

"Let your *gentleness* be known
to everyone. *The Lord is near.*"

PHILIPPIANS 4:5

In Haiti, a donkey is a sign of prosperity. With a donkey, a family can plough more ground and carry containers of water or sacks of corn up and down its steep hills. For Aimee (not her real name), her donkey is her friend.

Life in Haiti can be very hard. In the Caribbean, the country is prone to hurricanes and earthquakes. The people have a proud history marked by long periods of poor government. They have learnt to be resilient and find a way to keep going even when they have lost everything. In 2016, Hurricane Matthew lashed the west of Haiti, leaving 1.4 million people in need of relief assistance. Thanks to ACT Alliance Haiti (Action by Churches Together) of which CWS is a member, Aimee's family received tools, seeds and a donkey to carry water from a faraway stream.

There is a donkey in the Christmas story. It has a protective presence in the manger scene and an important role as a people carrier. The donkey connects us to the birth of the baby who would be named the Prince of Peace.

In 2015, world leaders committed us to 17 Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations. Working on this agenda will require a major investment to achieve

goals like ending hunger, taking action on the climate, and significantly stopping violence. The commitment to 'leave no one behind' by 2030 is an important agenda that needs more attention.

The Christian faith was born with a vision that the world can be different. It is a vision that can be found in the life and teaching of Jesus from Galilee. Through his words and actions, we find inspiration to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty and respect the dignity of all. It is work we do together to make known God's love for the whole world.

Your gift to the Christmas Appeal will make this vision real: hungry people will be fed and can grow more food despite climate change, families will have safe water from new rainwater systems, and workers will be able to address violence in the workplace and on the streets. Working together, we can take steps to ensure no one is left behind.

Your gift at Christmas will be a lifeline to people who need hope for the days ahead. Please give generously to the 2018 Christmas Appeal.

Find out more by visiting
www.christmasappeal.org.nz

Be the
LIFELINE

