

## VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS

April 2023

*Until now you have asked for nothing in my name.  
Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.*  
*John 16: 24 CEB*

Greetings!

Mark's Gospel opens with the words, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ." Normally, the "good news" (*Lt. evangelion*) that was proclaimed related to affairs of State: "*The Emperor has a son*", or "*Imperial Legions have conquered Gaul.*" News to warm the heart – possibly.

But the Good News that Matthew, Mark & Luke proclaimed was personal & deeply meaningful: "*God loves you!*" "*Jesus is there for you!*" "*Resurrection happens!*" These were the messages on which the Church was founded. They were messages that transformed lives & touched the whole world with God's grace.

The Good News of Jesus Christ has brought hope and joy to individuals, communities, countries down through the Ages. Just as it has brought hope & joy to each of us – at least, at times. It's time to rekindle that joy! Time to reclaim Jesus as the bringer of abundant life and overflowing love.

So, take a stand! Stick up for Jesus when he's lumped in with life's bigots. (He is *OF* all people & *FOR* all people.) Support his passion for wholeness and wellbeing for everyone – including you. Show the world what inner peace & happiness looks like.

A small hair salon in Dubbo, New South Wales bears the sign:

*"Be so happy that when others look at you they become happy too."*

That is exactly what Jesus said! He wasn't about guilt & suffering; Jesus' message was one of joy. His resurrection happened to point our planet towards hope. To assure us that life can come from death, healing does emerge from damage & destruction, goodness & love WILL triumph!

With that message in our hearts, we can't help but be happy. (Which is not to diminish the blessings of a great hair stylist. ☺ )

May Easter touch your hearts & lives with joy!

*Brenda*