



HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD



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.

Today I had the privilege of leading through a burial service for the ashes of someone who I knew well. She had died 3 years ago and today her family were laying her to rest. Her sister had made a clay seed pod into which her ashes were placed and then put into the ground. As this was taking place, the song, How Great is Our God, was being played quietly in the background. It was a scene that will stay etched in my mind for a long time.

I returned home and was doing some work in my office when my eyes went to a picture that I have on my wall. It is of the Grand Canyon and I brought it back with me after a trip I did there with my daughter a few years ago. It depicts the mighty grandeur of creation and the forming and reforming of landscape over time.

I felt the Lord whisper... "I am as great in the seed pod as I am in the Grand Canyon. From the smallest to the largest - it is all part of my handiwork. I hold the world in my hands, along with everything that has life."

Why do we despair and feel so small, when the very one who created us and all that is around us, is at work within us. As if on a potter's wheel, our lives are being shaped by our creator every moment of the day. One day we all will return to Him, but until then, we are in the moulding and crafting stage.

Today, willingly choose to stay on the potter's wheel. Let our great God place His hand on your life and make something beautiful. It may not happen immediately, it may take many, many years ... but it will happen.

With love in Him

Karen Wilson
Baptist Women's President WA



Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.
Isaiah 64:8

Prayer for today

Dear Lord,
Thank you for reminding me that you are at work within me. I may not see it fully yet, but I feel it... the gentle re-shaping of who I am into who you want me to be.

Amen

Guest Writer

Jan Ladhams

IN THE VALLEY



Life is a journey, right?

When times are good we're high and when times are tough we're low. We're either on the mountain tops, in valleys or somewhere in between.

Recently, a friend reminded me that it is when we are in the valleys that we grow. At first this didn't compute because when I'm in a valley I feel stifled and everything is an effort. So I had to pause a moment and try to make some sense of that statement.

First I thought of a mountain top - thrilling, but also windy, cold and the weather changes very quickly and dramatically. We get magnificent views and feel a sense of victory up there. We see peaks still to be conquered and valleys still to be crossed. But, tall trees don't grow there. What bushes there might be are windswept. If you're talking about the highest mountains, they're rocky crags with hardly any soil on them, let alone vegetation.

Then I thought about the valley - safe, protected and lush. The soil is rich because leaf mulch and other fertiliser accumulate in the nooks and crannies. When it rains, or when the snow melts the water cascades down the gullies and drenches the roots of the trees. They are fed by the fertiliser that is diluted and soaked into the soil.

We need both valleys and mountain peaks to live life to the full. We can't stay and survive on mountain peaks. We have to go through valleys. That's where we'll heal from the last mountain climbing expedition, be nourished and grow in preparation for the next peak to be conquered.

It's when you're in the valley that you have to have faith - being sure of what you hope for and certain of what you do not see (Hebrews 11:1).



Jan is a member of Mt Hawthorn Baptist church and travels extensively with her work in training mathematics teachers. She is a sought after facilitator and instructor. She is a dear friend and an example of a woman who walks with God and relies on Him being her strength every moment of every day.

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