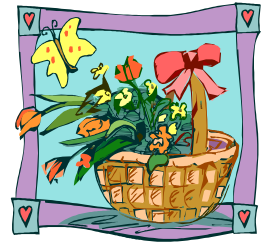


# FOCUS

a newsletter for women who find themselves in difficult circumstances, feeling emotionally and spiritually alone

June 2004

Volume 9 Issue 9



## What does your soul crave?

**P**regnant women crave pickles and ice cream and almost all women crave chocolate. Food cravings can be satisfied, but what do you do with the ache in your soul?

Do you turn to . . .

### Relationships

How many times has your heart been shattered because your husband, boyfriend, child, parent, or close friend failed to meet the deepest need of your soul?

When Jesus spoke to the woman at the well (John 4), He was aware she had been married multiple times and was living with a man who was not her husband. She had been looking for someone to take care of her, someone to complete her and make her feel secure. Even after all of those failed relationships, she was still searching for someone to fill the craving inside her soul.

Instead of giving her a judgmental platitude and sending her away, Jesus confronted her sin with great compassion and understanding. He offered her something that would provide her with dignity and total satisfaction—Himself!

As she ran into the village to tell others about the “living water,” her story probably echoed the words of David while he was in the wilderness of Judah:

*“O God, You are my God.  
Early will I seek You.  
My soul thirsts for You;  
My flesh longs for You  
In a dry and thirsty land*

*(Continued on page 2)*

*“No love of the natural heart  
Is safe . . .  
Unless the human heart  
Has been satisfied  
By God first.”*

*Oswald Chambers*

## You're Invited!

*Come as you are . . .  
no cost, no obligations, no requirements*



### FOCUS Support Groups

- ◆ **Chicago, IL (north side)** Every other Tues. at 7 p.m. Call Bernadine at 773-745-2924.
- ◆ **Elmhurst, IL,** 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Call 630-595-7023 for directions.
- ◆ **Palos Heights, IL,** 1st Saturday of each month, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. Call 630-595-7023 for directions.
- ◆ **Westmont, IL,** First and third Saturday at 9 a.m.. Call Stephanie at 630-673-KARE.
- ◆ **Wheaton, IL,** 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Call Joan at 630-690-0976 for directions.
- ◆ **Overbrook, KS** 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Call 785-836-7475 for directions.
- ◆ **Madisonville, KY** Thursdays 6:00-8:00 p.m. Call 270-825-2423 for directions.
- ◆ **Lexington, KY,** Southland Christian Church Call 859-977-2742 for directions.
- ◆ **Olmsted Falls, OH** 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Call 440-427-7700 for directions.
- ◆ **Danville, PA** Every Tuesday, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Call Fay at 570-437-2755 for directions.
- ◆ **Knoxville, TN** Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Call 865-470-2820 x226 for directions.
- ◆ **Mt. Pleasant, TX** 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. Call 903-572-7070 for directions.

Contact Paula Silva at 630/595-7023 or email at [Paula@focusministries1.org](mailto:Paula@focusministries1.org) for details on starting a group in your area!

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ISSUE**

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Where there is no water.

So I have looked for You in the sanctuary  
To see Your power and Your glory.

**Because Your lovingkindness  
is better than life,**

My lips will praise You.

Thus I will bless You while I live.

I will lift up my hands in Your name.

Psalm 66:1-3

If your search for love has taken you to all the wrong places and has left you broken and empty, why not try the lavish, liberating love God has to offer? Just one taste, and you will agree, "His love is better than life!"

**Possessions**

How many dresses do you have to buy to feel better about yourself? Many women find themselves in financial crisis when the credit card bills arrive in the mail.

Others anesthetize their longings by re-decorating their house every few months or buying a new car every year. When you have filled up your closets and rooms with stuff, there are still empty places in your heart and a dissatisfaction in your soul. That's when you have a garage sale to get rid of all the old stuff so you can go back to the store and buy new stuff! Something inside you craves for something you can't find—an insatiable need that only God can fill.

