**CELEBRATE LIFE**

“I CAME SO THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE, LIFE IN ABUNDANCE”

When you reflect on such beautiful words of hope and promise, our life gets a boost. But it only seeps down deeper into our heart when we experience it and live it ourselves.

It was summer time , four in the evening. I had just finished my school and was waiting for an auto rickshaw.I usually took a sharing rickshaw as my distance back home was short.

I saw three young boys ,in their teens walking to the bus stop. We were all waiting for a rickshaw to reach our destination.

“where are you all going?” I causally asked them thinking that we could share the same rickshaw.

They just looked at me and smiled, said nothing .Then one of them through sign language told me that all of them were dumb and deaf.

I was taken aback for a moment. I really felt sorry for them.

“where are you all going?” this time I asked them through sign language.

“To the station” they promptly responded , happy that I could communicate with them.

One rickshaw finally slowed down seeing us. We all got in quickly and occupied our places.

The ten minute short ride with them was the most amazing ride I ever had in my life. All three of them were sharing some funny instances they had experienced that day. They laughed and laughed, they just couldn’t control themselves. I was completely dumbfolded to see such furore. No verbs, no adjectives, no words. Yet their silent conversation was remarkable , bubbling with joy .they enjoyed every moment to the fullest. The driver and me, we too couldn’t but join in their laughter and share these wonderful moments.

They were full of life, the life God had promised them in abundance. Their frailties, their limitations , nothing came in their way. Their trials their struggles, their bleak future, nothing detered them from enjoying the present moment.

I reached my destination and as I got down they waved me goodbye. There was something special in them that strung a chord in my heart. True happiness comes from within ourselves, not from somewhere else. They had taught me a very precious lesson, a lesson for a lifetime.

As I walked down home I recalled, I had felt sorry for them a little while ago , sorry for their disabilities. But I was sadly mistaken. I had to be pitied, not they, for it was they, not me who knew how to celebrate life and live it in abundance.

**Curie Pereira**