

FOCUS

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

May 2004

Volume 9 Issue 8



Do You Think You're Beautiful?

How would your life be different if you believed you were beautiful? Would you hold your head a little bit higher? Would you smile more often and enjoy life a whole lot more? Would you worry less about what other people think of you?

When God created you, He chose the color of your eyes, the size of your nose, and the shape of your body. He placed a dream in your heart and gave you special gifts to enhance your life and bless the lives of many others. You were given a unique personality, and the image of God Himself was placed in your heart and soul. When you were born, God took one look at you and said, "It is good!"

When God has written His name on you (Rev. 3:12), why do you allow yourself to be defined by someone else's perception?

Not good enough
Loser
Stupid
Fat
Boring
Unintelligent
Hopeless
Worthless
Ugly

What labels are you carrying around?

Maybe its time to peel off all those labels that have been stuck on you for so many years and take a look at yourself through God's eyes.

"When God looks into the eyes of a woman, He sees all the beauty He created there. He sees every potential and every gift. He sees what can be and

(Continued on page 2)



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 for details on starting a group in your area!



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redeems what has been. You were all His idea, and you are physically and emotionally beautiful to Him.”¹

“He really thinks you are beautiful.

All of you.

Inside and out.

Top to bottom.

Yep, even around back too.

Beautiful, He says.”¹

In her book, *Do You Think I'm Beautiful?*, Angela Thomas talks about the dance of life where some people are having a great time enjoying the music while others are standing in the back wondering if someone, anyone, would invite them to dance.

She writes, “Here is what I am learning about God. There are no faceless women standing around the edge of the room with Him. He did not bring you to the dance floor just to shove you into a corner and tell you to have a great time watching. You were made for strobe lights . . . You are not just one of the crowd. God sees you . . . He walks across the room, looks directly at you and says that you are beautiful.”

“Do you know what the dance is? The dance is your life. The dance is you in the arms of God gliding around the center of

the room, becoming the woman He thought of when He dreamed of you. To dance is to say, ‘I can do that,’ and then to magnificently step out into the strength of God’s call and shine. To dance is to grab hold of what you were made to be and then let Him show you how to become.”

In her message to pastors and counselors at the AACC Conference, Beth Moore spoke about total redemption when God changes you from a “that” to a “this.” How many times have you talked about yourself as if you were still a “that” even though God sees you as a “this?” Even though you may

You don't have to live like a "that" when God has made you a "this."

have acted like a “that,” you are still a “this.” When the enemy of your soul points his bony, accusing finger at you and says “You messed up again—you’ll always be a ‘that’,” God will give you the confidence and boldness to say, “I might have messed up, but I’m still a ‘this’!”

You don’t have to live like a “that” when God has made you a “this.”

When skepticism and doubt keeps you from believing *you* are worthy of God’s adoration, how do you break free from your bondage of unbelief and fall into the embrace of God’s unfailing love? Try these

steps:

- **Identify the lies of the enemy.** When Satan whispers confusion and accusations into your ear, check his lies against the truth of scripture. Ask God to search your heart and reveal His truth to you. *“Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me, and know my anxieties, and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”* Psalm 139: 23-24
- **Discern the deception of our culture.** Don’t fall for the lie that you must fit the world’s standards to be accepted or valuable. Establish your confidence and identity as the lovely woman God created, and don’t allow anyone else to define you.
- **Get to know the voice and heart of the Shepherd.** The more familiar you are with the voice of the Shepherd, the less likely you will be deceived by anyone else’s voice. Sharpen your listening skills by searching the scriptures and through regular, intimate communication with God who will lavish you with His grace and forgiveness (Psalm 103:8-14)
- **Repent of your pride.** Pride is sometimes disguised in unbelief. When you refuse to believe what God says about you is true, or that He has the power to forgive and change your life, your pride paralyzes you and keeps you stuck in a victim role. Before God can lift you up (1 Peter 5:6), you must humble yourself and admit you need help.
- **Admit your lack of faith.** If you lack faith, don’t fake it or camp out in the wilderness of your unbelief. Own your lack of faith and ask God for help (Mark 9:24).

“What if you just went for it—staked it all on Jesus . . . gave Him the load you’ve been carrying . . . traded what you feel for the truth of His words? Do you have anything to lose? Nothing. And to gain? The rest of your life dancing in the arms of God.”

¹ *Do You Think I'm Beautiful* by Angela Thomas

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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.**

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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.



Dear Ministry Team,

Thank you for the large envelope full of handouts for the class I recently taught on recognizing and dealing with Domestic Violence. They were extremely helpful. Your ministry is greatly appreciated.

—Ashland, OH

Dear FOCUS,

I am now divorced, after surviving 11 years of abuse. I put myself through college after the divorce and I have a good career. My problem is how I am treated as a single, divorced mother by the church. I feel so alone and abandoned by the church and by people who say they are Christians and love Jesus. It really hurts when Christians do not give me the same care they give to the prison ministry. Am I not worthy of love and acceptance because I am divorced? I did not want to get divorced, but I felt I had no other choice. Any words of encouragement?

