

Are you ready for freedom?

An Easter message from the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, the Most Revd Dr Philip Freier, 31 March 2010.

Archbishop Philip Freier:

Happy Easter.

Jesus said if we live according to his teachings, then we will know the truth, and the truth will set us free.

True freedom is the promise at the heart of the Christian faith a freedom from greed and selfishness, fear and hatred.

This freedom is an encounter with a life-giving, life-transforming truth.

A lived truth.

You may be aware of the recent global atheist convention that was held in Melbourne. Whatever was said at that conference, words and arguments ultimately miss the point if they fail to recognise that for Christians the statement Christ is Risen, the reason we celebrate Easter, is a lived experience, a real life-transforming encounter with the living Spirit of Christ.

This is the truth that sets us free.

By opening our hearts and minds to this truth we can experience freedom from the things that cause us to suffer, and find the love and compassion to help others.

Many millions of Christians throughout the ages have discovered this truth, and continue to discover this truth today. Many young men and women too. Remarkable and courageous people like Hugh Evans and Jessie Taylor. Both with a passion to make a real difference in our world.

Hugh is founder of the Oaktree Foundation, a youth-run aid organisation creating educational opportunities for disadvantaged young people overseas, and is now Director of the Global Poverty Project which aims to reduce poverty around the world.

Hugh Evans:

I don't believe that you should wait for the poor to get on the development ladder before you do something. It's such an easy cop-out. Me personally I became a Christian at thirteen so my faith in God is a big motivator for me. But increasingly what I'm motivated by is a strong knowledge that these aspirations were talking about, the goal to end extreme poverty in our lifetime, it's not a fanciful dream.

Abp Freier:

Jessie is a refugee lawyer, advocating for the rights of some of the world's most vulnerable people.

Jessie Taylor:

On Christmas Island and all across the Indonesian archipelago, there are asylum seekers and their children in detention centres and prisons that are covered in Australian fingerprints. We are receiving the fallout from the worst conflicts and human rights violations on the planet today. The push to leave home is invariably characterised by grief, loss and fear. The truth is that there are often just two choices live, or die. The memories of those kids and babies behind the bars of those third world jails will stay with me forever.

Abp Freier:

Their compassion and pursuit of justice have come from a living faith in the risen Christ.

This Easter we remember that Jesus, the embodiment of the God who is love, died an agonising death on a cross to set us free to be the people we truly are.

Are you ready for a taste of true freedom?