



JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

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So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Hope is critical to all who give and receive in our wide range of ministries. We are in the business of Hope. But it is not unfounded Hope or a blind belief. Our Hope is underpinned by the powerful combination of our faith in a loving God, by the teaching and example of Jesus and in the expertise and commitment of all associated with our ministries.

The Gospels repeatedly give us examples of people who came to Jesus with Hope in their hearts: the woman who touched his cloak, lepers or, as in the following example, the blind man:

As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied.

Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you."

Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God. (Luke 18:35-43)

Hope took people in His community to Jesus and they became people of faith. They were transformed, liberated from their afflictions and they in turn liberated others by their example.

Similarly, in our Ministries, in health, aged care, social services and education, our communities come with an expectation that they will be cared for, educated and transformed more fully into the person they Hope they can be.

Our research facilities have a special role: they help to transform medicine and treatments so that the Hope of researchers of a better life for thousands of people can be realised.

Our hospitals care for and give Hope to those who are ill and suffering. Our aged care facilities respect the long lives and contributions of all residents and so give Hope every day. Our social services instil Hope by caring for the victims of domestic violence, the homeless, the incarcerated, those far from home in a time of medical need, the isolated and housebound. And our schools give Hope not only for the students and their families but for all society in helping to build communities of the future.

During our recent stewardship visit to St Vincent's Public Hospital Melbourne. We also had the honour of visiting our people who provide health services to prisoners at Port Phillip prison. Everyone we met showed a beautiful, quiet dignity and pride in what they did. They not only tended to the prisoners' various health needs - they offered them Hope in a world where often there seemed to be no Hope. It was for us, the strongest possible example of our mission - to reach out and care for those most vulnerable.

We live in times when people are searching for purpose and Hope in their lives. Every day thousands who serve and are served in our diverse ministries live that purpose and Hope in a modern-day re-enactment of the work of Mary Aikenhead.

Ms Janet Freeman

Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries

HOPE

A PILGRIMAGE TO PARRAMATTA

JANUARY 2019

As new members of the Mary Aikenhead Ministries' team, Angela Thomas, Amy Pei and I were privileged to recently participate in the pilgrimage from Sydney to Parramatta which included visiting the significant sites of the Sisters of Charity, sent from Ireland; Mother Mary John Cahill, Sister Mary John Baptist De Lacy, Sister Mary Xavier Williams, Sister Mary Lawrence Cater and Sister Mary Francis de Sales O'Brien. The pilgrimage provided us with a deeper understanding of the life and hardships experienced by these 5 women. Particularly, their resilience and care of the female convicts at The Female Factory in Parramatta, evoking great respect and admiration.

In this journey the expression of faith and discipline are demonstrated within the sites established by the Sisters, such as St Vincent's College and St Vincent's Hospital, that we as pilgrims were honored to view and connect with, creating a greater awareness of their humble beginnings and achievements. The perseverance and willingness to embrace the discomforts and unfamiliar surroundings of Australia in the 1800's and the passion to contribute and help the underprivileged, is truly inspiring. It was an experience that created an appreciation of our life today and gratitude for the determination of such admirable women.

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We wish to convey our appreciation to Ms Rachel McLean and Sr Anne Taylor for leading the group with kindness, wisdom and energy on our first journey as Pilgrims together.

Ms Fiona Blajic

Office Administrator, Mary Aikenhead Ministries

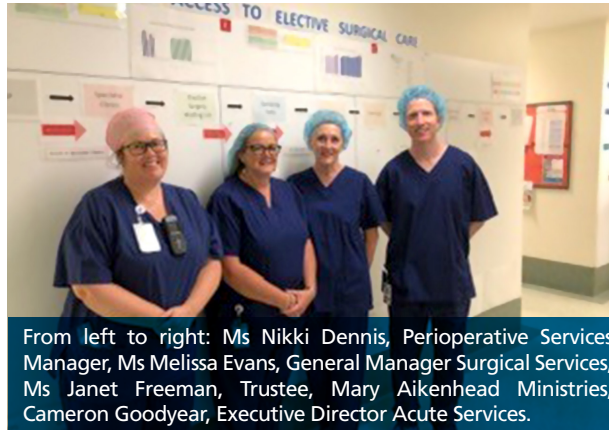


Ms Rachel McLean, Director of Faith & Mission, St Vincent's College captures the pilgrims alongside the original wall of the Parramatta Female Factory

STEWARDSHIP VISIT - ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL MELBOURNE FEBRUARY 2019

While Sr Linda Ferrington and Gary Humphrys visited Port Phillip Prison, I had the wonderful opportunity of a guided tour of St Vincent's Public Hospital Melbourne Theatre, Emergency and Intensive Care Departments. This augmented the visit we had experienced earlier in the day to the mental health facility. I was overwhelmed by the joy, commitment and justifiable pride of our staff in all areas. It was clear to me that the dignity and care offered to patients reflect that our Mission of care to the poor and vulnerable is thriving.