—E-mail contact

Editor's Response:

Many churches are oblivious to the needs of the single parent, and some do not help because they don't want to appear as if they approve of divorce. It must really hurt the heart of God who is compassionate to all.

You do not have to be a victim of unconcerned churches! Instead of looking to your church for the support and affirmation you need, look instead to God for your acceptance and then ask God what He would have you do to help others. As you give of yourself, you'll find God gives back to you more than you could ever imagine. Pretty soon, the actions and attitudes of those in your church won't hurt quite as much because you won't be looking to them for approval. You'll find your acceptance from others who have had similar experiences.

You may also consider starting a FOCUS Support Group to help other women who are struggling in difficult relationships. You don't need your church's permission to start a small group in your home.

If you continue to feel uncomfortable in your church family, perhaps you need to find another church that exhibits the compassion of Christ.

In the News . . .

Washington D.C.—May 5 was a historic day when, for the first time ever, a diverse and determined group of men came to Capitol Hill to ask lawmakers to do more to stop violence against women and children. The event kicked off the Family Violence Prevention Fund's 2004 "founding fathers" campaign which will run through Father's Day, June 20.

More than 100 men came forward to sign the "founding fathers" declaration:

"We call ourselves 'founding fathers' because we intend for this crucial beginning to give way to a new kind of society—where decency and respect require no special day on the calendar, where boys are taught that violence does not equal strength and where men stand with courage, lead with conviction and speak with one voice to say, 'No more.'

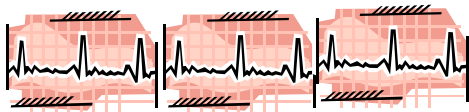
To become a founding father or to honor a man in your life, visit: www.founding-fathers.org

California—Prison overcrowding was responsible for the early release of 35-year-old mechanic Manual Castenado Banos, who later killed his former girlfriend, 43-year-old Mary Cortez of Burbank. Banos, who had a long history of domestic violence, came back into the country when immigration authorities failed to check his status. "We are looking at a general pattern of domestic violence offenders being released early," Northridge Domestic Abuse Center Executive Director Gail Pincus told the *Monterey County Herald*.

Maine—New state data shows that eight of the state's 17 murders in the year 2003 were related to domestic violence. Incidents of abuse rose by more than 11 percent from 2002 to 2003. "It's more prevalent now than it's ever been," Portland Police Chief Mike Chitwood told the *Associated Press*.

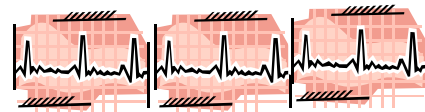
South Carolina—South Carolina leads the nation in the percentage of women killed by former or current male partners, according to a 2003 study conducted by the Violence Policy Center, the *Charlotte Observer* reports. Even in extremely violent cases, domestic violence is a misdemeanor in South Carolina. The *Observer* chronicles the January murder of 18-year-old Janet Latoya Jackson, who was strangled by Terry Lamont, a 28-year-old man who had been charged 19 times in the past ten years with assault and criminal domestic violence.

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

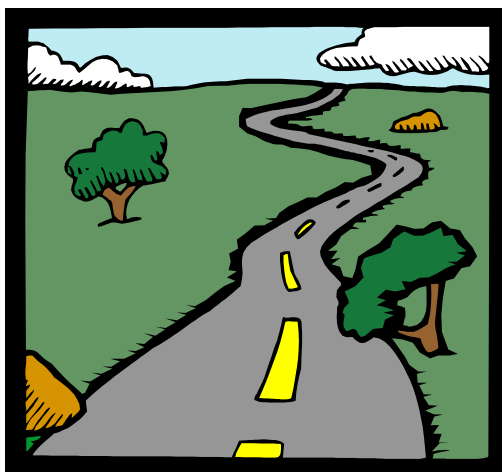


Where is God leading FOCUS Ministries?

We're watching and waiting with great anticipation to see where God will take us in the weeks and months ahead. All we can see clearly is the well-traveled road behind us with its many curves, detours, obstacles, and surprises. All we know for certain is that God has been faithful in providing for our needs.

Here are a few memorable landmarks along my journey:

- **Inside Out**—This book and video curriculum by Larry Crabb began a process of healing that enabled me to take an honest look at myself and my situation in an abusive marriage. The truths I learned literally saved my life!
- **Love Is a Choice**—The next stop on my journey was a seminar based on the book *Love is a Choice* by Robert Hemfelt, Paul Meier, and Frank Minirth. The seminar taught me to look to God for my identity and self-worth instead of relying on the perceptions of others.
- **Founding of FOCUS Ministries**—In the fall of 1995, Paula Silva and I co-founded FOCUS Ministries to help other women like us who were struggling in difficult or abusive relationships. We thought the ministry would be limited to helping women in our local area, but God had other ideas! He increased our vision and stretched us beyond our comfort zone and levels of expertise.
- **Midday Connection on Moody Broadcasting Network**—Our first broadcast was in 1997 with Midday host Andrea Fabry, and more recently with host Anita Lustrea. Thanks to these opportunities, God has opened many



doors for us throughout the U.S. and Canada.

