

# 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

YEAR OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, 2024 JULY

No.07



**THE HOLY BIBLE**  
Please memorize this portion  
**PSALMS 92:1-10**

1. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High:
2. To shew forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,
3. Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound.
4. For thou, LORD, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands.
5. O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep.
6. A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this.
7. When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever:
8. But thou, LORD, art most high for evermore.
9. For, lo, thine enemies, O LORD, for, lo, thine enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.
10. But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil.



## PROTECT YOUR ANOINTING!

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

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to all members of our Echo of His Call family worldwide who faithfully read this magazine in 16 different languages every month. ...Grace and peace be upon you from our eternal God, who was, and is, and is to come (Rev 1:4).

This verse provides me with great assurance in every circumstance, knowing that I have a God who understands my past, present, and future, walking alongside me as a friend and companion. With this assurance, I can face the uncertainties of tomorrow with inner peace, confident in God's plan and purpose for me, which was ordained

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**Echo of His Call**

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

from your dearly beloved brother...



### 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

... The Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you; .... - Isaiah 30:18

Dearly beloved in the Lord!

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

By God's grace we could reopen our St. Paul's Matriculation School and our Nehemiah Bible Colleges for the academic year 2024-2025. Kindly support these institutions in your prayer.

It is understood that those who want to serve the Lord independently in future, must possess some course certificate in theology and that they should be attached to a proper organisation. Our Nehemiah Bible Colleges are prepared to help you in this matter. Classes are conducted in Tamil in the evenings. We also provide residential facility to those who want to study in Hindi. Those who are in need in this matter can contact us.

Students who graduated from our Nehemiah Bible Colleges and are now in ministry have a alumni fellowship and a meeting of alumni member of Nehemiah Bible Colleges was conducted on 13.05.2024. The Graduation Service for the academic year 2023-2024 was conducted at 5 p.m. on 01.06.2024. 38 students were graduated this year and have gone to various mission centres for their ministry.



Alumni member of Nehemiah Bible College



The Graduation Service for the academic year 2023-2024

**Our Ministries:** ❑ ECHO OF HIS CALL Monthly Magazine (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 need more students for the Nehemiah Bible Colleges to study in Tamil as well as in Hindi. Please do help us and introduce students who have a passion to serve God.

In order to develop and conduct all our ministries in a very special way we need: Magazine Designers, Translators to translate articles in the magazine, Assistants to work in our Printing Press, Technicians at the press. Media Technicians, Drivers, Watchmen, Computer Typists, DTP Operators, Teachers to teach at the High School, Interpreters at the Churches, Missionaries, Full Time Assistant Pastors, etc. We need men and women to work with us in the ministry, in all fields. We expect these people to have real vision and honesty. Our ministries are multiplying. But we can't find suitable people to help. Kindly do whatever you can to support us.

In these modern times, the number of people who read printed magazines and books, are decreasing. Everyone wants to read online. Many

people who have been reading our magazine, 'Echo of His Call' for the last 40 to 50 years have become old. Some have gone into glory and some are living in old age homes. Previously they used to pray for our ministry and also support financially. That's why the number of readers of our magazine is getting reduced. Do help us by sending us the postal addresses and e.mail addresses of your family members. We can send our magazines to them free of cost. We do pray for you.

We expect your encouraging response to our requests.

May the grace of our Lord be with you!

*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

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even before the creation of the world (Eph. 2:10).

Reflecting on how intricately God has designed each one of us, I realize that our existence is not accidental but part of a divine plan. Even if one might believe they were unwanted or unexpected by their earthly parents, God has carefully crafted each individual, as stated in Psalms 139:13, "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb." Therefore, it is our responsibility to seek out and fulfill the purpose for which we were created, with the guidance of the author and finisher of our faith.

God graces us with divine calling and gifts not based on our merit, but on His character. Yet, it is

easy to stray from this path, often imperceptibly, until we find ourselves far from our intended course. Thankfully, the Holy Spirit is ever present to guide us back to the path of our loving Savior.

Let us explore some of the common steps that can divert us from God's divine purpose using the life of Saul, the first king of Israel as an example.

**Saul: Not only the beginning is important, but also the end!**

When the people of Israel requested a king, rejecting the king of kings as their ruler, God granted their wish. Saul, the son of Kish, a wealthy and prominent man from the tribe of Benjamin, was anointed as the first king. Saul possessed all the worldly qualities befitting a king. The Scripture describes him as taller than anyone in the land,

with his head and shoulders standing above the rest (1 Sam 9:2). So, what led this chosen, anointed, and talented man to meet a tragic end?