Ms Janet Freeman
Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries



HOBART PILGRIMAGE MARCH 2019

On 7 and 8 March 2019 a group of 13 pilgrims came together to participate in the Hobart Pilgrimage entitled "In the Footsteps of Mary Aikenhead and the Sisters of Charity". The pilgrimage was led by Linda Ferrington rsc and Maria Wheeler rsc.

The experience commenced with introductions around a replica of Mary Aikenhead's Round table whilst receiving our Pilgrim Shell, which is a universal symbol of Pilgrimage. After introductions and prayerful reflection, we then walked to the dock in Hobart to go back in time to when Sisters de Sales O'Brien, John Cahill, and Xavier Williams arrived in Hobart in 1847. The Footsteps Towards Freedom sculptures, also situated on the dock honour the convict women who arrived in Hobart all those years ago. What was shocking to learn was the horrific experience of the convict mothers being separated from their children on arrival in Hobart. The Pilgrims then celebrated Eucharist at St Joseph's Catholic Church followed by a relaxed dinner.

On day two we visited numerous sacred sites throughout Hobart, these sites and their stories were brought to life by Maria Wheeler rsc. The Sisters' education legacy in Hobart was explored by visiting St Aloysius Catholic College,

Kingston and Mount Carmel College, Sandy Bay. A visit to the Cascade Female Factory was a very emotional experience for everyone. During the visit a powerful evocation of the experience of one woman in a harsh and unjust penal system emphasised the unforgiving reality of the inmates' lives, and of the challenges and hope that emerged as a result of the Sisters' ministry at the jail. We also visited the graves of the three sisters at Cornelian Bay where we prayed in thanksgiving for the courageous spirit of these Sisters. The Pilgrims then reflected on what legacy they believe they will carry forward?

The Pilgrimage concluded with each Pilgrim reflecting on their own experience. For me, the two days were very moving and insightful. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the incredible work, resilience and courage of those who came before us in the name of Mary Aikenhead. I feel extremely privileged to have been able to share this experience with others within our ministries who do such incredible work every day.

Ms Christine Raeside
Executive Officer, Mary Aikenhead Ministries



FAREWELL TO DAVID ALCOCK

It is with sadness that I write on the occasion of David Alcock's resignation as a Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries on 25 January 2019. David was first appointed as a Trustee in December 2014, becoming Deputy Chair in January 2017.

On behalf of the Trustees and colleagues in our ministries, I want to express our deep appreciation for the considerable and important contribution David has made to the mission and ministry of Mary Aikenhead Ministries. As fellow Trustees, we appreciate greatly the time and effort he expended as a canonical steward and the sacrifices he has made to keep faith with his commitment to the tradition and heritage we inherited from the Sisters of Charity.

It has been an honour to work with David over the past four years. We will miss David's innate compassion, intense loyalty and warmth. Words are inadequate to express our gratefulness and appreciation for the loving commitment David has displayed during his tenure as Trustee and Deputy Chair of Mary Aikenhead Ministries. His love for God's Mission and the healing, teaching and pastoral ministries of Jesus Christ has been a shining beacon through his stewardship. David's years as the Finance Officer of Catholic Ladies' College imbued him with a deep understanding of the Catholic educational environment. His financial acumen and wisdom have been invaluable in his role as Chair of the TMAM Finance Committee. His passion for caring for the poor and vulnerable has driven his support for the social services such as the Eltham project providing residential premises for refugees, as well as holding the Trustee portfolio for the social care ministries such as Open Support.



Mr David Alcock, former Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries

On a personal note, I would also like to congratulate David and Rita, his wife, on the additions to their family! I am so happy for them and wish them much joy and happiness as they enter a new phase of their lives as proud grandparents.

I wish David every blessing in all his future endeavours.

Dr Tessa Ho

Chair and Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries



2019 TMAM CONFERENCE - REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN

A reminder that registrations are now open for the 2019 10th Anniversary Conference – The Heart of our Mission: "Preferential Option for the Poor" which will be held in Melbourne on 22 & 23 July. Registrations close 15 April 2019.



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