

connect

Women close to God, close to one another

Women's E-news

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~JUST MY LUCK~

Ahhh...some people have all the luck! And some of us can feel we have none. On holidays with my daughter recently, we visited the Fontana di Trevi in Rome. Legend says that if you turn with your back toward the fountain and throw a coin over your shoulder into the waters, you will find true love. Being almost 18, Katie thought this would be great. So with red umbrella in one hand and a coin in the other she turned, paused, then flipped the coin over her shoulder. The way 'luck' would have it—the coin slipped from her gloved fingers, hit the edge of the wall around the fountain and bounced out to land on the ground at her feet.

You can imagine her horror! I assured her she would find true love...but perhaps it would rely less on luck and more on God's purposes over her life!

We can sometimes feel like everything is against us. Family pressures crowd in, financial burdens weigh heavily, hormones are raging—we begin to think we are hard done by. However, we forget to go to God's word where he knows the plans He has for us already... and yes, they are plans to prosper and not to harm us but perhaps not in the way world defines these things. God's ultimate plan is to give us hope and a future [Jeremiah 29:11] Our hope needs to be grounded in Him and our future needs to be secure in who we are in Him. It is not determined on anything we can do, or the circumstances that surround us ... but is actually reliant on His promises and His character.

God is good. He is Kind. He is generous. And He wants to lavish these things on us. We may be facing challenges and trials, yet if we keep our eyes on Christ and the work He is doing within us through the hardships, then we keep a sense of hope and our future is held in His hands.

So next time you are tempted to turn and throw a coin, hoping for a wonderful outcome, have fun and do it ... but just be grateful that we have a Father who knows us deeply and loves us eternally and will guide and direct our paths. Our lives are not in the hands of luck, but Almighty God. He is in control.

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.



Prayer for today

Dear Lord,
You hold my world in the palm of your hand and I am secure in that. The trials and challenges can come and go but as I hold onto you, I trust to keep my heart full of hope and a future grounded in you.

Thankyou for walking the journey with me.
Amen

GOODNESS GRACIOUS, ME?!

At the end of a Missions Week during early married life, the speaker asked people who felt called to work overseas to come to the front of the auditorium. I happened to be sitting on the opposite side of the room to my husband Colin that morning, but felt compelled to get out of my seat, thinking “boy, I hope Colin’s going to be okay with this!?”. God is truly amazing - instead of being up the front on my own, Colin and I met in the aisle, pointed at each other and said, “You too!” We ended up standing together, wondering when, how and where it would unfold for us.

Many, many times during the period between then and now I’ve doubted God - “why ME?”. I feel so mediocre when I look at the early apostles, inadequate when I look at the amazing heroines of church history and just plain slack when I look at the women in ministry around me. Besides this, as we got involved in full-time local church ministry and started raising a family, life was full enough without any cross-cultural adventures.

In the way that only He does it, God’s timing is perfect and over the years He has clarified for both of us a love of India as well as bringing across our path (through a speaker at a Baptist/COC Ministers’ Retreat) a sending organisation whose vision is a great match for the passions and gifts God has given us. He also independently revealed to Colin and I in 2008 the city of Mysore as the location for our Indian ministry.

The biggest preparation however has been in my heart and mind. Each time I thought ‘overseas ministry’ was a huge step up, God reminded me that the work in Perth (or anywhere!) was just as important and urgent as the work in India and that the important question is “am I working where God wants me to be working?”. Each time I thought I would never measure up to the task, God reminded me that it was HIM who would be doing the work, I just needed to turn up and be available for His use. When I thought the health risk and discomfort to our kids would be unbearable, God reminded me that we all live each day by faith even if we don’t recognise it.

So whenever, however, wherever it is, what important things does He have planned for YOU?

Love

Carolyn

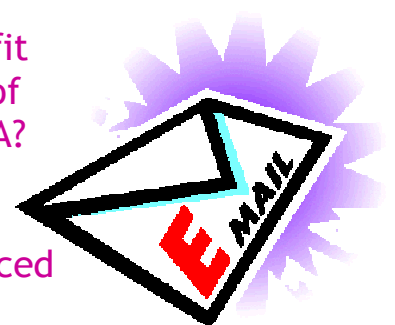


GUEST WRITER:

Carolyn Craggs is currently living in Mysore, South India with her husband Colin and 4 children (7, 5, 2, 6 months) where they have been learning Kannada language and doing leadership development for the past 10 months. From an Anglo-Indian Anglican background, her home church is Inglewood Community Church.

Do you KNOW SOMEONE who would benefit from receiving this e-news and updates of what is going on in world of women in WA?

Please feel free to forward this on to them and ask them to contact us to be placed on our mailing list.



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ONE FLAW IN WOMEN

Women have **strengths** that amaze men.....

They bear hardships and they carry burdens, but they hold happiness, love and joy.
They smile when they want to scream. They sing when they want to cry.
They cry when they are happy and laugh when they are nervous.

They fight for what they believe in.. They stand up to injustice.
They don't take "no" for an answer when they believe there is a better solution.
They go without so their family can have.
They go to the doctor with a frightened friend. They love unconditionally.

They cry when their children excel and cheer when their friends get awards.
They are happy when they hear about a birth or a wedding.

Their hearts break when a friend dies. They grieve at the loss of a family member,
yet they are strong when they think there is no strength left.

They know that a hug and a kiss can heal a broken heart.
Women come in all shapes, sizes and colours.
They'll drive, fly, walk, run or e-mail you
to show how much they care about you.

The heart of a woman is what makes the world keep turning.
They bring joy, hope and love. They have compassion and ideas.
They give moral support to their family and friends.

Women have vital things to say and everything to give.

However, there is one flaw in women....They forget their **worth**.



PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR *DIARY*

For all women in the Southwest and
Great Southern Regions...

We are hosting **Inspire**

A one-day event that will teach,
motivate, encourage and build into you.

WHEN

Saturday May 29th
9-5pm

Abbey Beach Resort
Busselton, WA

GUEST SPEAKER

Nancy Beach
Willow Creek USA

Registration forms will be available soon.

Please email :

info@women.baptistchurch.net.au
for more information.



Inspire
Down South 2010