

# connect

*Women close to God, close to one another*

Women's E-news

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## THE OLD BLUE SUITCASE

Some weeks we are firing on all pistons! We are energised and feeling on top of the world. Others we can feel like our use-by-date has well and truly expired. Our energy is lacking and just to get the routine tasks accomplished can be a draining exercise.

I recently travelled with my father who had an old blue suitcase that had seen better days. The wheels had fallen off [years ago!] and one of the locks was broken. It was battered and worn. We went to visit some markets where they had brand new cases with zip pockets, sturdy wheels, inside pockets, built-in locks...the works... and for a very small price. We were so excited that we bought a new one there and then headed back to the hotel wheeling it proudly. As we entered the room I encouraged Dad to transfer all the contents of the old case into the new one. He began to do so, but by the end the process seemed to be taking longer and longer. He had all his 'stuff' in the new bag...and the old one just sat there on the bed. "What am I going to do with this?" he asked. "Just leave it behind when we go home," I replied. At that, his face fell. "I can't do that. This old bag has been with me for years." He couldn't imagine just getting rid of it like that. So he proceeded to pack half his clothes from the new bag into the old bag again and yes, we brought two bags back to Australia!

I thought about that on the plane trip home. Dad was not ready to let go of the suitcase just because it was old and battered. He was going to buy new wheels and a new lock and fix it up. The new bag was great, but there was a special significance for the old one.

When we have times where we feel 'old and battered', I love that we have a Heavenly Father who will just give us some new wheels and perhaps apply a little oil here and there. He doesn't throw us away for a newer model. We may look and feel outdated at times, but our Father sees the years of faithfulness, the years of weathering the storms and holding things together. Don't be deceived by looks or even by the particular stage you are in right now. God cares for you and you are always valuable to Him. You have His heart.

You are very precious to Him.

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 health and passion.*



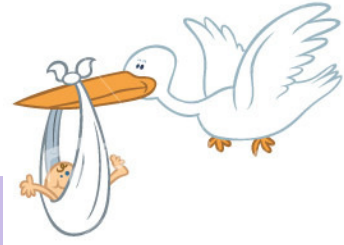
*Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?*

**Matthew 6:26**

*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*  
**Ephesians 5:1,2**

# STOP PRESS

Angela and Brad Angelos proudly announce the arrival at 1.29pm Friday June 11th of **Dylan Cooper Angelos**, who weighed 3.54kg (7lb 12 oz). Baby fine, mum tired. Praise God!



## Your Stories:

I like to plan and be organised. I like routine and order. Unfortunately for me, God's plan and my plan are not always the same but I am beginning to learn that His plan has purpose and is designed from love and not from a need to be super organised!

Nearly 12 years ago my husband and I decided we should start our family. It soon became apparent that having a baby was not going to be easy for us so we started on the rollercoaster that is 'infertility'. After trying a wide range of natural alternatives including drinking a very questionable brown goo, we realised that medical intervention was going to be necessary. After a series of tests, we were one of the lucky 1% of the population who have unexplained infertility - basically the doctors have NO IDEA why we can't fall pregnant.

Friends prayed for us a lot during those times and listened to my tearful rampages about how cruel God was to give babies to people who I felt did not deserve a child. Rather than hold onto His love and trust His plan, I became angry, bitter and turned away from the Church. I went occasionally and called myself a Christian but I was certainly not faithful.

Two and a half years later, we were ready to start more intrusive medical treatment when a routine pregnancy test showed I was pregnant. Immediately I thanked God and forgot about how angry I was and settled into preparing for motherhood. After a difficult birth, my beautiful Kayleigh was born and I began to recognise that my wonderful picture of motherhood was seriously warped and reality was tough.

When Kayleigh was three, we decided to get on the rollercoaster again. This time I was prepared and began to recognise that I did not have to define myself by my infertility. I also began to pray a lot more and read a lot more about God's love, grace and the need to trust in Him. I still cried, yelled and rampaged to my amazingly patient friends but I also prayed a lot more and began to recognise the importance of letting Him be in control.

Once again we had to seek medical treatment which this time led us to In Vitro Fertilisation. It was a hard thing to accept but I knew that God's will would be done and if he wanted us to have a child, it would be. I prayed a lot and He gave me our beautiful Jesse (God's gift). We have his photo in a frame with the words 'For this child I prayed (1Sam 1:27)' but as a friend's daughter pointed out, "For this child EVERYONE prayed!"

I look back now and I know that if I had not had my children when I did, there would be many important people I would never have met and many important aspects of my life would not have occurred. My marriage is strong, I have amazing friends, I wonderful family and I am on the Leadership Team with a group of faithful Christian women. But above all else, I have a Holy Father who has a plan for me and His plan is perfect.

Tracey

Fresh  
18 Sept 2010



Don't forget to send in YOUR STORIES to share with others.  
The simplest testimony can bring great encouragement to others.  
Just write in 250 words or less something of what God is doing in your life.  
Then, email it back to us to share in future editions of e-news Connect.



Tracey's Story

## Prayer for today

Dear Lord,  
Today I rest a little  
more in the  
knowledge that you  
are in control. I  
submit my plans and  
my will to you  
trusting that you  
hold me in the palm  
of your hand and  
know what is best  
for me. Settle my  
heart to submit to  
You, I pray.  
Amen

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