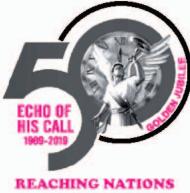


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Editor : S. SAM SELVA RAJ

16 Languages

Associate Editor : SIS. SAJINI CHERIAN

Vol. XXXI

YEAR OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, 2024 NOVEMBER

No.11



THE HOLY BIBLE
Please memorize this portion
Proverbs 26:1-10

1. As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool.
2. As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.
3. A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back.
4. Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.
5. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.
6. He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off the feet, and drinketh damage.
7. The legs of the lame are not equal: so is a parable in the mouth of fools.
8. As he that bindeth a stone in a sling, so is he that giveth honour to a fool.
9. As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouths of fools.
10. The great God that formed all things both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors.

★ BEAR EACH OTHER'S BURDEN!

(Galatians 6:2)

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



Greetings to all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whose love is boundless, unconditional, and indisputable. We thank God for His grace and favor, which have sustained us through the first ten months of 2024. He will continue to lead us, and His grace will always be sufficient, for we are His children.

The Bible tells us that He has called us to be His children. What a privilege! But the crucial question is, "Is our life worthy of His calling?" In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul writes, ... I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received... Ephesians 4:1. What does this mean? This phrase lingered in my mind for days. What does it truly mean to live a life worthy of His calling? What exactly are we called to do? While there are many aspects to this, let us focus on one today.

PEACEMAKERS: THE CHILDREN OF GOD

Let's reflect on Matthew 5:9, Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Dear brothers and sisters, if we wish to

....Contd. to page 3



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"The young lions lack and suffer
hunger; But those who seek
the Lord shall not lack
any good thing" – Psalm 34:10



Dearly beloved children of God in Christ,

We extend blessings to you from the House of the Lord, praying that your good life may prosper more abundantly (Psalm 118:26).

We are deeply thankful to the Lord for our fellow workers at **Echo of His Call ministries**. Despite facing obstacles, sickness, and economic hardship in certain areas, God has been our protector and guide. As Apostle Paul said, "**No loss of life, only of the ship**" (Acts 27:22).

We are now able to resume local travels as our fellow workers recover physically. God has lifted us up, as the scriptures declare, "...a righteous man may fall seven times, and rise again..." (Proverbs 24:16). Therefore, we are hopeful that the month of November will be filled with blessings.

We earnestly request your prayers for our fellow workers at the Main Office: Dr. Serina Bevin, Sis. Sajini Cherian, Rev. Dr. K.R. Rajasekaran, Rev. Dr. William Robert and all the Associate Editors of 16 languages, their assistants, coordinators, and the staff of our printing press who are responsible for printing and publishing **Echo of His Call** magazine each month. The well-being of these individuals is crucial to the regular publication of our magazine.

Please remember our fellow workers serving in our Churches, **Nehemiah Bible Colleges**, **St. Paul's Matriculation School**, Printing Press, Media Ministry (YouTube), Mission Centers, and Office in your valuable prayers.

We would like to inform you that our ministry is currently facing a financial crisis and struggling to meet our needs. We humbly request your prayers.

May you all be abundantly blessed.

Your servants in Christ Jesus,

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

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- Pr. S. Sam Selva Raj

....Contd. from page 1

be called children of God and to live lives worthy of our calling, we must be peacemakers. This is a key characteristic of God's children. He has called us to be peacemakers, not troublemakers.

Ephesians 4:2 teaches that as children of God, we are called to be peacemakers by **bearing one another's burdens**. To do this, we must be humble, gentle, and patient. It is essential to practice these virtues not only with fellow believers who share our faith but also with those who test our patience daily with harsh words and hurtful actions. In truth, this can be difficult and challenging. It is far easier to speak of it than to live it. However, this is precisely what the Bible expects from those who love Jesus. The Apostle James emphasizes that we must be doers of the Word, not just hearers.

BEARING ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS!

Colossians 3:13 instructs us: **Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**

Bearing with one another requires forgiveness. To truly forgive, we need love, and without God's love, we cannot fully forgive or forget. You might say, "It's hard; I can't do it. I'm just human, with emotions and feelings. It's impossible for me." But this is exactly why we need God's

help—to love and to forgive. Sharing each other's burdens is not merely a suggestion or an option; it is a command. Galatians 6:2 says, **Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.**

To fulfill Christ's law, we must help carry one another's burdens. Every person faces difficulties: challenges, overwhelming situations, financial struggles, battles with sin, and both physical and spiritual trials. However, we are not meant to bear these burdens alone, which is why God has given us the church family. We are one body in Christ, and when one part of the body suffers, the entire body is affected.

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE CROSS!

