

ROCKSTAR GAMES

Every adore others who are above and beyond others in their professional fields and vocation. They are to be, yes they are to be. And we call them heroes, models, distinguished etc, etc. It may be related to how we measure success and achievements but what we know of as daily-normal people working, whose works almost everybody who at least give an attempt can do, are often never illustrated as our models and distinguished ones. The general consensus of course at first says that normalized jobs like taxiing, medical nurses, butchers and daily laborers etc. are not regarded as secondary or even tertiary. Yet, nobody gives a fudge about them. So, in the following sections the Magazine Editorial Board met with people in Aizawl who are working the “normal-daily jobs” and shred out rather insightful and profound thoughts. Because they are the normals who work to keep us normal.

20% Christian



As he finished his daily task and responsibility to move the two-wheeler vehicles in the area where he was the parking fee collector near one of the biggest Church in Mizoram, with many more to arrange and take care of; Mr. Sanga (name has been modified) looks tired yet works responsibly taking care of more than the 40 or so vehicles even on a Saturday.

Then, as we (the Magazine Editorial Board) asked him, “What do you think of the state of Christianity in Mizoram and especially with the so-called Christians that you interact with in your work place?”

Mr. Sanga then replied saying Mizoram is 20% Christian although we have been hearing that Christians in Mizoram ranks 90%-100%. Asking further his previously claimed “20% Christianity”, Mr Sanga continues to say that he said this from his experience especially with the people he interact with in his work place. As people of different nature comes here to park their vehicles, they leave their vehicles to be arranged, which he has no problem with, but as they are leaving some “good Christians” refused to pay the required fees while some ride off intentionally with no care for the rules and regulations set not by me but by the Aizawl Municipal Council (AMC). This even happens when there are conferences and events in the Church too. People with Kristian Hla Bu (Hymn book) and Bibles, wearing decent dresses after their Church programme refused to pay too.

In reflecting this, Mr. Sanga concluded by saying the Christians here in Mizoram or Aizawl are not what we used to be. There is growing lack of responsibility for others, faithfulness is rapidly decreasing and we have no care for lowly member of the society. Therefore, I cannot but say we are 20% Christians.

Christianity on a Bargain

ROCKSTAR GAMES

Mrs. Chawngi (name is modified), a vegetable seller in the Main Market, Aizawl would probably interact with more people in a day than we would in a week. That is probably due to her work. But all the transitions and interactions often comes with misunderstandings and problems, with and from the buyers.

Further asking about the reason, Mrs. Chawngi said that majority of the customers bargained with their own terms so as to get a cheaper price on the produce. Bargaining, she said, is fine but there arises a situation when we are hurt inside due to the excess-bargaining that happens once a while. Of course, she continues to say, profit is our motive as we need for supporting ourselves and for the contributions in the Church, but profit is not what drives me. I want to help others and make them happy when they are purchasing produce from me among all the others. Yet, excess-bargaining for me is a sign that they do not respect me and the farmers who toiled hard. She continued to say that Christian teaching is not very effective among the few Christian customers she have had.

Mrs.Chawngi's struggle with excess-bargainers might have been from poor families and it could even be from the well-to-do classes; yet for her, Christian teachings do not amplify themselves in the daily lives. The reason seems probably obvious, from her experiences, Christianity is being bargained by the individual self and the community as a whole to fit into our lifestyles for our disposal to be justified by us. With the thoughts in our mind, we leave Mrs. Chawngi smiling and waving at us probably to once again encounter an excess-bargainer.

Samiratans and Donkeys in Aizawl

ROCKSTAR GAMES

If you are reading this, you must have surely and definitely know the Biblical story highlighting the narratives of the Good Samaritan who took care of the man who was left to die after being ransacked. It is of course a compelling story of love and humanity. But have we wondered why all the others (i.e., the Pharisees, Jews etc.) did not mind to take care of their own race. Was it because they were too busy? Or, was it because their horses and donkeys were too clean to spot bloods on? Whatever is your opinion, we shall leave you here. However, the detail penned down is the story of a 21st Century Samaritan and his donkey in Aizawl.

