

# ECHO OF HIS CALL



India's National Spiritual Newspaper

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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 OCTOBER

No.10



THE HOLY BIBLE  
Please memorize this portion  
Proverbs 13:1-10

1. A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.
2. A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence.
3. He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.
4. The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.
5. A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame.
6. Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.
7. There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.
8. The ransom of a man's life are his riches: but the poor heareth not rebuke.
9. The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.
10. Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

## Our Thoughts Matter : Reflections

### FROM DAVID!

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

Greetings to all in the matchless Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

It brings me great joy to connect with the members of our **Echo of His Call** extended family each month through our magazine. May the Lord continue to lead and guide us in fulfilling His purpose in our lives and prepare us for His return.

The esteemed Benjamin Franklin, regarded as one of the founding fathers of the United States, once stated, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." These are profoundly impactful words. Planning is a crucial aspect of our lives.

Some individuals excel at both planning and execution.

Others may plan but struggle to implement their strategies.

There is yet another group that does not plan at all, instead choosing to go with the flow.

....Contd. to page 3



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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.



**"The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace" - Exodus 14:14**



Dear Friends,

We greet you in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! We are in the process of preparing the autobiography of Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj. If you have been blessed by the ministries of **Echo of His Call** over the past 55 years, and if you have had a remarkable encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ through Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj and his ministries, we invite you to share your experiences with us for inclusion in this autobiography. God will bless you!

As we approach the end of 2024, we join hands with you to express our gratitude to God for the unspeakable and unexplainable timely help He has extended to us. On numerous occasions, He has used you to support our mission. The same God, Jesus Christ, is available to you also today; therefore, you can believe in Him and depend on Him for a miracle in your own life.

Through this issue, we earnestly solicit your fervent prayers for the following areas of our ministries:

- Approximately 75 individuals are involved in the publishing of the **Echo of His Call** newsletter in 16 languages each month. Their responsibilities include preparing messages, typing, translating, proofreading, page layout, machine printing, hand folding, labeling, and delivering the newsletters to the Post Office on specific dates, as well as sending emails. Recently, as the ministry has grown, the enemy has targeted these brothers and sisters, attempting to disturb them through sickness, family issues and financial difficulties. Please remember all 75 members and their families in your prayers for their upliftment.
- As time passes, administrative challenges have intensified due to worker mentality, government policies, and a decline in financial support from our friends. Many present-day believers are swayed by prosperity, erroneous doctrines, and the attractions of the spiritual world, leading to the neglect of genuine servants of God. We are indeed affected by this situation, but our God remains faithful in caring for His servants and ministries. Please pray for a change in this circumstance.
- Our Churches, **Nehemiah Bible Colleges**, Theological Correspondence Courses, **BIBLECOR** - Bible Correspondence

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Echo of His Call

**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

Courses, YouTube Ministry, St. Paul's Matriculation School and Printing Press are functioning effectively; however, all of these initiatives require spiritual and financial encouragement.

- We need more dedicated workers to collaborate with us in our Mission Fields, Churches, Printing Press, Offices, Schools and Bible Colleges.
- We are finding it challenging to recruit students for our Hindi Nehemiah Bible College. Some leaders are reluctant to send their young men to Bible colleges for various reasons. Nevertheless, we carefully educate, train, feed, and meet all their needs before sending them back to different areas, enabling them to continue their ministries according to their God-given calling. We do not charge any fees for our training. The students we have trained are now shining like stars in the mission fields. Please pray for this situation.

We have scheduled several outreach ministries during the months of September, October, November and December this year. We ask for your prayers for protection during these activities.

We deeply appreciate your support as we journey together in ministry. We strive to respond to all your letters and emails and acknowledge all your financial contributions through money orders, bank cheques, demand drafts, transfers, net banking, and G-Pay. If you do not receive our replies, receipts or our newsletter, **Echo of His Call**, within a reasonable timeframe, please feel free to contact us at +91 98410 71858 or +91 98412 71858. We are here to assist you.

May God bless you abundantly.

*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*

I wonder, which category do you belong to? The Bible reminds us in Proverbs 19:21 (NIV): "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

We can make numerous plans regarding our future—education, weddings, children, careers, and acquiring assets, to name a few. We continuously think and strategize. However, it is ultimately the Lord's desires and will that come to fruition. Another verse in Proverbs 16:9 (KJV) states: **A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.** The term "deviseth" is used in the KJV version, while the Tamil Bible articulates it as "a man's heart

thinks," emphasizing that it is the Lord who establishes or directs our paths.

