POEMS OF THE MONTH

Outside the box

-Simon Zachariah

They asked "Who packed your box?" Can you tell what is inside the box? Actually, what is inside the box? I lost my words for few minutes,

It is easy to 'think outside the box' Because it's all great imagination. One has to walk long way to reach, Inside 'the box of reality-inclusion'.

The longest road in the world is, The road from the vision to the reality! That road is rugged, long and dark But the reality is the truth and beautiful.

കട്ട പുക

-സൈമൺ സഖറിയ

''അരുത്!'' എന്നമ്മ ചൊല്ലിയൊരുനാൾ, ചിരിച്ചു കളഞ്ഞവൻ അന്നാളിൽ നിസ്സാരമായ്

കണ്ണുരുട്ടി പിതാവുമോതി ''വേണ്ടടാ..മോനെ'' തലതാഴ്ക്കി കടന്നുപോയ് അന്നും മടി കൂടാതെ.

''അരുതേ'' ഭാര്യ കെഞ്ചികരഞ്ഞോതി അന്നു. ഒട്ടും ചെവികൊടുത്തില്ലയാൾ അന്നാളിലും.

'ഡോക്ടർ അകത്തുണ്ട്'' ബോർഡ് ചുവരിൽ, കാത്തിരുന്നയാൾ ഡോക്ടറിൻ തീർപ്പിന്നായ്

കറുത്ത ഫിലിമിൽ നോക്കി ഡോക്ടർ ചൊല്ലി അധികം നാളിനി ഇല്ലെടോ ജീവിക്കുവാൻ1 We are extremely happy to let you know that Channels of Glory, Inc. is exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Channels of Glory, Inc. is also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devices, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Also please note the following details for your tax purposes.

Accounting period ending: December 31 Public Charity Status: 509 (a) (2) Effective date of exemption: June 2, 2005 Contribution deductibility: Yes

Please send your generous contribution for this noble cause. You can also help us to locate needy individuals around you or in India. Please ask them to submit an application showing their need.

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Channels of Glory

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A Newsletter

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"..In cocoons a hidden promise, Butterflies will be soon be free..."

_By Aron Thankachan.

NEWS FROM THE CHANNELS



<u>Channels of Glory –</u> <u>Letter from Dr. Simon Zachariah</u>

We have completed twelve years in the existence of this organization. We thank God and all those who have participated in this noble cause of helping our fellow beings in their time of trouble and need. God has given enough resources to all of us to help each other. But most of us lack the courage to share our resources with others. To overcome this fear, we should be willing to start somewhere small.

When I see the photos of some of the families we have been helping, I feel so happy and praise God for giving His Grace to those families to go through the dark valleys of life. Every family grow in faith and their children are growing with a promise of helping others when they grow up. As I have seen in my previous experiences, children are much benefitted by our services. Children growing up in difficult situations, learn to trust in God and when they grow up as good citizens, they try to help others in need. When I used to teach in India, there was one student who always told jokes while I was teaching. I always welcomed such harmless comments

as it was entertaining for other students. One day after class, this boy was also in the group that stayed back to chat with me about some contemporary social issues. After every one left, this boy still continued chatting with me with a smile. Then I noticed a small pocket book protruding from his shirt pocket. Upon enquiry he told me that it was the list of groceries he had to purchase for the family where he was staying as a helper. When I asked why he was staying as a helper, he explained with a smile, that he used to live with his mother who had mental illness. When the police started harassing him for his mother's actions, the neighbors allowed him to stay with them and asked him to work for them in return. He always had a big smile to cover up all his sorrows. If you want to see mountains, you have to go to the mountains; because they won't come to you. In the same way when you want to help the needy people, you have to go and look for them. The people who need real help won't come begging to you; instead you have to look out for them and ask them privately and help them in secret. It was surprising information for me that majority of homeless people in America are teenagers. When the foster children turn eighteen, they are no longer allowed to stay in their foster homes. All of them may not be in a position to support themselves. Hence they live isolated in strange and lonely places. When we see the homeless people on the roadside, many of us have a tendency to judge them. But when we take time to read their life story, we may definitely change our opinion.

Once when I went to volunteer for a Thanksgiving lunch in our church, a homeless man was watching a youngster playing piano. When I asked him about his musical abilities, he said, that he used to play piano when he was a boy. We are too quick to judge, and discriminate others by their clothes, hair, tattoos, or with their body shape, or age. But we fail to see their loving heart. When someone gets wounded in an accident, they may be the only ones to reach out to help. When someone needs blood, these people may be in the front row to donate that rare type of blood. You may be wondering why they do such humanitarian work. It is because they have been in their shoes before. One of my former co-worker told me about his father. His father used to give his meal to any stranger that came to his door. For this purpose, he always ate from a corner of his plate. When one of his children asked him why he did that, he said, "Since I do this, my children will never go hungry!" He was exactly right; my colleague had the privilege to eat every meal for many years from the table of the Head of the Institution.

Not everyone who has suffered can help others who need help. We have to overcome the fear to do good things. One of my friends used to do a lot of help to others. When I asked him the secret of his good heart, he told me that from childhood onwards his parents taught him to do small charitable deeds. For this reason automatically he springs to action at the time of need. It becomes natural for those who practice charity.

Let us examine ourselves. Do we look around to see the people who are suffering? Remember you have to make an effort to see the people who are suffering and are in need.