



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

April 2022

My Dear Friends,

It's Easter once again and it with great joy that I wish you, your family and friends a *Happy and Blessed Easter*. Many of you will be going to Church, others may still be attending Church virtually or simply worshipping at home. Whatever is suitable for you, we continue to link hands across the oceans to celebrate and remember the Resurrection of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.

This miracle of Easter with its gift of hope, reminds me of your faithfulness and the faithfulness of all members who generously give hope to so many families across the world. The impact of spreading life-giving hope is beyond all we can ask or imagine, so let us celebrate Easter not only at this time of the year but every day of our lives if we choose to.

During this season I reflected on the good news as written in St. Matthew's Gospel 28:6 (ESV), *He is not here, for He is risen, as He said...* We know that it was an Angel that uttered these words to Mary Magdalene and the "other" Mary at dawn on that glorious Sunday when they went to visit the tomb. So many centuries have passed since that day, and the beautiful truth of the Angel's declaration of the Resurrection continues to give us hope even now and for all eternity. Jesus is risen and is alive so we have hope that one day, we too will be resurrected and live as well.

The more I think of the disciples and their work, the more I believe that it was their experiences of following Jesus, the miracle of the Resurrection, and the leading of the Holy Spirit that pushed them to take the Gospel forward. I believe it is for all these reasons that we feel called to take the Gospel forward in our lives, through prayer and action. This also explains our generous nature and we are inspired to freely express our faith in action through the transformation of families and communities worldwide. We willingly work to ensure those around us are cared for, injustices are called out of their hiding places, and absolutely no one is left behind. It is because we have experienced the love of Jesus Christ in our own lives that we can confidently reach out with his transforming love and compassion to make a difference.

It is not always easy and so we thank you for lifting us up in prayer and for continuing to do so each day.

The Covid-19 pandemic dealt us a severe blow and many still live with painful memories, but we did not suffer alone as God has been by our side and still is. In little over a month four tropical storms hit Madagascar causing enormous devastation and members continue to provide much needed relief. Our very own Zonal Trustee Marie-Pierrette who lives in Madagascar opened her home and rescued one family from the flood. Currently our members are networking with the Church and government to welcome refugees from Ukraine and provide much needed assistance. We continue to pray for an end to all forms of conflict and injustice in the world that separates families. We remember at this time our sisters and brothers in Ukraine and Russia who through no fault of their own will suffer both spiritually and materially for decades to come. We pray that through it all and with the peace and hope that is still alive through Jesus' resurrection, we are assured that *Weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning. Psalm 30:5.*

As we look forward to God's plan for us in 2022 with our theme *Transformation-NOW*, the Worldwide Board of Trustees and Staff at Mary Sumner House join me in thanking you for your love, prayers and intercessions which mean so much to us. We wish you, your family and friends a happy, blessed and joyous Easter. May the spirit of peace, hope and love be yours today and always for *He is risen, He is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

With my love and prayers as always,

Sheran

Sheran Harper

Mothers' Union Worldwide President

