

## POEMS OF THE MONTH

### Diversity!

-Simon Zachariah

God made flowers in different colors  
But he made them all beautiful.  
Some are solitary, and others in bunches  
But they are all beautiful in His sight!

God made people in different colors.  
But he made them all beautiful.  
Some are single, others in groups.  
But they are all beautiful in His sight!

God made people who are kind,  
But he made them also peace loving!  
They searched for those who are in need,  
They are really beautiful in His sight!

God made people who can help others,  
Are you the one who can help others?  
If so, start helping and comforting now!  
Or, you will be in need of help tomorrow!

### കാൽവെപ്പുകൾ

-സൈമൺ സബറിയ

ബഹുദൂരയാത്രകളെല്ലാം തുടങ്ങിയതു,  
ആദ്യകാൽ വെപ്പുകൊണ്ടാണത്രെ!  
മലമുകളിലേക്കായാലും അതൊന്നു തന്നെ,  
പടുകഴിയലേക്കായാലും അതൊന്നു തന്നെ!

പുറകോട്ടു വലിക്കാനെപ്പോഴുമാവില്ലതു,  
രണ്ടാമതൊന്നു വയ്ക്കാനും തോന്നുകില്ല,  
അക്കരെ എത്തിയേ പറ്റൂ എന്നൊരൊറ്റചിന്ത,  
ഒടുവിലിതെല്ലാം ഓർത്തു ഊറിചിരിച്ചിടാം!

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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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Prize winning art work by: Gloria Dilip

## NEWS FROM THE CHANNELS



### **Channels of Glory – Letter from Dr. Simon Zachariah**

Have you ever been into a moving crowd? I have been in crowds many times. People stand very close to each other with no place to move. Some of the crowded places are at festivals or boat races or may be even at ticket counters. Even though no one really wants to push each other, yet somehow we feel that everyone is pushing us. It is the same condition in the world now. Everyone desires peace; but war and animosity is expressed everywhere. Religious leaders call for ecumenism, but still selfishness prevail. Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birth. It says in the Bible the angels proclaimed the Good news by saying "Peace on earth!" But everyone wonders "When will peace come on earth?"

In 1885 Leo Tolstoy gave the answer to this question. In his story 'What men live by' he is telling an imaginary story of an angel called 'Michael' who disobeyed God and God sent him to earth to live among people and find out for himself the answer to

the question: 'What Men Live By'. In the end of the story the angel finds out that there are lot of good people and a few others who do not understand what kindness is. The angel sees the kind people are the ones who help the people to live in harmony.

We often come across small stories of people helping people. In those write-ups they use the word "some good citizens" volunteered themselves to help others. Have you thought who these 'good citizens' are! If you go and ask them, you will find out that it is ordinary people who have gone through similar situations. Next time when your car breaks down in a strange place and no one is approaching you to offer help, then you will look around to see those 'good citizens'. Some good citizens may not come to you. But they may call 911 and inform the police to send some help to us. What I am trying to tell is, the good citizens are like angels. We may not see them in person so that we can thank them. They will be extremely happy if you and I pass it forward to others who need help.

This year we were able to help a few poor students who are studying in a women's college in Kerala, India, who needed money for their education purposes. They are all either undergraduate or graduate students from financially deprived families. In spite of their financial suffering, they study hard and wish to contribute back to the community. Both my wife and I call these students personally and give our moral support to continue their studies. When we get to know them personally, most of them are suffering from the broken marriages of their parents. When a girl is being raised by

a single mom, their problems are endless. Many of them have problems even in their names. We try to convince them that all these difficulties are momentary. We motivate them to keep focused on their studies just like The Little Engine who Could" repeated the words "I think, I can", over and over again when faced with challenges. Finally just as the engine was able to reach to its destination, these students can reach their goals.

It is a fact that 'it is very difficult to be at the receiving end'. But when we think deeply, we all be at the receiving end at some time. There is no one in the world who do not want help from others. Just like the Angel Michael found out himself, sooner or later we will find out that, there are lots of good citizens in the world who keep this turbulent world in balance. Let's do all that we can do to be one of those "good citizens" Why can't you and I be one of those good citizens?

If you are the one who is at the receiving end, I want to let you start a support group. For example if you are suffering from certain sickness like dementia, or diabetes, start talking about it to someone who has the same disease. Soon you will find that they will open up their heart and share their feelings with you and this will give you enough peace of mind. This is very true about most of our problems. It may be diseases, or financial problems, or tech problems or even simply old age loneliness problems.

Always try to find a 'good citizen' in your community, or be a good citizen in your community and try to help each other.