

Dear friends,

What a difference a little sunshine makes! I am writing this after the sleet and snow in April is beginning to meet its match with the sun and warmer temperatures. Beautiful sight to see! These days are still challenging enough without adding a winter like rain and wind at the beginning of May. However, amid that there is much beauty for us to enjoy and give thanks to God with joyful hearts. I guess that is what I want to touch on in this letter – finding beauty in the midst of storm, light in the struggle, perspective in the challenge. In a conversation with a friend he mentioned a quote, very simple but deep in meaning. “It does not matter if the glass is half empty or half full as long as it can be refilled.”

These last thirteen months have been full of reasons for us to get discouraged, see the worst and dwell on the losses. But if we are honest, there have been many blessings during the very real struggle. We are not out of the pandemic yet and we have much before us. Many are struggling with grief, loss, illness, work and the list goes on, things that do not have timelines and end dates. That is why we take time to assess our glass whether half empty or half full. What can we do to add a drop or two of good in it? Pray, yes – fervently for it changes things. Do something for someone else. Get out and about, when safe and appropriate. Get out in nature more and witness the restorative power of the natural world. The same God that did that has made us too. If we assess our glass and see that we are doing pretty well, give thanks to God. Pour some out on someone else by writing a letter, sending a card, making a call. Comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, surprise the struggling with a gesture of love and kindness. The strange thing about these actions is that our glass may even be overflowing after pouring some out.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter where we find ourself on any given day, know that we are not alone. God is at work and if any member of the family is struggling, please let others know. Apart does not lessen our connection or care, but it does make it difficult to see each other’s glass when we are not around the same table. I hope and pray that we continue to share and reach out to one another in love just as Jesus has loved us, redeemed us and given us new life.

Every blessing in Christ Jesus,

Asif Das