



A THRILL OF HOPE TO OUR WEARY WORLD



'A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices...'

Since Christmas 2016, when my dear Dad died peacefully just before midnight on Christmas Eve, the beautiful Christmas Carol "O Holy Night" has taken on an even more poignant meaning for me. At 93 years of age Dad had lived a long and faithful life. I find the words and the melody both stirring and full of meaning. This year the line **A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices** especially touches my heart.

It's been a tough year for so many as we have come to live with the uncertainties and the impact of a global pandemic. As we approach the end of this year, I sense a weariness and a fatigue has descended upon many. So, I invite you too to allow these words to touch new depths in your heart this Christmas.

... A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices ...

We need to know more than ever the hope which the birth of the Child Jesus brings our weary world. A hope, especially in times of vulnerability, which can sustain and lead us confidently into the future. A weariness has understandably also touched our Mercy Works staff, volunteers and Board Directors and Committees, and all those we serve. However, we also see many signs of hope.

A THRILL OF HOPE

Let me share with you just a few examples of our Mercy Works projects which give hope to vulnerable communities –

Indigenous projects in Australia

We are delighted to see our partnership with the Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation in Western Sydney through the 'Mums and Bubs Group' flourish. We have also started a new project 'Prospering after Prison' to support aboriginal women as they leave prison in Part Augusta.

Outreach work in the province of Simbu in Papua New Guinea

After extensive planning this has begun. Maryanne Kolkia RSM, our In-country Coordinator regularly relays energetic reports telling us of all the connections being made with the local people, and government and church leaders and how keen they all are to welcome Mercy Works PNG.

Two new projects in Baucau, Timor Leste in partnership with Australian Marist Solidarity in early 2021

We look forward to commencing our support of the Katilosa local NGO who offer outreach services to those living with disabilities. Also, to Uai Lili which provides a centre to educate local young people in computer skills and English language classes.

So, I invite each of us when we gather with our families, communities and friends this Christmas to bring the gift of hope to all our relationships and to all our actions, a reflection of the presence of the Christ child in and to each other in a weary world.

Sally Bradley RSM
Executive Director