



In those amazing days before Covid when we could have a lunch and guest speaker on the first Monday of the month, I first heard about Mukti and was blown away. It has a very long history, over 160 years. Another time I'd like to share with you some of that history, but today I'm just going to talk about what it's doing today and in particular focus on two very different women it has helped.

OUR VISION

Hope and a brighter future for women and children in India and Sri Lanka

MUKTI AUSTRALIA VISION STATEMENT

Our mission is to create opportunities for disadvantaged women and children in India and Sri Lanka to have real hope and meaningful lives that realise their God-given potential

Mukti is all about empowering women and children. It seeks to create opportunities for disadvantaged women and children in India and Sri Lanka to lift themselves out of poverty and to live meaningful lives of hope, safety and empowerment.

They help:

Orphaned and abandoned children

Destitute women and children

Widows

Outcast women and children

Unwed and single mothers.

Pooja has Down's syndrome. She is 18 and has lived with the Mukti community in India since she was four. The community is divided into family groups, all with the names of flowers. Pooja lives with the Violet family, has learned to be independent, and helps with other special needs children. She also



Pooja: an inspiring story



attends the Vocational Training Centre, and loves singing hymns.

Mangala the guardian of the Violet family said: 'After watching Pooja for several years, I have seen a lot of changes and transformation within her. Despite the challenges and hurdles she faces, she is optimistic. She makes an effort to excel in any area that interests her. She also watches out for those who need help and is quick to help should someone be unwell.'

Priti was ten when both her parents died and her uncle took her to Mukti. At the time she was totally lost and heart broken. She met several girls who had come from similar situations and were now very happy and enjoying life.

She learned all sorts of new skills including singing, dancing and playing drums. She did well academically and in crafts. Vacation Bible School helped her grow spiritually and in confidence.

Priti is now married, mother of a three year old, manager in a company, and the secretary in her church. She believes she owes all of this to Mukti and to her kind and loving house mother in the Jasmine family.



Priti

at ten, when she was orphaned

Christine Bradbeer