**1<sup>st</sup> MISSTEP**

**PRIDE!**

Saul lacked confidence when God called him to kingship. He even expressed, "I am only from the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest tribe in Israel, and my family is the least significant of all the families in that tribe!" (1 Sam 9:21). Despite being anointed, he remained shy and tried to hide (1 Sam 10:22). We must remember that God will not call us where His grace cannot sustain us. His grace was enough for Saul to become the first king of Israel. Despite his



humble beginnings, God blessed him. However, as he tasted success and achieved victory after victory, the ensuing fame and adulation, like for many of us, blinded him.

In 1 Sam 15, we encounter a familiar passage where God commanded Saul to utterly destroy the Amalekites, sparing no one, including women and children. When viewed in the present day, it may seem brutal and paint God as cruel and vengeful. However, considering the history of the Israelites, the Amalekites had tormented, attacked, and sought to annihilate the weary and vulnerable Israelites.

**BEWARE!**

The Bible states in Zechariah 2:8 – “He who touches you touches the apple of His eye”.

God was displeased with how the Amalekites mistreated His people, whom He considers His cherished possession, and He sought to avenge them. It is important to remember that we have a God who fights our battles on our behalf. However, in the story of Saul, we see a different response. When corrected by Samuel for his actions, Saul's immediate reaction should have been one of confession and repentance. Instead, he asked Samuel to honor him before the elders and the people of Israel, requesting him to come back so that he could worship “the LORD your God” (1 Samuel 15:30). This shift in Saul's attitude from humility to pride is evident as he seeks recognition and even builds a monument to honor himself (1 Samuel 15:12).

Success and victory can often lead to changes in our mindset and attitude. Saul's transformation from a humble man to one seeking honor and recognition illustrates

the dangers of pride.

The moment pride takes hold, God may withdraw His presence from our lives and even stand against us (Isaiah 63:10). James 4:6 warns that God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble. It is a sobering reminder to reflect on our own words and actions. How often do we assert our ownership and knowledge with phrases like “my house,” “my life,” or “I know best”? Even if we outwardly profess humility, our true nature may reveal itself when our pride is challenged. The tendency to assert our importance with phrases like “Do you know who I am?” or “How dare you speak to me this way?” can surface unexpectedly.

This cautionary tale serves as a reminder to guard against the pitfalls of pride, especially in moments when our sense of self is threatened. Whether spoken by

individuals or even echoed in the minds of those who profess faith, the refrain of “Do you know who I am?” should serve as a warning against the insidious nature of pride.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> MISSTEP

### SELF-DECEPTION!

A person with self-deception is someone who:

- 1) Believes to be what indeed they are not.
- 2) Thinks they have more than they have.
- 3) Desires to appear as something they are not, rather than desiring to be authentic.

Now, let's explore what the Bible says:

- “Don't think too highly of yourself.” (Romans 11:20)
- “If anyone thinks he is

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# GREAT COMMISSION PARTNERS

TO SHARE (Galatians 6:2)

SUPPORT (Romans 12:13)

SPEED UP (1 Timothy 1:8)

**PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS - From July 19 To August 18, 2024**

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



## †PRAISE GOD FOR...

- July 19** ⇒ Blessing all our Associate Editors and their family members.
- July 20** ⇒ His abundant blessings on our commitment to Magazine Ministry since 1969.
- July 21** ⇒ Blessing our Pastors and Senior Members of the Main Church and Branch Churches.
- July 22** ⇒ Our Gospel Printing Press and its continuous functioning with efficient workers.
- July 23** ⇒ The new believers in our Sunday services at Balaji Nagar, Santhoshapuram and Velachery.
- July 24** ⇒ Blessing our Global Vision for Youth and Kid Care ministry.
- July 25** ⇒ Blessing the admissions of Nehemiah Bible College and St. Paul's Matriculation School for the Academic year 2023-2024.
- July 26** ⇒ The great commitment from the Mission workers.
- July 27** ⇒ Graciously helping us to get new students for our Residential and Evening Nehemiah Bible College courses.
- July 28** ⇒ Blessing our YouTube ministry's 5 minute messages to reach unreached people.
- July 29** ⇒ Blessing us to spread the gospel into the unreached areas.
- July 30** ⇒ His mercy towards our Prayer Partners, Subscribing Partners, Faith Partners, Life Partners and Great Commission Partners and their families.
- July 31** ⇒ All the activities of our St. Paul's Matriculation School, Nehemiah Bible College and Theological Correspondence Course.
- August 01** ⇒ Blessing our Main Church with more new believers.
- August 02** ⇒ The Pastors and the volunteers of our Churches.

- August 03** ⇒ Blessing our St. Paul's Matriculation School to have more dedicated Christian Teachers and Principal.

