



GIRL TALK...

# She.... Celebrates

Girls... are you ready to celebrate?

We are coming up to that wonderful time when we get to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Have you ever really thought about the fact that the Almighty God, Creator & Author of all caused His Son to be born as a human in the flesh just as we are, and do you wonder why He would go to such lengths? It's quite an amazing thing to contemplate...

You, Girlfriend, are so precious and dearly loved by God that He wanted to make a way for you to know Him and to be able to draw near.

So the Lord chose a young woman with a heart of surrender and willingness to honour Him and sent His angel Gabriel to bring her the good

tidings that we find in Luke 1:28-34 *The angel went to her and said, "Greetings you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."*

*Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, His kingdom will never end"*

*"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The*

*angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."*

Can you imagine an angel turning up at your place and presenting this greeting to you? I think I would be like - "say what?" - but here was Mary accepting the role and responsibility for bringing God's Son into the world and raising him even if it meant persecution or suffering for herself, and she rejoices. Later in Luke 1 we find Mary's Song, an outburst of praise and glory to the Lord for what He is doing.

Do you realize that you are blessed and highly favoured also? The Lord has chosen each one of us to be part of His



Coming Soon...

You're invited!

## GIRL TALK & COFFEE

Thursday 4th December 7pm

At The Centre

Speaker : Louise Currey

Cost : \$25



## She... Celebrates (part 2)

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family and this baby whose birth we are now about to celebrate made it possible.

Jesus left His home in heaven, and the power He knew, to be born in human flesh and live as you and I do. He knows what it is like to be human, He is not a god who does not understand. He has felt the change of seasons, the wear and tear of hard work, the grief of loss, the feelings of hunger. He has been through everything that you and I will ever go through.

What an amazing God we have!

Unlike any other god you will ever find, our God came to earth to reach us, to meet us where we are right now. Christianity is the story of God reaching out to mankind.

You, my girlfriend, are so precious to Him, that He would go to this much trouble to reach you!

So this Christmas, take a

moment to focus on this tiny babe in a manger and remember that the Almighty God left heaven to reach you!

He thinks you are worth it! And so do I...

Girls celebrate!

Celebrate that God thinks you are worth coming to earth to find.

Celebrate that God loves you so much that He couldn't imagine life without you.

Celebrate that He knows and understands everything about you—good and bad—yet still wants to reach you.

I think it's time to party and maybe write our own song of praise and glory!

If you have only just realized the extent to which God has gone to find you, and would like to connect with Him, here is a prayer that will set you up for a lifetime of celebration.

*Jesus, come into my life. Forgive me of all my sins. I ask You to cleanse my heart, and*

*make me a new person in You right now. I believe that You are the Son of God and that You died on the cross for me. Jesus I want to thank You for loving me enough to die for me. I accept all that Your shed blood bought for me, and I receive You as my Saviour and Lord. In Your Name I pray. Amen.*

If you prayed this prayer "Congratulations!" You are now a Daughter of the King and an addition to our family! The angels are partying (All of heaven loves to celebrate too!)

You are my new sister in Christ! And I would like to celebrate with you... so email me or call the church and leave a message or tell Jo or Gail at The Centre and we will give you a "Welcome to the Family" pack.

You may have noticed that I continued over the page today... Well I just couldn't contain myself ... I am already celebrating!

Love & blessings...

*Jenny*

*"The notion of God's love coming to us free of charge, no strings attached, seems to go against every instinct in humanity. The Buddhist 8-fold path, the Hindu doctrine of karma, the Jewish covenant, the Muslim code of law—each of these offers a way to earn approval. Only Christianity dares to make God's love unconditional."*

*Philip Yancey—"What's So Amazing About Grace?"*

## Make your own Christmas Bon Bons... a great way to celebrate!

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### What you'll need :

Long cardboard rolls that wrapping paper comes in cut to desired lengths

Assorted Brightly Coloured Christmas Paper

Packets of bon bon lollies

Cracker pulls (available from craft shops)

Ribbon

Sticky tape

Stickers

### Putting it together :

Sticky tape bon bon/s and cracker pull inside the cardboard roll.

Cut paper to extend past ends of cardboard roll about 5-10 cm each end.

Twist ends and tie with ribbon.

Decorate with stickers.

### For gourmet bon bons try filling with :

Gourmet chocolates

Varieties of nuts (in packets)

Small bottles of essential oil

Movie vouchers

Rings / Jewellery

Mini Soaps

Small packets of bath salts

**Have lots of fun!**

## Girl to Girl—getting to know one another....

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### **This week we are interviewing.....**

Our lovely Kim Wilson, wife of Stephen, and mum to 3 lovely children. You will find her at Playtime—why not go along and say hello?

### **How & when did you become a Christian?**

It was when I was in my early twenties whilst studying at Uni. I had no church background or religious upbringing if anything I was anti Christian. Stephen invited me along to his church and I went along out of curiosity about him as he was very different from the other boys that I hung out with. After a few months of seeking and soul searching I felt very compelled to give my life to Jesus. And so began an amazing journey of discovery of living life in both the physical and spiritual realm.