- **Jan Silvius**—Our association and friendship with Jan began in 1997 when she spoke at our first "Restoring the Hope" conference in Illinois. Jan's books and conferences have been life changing to many women. She has also been used by God to "connect the dots" between our ministry and others like Don Stewart (author of *Refuge*) and Lynda Elliott (author of *How Can I Help?*).
- **Christian Working Woman's Winter Getaway Weekend**—We presented three workshops on domestic violence at this retreat hosted by Mary Whelchel. Since that time, we have presented many other workshops and seminars to churches, women's groups, and crisis pregnancy centers.
- **"Restoring the Hope" Conferences for Women**—We hosted our first annual conference in 1997 in the Chicago area. In 2000, we began a second annual conference in Kentucky. Each year we have seen God's provision and redemption as lives are changed and hopes are restored.
- **Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend**—The writings, video curriculum, and seminars by these

wonderful men have dramatically changed the lives of so many people, including my own. God has gifted them to teach and apply scriptural truth. Even more important than teaching people how to set healthy boundaries and establish good relationships, John and Henry are God's servants who point people to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. We are truly blessed by their lives and ministry resources!

- **AACC**—Our affiliation with the American Association of Christian Counselors began in 2001 when we took a huge financial risk to become exhibitors at the World Conference in Nashville. Not only did God provide for our needs, but we met people from all over the world who have greatly impacted our ministry. Our literature has been distributed throughout the world by those whom we met at this conference.
- **Writing and Publishing**—God planted a seed of creativity in my heart years ago when I was in grade school. For many years it lay dormant, but He has revived and nourished my desire to write. Along with several brochures and four training manuals, over 800 inspirational and educational articles have been published in FOCUS Newsletter. Some of those articles were published in *The Christian Counsellor*, a magazine for pastors and counselors in the UK which is distributed throughout Europe and almost every continent. I am currently working on a book to be called "The Princess and the Predator" which will include my life story about how God redeems and restores, and wisdom in avoiding unsafe relationships, dealing with domestic violence, and establishing healthy boundaries.

(Continued on page 6)



Just For Fun



A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning. The wife said, "You should do it because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee."

The husband said, "You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee."

The wife replies, "No, you should do it, and besides the Bible says the man should do the coffee."

The husband said, "I can't believe that—show me!"

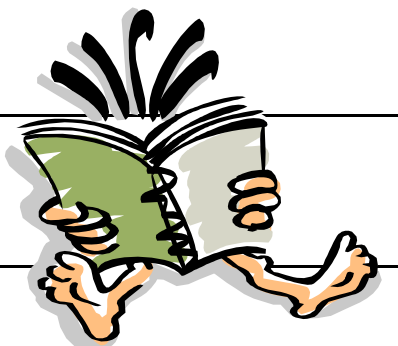
So she opened her Bible to the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages that it indeed says . . .

"HEBREWS"

(He Brews!)

Book Review

by Brenda Branson



Do You Think I'm Beautiful?

by Angela Thomas

If you have the burning desire in the depths of your soul to be noticed, known intimately, or adored by another person, this book is for you! Even if you've never voiced the question aloud, "Do you think I'm beautiful?," you have probably wondered if anyone sees you as the gorgeous women you really are.

How would your life be different if you lived every moment as a beautiful, desirable woman? Author Angela Thomas says, "If I truly knew that God was smitten with me . . . I could pursue my passions and live and love with abandon. The desperate search would be over. I would be noticed. Desired. Known."

If you think your search for Prince Charming is over, think again and pick up a copy of this book. You may be surprised that the Prince you have been searching for is not who you thought He'd be.

Get your dancing shoes ready and prepare for the thrill of your life as this book teaches you how to dance with the Prince and be held close in the loving arms of the One who really loves you!

Recipe of the Month

Mandarin Chicken Salad

- 3 cups chopped cooked chicken
- 1 cup diced celery or water chestnuts
- 2 T. lemon juice
- 1 T. minced onion
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup seedless green grapes
- 1 (2 oz.) pkg. slivered almonds, toasted
- 1 (11 oz.) can mandarin oranges, drained
- Leaf lettuce

Combine first four ingredients; cover and chill at least one hour.

Combine mayonnaise and salt. Add mayonnaise mixture, grapes and almonds to chilled chicken mixture. Toss lightly.

Stir in oranges.

Serve on lettuce.

Yield: 6 servings

Adapted from The Ultimate Southern Living Cookbook



(Continued from page 4)

- **School of Spiritual Direction**—As God was connecting the dots in my life, He led me once again in October 2003 to Larry Crabb, instructor of the School of Spiritual Direction. This stop on the journey led me from brokenness to repentance to complete abandonment and dependence on God. He was preparing me to trust Him more fully and risk quitting my job in December 2003 to work full time with FOCUS.
- **Kentucky Women's Center**—In January of 2004, we opened a women's center in Madisonville, