

connect

Women close to God, close to one another

Women's E-news

May 11th 2010 Issue 4.06



THE POWER OF YOUR STORY

I was speaking at the Gosnells Baptist Mothers' Day breakfast last Saturday and had the privilege of listening to a 'testimony' of one of the women there who shared not only honestly, but in a way that inspired the women who were listening. Probably to her, she would not have realised the impact her story had...but to those of us listening it was a time of connecting and realising the essence of what she was saying - that God was with her [even before she knew Jesus] and He has walked the journey ever since. There was a moment of her coming into a relationship with Christ, but that was only a small part of the story. The rest testified to His faithfulness for many years through many ups and downs.

Sometimes we can hope for an amazing story—you know the kind: from gutter to glory, rags to riches...the kind that people hear and have mouths wide open in amazement. I've always been so inspired by God working in people's lives that way and love to hear them share the journey. The problem is, whilst some of us have those kinds of life history, the majority of us seem a little 'boring' in comparison. What I loved on Saturday was the reminder that all our stories matter. They are all accounts of what God is doing in and amongst us.

Don't ever negate the 'smallness' of your life. God is in the little things. Making it through the day with a newborn; deciding to get out of bed when fighting depression; choosing to forgive and embrace an estranged friend; saying no to a drink or drug to mask emotional pain; holding down a difficult job; all these things are evidence of God at work in us. Perhaps we need to share the normal, everyday stories to encourage one another that God is alive and richly at work within us.

"Jesus was never without a story when he spoke. When he was alone with his disciples, he went over everything, sorting out the tangles, untying the knots." Mark 4:33-34 (The Message)

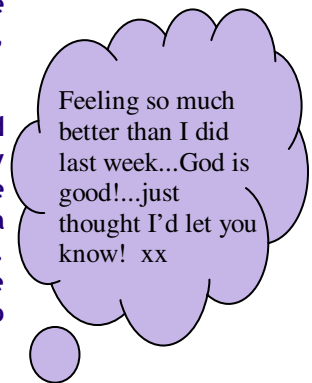
When is the last time you rang a friend to just tell them how good God is? Perhaps there is someone in your life who needs a faith story today and it would be a huge encouragement to them. Friends loved to be there in the celebration moments...as well as the difficult. I have a friend called Jan who often just sends me a little "I'm doing great" sms. It never ceases to bring a smile to my face. We should start the practice of spontaneous encouragements in the small things :) It could start to make all the difference.



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

Lord, help me never to underestimate the story of my life and You at work in me. When I overlook the little things, remind me that You are in control and at work. Forgive me when I take you for granted and don't see the many blessings you pour upon me daily. Use me. Use my story. May I be a blessing to the world around me. Amen



Feeling so much better than I did last week...God is good!...just thought I'd let you know! xx

With love

Karen

Karen Wilson
Baptist Women's President WA



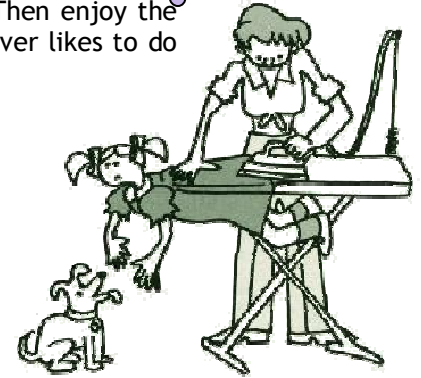
HELP! I find it hard to see God doing anything significant in my life.

God's loyal love couldn't have run out, his merciful love couldn't have dried up. They're created new every morning. How great your faithfulness!

This is often the cry of the overworked and overstressed. Why not try these few ways of seeing things a little differently:

- ◆ Begin your day [before you head out to wake the hubby and kids—that is presuming they are still asleep] with a comment to God that goes something like this: “Today, it’s you and me Lord. Please surprise me outside of my routine and show yourself to me in a new way.”
- ◆ Remember to look around you [even as you read this email] and give thanks to God for what He has provided for you. Look at what you have, not at what you lack.
- ◆ Make sure you have one or two good friends with whom to share the triumphs with—you know the kind—the ones who are genuinely happy for you when you succeed and don't secretly wish it were them instead.
- ◆ Once you identify these people, ask yourself when the last time was that you shared a 'good' story with them. If it was longer than a week...it might be time for an email, an sms...hey, even a phone call if you like the old fashioned way.
- ◆ If you have regular things you do on regular days...why not throw everyone into a spin and switch the days! Just do something spontaneous and keep your family guessing what's happened to you. Then enjoy the feeling of growth and freedom. [Said by someone who never likes to do anything the same and definitely not on the same day!]

The small things God is doing must be hiding behind my pile of ironing?!!!



TIME IS RUNNING OUT

BOOK NOW

Churches of Christ in WA
Baptist Churches of WA
Willow Creek Association
Present....

Open to all women!

