



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 [22 and 19] and has a strong desire to see people live and minister out of a place of health and passion.

## Prayer of Jabez

Oh That you would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that your hand would be with me and that you would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain.

1 Chronicles 4:10

## WE HAVE MORE TO GIVE

One thing that rarely happens to me is that I feel bored! Life is series of adventures and challenges and I am enjoying this season more than ever. This past week I have just accepted the position of National Director for Australian Baptist Women for the next three years. I am inspired about building a National Team who can lead women right across Australia. God has clearly spoken to me and challenged me to enlarge my territory, to be ready to move out of my comfort zone and that His hand would be with me. In Him, I am choosing to draw strength for every opportunity I am given to be a blessing to His Kingdom.

Here in Australia we have very little idea of what it means to live life large. We are very blessed with comfort and leisure. In my travels over the past month I have been reminded, by those I have met, of how much more each one of us has to give. I have met a pastor who oversees 20,000 churches in Africa, plus aid agencies, plus pasturing his own church. I have met a couple who lead a Christian organisation in Pakistan under great persecution and in daily fear for their life. I have spent time with pastors from Myanmar who earn \$7 a month yet work tirelessly for God and believe Him to bring change in their country.

We sing songs about laying down our life, but I constantly wonder how that looks for me. Do I truly rely on God to direct my path in such a way that I absolutely have to go to Him as my source of strength and wisdom. Steve Furtick said, "If the size of your vision for your life isn't intimidating to you, there's a good chance it is insulting to God." [book: *Sun Stand Still*] and it challenged me to think bigger than I have been doing. We all have more to give...to our families, our neighbours, our churches, our work places...life is an adventure that should be lived large.

I encourage you today, to ask God to enlarge your territory, to be with you constantly and to keep you from evil. Jabez prayed this. I am also praying it. Want to join me?

Love,

Karen Wilson  
Director Western Australian Baptist Women  
National Director Australian Baptist Women





Melinda is a member of the Fresh Leadership Team. Her husband Mark is the Pastor of Inglewood Community Church. Melinda is a mum to 2 gorgeous children (as well as one rascally terrier) and works part time as a Food Technology teacher.

## ELIM KIDS

By Melinda Edwards

I have been blessed with 3 fantastic sisters Natalie, Carissa and Hollie. We go on date nights to keep in touch as we all have busy lives. We call ourselves “the sisterhood.”

I was introduced to this term at Colour Conference in 2010 when I went with the Fresh Leadership team. We, as women, captured a vision to care for women and children as part of the worldwide “sisterhood” of believers. The Freetset vision for our team was born out of this desire and we have been able to partner with the women of Australia to help these women in India.



As I sewed a dress for a friend’s new baby I was prompted to use my limited skills to help children in need. While I was trying to discern how best to do this, my sister Hollie was volunteering her skills with her husband at orphanages in China. She rang desperate for financial support for Elimkids. The foundation was started by her friends Drs Julie and Sam who have a passion to provide medication, education and loving homes for children with HIV in China. These children, from newborn to 6 years, have been abandoned and then housed in isolation rooms at orphanages with little medical attention, affection or care.

The next week Hollie rang to say she has visited the markets and was sending material home from China so I could make and sell dresses. God had confirmed it to her even before I could share my idea with her! That was all the prompting I needed.



God strengthens our faith and renews our strength when we are in His will. Our team do not sell and make clothes to “help God out” instead he invites us to be part of His ministry.

God provides the workers, the funds and the time often in miraculous circumstances. We see His hand of blessing.

If you would like to find out more about the work of Elim Kids, you can visit their website [www.elimkids.com](http://www.elimkids.com) or visit us at the Fresh Expo on Saturday.

### QUOTE FOR TODAY

“Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.”  
Mother Teresa