**Food/Drugs**

From anorexia to bulimia, and every other eating disorder, women of all ages often turn to food to fill their need for love. In the book *Love Hunger*, the authors write, "People with heart hunger will stuff their stomachs . . . in an attempt to fill their hearts." But no matter how much you binge or purge, drink up or shoot up, the emptiness of your heart will demand constant attention. Recovery begins when you realize your craving cannot be satisfied by your good friends Pizza Pie and Jack Daniels. Your insatiable need can only be filled by God. He is holding out His hand with a message of hope: "I have everything you need!"

***You won't get tangled up, defined, or destroyed in destructive relationships when you find your satisfaction in God first.***

**Happiness**

"Don't worry, be happy" is the motto of many people. Their pursuit of happiness tricks them into settling for second best instead of God's best. How many women have justified getting a divorce from their non-abusive, faithful husbands by saying, "I'm sure God wants me to be happy!"

The "happiness card" is being strategically played by the enemy to confused, dissatis-

fied people who buy into the lie that happiness can be found around the next corner with the next relationship if you just keep pursuing it.

God does not promise happiness in this life, but He does offer total satisfaction if we focus on Him instead of filling ourselves up with cheap imitations.

*"Oh that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness."*

Psalm 107:8-9

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Jesus gave us the secret to living a life of ultimate satisfaction in Luke 12:29-31:

You shall love the Lord your God  
with **all** your heart  
with **all** your soul  
with **all** your mind  
and with **all** your strength.

This is the first commandment.

And the second, like it, is this:

You shall love your neighbor as  
yourself."

When you love God with everything you have, you will be free to love others. You won't get tangled up, defined, or destroyed in destructive relationships when you find your satisfaction in God **first**.

In the video series, *Breaking Free*, Beth Moore says, "The only safe way to love others is to love God **first** and be satisfied in Him."

What is the craving in *your* soul? When God holds out His hand to you and says, "I have what you need," please don't turn away! Allow Him to pour His lavish love into the deepest crevice of your soul. You won't be disappointed!

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**The mission of FOCUS Newsletter  
is to encourage women  
who are struggling in difficult circumstances  
to find strength and hope in Jesus Christ.**

**Subscriptions:** \$15 per year (12 issues). Send check or money order made payable to FOCUS, P. O. Box 323, Hanson, KY 42413. Complimentary subscriptions are available for those who cannot afford a subscription.

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FOCUS Ministries (and all individuals affiliated therewith) disclaims any personal liability for information presented within this newsletter or in seminars, workshops, and support group meetings. You should always consult a professional for medical, psychological, legal, financial, or biblical advice.



### Update from Mexico:

**Please pray** for Steve Dresselhaus and his family as they pastor a church in Mexico and reach out to help victims of domestic violence. Steve has been threatened numerous times, and again just recently when he helped a woman escape her abusive husband who is also a drug addict.

When Steve's church expressed concern for his safety, he tells them God has called him to this ministry and he is compelled to defend the defenseless just as Jesus would do if He were here right now. He writes, "I want my church to know that I am not ashamed of the gospel message of Christ. I also want them to know that I am not afraid to 'lay it on the line' in order to put that gospel message to work. My church needs to know that serving Christ is an action lifestyle, not an academic one."

Listen to the heart of this courageous pastor as he writes about justice:

"It is amazing how often the Bible refers to justice. We in America, with our love for comfort, have done a pretty good job of focusing on the promises, the blessings, the wealth, and the perks of being Christians, but I'm afraid God will ask us 'Didn't you ever read where I told you to take care of the sick, the orphaned, the widowed? Why didn't you ever show hospitality to the down and outers? Why did you keep going to movies that you knew led to the exploitation of women?' I hope my church will learn these truths."

**Please pray** for the safety of Steve and his family, for his church family to not grow weary in their ministry of compassion, and for the gospel to penetrate the hearts of those who are hurting.