Thinking is an extraordinary gift from God bestowed upon human beings. Even psychologists affirm that thoughts are incredibly powerful; they dictate our actions and emotions. This is why the Bible advises us to "Guard your mind," as what we allow in shapes our thoughts, and our thoughts, in turn, influence what we say and how we behave. Therefore, thinking is a crucial aspect of our lives.

One thought has the potential to change the trajectory of our lives. Let's explore what God thinks about us. Jeremiah 29:11 states, "**I have thoughts and plans**

**for you**" (Amplified Version). God does not merely have plans; He has thoughts about us, which signifies that He is actively thinking about us! Can you imagine that the Creator, the one who orchestrates the events of the world, is so mindful of me? He considers not only my future but also the future of my generation. It is deeply reassuring to know that I believe in a God who cares for me and thinks about me.

The Bible teaches us that "**Your thoughts are not My thoughts; your ways are not My ways**" (Isaiah 55:8). Why is this? Because the way God perceives us and the way He thinks about us is entirely different from how we see and think about ourselves.

For instance, consider Gideon in Judges chapter 6. He was busy threshing wheat under the Terebinth tree, hiding from the Midianites. He lacked the courage to do so openly and was concealing himself. That was the reality of who Gideon was. However, when the Lord encountered Gideon, observe how He addressed him—  
Judges 6:11-12

**"Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress to hide it from**



*The Angel appeared to Gideon*

the Midianites. The Angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, 'The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!'

While the Lord refers to Gideon as a mighty man of valor, Gideon perceives himself quite differently. In Judges 6:15 (NKJV), he responds, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

Gideon views himself as the weakest and the least, yet God sees him as a mighty man destined to deliver His people and defeat their enemies.

Often, it is our own thoughts that hinder us from progressing. We tend to underestimate the gifts, talents, and calling that have been bestowed upon us, leading to a failure in fulfilling our divine purpose.

### THINKING AHEAD!

Conversely, some individuals act prematurely, pursuing their own plans rather than waiting for God's timing. Consider Moses: when he witnessed two Israelites fighting, he intervened, believing he could deliver his people. However, this was not God-ordained timing. His attempt to resolve a dispute between two Israelites ultimately ended in disaster.

### THE POWER OF THOUGHTS!

Our thoughts are extraordinarily powerful; they significantly influence our behavior and emotions. Psychologists acknowledge this influence, which is why it plays a pivotal role in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT).

Thoughts dominate a crucial aspect of our lives, which is why the Bible advises us to guard our minds. What we allow into our minds profoundly impacts how we think. One misguided thought can derail the entire course of our lives and distract us from the plans and purposes that God has for us.

### DAVID'S INSIGHTS!

David was a man who sought to please God and kept Him at the center of his life. Despite Saul's relentless pursuit of David, God did not deliver David into Saul's hands. Instead, on two occasions, God delivered Saul into David's grasp. However, David chose not to harm Saul, declaring, "He is the Lord's anointed." David respected the anointing upon Saul, even when Saul did not act in accordance with his divine appointment.

....Contd. to page 6

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

Rush for Admission!



# GREAT COMMISSION PARTNERS

TO SHARE (Galatians 6:2)

SUPPORT (Romans 12:13)

SPEED UP (II Timothy 1:6)

PRAISE &amp; PRAYER POINTS - From October 19 To November 18, 2024

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



## †PRAISE GOD FOR...

- October 19** ⇒ Enabling Echo of His Call Ministries to build the Kingdom of God despite obstacles.
- October 20** ⇒ Blessing our St. Paul's Matriculation School, including the principal, staff and students.
- October 21** ⇒ Blessing our ministry with dedicated Associate Editors who support the Echo of His Call magazine ministry.
- October 22** ⇒ His blessings in appointing a new Principal for our St. Paul's Matriculation School.
- October 23** ⇒ Enabling us to print and publish our magazine in 16 languages at our printing press and distribute it to mission fields.
- October 24** ⇒ Safeguarding our Echo of His Call Ministries staff and their families.
- October 25** ⇒ Blessing us with testimonies resulting from the 5-minute messages of our Echo of His Call YouTube Media Ministry.
- October 26** ⇒ We are thankful for the continuous operation of our gospel printing press, supported by our dedicated workers.
- October 27** ⇒ We express gratitude for His mercy towards our Prayer Partners, Subscribing Partners, Faith Partners, Life Partners, and Great Commission Partners, along with their families.
- October 28** ⇒ We appreciate His ongoing guidance in our diverse ministries.
- October 29** ⇒ We celebrate the growth of our Bible Correspondence Course and Theological Correspondence Course.
- October 30** ⇒ We are grateful for His mercy in ensuring the smooth functioning of Nehemiah Bible College.
- October 31** ⇒ We thank Him for the blessings bestowed upon our missionaries and their families.

