



“When the earth and all its people quake, it is I who hold its pillars firm.”

Psalm 75:3

Prayer for today

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things
I cannot change;
Courage to change the
things I can;
And wisdom to know the
difference.
Amen

- Reinhold Niebuhr

THE EARTH 'QUAKES'

It is undeniable that we are living in days where the very core of the Earth is 'quaking'. Daily we hear of floods, storms, tsunamis, earthquakes...the Earth is groaning. Life is difficult for most of the world. Just providing enough food for families and staying free from disease is a daily struggle for so many.



I had the opportunity to visit Manila late last year and saw firsthand the ravages of cyclone Ondoy on that city. The physical devastation was one thing, but as I spoke with the people my heart broke. A woman shared of having to swim to a rooftop with her baby and wrap him in plastic for 2 days before being rescued. Tears poured down both our faces as she shared her mother's heart with me. I held her baby and words were not needed. She felt my compassion.

In the moments that followed I was able to share with her, and others gathered around, of a Saviour who holds us, as she did her child, and calms the storms within. The Earth may be quaking, but we have One who holds the pillars firm. We have hope in Christ.

You may not be facing a natural disaster, but your world may be 'quaking' today. So many demands are upon us and so many of us feel the inner quaking of fear, insecurity, isolation, rejection, loneliness...our hearts can feel like they may crumble at one more pressure. Yet, we have a Lord who promises to hold us firm. We may not be able to stop that which is going on around us, but we can choose a different source of strength; one that defies understanding; one that sustains through every hardship; one that only demands of us a single choice - to surrender our will to His. As we do this, Jesus carries the load of our life and holds us secure.

Today, whatever hardship you are facing, may you know the One who will not let you fall and who holds you securely in the palm of His hand.

With love

Karen Wilson
Baptist Women's President WA



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.



Your Stories:

Romans 12:2 “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

A ‘crisis’ is a great motivator for change. From the day I was diagnosed with cancer, I chose to drop my defences of “I’m ok, I can handle this!” and instead allowed people to show their care and love in a way that God had designed. Initially, this was not easy. I don’t particularly like asking for help. I’m quite happy to manage it myself. But by the love God poured into me through the gifts of other people, I was able to experience a very tangible taste of God himself. No one person could have achieved this - it had to be ‘the body’.

From the moment I was diagnosed, life wasn’t as it had always seemed. I was looking from a different perspective. Living here on this earth became a new and fresh experience. I realised how much I love being here! Although challenges come my way, I appreciate being able to face them.

So with my new zesty outlook I began rediscovering God’s design and purposes for me. What is it that He would desire of and for me? What would I love to do for Him? This bit has been so much fun! A little like hide and seek. Seeking God’s desires for me that He has ‘hidden’ within me. New discoveries and possibilities...for just the right time required. So yes, even whilst meeting all my new doctors and seeing through months and months of appointments for biopsies, scans, blood tests, surgeries and IV’s...not to mention many choices I had to make - I had a sense that the ‘suffering’ was peripheral and what God was doing within me was actually the point. A pearl from Peter sums this up...

1 Peter 4:1-2 “Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because **he who has suffered in his body is done with sin**. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, **but rather for the will of God.**”



Sonia's Story

Don't forget to send in **YOUR STORIES** to share with others.

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