**Norcross, GA**—Ravi Zacharias International Ministries has begun Wellspring International which will give help and work alongside ministries that are reaching abused and disadvantaged women and children, some of whom have been orphaned or abandoned because of AIDS. Ravi writes, "I have seen such great need over the years that we could no longer be silent or turn aside, leaving it for others to do. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, are affected by these tragedies. The pain and grief we see defies description. This is apologetics with a touch. **It is the opposite side of the same coin of evangelism.** As one of our board members said, the greatest apologetic is love."

For information on Wellspring, contact Naomi Zacharias at 800-448-6766 or log on to [www.rzim.org](http://www.rzim.org).

## In the News . . .

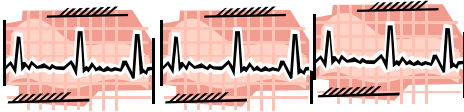
**Arizona**—Tampa Bay Buccaneer Michael Pittman was given a 30-day jail sentence for intentionally crashing his SUV into his wife's car while his wife, two-year-old son and their babysitter were in the vehicle, the *Associated Press* reports. No one was injured in the crash. Pittman's sentence includes three years of supervised probation and a fine and surcharge totaling \$4,500.

**Florida**—Along with California and New York, Florida is where many victims of trafficking—girls or women forced into prostitution—live, often working as virtual slaves in brothels, according to the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights at Florida State University. A U.S. Justice Department report issued on May 18 found that 14,500 to 17,500 people are brought illegally into the United States each year and forced to work as prostitutes, sex slaves, sweatshop laborers or domestic servants. In response, the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence has published a handbook for those working to stop domestic and sexual abuse. The Handbook on Human Trafficking: Collaborating to END Modern Day Slavery is available online at Trafficking Handbook ([www.fcadv.org/trafficking.html](http://www.fcadv.org/trafficking.html))

**Pennsylvania**—Charges were dropped against former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Frazier, who was arrested in February for simple assault and reckless endangerment, the *Associated Press* reports. The mother of Frazier's 12-year-old son had injuries to her lip and face when police arrived at their home in response to a 911 call from the son. The woman refused to testify against Frazier, so prosecutors concluded that they could not move forward with the case.

**China**—A survey released by the Chinese University of Hong Kong about attitudes toward family violence finds that nearly 30 percent of police officers agreed with the proposition that "husbands could hit or discipline their wives if necessary," the *China Morning Post* reports. Only 17 percent of the police surveyed said women should be allowed to work outside the home. A total of 2,580 "frontline workers" were surveyed, including police officers, social workers, doctors, nurses, teachers and lawyers. The survey was conducted from 1998 to 2002, and the results were released in the wake of the murder of Tin Shi Wai and her two young daughters. The psychology professor who conducted the poll urged the government to strengthen training for frontline workers, especially police officers.

Reprinted and adapted from "News Flash" (<http://www.fvpf.org/newsflash>), an online newsletter of the Family Violence Prevention Fund.



## FOCUS Heartbeat!

by Brenda Branson



### A Plea to Pastors

*Permission is granted to photocopy this article for your pastor.*

Dear Pastor,

Since 1995, FOCUS Ministries, Inc. has been reaching out to women who are struggling in abusive and dysfunctional relationships.

Most of them belong to churches like yours. They sit in the pews on Sunday morning alongside their abusive husband. Perhaps you are unaware that behind the smiles and handshakes is a secret that is steadily destroying the entire family.

Statistics show that one in every four women in each church community are *being* abused by their partner or they have been at some time in the past. One in every four—*count them!* How many does that make in your congregation?