We often focus on maintaining peace with God, emphasizing our relationship with Him. However, the symbol of the cross consists of two lines: the vertical line represents our relationship with God, while the horizontal line symbolizes our relationship with others.

Jesus' two most important commandments are summed up in the same way. The first, ... **Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your soul** Matthew 22:37, speaks to our relationship with God (the vertical line). The second, ... **Love your neighbor as yourself** Matthew 22:39, from Matthew 22:34-40, addresses our

relationship with others (the horizontal line).

Many of us feel content with our relationship with God. We love the Lord, read His Word daily, pray, fast, attend church, and engage in ministry, placing great emphasis on the gifts of the Spirit. As Paul writes in I Corinthians 12:8-10, **To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.**

Yet, what about the fruits of the Spirit? Galatians 5:22,23 reminds us, **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering (forbearance), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control ...** I often notice that people become so consumed with their ministry and personal relationship with God that they neglect their families and neighbors. The Bible teaches us that both relationships are equally important.

THE CHURCH'S RESPONSIBILITY!

The church, which includes you and me, carries a profound

responsibility to care for and share the burdens of our fellow believers. When one member of the body is unwell, it affects all of us. Caring for others is not simply an act of compassion; there is also a personal stake involved. When those around us are healthy, we benefit, and when we are healthy, the church as a whole is strengthened. Conversely, when we suffer, those close to us, including the church, are also impacted.

As Galatians 6:2 says, **Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.** This commandment is clear—it is not optional but a direct directive for every member of God's family. Only by doing so, do we live up to our calling as children of God. Let us now turn to Scripture to see examples of how others have shared one another's burdens.

DAVID AND JONATHAN!

The bond between David and Jonathan is a remarkable example of selfless love and friendship. Despite knowing that David would one day take his place as king, a position he could have seen as his own, Jonathan loved David wholeheartedly. His loyalty to David was so great that he even stood against his own father, King Saul.

I Samuel 23, records a powerful moment: David, hiding in the wilderness of Ziph, was relentlessly pursued by Saul, who was determined to kill him. Yet, the Bible tells us, ... **But God did not give David into his hands.** 1 Samuel 23:14. God was protecting David.

Dear friends, what a comforting truth! If God protected David, He will also protect us from our enemies, those who wish to see us fall. At times, it may feel like we are constantly under attack, but we must remember that God will not hand us over to our enemies. When our ways are pleasing to the Lord, He can even turn our enemies to work for our good. The enemy may be close, but God is in control. He will never allow us to fall into their hands.

David, at that time, was living in fear, knowing Saul was hunting him. He must have felt isolated, despondent, and anxious, having left behind his family, his wives, his friends, and the comfort of his home to hide in the wilderness. Loneliness can be a formidable foe, one that allows negative thoughts to take root and flourish. Yet, even in his darkest moments, God was with David, and He is with us, too.

When David was physically, mentally, and spiritually down, he had an unexpected visitor in the wilderness: **And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God.** 1 Samuel 23:16. Let's examine a few other translations of this verse:

NIV: Helped him find strength in God.

NLT: Stay strong in his faith in God.

KJV: Strengthened his hand in God.

Amplified: Encouraged him in God.

In short, Jonathan went to the wilderness to visit his dear friend David and uplift his spirits. He spoke words of encouragement and strengthened David in his weakness. Not only did Jonathan support David emotionally, but he also helped him find strength in God during a time when David was spiritually dry. Jonathan's words had a profound impact on David. In 1 Samuel 23:17, Jonathan says:

"Don't be afraid ... My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this."

Jonathan reassured David of God's plan for his life. Imagine

....Contd. to page 6



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PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS - From November 19 To December 18, 2024

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



†PRAISE GOD FOR...

November 19 ⇒ The successful completion of the first semester of the 2024-2025 academic year and the smooth commencement of the second semester at our **Nehemiah Bible Colleges**.

November 20 ⇒ Enabling us to print and publish our magazine in 16 languages using our printing press, and distributing it to mission fields around the world.

November 21 ⇒ His blessings on our **BIBLECOR** and **Theological Correspondence Courses**.

November 22 ⇒ Our Sunday services, both at our main Church and its branches, which spread the gospel to unreached communities.

November 23 ⇒ Our Senior Pastor's unwavering commitment to propagating the gospel through diverse ministries.

November 24 ⇒ The dedicated Associate Editors who support our **Echo of His Call** magazine ministry.

November 25 ⇒ His mercy extended towards our Prayer Partners, Subscribing Partners, Faith Partners, Life Partners, Great Commission Partners, and their families.

November 26 ⇒ Our regular supporters and their active involvement in our ministry.

November 27 ⇒ Our dedicated Sunday School teachers.

November 28 ⇒ Our **YouTube Ministry** Chairman, Brother Edward Durai.