- November 01** ⇒ We acknowledge our Senior Pastor's commitment to propagating the gospel through various ministries.
- November 02** ⇒ We seek His blessings for the Men's Meeting at our Main Church.
- November 03** ⇒ We are thankful for meeting all our financial and spiritual needs last month.

## †PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

- November 04** ⇒ Divine protection for pastors and missionaries worldwide.
- November 05** ⇒ The end of war and the restoration of unity and peace between Ukraine and Russia.
- November 06** ⇒ Blessings and protection upon all Christian organizations and churches.
- November 07** ⇒ Enlightenment for the hearts of all believers.
- November 08** ⇒ Our sister, Jesy Veena Sam, who is unwell again.
- November 09** ⇒ All spiritual leaders around the world.
- November 10** ⇒ His generous guidance in our Senior Pastor's writing of his autobiography.
- November 11** ⇒ The workers in our mission field.
- November 12** ⇒ For God to bring more dedicated workers to our Echo of His Call Ministries.
- November 13** ⇒ Our financial needs, including salaries for workers, printing supplies, postage, and transportation related to our ministries.
- November 14** ⇒ Total relief for drug addicts and wrongdoers.
- November 15** ⇒ An increase in enrollment for our Global Vision for Youth and Kid Care ministry to pray for the youth and children of this generation.
- November 16** ⇒ Unity among all religions.
- November 17** ⇒ Enabling us to spread the gospel to unreached areas.
- November 18** ⇒ His gracious mercies towards our leaders, government officials and authorities.

....Contd. from page 4

On one occasion, when David went to Keilah, a fortified city, Saul viewed this as an excellent opportunity to capture him, believing that David could not escape the strong walls (1 Samuel 23). Yet, we see that God saved David. Again, in chapter 26, Saul was close to capturing David, but once more, God aided David's escape.

In another instance in chapter 26, while Saul was pursuing David closely, David had the chance to kill Saul but chose not to lay a hand on the anointed one, opting instead to walk away. Throughout these trials, God remained faithful in David's life. No matter how vehemently Saul attempted to kill David, God consistently protected him. As stated in 1 Samuel 23:14, ... Day after day Saul searched for him, but God did not give David into his hand.

However, there comes a time in David's life, just as in all our lives, when we love God, trust God, and know that He loves and cares for us, able to do more than we can ask or imagine. Yet, doubts creep in, leading us to make poor decisions.

1 Samuel 27 portrays an intriguing chapter in David's life, marking one of his lowest points.

In the English Bible, it begins with the phrase, "Then David thought." He suddenly feared that Saul would overcome him, believing he could no longer stand against Saul. Consequently, he decided he had to take action to ensure his safety, along with his men. David chose to seek refuge among the Philistines, mistakenly

thinking he would be safer in the hands of the enemy rather than in the hands of the Lord.

During this period, we see that David experienced worldly success. Wherever he went, he was victorious; he amassed wealth, fame, power, and authority, possessing everything he needed and was a conqueror.

However, we often confuse success and blessings as divine gifts from God. Even Satan can bestow wealth, fame, and prosperity upon us. It is crucial to discern whether our blessings come from God or the enemy. If a blessing leads us away from God—such as work or education that prevents us from attending church or deepening our relationship with Him—it is time to reevaluate our priorities. We must reflect on whether what we enjoy truly originates from God.

David was happy and content, believing that all the ruthless murders he was committing pleased God and justified his actions. Surprisingly, during this period, we do not see David writing any Psalms. I believe this laid the foundation for a mentality that allowed him to kill without hesitation. The Bible states, **Whenever David attacked a territory, he did not leave a man or woman alive; he took the flocks and herds, the donkeys, camels, and clothing.** (1 Samuel 27:9).

This behavior transformed him into a cold-blooded murderer, making it easy for him to orchestrate the death of Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, by entrusting him with his own death sentence. David showed no remorse for his actions, as the seeds of this mentality had been planted long

....Contd. to page 8

## 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)

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- Editor

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# PIT TO PALACE

(Life experiences of Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj)

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

## WONDERFUL BUT TRUE!

Once, my son, Alex Samson and I were invited to share the Lord's word in a foreign country. The brother who invited us promised to cover our travel expenses. The Lord guided us to this country, and the ministry went exceptionally well. The Lord worked powerfully and chose many souls for Himself.

When the days of ministry concluded, we were preparing to leave. However, the brother who had invited us was unable to fulfill his promise regarding our travel expenses. This unexpected turn created a challenging financial situation for our next journey. Yet, it was remarkable that this incident did not disturb our peace. As the scripture reminds us, **And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God ... Romans 8:28.** This verse brought us comfort.

