ago, and since then, I have remained untouched by any disease. Despite navigating uneven and rough roads while driving, I no longer experience back pain or neck pain. My daily routine often extends for 20 hours, split between office work and preaching engagements, yet fatigue rarely troubles me. God's healing touch has not only spared me from affliction but has also showered me with abundant blessings. Initially, I had only one friend by my side, but now, God has blessed me with friendships spanning the globe, enriching both me and my ministry.

Dear friend, our Lord Jesus Christ stands uniquely above all, guiding us through the darkness of this world. Embrace Him as your true friend and God, and He will illuminate the path of righteousness at the appointed time. If you haven't yet invited Him into your life as your Lord and Savior, do so now, and embark on a journey of service under His divine guidance. His leadership sustains me daily, and I'm confident He will do the same for you.

Isaiah 43:19 declares, ... **I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.**

....Contd. from page 6

If you find yourself praying fervently for your child today, whatever the reason, cry out to the Lord, for only He can meet your child's needs. Seek the Lord who, by dying on the cross and rising again, secured victory for us all.

(b) WHEN THE MOTHER CRIED OUT, SHE STOOD IN THE PLACE OF HER SON:

Hagar assumed the role of her son and prayed when he lacked the strength to utter a word. In this poignant moment, a mother's love transcended as she intervened on behalf of her exhausted son. He, drained of strength and will, succumbed to despair. Yet, instead of him, she raised her voice and cried out.

It's a testament to the sacrificial nature of motherhood, urging us to intercede for our children. Perhaps you have a son or daughter estranged from the love of God or grappling with physical or mental turmoil. Even if they perceive prayer and faith as antiquated, you can stand in the gap for them. In order to stand in the gap, a mother has to pray fervently for their spiritual and worldly needs, beseeching God on their behalf.

When the mother prayed, God heard and answered.

It is our solemn duty to beseech the divine for our children's well-being. Let us,

mothers, lift our voices in prayer, crying out for our children and grandchildren.

(c) WHEN THE MOTHER CRIED OUT, GOD BLESSED THE SON AND REVEALED THE FUTURE PLANS!

- vs 18-20

When the mother cried out and petitioned, God not only provided water miraculously but also bestowed life upon her son. He transformed him into a formidable



Hagar's son



Angel of God spoke to Hagar

figure, hinting at a grand destiny. Moreover, in response to the mother's fervent supplication, God unveiled Ishmael's future to her.

“Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.”
Genesis 21:18 (NIV).

When mothers pray, divine revelations about our children's futures unfold. We need not seek answers elsewhere; God discloses them to praying mothers. Let us, therefore, embrace the mantle of praying mothers, ready to cry out for our children and stand in the gap.

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PASTOR S. SAM SELVA RAJ'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY!

We are in the final stages of completing the publication of Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj's autobiography in book format. We request your testimonies, which may be upto ten lines, detailing how God has impacted your spiritual growth through his ministry. Additionally, we would appreciate it if you could provide a photo for inclusion in the autobiography.

- Editor

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- Editor

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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

(This Account is for Tax Exemption for Indians only)

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

E.mail : sam@echoofhiscall.org

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