

SO MANY MEMORIES



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,
Thank you, Father, for the gift of your Son, Jesus. I am reminded of how precious I am to you, that you would send Him to give me life. Take my heart, with all its imperfection, and help me feel more of your presence this Christmas. Open my ears to listen more to your voice and open my eyes to see the needs of those around me just a little more clearly. Amen



If you came into our house at the moment, you'd be proudly greeted in the front room by our 'Memory Tree'. Each year my daughter and I spend an afternoon putting the Christmas tree up and sifting through the years of decorations we have accumulated and the memories that are attached to them. We play carols loudly, make a huge mess and love every bit of it. It is a tradition and always brings a tear to our eyes.



There is everything from the 5 star decorations my sister-in-law makes as gifts on an annual basis, to the paper and cotton wool Father Christmas that was proudly brought home in Yr1. We have noodle men from Kindy days [remember those made out of macaroni], painted wooden trains, multi-coloured flashing angels, coloured hand-painted balls that we put up the year we had no extra money to buy real ones...and the list goes on. We pull them out, slowly, one-by-one and admire them. We see past their age, their tatty appearance, their crudely formed shapes... to what each one has meant to us at a particular time.

When God looks at us, we must seem the same to him. We have some rough edges that are still to be smoothed over; we have bruised and broken pieces through weathering the hardships of life; we have imperfect shapes and our emotions come in all manner of colours. Yet, every part of us is part of who we are and who we are becoming. God loves every memory because it is part of our story.

Each year I am tempted to go to Myer and buy glistening bells and balls that all match and would make a 'perfect tree'...however, every year I remind myself that it is the memories that make our family tree so special. May you know how special you are to God this Christmas - not because of how accomplished or 'perfect' you are, but because of all the imperfections that make you who you are. Your life is loved by a Father God who takes pleasure in slowly and carefully admiring the treasure that you are to Him.

Happy Christmas.
Love,

Karen Wilson
Director WA Baptist Women



Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

May you know ...

**The love of God holding you,
The wisdom of God guiding you,
The strength of God sustaining you,
The holiness of God purifying you,
The truth of God teaching you,
The grace of God saving you,
and
The peace of God giving you rest.**

After a short break over the summer, we will resume our e-news publication in February 2012. Have a blessed New Year.

Quote for Today

"We consider Christmas as the encounter, the great encounter, the historical encounter, the decisive encounter, between God and mankind. He who has faith knows this truly; let him rejoice."

Pope Paul VI

