



HOLD SOMEONE'S HAND TODAY



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.

This line of little girls holding hands, facing the immensity of ocean waves, know that alone they might be washed away, but together they can stand strong.

I remember doing this when I was little. I spent many of my childhood days at Coogee and Bondi beach running in and out of the water. I loved holding hands with my little friends and squealing as we conquered every new wave that came our way. The fun was in the challenge, but also in the friendship shared. It was a carefree time of life.

As we get older, the cares of life get greater and unfortunately we forget to hold hands with those who can lift us up. We are truly blessed if we have two or three good friends who can stand with us against the onslaught of what life throws at us sometimes...yet as good as those friends are, I know that they are also human and are flawed...just as I am.

It is here that I remind myself of a Saviour who says He is closer than any friend or family member [Proverbs 18:24]. He never gets in a bad mood. He never misunderstands our motives. He never loses His temper. He never reacts unreasonably. He always empathises with our heart. He forgives us immediately. He speaks with love and mercy at all times. He is always willing and patient to listen just one more time. He inspires our heart to peace and grace. He never leaves us and never lets us go [Matthew 28:20].

In fact, He is only a thought, a whisper away. Why not pause in your day and consider this friendship in a fresh way. Imagine holding Christ's hand and running into those waves you are facing. He will not let you go and He will lift you over each one ... keeping you strong and secure.

With love in Him

Karen Wilson
Baptist Women's President WA

"A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words."

He **lifted** me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

Psalm 40:2

But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who **lifts** my head high.

Psalm 3:3

The LORD upholds all who fall and **lifts** up all who are bowed down.

Psalm 145:14

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will **lift** you up.

James 4:10

Guest Writer

Tracey Hawke

AMAZING ROADS



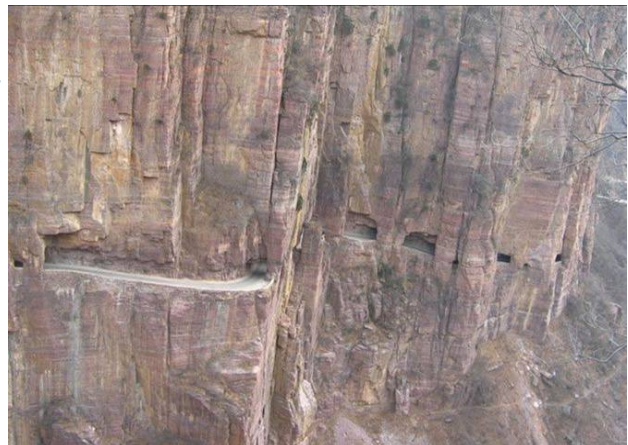
Tracey attends Lakeside Baptist Church and is a member of the WA Baptist Women Leadership Team. Tracey and her husband Phil have two children aged 3 and 9.

I recently received in my Inbox a series of pictures depicting 'amazing roads'. The pictures were of roads that wound through mountains, over hills and even along the edge of sharp cliffs. They were indeed 'amazing' but I was also struck by the beauty of these roads and how the scenery surrounding them was breathtaking.



I started to think about how sometimes the road we journey along in life is not always straight, flat and easy. Sometimes it travels through mountains, over hills and definitely along the edge of cliffs. While we follow these roads we sometimes forget to stop and admire the beauty along the way; the friend who is never too busy to listen, the children who we are blessed to parent, the husband who is a constant source of support and especially our Heavenly Father who holds our hand every inch of the way.

In truth, my life as a Christian sometimes makes the road a little bumpier and also a bit scary at times. There are moments when my faith is tested and my resolve to follow Him rather than the perceived easier option can add some bends and bumps to my road. However, if I imagine the roadside lined with not only gorgeous scenery but also my wonderful and faithful Christian friends, I know that I can make it through. God has placed each one of them in my life to make the scenery beautiful and the journey one that can be truly 'amazing'.



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