If you are skeptical about this statistic being true in your church, please consider the following reasons why you may be unaware:

1. Women may be hesitant to come to you with their story if you have not addressed the problem of domestic violence publicly from your pulpit. When was the last time you took a strong stand against violence (verbal, emotional & physical) from the pulpit?
2. When they finally get up the courage to tell someone, women need to know their pastor will believe them, will maintain confidentiality, and will be willing to help. How approachable, trustworthy, and safe are you?
3. The abuser may be one of your staff, deacons, Sunday School teachers, or your biggest tither. Are you willing to confront someone you respect and trust about their abusive behavior?
4. You may have missed the warning signs that should alert you to suspect domestic violence. Do you know the classic profile of an abuser and a victim? How skilled are you in determining who is telling the truth?
5. Many Christian women who are being abused remain silent because they have been told by their pastors to pray harder, be more submissive, cook their husband's favorite meals, keep a clean house, and develop more patience and understanding in order to make their husband happy. Are you guilty of giving well-meaning advice without knowing what is really going on behind closed doors?
6. Many women will only share part of their story to see how you will react. You will only see the tip of the iceberg. When someone comes to you with a relationship problem, how deeply do you probe? How seriously do you take her concern?
7. You may be so focused on a particular ministry in your church (overseas missions, evangelism, prison ministry) that you don't notice the needs in your own church family. Is your church unbalanced in its outreach?
8. You may be avoiding the obvious need because of legal and personal risks of getting involved. How far are you willing to go to help someone in crisis?
9. You did not receive training in seminary on how to deal with domestic violence, and you think annual marriage conferences will take care of the problem. Are you willing to learn new skills for dealing with domestic violence that will not work in regular marriage counseling?
10. You may not want to know what is really going on because issues of abuse are hard to deal with, and you don't want to be perceived as being soft on divorce if you advise someone to leave an abusive marriage.

During the past nine years, we have offered our services and literature, free of charge, to pastors and churches who want to learn more about domestic violence. Very few have accepted our offer to supply their churches with literature or lead a workshop on domestic violence.

Has your church invited local ministries (crisis pregnancy centers, food and clothing ministries, etc.) and missionaries to speak to your congregation? Are you supporting them financially? I commend you for this. These are all good outreaches which need to be supported by the local church.

Unfortunately, many families are suffering in silence because the plague of domestic violence is being ignored, and ministries like ours who want to help are struggling financially because the Christian community does not see the need to partner with us.

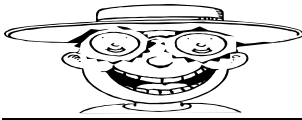
#### **What will it take for you, as a pastor, to take this problem seriously?**

Sadly, many people don't get involved until domestic violence affects someone they love—a daughter, mother, friend, neighbor. We are confident the problem is already pervasive in your congregation, whether you are aware of it or not. Since someone you love *is* being affected, won't you take action *now*? Here are the tools you will need:

#### **Education**

Domestic violence has many facets which cannot be compared to difficul-

*(Continued on page 6)*



## Just For Fun

A man walked into the ladies department of a Macy's and shyly walked up to the woman behind the counter and said, "I'd like to buy a bra for my wife."

"What type of bra?" asked the clerk.

"Type?" inquired the man, "There's more than one type?"

"Look around," said the saleslady, as she showed him a sea of bras in every shape, size, color and material imaginable. "Actually, even with all of this variety, there are really only four types of bras to choose from."

Relieved, the man asked about the types.

The saleslady replied, "There are the Catholic, the Salvation Army, the Presbyterian, and the Baptist types. Which one would you prefer?"

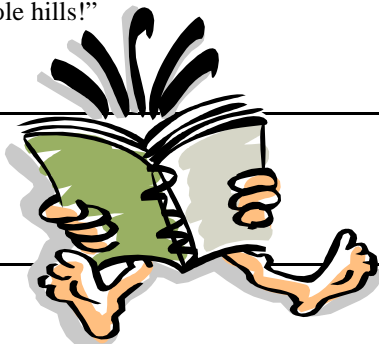
Now totally befuddled, the man asked about the differences between them.

The saleslady replied, "It is all really quite simple . . ."

- The Catholic type supports the masses.
- The Salvation Army type lifts the fallen.
- The Presbyterian type keeps them staunch and upright.
- The Baptist type makes mountains out of mole hills!"

