



Karen Mace

Karen is a Registered Nurse, Teacher and Counsellor.

Karen and her husband Ross spent eight years working in Ecuador South America after studying Spanish for a year in Costa Rica. Initially they were in Shell, a town with a large military base, on the edge of the Amazon jungle and close to the Peruvian border. Karen worked as an interpreter for visiting doctors who did not speak Spanish. She also spent time with Ecuadorian ladies talking about faith issues and helping them to work through some of their problems and concerns. Ileana, their third daughter was born while Ross and Karen were in Shell. Miriam was 11 and Sarah nine when Ileana was born.

When Ileana was eight months old Ross and Karen returned to Tasmania for a time. Ileana was very ill and underwent surgery while they were there. On return to Ecuador Ross and Karen and their family lived in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, and Ross was co-director of Medical Caravans. Karen worked in health care and also as a writer for the international magazine of the organization they were with. She also edited and wrote for a Community Development magazine and had her own radio program as well as visiting women in the local prison. While they were in Quito, in 1993, Ross and Karen's youngest daughter, Ileana and their middle daughter, Sarah, died in an accident with a faulty gas hot water service.

As well as the death of Ileana and Sarah, a number of other things happened to challenge Karen, and the faith that was very important to her. She struggled for a number of years before a breakthrough came that drew her out of a very hard place and into the work she is doing now. Through that time she learned many things that she now uses to help others going through similar experiences. Initially writing was the main focus of Healing Place as that was a significant influence in Karen's journey. However, after further study and a desire to work in a broader way with those who are struggling, Healing Place now offers: counseling, spiritual mentoring, life and career coaching as well as therapeutic writing and writing through transitions.