### **What is your favourite Bible Verse & why?**

Favorite bible verse is hard to pick there are many. One that I think is really beautiful and speaks of Gods

tenderness towards his people is Zephaniah 3:17 *The Lord your God is with you He is mighty to save He will take great delight in you He will quiet you with His love He will rejoice over you with singing*

### **Is there a hymn or worship song that really touches you and draws you into our Heavenly Fathers loving arms?**

My favourite hymn is still Amazing Grace, it never fails to move me especially the last verse, its so triumphant and joyful.

### **What inspires you most about being involved in Playtime?**

My involvement in playtime is still a really rewarding experience because its about women supporting one another, encouraging one another in our day to day lives no matter what our different backgrounds we have a lot in common and a lot to give to each other. One lady said to me recently "This (playtime) must be what its like to go to

church, You feel so buoyed up by your time together and it sets you up to cope with the rest of the week". That says it all for me!

### **What is your passion for ministry?**

Something I feel passionate about in ministry is prayer. I don't think we can ever do too much of it. I have seen God move in peoples lives in amazing ways through prayer, often not with the immediacy that we expect but when you look back you can see so many threads of answered prayer. Nothing is too small or too big for God to deal with.

When I read about great things being achieved for Gods kingdom back through history and today the common denominator is always prayer.

### **What is your favourite colour?**

Fav colour is purple even though it doesn't suit me.

## —a word from our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, Doris...

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Have you heard the story of Sir Michael Costa, the celebrated conductor, who was holding a rehearsal. As the mighty chorus rang out, accompanied by scores of instruments, the piccolo player, thinking that his contribution would not be missed amid so much music, stopped playing.

Suddenly, the great conductor stopped and cried out, "Where's the piccolo?" He knew something was missing, even though the player thought it wouldn't matter.

To a professional conductor, there are no insignificant

instruments in the orchestra. Sometimes, the smallest and seemingly least important instrument can make the greatest contribution. Even if the audience missed it, the conductor knows straight away.

In life, sometimes we think our contribution is nothing much, and we feel we don't have a lot to offer. It doesn't matter whether you perform the most menial task it is still important, yet quite often those that work behind the scenes are overlooked, we really do need to encourage

each other to be the best that we can be, each of us has a part to play. Some people feel so worthless and hopeless they stop playing all together and give up on life.

But do you know our God- the Divine Conductor- notices your contribution... and misses it when it stops? Whatever God wants you to do is vitally important to Him and other people. Don't bury your talent but put it in service for the Lord to use and bless!

God Bless!

*Doris*

## Impressions with Trish...

I've been meeting a friend for coffee, at a shop in Sutherland called "FIX". When we visited Miranda Fair last week I noticed a lolly shop, with the same name! I began to think about the word "FIX" and how it refers to caffeine and sugar being used as stress-busters! We often turn to these things for comfort, but the Bible tells us that God is the God of all comfort.

God is in the business of turning rough coals into fine diamonds through pressure—stress. When we suffer, it is a God-given opportunity to become more like the One who suffered most. God uses stress to equip us to minister to others. The apostle Paul not

only saw God's hand in crisis for his own benefit, but for the benefit of others.

Here's how Paul begins his book to the church of God in Corinth:-

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all *comfort*, who *comforts* us in all our troubles, so that we can *comfort* those in any trouble with the *comfort* we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our *comfort* overflows. If we are distressed, it is for your *comfort* and salvation; if we are *comforted*, it is for your *comfort*, which produces in you

patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our *comfort*.

(2 Corinthians 1:3-7)

I noticed that my dictionary defines the word "FIX", as positioning!!!

I think it ties in really well with these encouraging words from Psalm 112:7

He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.

*Trish*

## A Victorian Christmas...

Twinkling lights hung on fragrant boughs, laced with golden antiquities; garlands strung from the mantle, framing a glowing fire of crackling pinecones; the family Bible prominently displayed on a table, opened to the greatest story ever told. Walking from room to room, the heavenly scents of fir, pine, hemlock, sweet spices of cinnamon, cranberry, and apple fill the air.

Windows are frosted and the walls faintly shudder with the howl of the snow-laden winds outside. Guests filter in and leave their calling cards at the foyer desk, each one a brightly decorated token of the season. Names are crisply spelled out in fine script, surrounded by pictures and designs in bright, cheery colours. The mail basket is overflowing with cards lavishly printed with the lithographs of Currier & Ives and Louis Prang.

A scrapbook in the parlour, another in the children's playroom, announce with appropriately selected pages, that Christmas is here in all its spectrum and splendour.



When we celebrate Christmas with family and friends, we have the Victorians to thank for many of its joyful festivities and delightful customs. They revived old traditions, such as carolling, and invented new ones such as sending

Christmas cards.

The Victorians also promoted church-going, gift-giving, and charity to the poor as essential parts of the holiday. They transformed the folk figures of Father Christmas and Santa Claus into symbols of holiday generosity, and they greatly popularized Germany's traditional Christmas tree or *Christbaum*.

Most of all, the Victorians made Christmas a family celebration, with its primary focus on the Christ Child and children. A Victorian Christmas entailed the exchange of gifts between parents and children; attendance together at Church services; a multi-course family dinner; and visits with friends, relatives, and other families.

Excerpt from :

<http://www.biblicalquality.com/Christmas1.html>