

# Gratitude

In a world where seclusion became the new norm,  
In a world where houses became more than just a home,  
In a world where we discovered life isn't just a rat's race,  
Somewhere we learnt to lift our gaze to truly embrace.

In this peculiar game of life staged on a deceiving reality,  
A change hit us hard with all its brutality.  
A change that taught us more by restricting us to less.  
A change that we fought to resist, only to realise  
– what is life, if it is not for change?

In the midst of this change, I boarded a ship to sail.  
Little did I knew that I was to live a fantasy tale!  
A tale left enduring memories to carry beyond grave.  
A tale with best folks ever to rave.

In this journey with trying times, there was a simple rule to follow,  
– Try hard to get what you want or try hard to like what you get  
So we tirelessly tried to tie a knot,  
A knot that screamed more than just joy,  
A knot that resonated unconditional love and care.  
A knot that bridged this gloomy reality to dazzling dreams!

I came here to teach three little musketeers,  
But found myself taught by them more than I ever could offer.  
I came here to be a volunteer,  
But myself more than friends to remember forever!

At this endgame, where some of has to depart,  
Nothing can hold the pain of parting from what has become a part.  
So let me just say this,

We live a long life to succumb to the inevitable,  
So, let us not weep over what has left, rather embrace what is left.  
Let us learn from what what was, to build bridges to what shall be.  
Let us sleep through this darkness, to wake wake to a new dawn.  
A dawn for hope! A dawn for peace! A dawn for a better tomorrow!

— *To all the wonderful souls with whom I had the privilege to volunteer  
at U&I.*