## Book Review

by Brenda Branson



### Refuge

#### A Pathway Out of Domestic Violence & Abuse

by Detective Sgt. Don Stewart

Don Stewart's 25 years of experience as a police officer qualifies him to write about domestic violence. He has seen the devastating effects first hand. He wrote this book to "do something to try and reduce the devastation and destruction caused by family violence in our society."

The second reason Don wrote this book was to "tell people that God has not turned a deaf ear to their cries for help. He is faithful. He has heard you, and He has a plan for your life."

The third reason this book was written was to "provide encouragement and guidance for the pastors and churches that labor so diligently to meet the needs of their people."

I consider Don Stewart to be a missionary who gives practical advice to those who can't see their way out of an abusive relationship. He gives a much-needed wake up call to the Christian community to get as involved in saving lives as they are in saving souls. This book will be one of the most valuable tools in your library! Get two copies—one to keep and one to give away when you meet someone who needs practical help and refuge from domestic violence.

## Recipe of the Month

### Cheesy Garlic Chicken

4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves (1 1/4 pounds)

1 medium tomato, coarsely chopped

1 envelope Lipton Recipe Secrets Savory Herb with Garlic Soup Mix

1/3 cup water

1 T. Olive Oil

1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese (4 oz.)

1 T. grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 400°. Arrange chicken in 9x13" baking dish. Top with tomato.

Mix soup mix with water and oil. Pour over chicken.

Bake uncovered for 20 minutes. Top with cheeses and bake 5 minutes or until cheese is melted.

Serve with crusty Italian bread or garlic bread.

*Adapted from Taste of Home's Favorite Brand Name Recipes 2004*

(Continued from page 4)

ties in typical marriages. The method of counseling is entirely different. If you do not understand the mindset of an abuser, you will not be able to help his victim effectively. In fact, you may put her in greater danger.

If you are not aware of the dynamics of domestic violence, make it a priority to learn. We are available for speaking engagements, to present workshops, or work with you one-on-one to help make you and your church more aware. We provide training for support group leaders if someone in your church wants to facilitate one, and our Pastor's Guide to Domestic Violence is an invaluable resource for pastors and lay counselors.

### Clarification

When you understand that an abuser feels justified by scripture to "keep his wife in line" because he is the head of the house, you must clarify your sermon on the husband's role to explain about "servant leadership," as well as defining specific actions that are considered abusive. You should remind men that scripture does not give them permission to punish or discipline their wives, *even if they are not submissive*. God is the one who disciplines his "adult" children.

When you teach about submission, don't stop short by just instructing wives to submit to their husbands. Husbands are to submit to their wives; children are to submit to their parents; employees are to submit to their employers; and we are all to submit to God (Eph. 5:21-32)

Explain Jesus' style of servant leadership which had nothing to do with external control or coercion. He did not use His power to control and demand, but to invite, nurture, and serve.

Are you aware that many good Christian men in your congregation view woman as "second-class" or "less than" men. They may not openly admit to this attitude, but listen closely to their jokes and occasional references that belie the belief that men are superior to women and are entitled to certain advantages and rights. Be careful in your sermons to clearly define the man's role and responsibility in the home and at church which should be modeled after Christ's example of humility, servanthood, compassion, for-

giveness, and long-suffering. Remind them of the scriptures which indicate men are not spiritually superior to women (Gal. 3:28; 1 Peter 3:7).

If *you* harbor a secret attitude of superiority, ask God to reveal truth from His Word and for a teachable spirit.

### Compassion

Compassion will move you beyond good intentions to love in action. Ask God to give you the compassion of Christ as you shepherd His people.

### Courage

Getting involved in domestic violence is very risky and messy. Many people shrink back because they are afraid of personal attack. If you have the courage to get involved, you may be threatened by a lawsuit or by bodily harm to you and your family. If God has called you to defend the defenseless, just as Jesus would do, are you willing to lay your life on the line for someone else? Steve Dresselhaus, a missionary pastor in Mexico (who has been threatened with guns, machetes, and other weapons for helping victims of domestic violence) wrote, "My church needs to know that serving Christ is an action lifestyle, not an academic one." Ask God for the courage it takes to go the distance.

