



## HALLELUJAH MOMENTS

Have you ever had those moments where you knew it was 'only God'? Those moments that cannot be planned or rehearsed? They don't rely on human skill or inventiveness - they are a result of God's handiwork and everyone knows it.

Ten o'clock each weekday morning at Freeset [in Kolkata, India] they begin the day with 30 minutes of devotions. Women have come out from being trafficked in the sex trade and, along with employment opportunity, Freeset is committed to sharing the love of Christ with them.

During my recent trip there, I was asked to speak to the women and also to lead them in worship during their devotional time. As I thought through all of the songs that would be appropriate [considering barely any of the women spoke English] I was reminded of an old chorus that simply has the word 'Hallelujah' over and over. I used to sing it around camp fires as a teenager. It can actually be sung in a round [remember those days?!].

Everyone gathered for devotions. There was expectancy in the air. We began to teach them this simple chorus. Voices soared. We even split the women into two sections and Sue Peters [State leader from Queensland] and I led the women. As harmonies rose and hearts were united we had a 'Hallelujah Moment'. It went beyond culture or opportunity, beyond poor or privileged ... it was the presence of God that came and settled in hearts and in that moment we were 'one'.

Tears filled our eyes and, for a moment, we forgot our differences and were captivated by what God was doing amongst us.



When God is present, all else fades. He has the power to heal, to speak, to move hearts, to unite all people. We can rush through our days and forget we were created for moments such as these. He created us to respond to Himself and when we do, the world is a much better place.

Today, may you find your Hallelujah Moment and may you be reminded of a God who loves you and cares for you - no matter what your background, or what your circumstances.

With love in Him

Karen Wilson  
Baptist Women's President WA



*Karen is the WA President for Baptist women. She is currently working for Willow Creek, USA as an Executive Director for GLS Asia. She has a husband and two children [21 and 18] and has a strong desire to see people live and minister out of a place of health and passion.*



### Prayer for Today

Dear Lord,  
Help me to remember it is not about the clothes I wear or the things I have. It is not about the country I am born in or the wealth of my family. When it comes to experiencing You, it is about a heart that is turned to You and is expectant. Create in me a desire to experience You every day. Help me pause long enough to feel Your touch on my life and truly know that I am alive.

Amen

# The Beautiful Children

By Wendy Dyer



Wendy attends Lesmurdie Baptist Church and is wife to Ian and mother to two boys. She is a self-confessed chocoholic and keen photographer.

In March 2009 the Department of Child Protection contracted Serpentine Camping Centre to be a service provider for their Respite Camp program. Respite Camps are an opportunity for full time Foster Carers to take a well earned break, while we provide a fantastic program for their children with trained, enthusiastic and caring leaders.

I see these camps as an amazing opportunity to show the love of our Father to the young fatherless living in our communities. Although our time with these children is brief, it can have a significant impact. We are a link in a chain helping them establish new pathways of trust and acceptance while demonstrating appropriate social behaviour.



Children who attend respite camps range from 2 – 17 years of age. They come with varied stories of pain, abuse and neglect, all of which are heartbreaking. On camp their behaviour can be unpredictable and challenging, which makes these camps the most difficult to run, but by far the most rewarding. Children attending also find support from other children who are sharing a similar journey. They are all beautiful children.

Before having my two boys I was a camp coordinator in a high school. I never imagined God would bring me back to the field of work I love at a point in my life when I was struggling to find my place in this world.

Would I like to be a foster parent - "definitely not!" ...however I'm energised through this opportunity to show love, encouragement and support to kids who desperately need it.



**We need your help!** – It takes a great team to run these camps and more leaders are needed for our 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October Family Camps at Serpentine.

If you are interested or know someone who might be, please call Wendy on 0403 365 576 before Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April.



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