November 29 ⇒ The Lord's aid in spreading the gospel to unreached areas through our YouTube Media ministry.

November 30 ⇒ Blessing us with more children for Sunday School at our main Church and its branches.

December 01 ⇒ Blessing us with divine protection for the students and teachers of our **St. Paul's Matriculation School** and **Nehemiah Bible Colleges**.

December 02 ⇒ Our well-wishers, friends, and field supporters.

December 03 ⇒ His guidance and blessings upon all the activities of **Echo of His Call Ministries**.

†PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

December 04 ⇒ The safety of our Senior Pastor, S. Sam Selva Raj, and his family members from all sorts of evil forces.

December 05 ⇒ The success of our Senior Pastor in writing his autobiography.

December 06 ⇒ Divine protection for pastors, missionaries, and Christian organizations worldwide.

December 07 ⇒ Our Magazine Council members.

December 08 ⇒ Our **St. Paul's Matriculation School** and **Nehemiah Bible College** staff members and students.

December 09 ⇒ The removal of the suicidal spirit among adolescents and youth worldwide.

December 10 ⇒ The prevention of natural calamities like cyclones and earthquakes worldwide.

December 11 ⇒ Our Church Council members.

December 12 ⇒ Our School Council members.

December 13 ⇒ Divine protection worldwide against new contagious diseases.

December 14 ⇒ A great revival in all Christian ministries worldwide.

December 15 ⇒ Peace and harmony to return to all war and terrorism-affected areas worldwide.

December 16 ⇒ Our Bible College Council members.

December 17 ⇒ Divine protection of believers from following false teachings and false miracles.

December 18 ⇒ Our Hospital Ministries.

....Contd. from page 4

how difficult it must have been for Jonathan to acknowledge his own father's faults. Saul may have been a powerful king, but no matter how hard he tried, he could not thwart God's will. Jonathan acknowledged that David would become the next king and expressed his willingness to serve under him, recognizing the fulfillment of God's promise. No plan of man, no scheme of hell, can stand against God's purposes. God has a plan for us, as stated in Jeremiah 29:11: **Plans to give us hope and a future.**

Jonathan went out of his way to encourage David, reminding us that when we encourage others, they are strengthened in the Lord. When was the last time you went out of your way to encourage someone? We often seek encouragement for ourselves, but do we take the time and make the effort to be there for others when they need it? In today's busy world, it's easy to overlook the needs of others. Sometimes we think sending money is enough, and while financial support is important, being there physically and emotionally is equally vital.

BARZILLAI!

Another inspiring character in the Bible is Barzillai, a man who

demonstrated that age is just a number. In 2 Samuel 19:32, it says:

Now Barzillai was very old man, eighty years of age. He had provided for the king during his stay in Mahanaim, for he was a very wealthy man.

We encounter a man named Barzillai, who was 80 years old. When David was fleeing from his son in the wilderness, along with his men, he was in dire need of food and other resources. Barzillai, a wealthy and elderly man, took the initiative to support David and his followers. He provided them with food while they were staying in Mahanaim, sharing in the burden of David and his men.

This story illustrates that acts of kindness are not limited by gender, race, or age—anyone can help bear the burdens of others. The key requirement is a willing and compassionate heart. When David offered to bring Barzillai back with him to the kingdom to reward his kindness, Barzillai humbly declined, choosing instead to remain behind. This demonstrates that his love and care were without selfish motives; he simply wanted to be there for David, sharing in his pain and struggle.

JESUS CHRIST!

There is no greater example of selfless love than Jesus Christ. He loved us so deeply that He was willing to leave heaven and His throne to die on the cross for our sins. **He stoops down to make us great** (Psalm 18:35, NIV). Jesus humbled Himself and became a curse so that we could be blessed. He bore our shame so that we could walk with our heads held high. Through His sacrifice, we have received the greatest gift: forgiveness and eternal life. **He promises, I will never leave you nor forsake you** (Hebrews 13:5). The Lord declares, **Because he loves me, I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him** (Psalm 91:14-15).

God assures us that He will be with us in our times of trouble, staying close by our side. Jesus invites us to share our burdens with Him, saying in Matthew 11:28-30:

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your

....Contd. to page 9



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15. Tamil Service : 8.30 a.m. Sunday
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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
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PIT TO PALACE

(Life experiences of Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj)

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



A TALE OF A PENCIL MAT!

After completing fifth grade in a village government school, I was promoted to a high school, where I encountered English alphabets for the first time. On my first day, the teacher instructed all students to bring a **pencil and notebook** the following day.

Rushing home, I informed my mother about this requirement, as my father was away. She managed to procure a notebook but was unable to purchase a pencil. Unwilling to seek help from our neighbors, she explained her predicament to me and suggested I pray to the Lord Jesus Christ for a pencil.