## †PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

- August 04** ⇒ Safety of our Senior Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj and his family members from all sorts of evil forces.
- August 05** ⇒ The needs of all people of the world.
- August 06** ⇒ The financial needs of our ministry to be met.
- August 07** ⇒ The good health of our employees and their family members.
- August 08** ⇒ Economic recession prevailing in the world to come to an end.
- August 09** ⇒ The Media Ministry telecasting in YouTube every morning at 2.00 A.M. for 5 minutes.
- August 10** ⇒ Our Echo of His Call Ministries for stepping into its 56th year today.
- August 11** ⇒ Spiritual and worldly blessings on God's Children.
- August 12** ⇒ The hundreds of children touched by the love of Jesus Christ in the Vacation Bible School (VBS) to sustain in the Lord and to attend our Church regularly.
- August 13** ⇒ The violence against missionaries and servants of God to be stopped.
- August 14** ⇒ God's grace be showered once again upon the people.
- August 15** ⇒ The evil works of Satan to be destroyed, in separating the families.
- August 16** ⇒ Delivering the people all over the world who are affected by terminal diseases and depression.
- August 17** ⇒ All the financial needs to be met for this month.
- August 18** ⇒ Children and youth who have been saved through the Vacation Bible School classes conducted world wide.



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something when he is not, he deceives himself." (Romans 12:3)

\* "Pride leads to self-deception." (Obadiah 1:3)

This pattern is evident in the life of Saul; his pride blinded and deceived him, leading to self-deception.

How do we fall and what happens when we fall into the trap of self-deception:-

### (A) UNWILLING TO FULLY OBEY GOD!

For instance, God commanded Saul to wipe out the Amalekites, saying, "Now go and completely destroy." (1 Samuel 15:2). However, Saul deceived himself by choosing to keep "all that was good" (1 Samuel 15:9). He took it upon himself to judge what was worth keeping, thereby deceiving himself into thinking his actions were justified. Saul even claimed, "I have carried out the LORD's command" (1 Samuel 15:13), despite deviating from God's instructions.



*Samuel reprimands Saul for disobeying God's Command*

Many times, like Saul, we deceive ourselves into believing that our actions align with God's will when, in reality, they fall short. Only deeds done in accordance with God's will are pleasing to Him,

but self-deception clouds our judgment.

### (B) UNWILLING TO ACCEPT HIS FAULT!



*Saul tries to justify disobedience in a spiritual way*

Pride and self-deception blinded his eyes, numbed his heart, and deafened his ears, preventing him from hearing the voice of God. He blamed the people, saying, "The people (not me) spared the best of the sheep and oxen to sacrifice to

the Lord." Saul is trying to spiritualize his disobedience. This is why God emphasizes that obedience is better than sacrifice. Self-deception leads us to blame others for our actions instead of taking responsibility.

### (C) UNWILLING TO HUMBLE HIMSELF!

Saul was at the height of his pride.

- \* He built a monument for himself:
- \* He insisted that Samuel honor him.
- \* He sought the honor of the people over God's recognition.
- \* Instead of humbling himself before God and seeking forgiveness, he desired to be exalted among his people.

As mentioned earlier, all our actions have consequences.

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## NEHEMIAH BIBLE EVENING COLLEGE

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**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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

**Echo of His Call Postal Courses for candidates in India****1. BIBLECOR**

We offer Postal Course on Basic Truths of The Bible to new Christians and non-Christians in English - 57 pages, Hindi - 76 pages & Tamil - 96 pages. You will get a Course Book entitled **New Life - For You!** After the completion of this course, you will get a certificate. There will be no compulsory fees. You will be blessed! - Editor

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# PIT TO PALACE

(Life experiences of Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj)

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

## GOD HONOURS OUR TINY EFFORTS!

From the beginning of my ministerial life, God gave me the mind to go to any extent and to take up any challenge to glorify God for the extension of His kingdom, without expecting any immediate reward. From the year 1976 to 1986, I was in the habit of applying leave from my government office and arrange gospel tours and preaching the gospel by means of mini crusades in different parts of India by spending my own money.

The Lord helped me to take my spiritual friends with me to various parts at least for one or two months together and go to the unreached villages and touch the lives of thousands of people through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Several times, I had to depend upon God for all my financial needs, as I had to buy train tickets, bus tickets, book hotel accommodation for me and my colleagues. God miraculously helped me.

Through this ministry, God helped me to visit various remote areas in Chengalpet District, Villupuram District, Madurai District, Trichy District and Kanyakumari District, Kodaikanal, Ootacamund, Trivandrum, Peelamedu, Idukki, Vandiperiyar, Vijayawada, Bangalore, Mysore etc. During my trips, I experienced different kinds of physical sufferings in transporting our musical instruments and gospel tracts from one place to another by means of buses and trains. Due to my low financial status, I could not even think of having a vehicle for the ministry. But God was watching my attitude and listening to my testimonies. God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister (Hebrews 6:10).

