



Karen is the Director for WA Baptist Women and the National Director for Australian 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 for Today

Dear Lord,
Sometimes my world seems small and crushing. Lift up my eyes and let me see the things you have for me. Give me a fresh perspective. Show me your greatness and I will draw strength from who You are. You are my strength and my help. Your presence is all I need.
Amen

GOING UP TO HIGH PLACES

There is something about the view you have from a mountaintop! It is exhilarating and your perspective of life changes. All of a sudden what seemed to be encroaching upon you feels small and powerless. Your eyes are taken to a horizon hundreds of miles away and there is a sense of freedom that settles in your heart.

Last week after speaking at a conference on the Gold Coast, I spent a couple of days with a friend in a small place called Montville. It is about an hour and a half north of Brisbane and set in the beautiful glasshouse mountains. We spent a lot of time just taking in the views, casting our glance to far places and breathing in the renewal of such grandeur. [We also had a lot of fun and pampering!]

The Lord has been whispering to me about 'going to high places' with Him. Not to feel confined and trapped in small thinking, but to embrace things 'out of the box' and from a fresh perspective. I am drawn to the experiences of Moses where the cloud of the presence of God settled on the mountaintop where Moses met with the Lord.

Exodus 24:15-16 **"Then Moses went up to the mountain and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud."**

If I knew the Lord would settle on a mountaintop and presence Himself in a tangible way, I would go there! Wouldn't you? I would be drawn to be wherever He was and I would want to take as many people with me to meet with Him.

The thing is, we have that available for us. We don't have to wait for a physical manifestation of God. He is always with us where we have surrendered and repentant hearts. We experience Him in tangible ways just by desiring to be 'where He is'. We just have to change our perspective. "I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth." [Psalm 121:1,2] When I need help, I need to look out and up. I need to resist the urge to withdraw and focus on the here and now...and cast my gaze to greater things than myself, and to the future.

May He be your source of help today. Lift up your eyes. Look. He is the everlasting God and He has lifted you onto a high place.

Love,

Karen Wilson
Director WA Baptist Women



Montville Lookout

IN THE LIGHT

By Jan Ladhams



Jan Ladhams currently lives in the Kimberley and is the Deputy Principal, Numeracy Project Coordinator and Scripture teacher at a Remote Community School. She is also currently doing her Masters. In her spare time she conducts a Bible study, travels, gardens, draws, and takes her dog for long walks.

One of my favourite songs is "In the Light" written by Charlie Peacock. He sings to God:

*"Oh LORD be my light, and be my salvation,
All I want is to be in the light."*

One night whilst I was walking along a lit footpath, I noticed that the closer I got to the source of the street light, the shorter my shadow got. When I stood right under the light, there was no shadow at all! Then as I ambled into the dimly lit place before the next street light, my shadow got progressively longer until it was really, really big - before shrinking again as I came back into the light.

As I contemplated the difference the light was making on my shadow, I thought about the difference walking in God's strength makes to my life. When I am trusting in Him completely for a special result I am in a place of peace (Proverbs 3: 5 - 6). But when I trust that my abilities will make something special occur, there is an element of uncertainty that something could go wrong. The more I trust in my own strength the more shadows of doubt creep in so that that after an extended period of time I end up an anxious, exhausted wreck.

At FRESH, Karen talked about Elijah who ran away to hide in a cave (1 Kings 19:9). Have you ever thought or said, "Just leave me alone!" because all you want is some time out, so you can sit in your cave of confusion, or fear, or busyness or whatever, and brood? What happens when you enter a cave? You step out of the light don't you? A cave is usually a dark place - a selfish place. In Proverbs 18:1 we are warned: *Whoever isolates herself seeks her own desire; she breaks out against all sound judgement (ESV)*

Don't worry, God is still with you, but He can lead you and help you so much more effectively when you choose to be in His light.



Fresh 2011

Here's just some of the feedback we've received:

"We came from Narrogin on Saturday and this is my second year [attending Fresh]. IT WAS FANTASTIC! The privilege to be with so many Christian women! A real experience for a lady who comes from a small country church. I am thrilled to share that there was healing between a person and myself which has completely changed our lives. Truly God does answer our prayers!!"

"THANK YOU for all your amazing work and the Team of Fresh. For my first experience of Fresh, it was AWESOME. I loved it."

I am still buzzing and it's Sunday night, 6pm!! Thank you Karen and the Fresh Team. You have out done yourselves again!

Loved the Freeset pencil case, Loved the Worship, Loved the Food, Loved the Speakers, Loved the fact my girlfriend who came along gave herself to Christ, Loved the fact that women aren't afraid to sing Worship in the toilets (this moved me!), Loved the Fellowship, Loved the fact we dug our hands in deep and raised \$85,000 (I am shocked every year!) ... Oh, and Loved (and praise God!) that I came home to a 'tidy' house and a cooked dinner!! Praise the Lord!! His presence was definitely felt yesterday. Thank you Jesus.

"Thank you so much for Fresh last weekend. It was a wonderful time of inspiration, challenge, encouragement and blessing. I really appreciated the day, and also the leadership day on Friday."

"Thank you and your team for bringing the Fresh conference to life. It was my first attendance and it was a blessing to us all. What an incredible experience to be a part of an event where 20 women gave their lives to Jesus Christ."

For more information or to subscribe to Connect, please contact:
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