

POEMS OF THE MONTH

Did You See?

— Simon Zachariah

I saw broken glass on the street
And thought of stopping to clear it.
The more I thought, the more I walked—
Until later, I saw a bleeding foot.

The traffic was heavy on the road,
No time to glance, no time to smile.
I saw an old woman trying to cross—
Did you see that helpless woman?

People hurried in and out;
The restaurant buzzed, loud and bright.
I saw a child peering through the glass—
Did you see that hungry child?

I asked myself, *Why do I see these things?*
And the answer came, soft and still:
Because I was there once, too.
Do you want to see such things?

ഐസ്സ് വില്പനക്കാരുൻ

—സൈമൺ സഖറിയ

സൈക്കിളിൽ ഐസ്സ് വിറ്റുനടന്നയാൾ
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Channels of Glory Newsletter

May, 2025



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I saw that broken glass in the street
I thought a lot about removing it
The more I thought, I moved far from it
Later I found a bleeding feet.

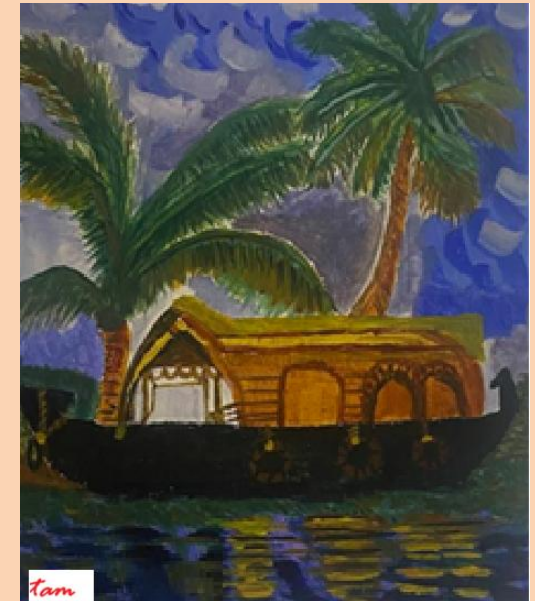
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A Newsletter

Vol. 20 No. 1. 2025



Row, row. Row your boat...

NEWS FROM THE CHANNELS



Channels of Glory – Letter from Dr. Simon Zachariah

In this newsletter, I'd like to reflect on the idea of growth.

Back in school, I learned about the differences between living and non-living things. One of the key distinctions was growth. Yet I was fascinated to discover that even some non-living things—like rocks—can “grow.” In caves, for example, stalactites hang from the ceiling, and stalagmites rise from the floor. Over time, both grow, but their growth is purely external.

This observation gave me a powerful analogy about human growth—and even the growth of organizations. People grow physically by eating nutritious food. Some struggle to gain weight, others to lose it. But internal or inward growth—the development of our character, wisdom, and purpose—requires something more: the

steady accumulation of knowledge and experience.

However, knowledge without application is fruitless. I once had a colleague who loved collecting expensive books on various subjects. But he rarely applied what he learned. As we all know, reading a book about swimming won't help when you're actually in the water.

As human beings, we are uniquely blessed not just with the ability to learn, but also to communicate—both through speech and writing. For holistic growth, we must commit to learning, practicing, and improving consistently. Our parents, teachers, and peers all offer guidance drawn from their experiences. It's up to us to take that wisdom, put it into action, and grow a little more each day.

There's a Chinese proverb that goes:

❖ *When you find someone who knows that he knows, respect him.*

❖ *When you find someone who doesn't know that he knows, awaken him.*

❖ *When you find someone who knows that he doesn't know, teach him.*

❖ *When you find someone who doesn't know that he doesn't know, run away from him.*

Take honeybees, for instance. I've heard of enormous honeybee nests built high up on rocky cliffs in forests. Think about the life of a bee—it simply focuses on its purpose. It doesn't get distracted the way humans do. It doesn't complain about its

repetitive work or the effort it takes. Nor does it worry about who will enjoy the honey it gathers or who will inherit the hive. It just carries out the work it was created to do—faithfully and consistently.

By contrast, some of us are more like chickens raised at home. After laying an egg, the hen loudly celebrates, announcing her accomplishment to the world! In my opinion, we don't need to **brag** about our achievements. In time, others will recognize them. Self-promotion often invites unnecessary jealousy or rivalry.

This reminds me of a children's story about a donkey and his friend, the camel. One day, a hungry donkey heard from the camel about a sugarcane field where he found food daily. Eagerly, the donkey followed. Both ate their fill. Overjoyed, the donkey began to sing and dance. The camel warned him to stay quiet, fearing danger. But the donkey ignored him. The camel silently left when he'd eaten enough. Soon, the farmer heard the donkey's noisy celebration and chased him away.

The moral is clear:

Do the work God has entrusted to you—faithfully. And by “faithfully,” I mean: honestly, consistently, on time, and without worrying about the outcome.

Years ago, I saw a quote on a priest's wall. It read:

“God said it. I believe it. That settles it.”

May God Almighty give us the strength to do His will in our lifetime—without fear of the future or concern over what others may think.