



## WHEN IT ALL COMES TOGETHER

I love the days where you feel every step is being guided by God. It doesn't happen all the time [well at least not to me] but when it does, there is an excitement in my heart as I tangibly feel God's hand of blessing upon my life.

We have begun planning for FRESH 2011 and we have sensed God's leading in new ways. When the Leadership Team gathered, we began to let God guide our hearts as we talked of all our hopes and 'wildest dreams' for this event. There was an excitement in the room as we began to see what God was opening up.

Ideas were shared that, to be honest, were a little overwhelming, yet there was a sense that we knew God was in it. We talked of FRESH Leadership, where women could come and be encouraged in their leadership roles in churches and in the community; we talked of FRESH Kids, where young children could come and have an amazing experience; we talked of moving to a venue that could hold double [even triple] the numbers from last year; we talked of beautiful food, inspiring worship, heart-felt God moments ... it was quite an incredible experience.

When I left that Friday morning meeting I prayed, "Lord, you gave us all these ideas. They seem a little impossible to us...but with you, all things are possible. Bring them to pass and please do this soon." I don't know if you ever pray like that, but I knew if God was in this, then He would have to provide.

Over the next 3 hours [yes, that's right!] He led us to an amazing new venue, He opened up time for us to run the FRESH Leadership and he provided an incredible children's facility alongside...just as a bonus! By 4pm that day we were ready to go.

The last couple of months have had a similar blessing. People are volunteering to help, registrations are coming in and we sense God is going to do something this year in our event that will change lives all over our city.

Sometimes the best thing we can do when we are planning our day is to begin by handing it first to God. Ask Him to show us what He wants us to do; ask Him to lead and guide; ask Him to provide the way when there seems to be no way; ask Him to give wisdom and strength. When we do that, miracles happen. Sure, we can run our own lives quite efficiently, but when we allow God to step in, there is a sense of excitement and joy that we are part of something far bigger than ourselves. There is power in each moment. Why not start each day this week like that and see what God does? It's a great way to live.

With love in Him

Karen Wilson  
Baptist Women's President WA

"Everyday I get more prayer requests for carparks than anything else. You people need to start thinking bigger"

-God



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,  
Not my will, but yours. I don't want to walk into day with just my plans and schedule. I want you to touch each part of my day and bring your blessing. I give control of my life to you and ask you to bring miracles as I follow your lead. Touch others through me and bless me to be a blessing I pray.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

# Cake Decorating for Freedom

By Ruth Warwick

My mind started wandering in the sermon today. Not that it was boring it's just that a scripture reading was taking my thoughts somewhere else.

*Acts 16:16*

*One day, on our way to the place of prayer, a slave girl ran into us. She was psychic and, with her fortune telling, made a lot of money for the people who owned her. Paul...commanded the spirit that possessed her...and it was gone, just like that. Her owners saw that their lucrative little business was suddenly bankrupt.*

I'm not sure if that woman had intended to find her freedom from the things that enslaved her that day but nevertheless she had an encounter with some people of God and in that moment she was given freedom.

But was she free from her problems or was one set of problems replaced with another? She'd been freed from the evil that controlled her but she lost her value to her master who lost his income making potential.

It reminded me of an inspiring story I read during the week. Hobby cake decorator Ruth Lanwill an 'ordinary' mum from Queensland heard the voice of God one day that said '*travel to Cambodia and teach the art of cake decoration to girls who are rescued from brothels*'.



I immediately wondered why on earth Cambodia would need cake decorators!



It turns out cakes are a big part of the culture in Cambodia from their colonisation of the French. There is a huge market even amongst the poorest people for birthday and elaborate wedding cakes. Ruth's company Bloom now provides quality vocational training and employment to survivors of trafficking and vulnerable women in Phnom Penh.

It struck me that true freedom is not easy. Freedom is not just about rescuing someone. It has to be accompanied with rebuilding. For that woman in the bible and those in Cambodia to find true freedom their lives need rebuilding physically, spiritually, emotionally and economically to live in their new found freedom.



How exciting that God would use the simple art of cake decorating to do just that!

*Put your entire trust in the Master Jesus. Then you'll live as you were meant to live. Acts 16:31 (The Message)*

Visit the website of Bloom Cafe:  
<http://www.bloomcreations.org/>



(All of the photos in this article are cakes created by Bloom Creations.)



Ruth is very happily married to Simon and enjoys her busy household of three gorgeous kids, one surviving chicken and two guinea pigs. She loves her job as an Administration Manager at Lesmurdie Baptist Church and serving on the Fresh team. Her greatest joy is seeing God's presence in people's stories - including her own.



Dear Women,

My name is Ros Casey and I have been in ministry as a Salvation Army Officer (Pastor) for just over 30 years. With my husband Barry, we are currently the Ministers at a Church called Perth Fortress in the heart of Northbridge.



Notwithstanding the various leadership roles I have had in the past, which have been both incredibly rewarding and varied, from working with youth, women, the marginalized and as pastor of a local church, there has not been a more exciting time than the present. God is doing something quite incredible here in Perth, and I am honoured to be part it.

I met with Karen Wilson last week to invite her to be part of a faith venture that the women from our church are undertaking. It is my pleasure and privilege to warmly invite YOU, to our inaugural Imago Dei Women's conference on May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. This will be an inspiring time of worship, teaching and encouragement, as well as great food!.

I have chosen **Imago Dei** "created in the image of God", as our conference title, because it reflects the incredible and awesome reality of why each of us exists. We have been "made in His image"!

Jade Lewis founder of "From the Heart" Ministry, is our Keynote speaker, and she has an incredible story to tell of her journey through drug addiction to freedom. Our other guests include your very own Karen Wilson, Pam Timms (Karen's mum), and worship leader Andrea Beatty from Riverview Church.

May I encourage you to gather your daughters, friends, relatives and colleagues and join us in an incredible weekend where we will get a glimpse of how great God is, and how precious we are to Him.

Grace

Ros Casey (Major)  
Perth Fortress Corps Officer  
**The Salvation Army**

**Imago Dei**  
*created in the image of God*

Women's Conference 2011  
*May 20th - 21st*

**Keynote Speaker - Jade Lewis**  
*Jade has an incredible story to tell of her journey through drug addiction to freedom. Come and hear how she found direction, confidence and purpose and meaning in life.*

 Perth Fortress Salvation Army  
333 William St, Northbridge

**Date:**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> (7-10pm)  
Sat 21<sup>st</sup> May (8.30am -1.30pm)

**Venue:**

Perth Fortress Salvation Army  
333 William St, Northbridge  
(corner Newcastle St)

**Contact:**

Registrations are available on line:-  
[www.salvationarmy.org.au/perthfortress](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/perthfortress)

**Phone:**

9227 7035(church office)  
or Tresna Goff on 0433 199 732

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