Obediently, I knelt down that night and prayed for a pencil before going to sleep. However, the next morning, I still had no pencil. I reluctantly went to school without one, feeling the sting of being the only student without the necessary supplies. The teacher, visibly displeased, reprimanded me for disobeying her instructions and warned me not to return without a pencil.

Back home, I shared the teacher's displeasure with my mother. She simply smiled and reassured me that the pencil was on its way, urging me to continue praying. I did so, but again, nothing happened. The next day, I returned to school empty-handed. When the teacher inquired about my lack of pencil, I explained that I had prayed as instructed but the pencil hadn't arrived. The teacher, exasperated by my mother's attitude and my lack of a pencil, sternly warned me not to come back without one.

With deep sadness, I shared the news with my mother. She told me to thank the Lord Jesus Christ for answering my "pencil prayer." I began

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" - Proverbs 22:6.



thanking the Lord until midnight. However, I couldn't sleep, worrying about the punishment I would face at school the next day if I arrived without a pencil.

To my astonishment, we suddenly heard someone knocking on the door in the middle of the night. My mother, concerned that it might be thieves, knowing there was no adult male in the house, asked me to remain silent and hide under the bed. Then, we heard a voice calling my mother's name through the window. It was none other than my uncle, Mr. Selvamani, a police officer working in Palayamkottai, a town about 70 kilometers from our home.

We gladly opened the door for him. As usual, he brought many gifts—biscuits, sweets, clothes, and more. Among the presents, I found a small box. With excitement, I opened it, discovering a box full of expensive Nataraj pencils. In those days, these pencils were considered a luxury. There were 24 pencils in the box. I jumped for joy that night, overwhelmed with the belief that not only had God heard my prayers, but He had also answered them in a miraculous way. I was so overjoyed that I didn't sleep at all that night.

The next morning, I went to school proudly carrying my box of 24 pencils, while the other students each had only one. My teacher, with a stern look, asked what had happened. I responded, "The pencil that was on its way yesterday has arrived in my hands today in a wonderful manner." She smiled, patted my back, and

announced to the class, "There is indeed a living God, and His name is JESUS CHRIST."

Dear reader, this event took place when I was seven years old, yet the memory remains vivid. The same God who provided me with pencils is still alive today. As it is written in Hebrews 13:8, "**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**" Because of this, I keep a small mat in my room, which I call my "**Pencil Mat.**" **Each morning, I kneel on this mat to pray, often three times a day, despite my busy schedule. Through this mat, I have received countless blessings—from needles to minibuses, even large buildings.**

....*Contd. from page 6*

souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

He is ready and waiting for us to come to Him and lay down our cares, pains, failures, and fears. Will you come to Him today and let Him share your burdens?

As much as Jesus carries our burdens and we have the support of a church family to pray for us, we should also look for ways to be a "Jonathan" in someone else's life.

1. PRAYING FOR OTHERS!

Prayer is a powerful tool. We can pray for one another. If you see someone struggling with sin, instead of criticizing them, pray for them and with them. Walk alongside them. If you are unhappy with someone, start praying for them sincerely, rather than gossiping about them to others.

2. LISTENING!

Sometimes, people just need someone to listen. They aren't looking for advice or solutions to their problems—just a compassionate ear. Listen without

I have come to the conclusion that THE HANDS THAT HOLD THE HOLY BIBLE AND THE KNEES THAT BOW IN PRAYER WILL NEVER END IN FAILURE.

Over the past 55 years of my ministry, I have never undertaken a fundraising project or solicited donations door-to-door. My needs for our diverse ministries are met through the grace of God, who has always answered my prayers, and through my "**Pencil Mat**" – a testament to my belief that "**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me**" (Philippians 4:13).

judgment. It could be a family member, a friend, or even someone who has caused you pain. Be a good listener when people need it most.

3. MEETING NEEDS!

James teaches us that faith should be demonstrated through action. Prayer and listening alone are not enough; we must find practical ways to help others meet their needs. This doesn't always involve money—we can use our skills, expertise, and knowledge to support and guide others.

4. TECHNOLOGY!

Use technology for a purpose. Send an encouraging text or voice message to someone going through a difficult time. Leave a prayer or an uplifting message; even if you can't be there physically, your words will have a powerful impact. Share a Bible verse or a simple message to uplift and encourage those who are struggling.

5. CARING FOR THE CONGREGATION!

Make it a habit to check on the well-being of your congregation. If you notice someone is missing from church, call them. Ask, "Can I pray for you? Is there anything I can help you with?" Ensure that our brothers and sisters know they are part of a family.

6. SERVING!

Lastly, be available to serve others in any way you can, just as Jesus did. The opportunities to serve are endless, but the key is to find ways to share each other's burdens and live up to our calling as children of God.

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