### Wisdom

You will need to rely on wisdom from above to discern the truth about a violent situation. Most abusers are very clever and charming. They will try to convince you their wife has a mental problem and needs help. They know how to use religious words and tears to convince you they have repented and changed. You will need discernment when a victim denies being abused in order to protect her husband, and wisdom to know how to proceed without putting her in greater danger.

### Self-Sacrifice

One pastor so accurately observed, "We in America, with our love for comfort, have done a pretty good job of focusing on the promises, the blessings, the wealth, and the perks of being Christians." Will you give up your level of comfort to meet this great need instead of waiting for others to do it?

### Toughness

The abuser also needs your help. He is caught up in a cycle that needs to be broken, and he needs support and accountability to change his mindset about power and control. Are you tough enough to encounter rage and hostility from someone who may not want to change?

### Tenderness

The victim doesn't need you to take over control of her life. She already has a controlling spouse who has convinced her she is not capable of making decisions on her own. She needs tender compassion and respect from someone who will present her with options so she can make choices and regain her dignity and self-worth.

### Integrity

When you promise confidentiality, you must keep it! Don't make the mistake of sharing your conversation with the victim's abuser, even if he is a friend or serves on your board. When you promise to help someone, follow through. Don't place strings on your help, and don't bail out when the going gets tough. Guard yourself from getting emotionally or sexually involved with someone who is looking to you for strength.

### Spiritual Direction

Providing help and safety is your *second* priority. The *first* priority is to help them find their hope in God, not in the church or the legal system. Help them put their pursuit of God before their pursuit of a better marriage. Ask God to help you put the safety of women and children above your desire to preserve the marriage at all costs.

### Resources

Refuge requires resources. The church needs to provide safety and financial help for victims of domestic violence. Don't depend on government-sponsored agencies to do what the church should be doing. Generously support Christian-based domestic violence ministries prayerfully and financially. We desperately need your help!

### Refocus

Love in action is no less important than evangelism. Is your church off-balance in its priority? Will you allow God to refocus your direction?

***Our plea to pastors and churches is that you get as involved in saving lives as you are in saving souls!***

# Will You Help?

- We need to raise \$2,000 for our Colorado trip in July to tape a radio program with Dr. James Dobson at Focus on the Family. If you can help, please notate "Colorado" on your check.
- Approximately \$2,400 is needed *each month* to provide salaries for Paula and Brenda, who are now working full-time with FOCUS. Only \$250 per month is currently being pledged. Please consider making a monthly pledge for this immediate need.
- Shop online at *www.igive.com* at your favorite stores (including Dell Computers; brand-name clothing stores and outlets; favorite books, electronics, and appliance stores, etc.). Designate FOCUS Ministries as your favorite charity and we will receive a percentage of the amount you spend online.
- When you need to buy a **book or CD**, log on to our new website at *focusministries1.org* and go to "Recommended Books." We have a link to Amazon.com from which you can order any book or CD (just click on Amazon logo) and FOCUS will receive a percentage of the proceeds.

*Did you know donations can now be made online at [www.focusministries1.org](http://www.focusministries1.org)?*



## Words That Heal

You shall love the Lord your God  
 with *all* your heart  
 with *all* your soul  
 with *all* your mind  
 and with *all* your strength.

This is the first commandment.

And the second, like it, is this:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

There is no other commandment  
 greater than these.