Mr. James (name is modified) have been a Taxi driver in Aizawl for more than 10 years, working hard to support his family of five. As we drove around the city, we (the Magazine Editorial Board) asked him about himself, his experiences and we talked about anything that pops up. From politics to farming, governments to school education and everything else as we have all known that taxi drivers are socially conscious; we agreed, disagreed as we talked on. Apart from the interesting pop-ups we talked about, one that caught our attention was that he put condoms in his dashboard. We firstly thought that he was sexually active with others even though a married man. But as he further explained, he said that he carried the condoms for emergency purposes whether to give to his customers why needed it (emergency indeed!) but he mainly used it for accidents where there usually is blood

and non-aromatic fluids as taxis are mostly the first victims for transporting the casualties, where condoms are used as hand-gloves. “Why condoms and not surgical gloves?” we asked, to which he replied, “you can get them for free plus it has a multipurpose value,” he said with a sly smile.

“It is unfortunate for accidents to happen, yet what I feel sadder for is that some private cars often wait for us (taxis) to take them to hospitals,” he continued as a speeding two-wheeler passes him from a wrong side. “But, I always feel I do the right thing even if my interiors are spot with blood and even badly smelt because the unfortunate can happen to me. So, its like what they say in Church: to do to others as you want them do to you,” he concluded.

We were mesmerized at the comments and talks he popped up. Most of all, we could not but be

Maranatha

inspired by his (and other taxi drivers) altruism. No wonder, they are, for us like the *tlamngai* Samaritan who cared for the ransacked human. They are, legitimately, the Samaritans (their donkeys included) of the 21st Century Aizawl/ Mizoram.

The Hand of God



Diego Maradona's. But the hand of God that we shall be experiencing here is of a medical nurse working in a clinic specially developed for substance abusers. Ms. Ririni (Name is modified) graduated from a nursing institution in the year 2016 and started working at a clinic where substance abusers are the focal reason. She is young yet strongly committed in her work in spite of the often insurmountable challenges she faced.

Asking her views and the reason regarding the rapidly rising HIV/ AIDS in Mizoram, she said that it was due to unprotected sexual contacts with a little case of shared insulin (a term locally given to syringe). But, the most interesting words she spoke were on how to deal with their patients more successfully. She claimed that prayers and soft words are of course necessary. But, for her, a strong and commanding voice is powerful. We (the Magazine Editorial Board) were puzzled as medical professionals were thought of to be as soft and tender in their approach. We must approach any situation with authority and control, she continued, for those are necessary so as not to be under the rather nullifying demanded requirements of the patients, first. Secondly, we (nurses working in the clinic) choose to bring out the truth and facts regarding their (patient's) conditions rather than covering the truth. It is a requirement to be strong and almost annoying with the substance abusers who come to us when they overdose or approach us with the hope of temporary refuge. It is their choice to quit or not to, we cannot do that for them but it is our commitment to help them and so we choose to be honest rather than be soft. She said this reflecting her experience with a substance abuser who tried committing suicide for more than four times by cutting himself, where she personally asked the patient whether he really wanted to die. She did not disclose every of the incident that followed but she concluded saying, "We might seem harsh yet this is, for today, my best way to better them."

They were, for us, the Hand of God who sometimes bring honest yet necessary wrath with the purpose of rejuvenating life in all its fullness.

The Gospel of Pork

ROCKSTAR GAMES

Yes, as you have see, the piece is going to be about pork. If you are a veggie or anti-pork, we insist you to still read it.

Mr. Thana (Name is modified) has been a butcher for more than 25 years in the Main Market, Aizawl. A very busy guy from Monday to Saturday, it was fortunate to have had a short but enlightening time with him. He said that for Mizos, pork is, he felt, sometimes valuable than gold from the observations made by being in the butchery business. Sometimes, it is overwhelming for us to respond our customers, he continued, as very few but characterless people cut lines, scream for the meat they wants and terrifying all the other customers and even us. We may have all experienced such events while on a local butchery. Bad experiences are of course unavoidable but for him what grows joy in seeing his customers buy his pork is the different people, some rich-some poor, different ethnicities standing in lines and sometimes young citizens giving their place to senior citizens. He told us that in the beginning of the conversation he mentioned the value of pork as being valuable than gold in which he expounds that pork has the factor to let all types of people be united: all under the banner of pork. So, he continued, pork is a very delicious meat but one invisible but factual statement is the commonality we all have in pork or for those who eat it.

We (the Magazine Editorial Board) left him as he sat there on a Tuesday afternoon waiting for a customer. It is true that comestibles are one way of realizing our commonality as we with others and even with animals have. Hence, the power pork or any other type of food products have is not only in satisfying one's hunger or not only even in nitrifying but also very much in letting us remember who we are as humans, as species responsible to others and as different but similar through pork/

THE END