**THE CALLING**

“GOD HAS PLACED ON YOUR HEART A SPECIAL PASSION AREA WHERE YOU FEEL A BURNING DESIRE TO DO SOMETHING. THIS IS YOUR CALLING.”

After teaching in a school with normal children for a long span of twenty four years it was not very easy for me to switch to a school with special children.  
The first day, when I went for the interview, the chairperson of the school went through my resume and was a bit apprehensive about giving me the job.  
“ Are you sure you can handle these kids?”  
I just remained silent .I was quite sure why I had come here; I believed in myself, but was he sure of my belief?  
“You will be having lots of expectations but I do not want you to have disappointments; children here are different. Normal children may understand you in a day or two, but our children may take a lifetime.”  
“I know Sir, I am prepared for it”  
“You can observe the children for a week,  
Don’t commit yourself. Later on you may regret your decision”. I accepted his advice.  
“ Yes Sir, I will try that. But my heart said “go ahead, you can do it.” And there was no turning back.  
After a week of a totally different experience , I went back to his office,  
“ Yes , how are you feeling? What is your feedback? “  
“Sir, I would like to take up this job.”  
“Sure, but for this you need to have two very important qualities in you; Do you know what are they?”  
“Yes Sir, I know them, its passion and compassion. “  
He seemed to be quite impressed by my prompt and honest reply.  
“ Yes, and I am glad you have them in you, you may join from tomorrow.”  
And from that moment I became a part of this special school and the very very special children.  
I clearly recollected what my previous students had asked me on my farewell function “ mam, What are your retirement plans?”  
“ Well , nothing specific; just want to live my dreams and fulfill them. Let’s see what is God’s calling for me”.  
And today as I left the school premises, I was very ,very sure ,this was my calling.

**Curie Pereira**