*Luke 12:29-31*

## Partners In Ministry

- YES! I would like to receive FOCUS Newsletter each month for 1 year at the rate of \$15 per year.
- I want to partner with FOCUS to educate churches and individuals about domestic violence and help families suffering from the trauma of abuse. Here is my faith promise of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month as God provides. Here is my one-time donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to use where most needed.
- Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Colorado trip in July.
- I want to support the Women's Centers in KY and IL and provide salaries for directors and staff. Here is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or my monthly pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to provide complimentary copies of FOCUS Newsletter to women and organizations who cannot afford a subscription.
- Count on me to be a prayer warrior for this ministry. Please send me specific requests.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

FOCUS Ministries, Inc., P. O. Box 323, Hanson, KY 42413



FOCUS  
P. O. Box 323  
Hanson, KY 42413

*O Lord, You Alone Are My Hope! Psalm 71:5 NLT*

## The Princess and the Predator

*continued from Vol. 9 Issue 8*

... A True Story of God's Grace

Court proceedings on Friday should have been routine. Ron had signed the Parenting Agreement on Thursday and swore on the witness stand that he signed the agreement willingly and in Rico's best interest.

Glenda knew something was wrong when Ron's attorney asked to withdraw from the case. She was visibly shaken as she told the judge her client had changed his mind, and was now claiming he was coerced by all three attorneys the day before into signing the Parenting Agreement.

Everyone, except Glenda, in the courtroom was shocked! The judge ordered Ron's attorney to remain on the case and spend the next few hours with Ron in a conference room just off the courtroom. His first mistake was believing Ron was rational, and his second mistake was believing he would not be dangerous!

All three attorneys (Ron's, Rico's and Glenda's) met with Ron to review the facts of the day before:

1. Testimony was heard from one of Ron's victims who alleged Ron had sexually molested him. Another victim was scheduled to testify the next day, as well as an eye-witness to Ron's inappropriate behavior toward a child in a locker room.
2. Both Ron's and Rico's attorneys advised him the testimony of the first witness had hurt his case, and if the other two testified in court the next day, he would be facing the possibility of supervised visitation with Rico.

3. The State's Attorney's Office was interested in this case since it involved sexual contact with a minor. Even though the statutes of limitations had expired due to the age of the victims, they were hoping the testimony of other witnesses would present enough evidence so they could prosecute Ron.
4. All three attorneys were present the day before when Ron signed the Parenting Agreement. They knew he had *not* been coerced.

Glenda anxiously waited in a hallway not far from the conference room door. It wasn't long before Glenda's and Rico's attorneys burst through the swinging doors, running as if they were being chased by the devil himself!

Breathlessly, they told Glenda that Ron was out of control, pounding the table with his fists, and making threats. All three women began running down the hallway toward an alcove out of sight. A colleague of Glenda's attorney stood guard and offered his protection while the women hid in fear of their lives.

Above the sounds of hearts pounding and heavy breathing came a loud wail that quickly escalated into an animal-like roar. It was coming from the conference room where Ron and his attorney were meeting!

The sound reverberated up and down the hallways of the court house. It sounded more like the roar of a wounded elephant on a rampage through the jungle than the outburst of an angry human being.

The scene that followed could have been part of a horror movie. Court officials and bystanders in the crowded hallway began running in every direction to take cover from the screaming madman. Several armed guards ran down the hallway toward the conference room, drawing their weapons as they cautiously approached the doorway.

Down the long hallway corridor, people began peeping out from their hiding places in alcoves, empty courtrooms, stairwells, restrooms, and even behind the water cooler. Everyone seemed to be holding their breath to hear what would happen next—too engrossed in the drama to leave for safer surroundings.

Glenda knew what the others were just now finding out—Ron was dangerous when he did not get his way. She had felt his wrath on her face and body many times in the past. Now Ron was finally being honest in the courtroom. He took off the mask of the charming, humble family man and showed his true identity—a raging maniac who didn't like to be told what to do or confronted, especially by anyone who would expose his secret life of arrogance, crime and perversion.

As another squad of guards and paramedics with a gurney moved down the hallway toward the conference room, Glenda wondered in stunned silence:

*"Did Ron attack his attorney? Were the guards able to subdue him? Who would be lying on the gurney when the paramedics emerged from the conference room? Would the person be dead or alive?"*