Later on I found that God blessed all my co-workers and elevated them to higher levels and

Oh, give thanks to the LORD -   
Who remembered us in our lowly state,  
for His mercy endures forever. - Psalm 136:1,23

continuous to use them mightily in His vineyard even today. He also blessed me with all facilities like latest equipment, cars, vans and zealous workers and is enabling me more and more to preach the gospel to the unsaved people of India. Also God honoured me, took me to various countries of the world and blessed me with good friends.

The same God is still alive. He is searching for willing persons who can come forward to serve Him without expecting any immediate rewards, high positions and corrupted motives. Cast your bread upon the waters; for you will find it after many days Ecclesiastes 11:1. He is not a debtor to anybody.

Personally I have learned that if we have a desire to do something for God's Kingdom, we should do it immediately, without observing the wind and regarding the clouds as He who observes the wind will not sow and he who regards the clouds will not reap. Ecclesiastes 11:4. The world and the worldly people will stand with you.

Now-a-days, our people do not want to invest their health, money and talents in advancing the kingdom of God; instead expect immediate elevation and on the spot rewards. Dear friend, I am really blessed because of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He can really bless you also. Can you come forward to do something for Jesus Christ now? Can you take up your cross and follow Him? God is searching for willing persons who are really interested to send forth His glorious gospel - in any - in every way - at all cost. 1 Corinthians 9:22.

When you read these words, you must know that God has a special plan for you! The worldly wealth, health, relationship, and fame will cheat you one day!! But Jesus Christ will not leave you comfortless!!! John 14:18. Take a decision today. A great reward is awaiting you!

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Partial obedience is tantamount to complete disobedience.

- \* Saul grieved God through his actions.
- \* This led to God's immediate rejection of him.
- \* Both God and Samuel regretted making him a king.

He strayed from God's will, losing his way. Let us pray that none of us will lead a life like Saul's, deviating from our life's purpose.

### 3<sup>RD</sup> & FINAL MISSTEP

#### REBELLION!

Saul's pride led him to self-deception, causing him to assume a false identity and foster a rebellious and stubborn nature. Rebellion is synonymous with disobedience and obstinacy, and it carries consequences. Proverbs 29:1 warns that a person who remains stubborn after many rebukes will face sudden and irremediable destruction. His destruction will come suddenly upon him.

Saul, unaware that his rebellious nature would impact not only himself but also future generations, displayed a rebellious attitude by not waiting for Samuel and offering sacrifices, a duty reserved for the priest. Upon being rebuked, he remained stubborn, ultimately leading to the loss of his throne. Every act of disobedience and rebellion carries its consequences.

Rebellion entails refusing to submit to someone's authority, emphasizing the importance of being submissive to authority figures. Within our families, we must show submission to our

parents, spouses, elders, managers, church leaders, pastors, supervisors, and most importantly, to God.

Rebellion is a matter of the heart, not just behavior; it signifies a need for a change within ourselves.

The Bible teaches us valuable lessons about rebelliousness:

- \* Rebellion is likened to witchcraft, something detested by God (1 Samuel 15:23).
- \* God not only withdraws but also fights against those with disobedient and rebellious natures (Isaiah 63:10).
- \* God's hand will work against us (1 Samuel 12:14,15).
- \* Failure to repent may lead God to hand us over to destruction (1 Corinthians 5:5).

Dear friends, if our hearts are hardened, resistant to change, devoid of warmth, we must seek God's help to transform them. Scripture reminds us that "he who stands firm to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13). While God's call and gifts are irrevocable, we can hinder the Holy Spirit within us through actions like pride, self-deception, rebelliousness, and straying from God's purpose, potentially leading

to failure. Let us guard against pride's destructive influence and seek to recognize and correct our mistakes that may divert us from our purpose in life. It is crucial that we take time to reflect on our lives to ensure we stay aligned with God's will.

\*\*\*\*\*

### URGENT NEEDS

#### NEHEMIAH BIBLE COLLEGES

Persons needed to get one year's training for God's Ministry.

1. Students (Men & Women) are want study in the Evening Bible Colleges in Tamil.
2. Men who know Hindi to reside with campus and take the Bible courses.

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Computer Operators/ Computer Typists are wanted to work at our Church office. Decent salary will be provided.

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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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### ECHO OF HIS CALL

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95661 31858 / E-mails: sam@echoofhiscall.org / biblecx@yahoo.co.in

Websites: www.echoofhiscall.org / www.stpaulsmatriculation.com

### OUR BANK DETAILS:

#### 1. Bank : State Bank of India

 Branch : Triplicane, Chennai-5  
 Name : S. Sam Selva Raj  
 A/C No. : 1023 2934 679  
 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  
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