

# connect

*Women close to God, close to one another*

Women's E-news

Feb 19th 2010 Issue 4.01

## A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

I have just returned from 3 weeks in Europe with my 17 year old daughter. It was primarily a 'work' trip, but we found plenty of time to have fun, relax and see the sights. A favourite photo-style kept creeping into our holiday snaps...we decided to try and find as many windows and arches as possible and capture the memory from a different perspective. We found this in London, Rome, Paris—just about everywhere. I am sure people wondered at us at times as we crawled into spaces and stood in archways...but it changed the way we saw some of the beauty of those places.

Not only was it great to see the world, but there was time to think. Time to consider the year ahead and all that means. Time to think through challenges that we are facing. Time to build into a lovely relationship with my daughter. Time to sleep. Time to eat! Ahhh...the important things in life.

As we looked at the world through a camera lens, I began to consider this year ahead through the eyes of Christ. Perhaps there is a different perspective He is wanting me to have and it's just a matter of approaching the 'shot' from another angle. His heart is to see each one of us in His perfect will...and at times we have to approach the situation a little differently.

I began wondering what my world would look like through His eyes. Would it have more colour and would it frame that which is most important? Somehow, I think so. I resolved to think upon the things He guides me to and give my heart to His leading even more than I have done previously. It's easy really. All it takes is a deep breath and a prayer something like this.... "Lord, not my will, but yours."

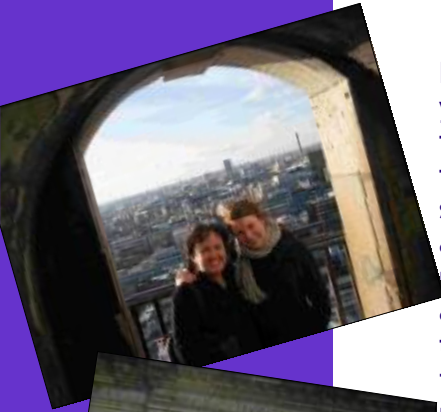
I guess it's just a fresh surrender to His plans and purposes over our lives. May this coming year be one where you know this reality as well. I am looking forward to keeping in touch and walking through 2010 together.

With love

Karen Wilson



*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 health and passion.*



# DATES FOR 2010

*Please put the following dates in your calendars and share with your churches and friends.*

## BAPTIST PASTORAL RETREAT

For all husbands and wives in ministry to gather and be inspired.  
To be held in Mandurah  
MAY 3-5

## COUNTRY WOMEN'S GATHERING

For all women in the South West and Great Southern Region  
JUNE 11,12

## WINTER WARMER Pastors Wives and Women in Ministry

To be held at Serpentine.  
JUNE 25-27

## FRESH

Annual Retreat and Renewal Day. Not to be missed. Open to all women to attend.  
SEPT 18

## ALL DRESSED UP

Determined to move away from wearing black this summer, I was thrilled to uncover the perfect long, cool, white, comfortable maxi dress. Even better, it was under \$40 because it was actually nestled in between the cotton PJ's and fluffy robes in the Sleepwear Department.

"It's incredible", I gushed to my girlfriend over the phone. "This nightie is basically the perfect dress design for me! NO ONE would ever guess it was meant to be a nightie! I am going to get so much wear out of it".

Moved by my contagious enthusiasm, she suggested I pick up several more and dye one red, one navy and one baby blue. Within seconds of hanging up, I was googling "How to Dye Fabrics at Home". Filled with admiration for my own cleverness at how dressy I now looked with matching shoes and earrings, I was ready to meet one Fashion-Senseless-Male-Friend for a quick bite of noodles that night. "Thought we were goin' out. How come you're in your nightie. Are ya sick?" was his greeting.

As I laughed to myself about just how wrong I must have got it, I started wondering how many other times am I completely devoid of self-awareness. I am not obsessing over this in an unhealthy, What-Do-People-Really-Think-Of-Me way—but in more serious areas such as handling relationships and recognizing emotions in others. Like how many times do I perceive my quick quips to be witty, funny and accurate, when in fact they might sting and hurt someone's feelings?

My desire is not to languish in self absorption and replay in my head every stupid comment I have ever made, but I do seek to be in touch with my own feelings in order to be more sensitive and empathetic with others. I guess if I can live by His word and be sensitive to the "still small voice", then I will get it right more often than I get it wrong!



**GUEST WRITER:**  
*Donna Lamont lives and works in Northbridge where she runs an online retail business. She attends Metro church in the city and is involved in the Young Adults Ministry. She was born and bred a Baptist.*



Take time to enjoy the company of friends

## Prayer for today

Dear Lord,  
Give me the grace to see myself through your eyes. As I behold who you have crafted me to be, may I learn to love and grow in myself and my relationships with others.