Though we had purchased plane tickets to the next city, we found ourselves without money for food. The tickets we had bought were inexpensive, and consequently, the airline would not provide even water without payment. We endured hunger and thirst as the plane reached its destination.

*....Contd. from page 6*

ago during his time in Philistine territory, far from the will and presence of God.

He even went so far as to fight against the Israelites and Saul. In Chapter 28, we see the commander of the Philistine army stating, “Send that man back and let him return to the place you assigned him. He must not go down with us into battle, only to become our adversary during the war.” They ultimately stopped David.

Once one begins to slide down the slope of backsliding away from God, it becomes a steep decline. David was descending rapidly.

The consequence of his actions was profound:

when he returned, he was shocked to find that everything he had earned was gone.

**On the third day, David and his men arrived in Ziklag, only to find that the Amalekites**

**had raided the Negev, attacked Ziklag, and burned it to the ground.**

**They had taken captive the women and all who were there, both young and old. They did not kill anyone but carried them off as they went on their way.** (1 Samuel 30:1-2)

David lost everything, including his wives and the steadfast loyalty of his men, who accompanied him everywhere and fought all his battles.

**... For man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart - I Samuel 16:7.**

Surprisingly, neither my son nor I harbored any bitterness toward anyone regarding this matter. We never blamed the brother for failing to provide the promised funds. Both of us remained silent about it and were not troubled in our hearts. Glory to God!

Upon arriving in the next city, we were warmly welcomed by God's children, who took us to our place of rest and cared for us exceptionally well.

The following day, a brother visited us. He spoke with us for some time and handed me an envelope. He said, **“Pastor, God instructed me to give this to you for your emergency expenses.”** Inside the envelope was an amount of money that exceeded our travel expenses. We were overjoyed to see it. That brother and his Church became our very good friends. What a wonderful surprise! We lacked nothing. God has been guiding us in this way ever since.

Dear reader, will you also choose to serve this Lord? **The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.** Psalms 34:10. **Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!** Psalms 34:8.

\*\*\*\*\*

**David was greatly distressed because the people spoke of stoning him.** (1 Samuel 30:6)

David felt utterly isolated; everyone seemed to turn against him. He lost his family, his career, his savings, and his fame—all gone in a single night. His own people were willing to attack him and even kill him. He had no one to confide in, no one to share his problems or feelings with.

Being a leader can often be a lonely experience. When circumstances are favorable, leaders receive praise; however, when things go awry, there is often no one to whom they can express their innermost feelings. Like others, David lost everything, yet he had no place to vent his frustrations or yell out his anguish. Can you imagine his mental state?

Sometimes, we believe that being away from God is preferable. However, God often grants us a long rope because His love for us is profound and unfathomable. It transcends our sins and disobedience. This is why He left everything behind in Heaven and took on the form of a simple man—to offer us eternal life.

**“Though he was God,**

**He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges;**

**He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.”** - Philippians 2:6-8. NLT

He died on the cross to bring life and meaning to our existence, providing us with purpose in our lives. He is coming back to reward us, and all He desires is for us to love Him and engage in an intimate walk with Him.

David found his strength in the Lord!

The Bible states that David was very distressed. However, it also says that he strengthened himself in the Lord. Wow! Finally, he realized how far he had strayed from God. He returned to God to be renewed in strength. David discovered that God was his only source of strength, capable of helping him in his hopeless situation. He understood that He is the ever-present help in times of trouble. David sought the presence of the Lord, asking God what to do next and seeking His face for direction, demonstrating his dependence on the Almighty. This time, he wanted to move forward with the strength of the Lord.

God is calling some of us right now to come to Him for strength, encouragement, forgiveness, and restoration—to return to the place where we are meant to be. David did not hesitate

to fall into the hands of God, and let us not hesitate to do the same.

The Bible tells us that when David returned to God (1 Samuel 30:18), **“David recovered everything.”** He regained everything he had lost—family, money, fame, status, friends, possessions, and wealth. Imagine that: David got everything back, not only for himself but also for all his men. When we trust in Him, God will find a way where there seems to be none. He can open supernatural doors.

Perhaps you see yourself in David's situation, feeling as though you have lost everything and wondering if recovery is possible, thinking, “Is there a way out? I am all alone in this.”

Dear brothers and sisters, remember that we are not alone; just run to the Father, and He will orchestrate everything for our good.

Dear Friends, The steep downfall in David's life stemmed from his thoughts, so let us be careful with what we think. At the same time, remember that our God is a merciful Father, waiting for you and me to return to Him, with everlasting open arms.

Will you run to Him?

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## Kind Attention!

### 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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