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

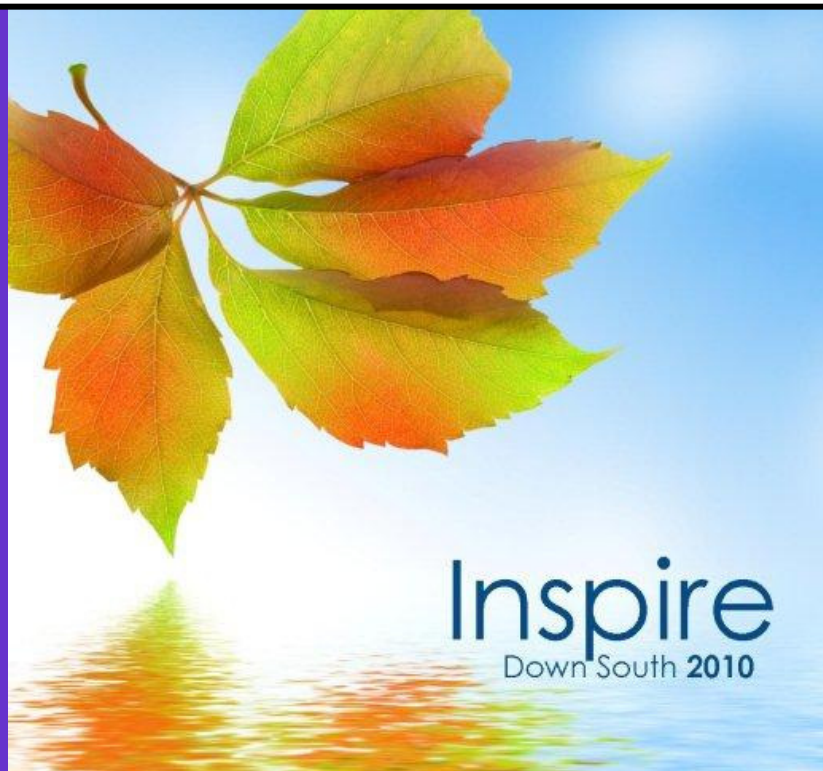
GUEST SPEAKER
Nancy Beach
Willow Creek USA

Registration forms are available NOW

Please email :

info@women.baptistchurch.net.au

for more information.



For more information or to subscribe, please contact us:

There are many cheap options for **accommodation** in Busselton. When ringing the Abbey Beach Resort, ask for a roll away bed to be added to the room and reduce cost dramatically.

Also, the Broadwater, Busselton is offering great deals.

Mention you are part of the INSPIRE conference for women for discounted rates.

Jade Lewis is one of the speakers at this year's FRESH retreat in September. She has a unique and impacting ministry. Perhaps the issues of drug and alcohol abuse have touched your family in some way and you would benefit from the seminar below. Please print out the registration form and send it in to the address supplied to hear Jade share on these issues in an insightful way.

WWW.JADELEWIS.COM



BUILDING DRUG FREE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

There will be a question and answer time and Jade will share her personal journey of overcoming drug addiction

a family seminar
**UNDER
YOUR
INFLUENCE**

a seminar to influence young people into a drug and alcohol problem free life

when Monday 21 June 2010
where Airport City Church
240 Epsom Avenue Belmont
time 6.30pm

registration form and cost see back
more info call 9479 4441

a light supper will be provided
Door prize entry for registrations before 18 June

if you're not talking to your young people about drugs and alcohol then someone with an opposing view may!

With a focus on prevention this seminar will cover topics including:

Connect

Creating a good relationship with your teenager

Prevention

Talking with teenagers about about drugs and alcohol

Early intervention

What if my teenager is using drugs and alcohol?

Treatment

What if my teenager keeps using drugs and alcohol?

Transition

Staying clean after treatment



this seminar is suitable for

- parents and their children
- youth leaders
- teachers
- those with a substance abuse problem
- anyone interested in this topic

DID YOU KNOW?

Drug and alcohol rehabilitation services in WA have reported an increase in the number of children they treated including 10-year-olds

30% of teenagers aged 12-15 years smoked cannabis in the last twelve months. This doubled to 60% of teenagers when they turned 16-17 years of age

16% of 12-year-olds and 60% of 17-year-olds consumed alcohol in the last week

References: Drunk kids in hospital, 10 year olds tested, The Sunday Times, January 7 2007, p.15
Source: 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey; 1996 ASSAD Survey Results for Licit and Illicit Drug Use - WA School Students

Jade is dedicated to rescuing and protecting youth and families from the global drug epidemic. Young, passionate and motivated Jade has her own story of restoration from drug addiction which has impacted thousands of lives locally and globally. Her experience and knowledge on teenagers, drugs and alcohol allow her to communicate a relevant and effective message to families. Today her presentation is a leading message where over 700 presentations have been delivered; Jade has authored two books now in over 650 Australian schools and presents personal development programs in the WA Prisons.



TO REGISTER
Mail: Jade Lewis, PO Box 2178 Carlisle North Post Office, WA 6101
Email: jade@jadefewis.com Fax: +61 8 9470 2657

cut here

REGISTRATION FORM

<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Standard Rates <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Concession Rates <input type="checkbox"/> \$80 Family Pack 2Adults 2Child <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Group of 10 #_____	Full Name _____
	Address _____
	Suburb _____ Postcode _____
	Phone _____ Mob _____
	Email _____
	School/Church/Company _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVOICE <input type="checkbox"/> CASH (pay on the day) <input type="checkbox"/> CHEQUE <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD
	Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____ Amount _____ Cardholder's Name _____
	Cardholder's Signature _____
	Receipt? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

©2010 www.GuestbookDesign.com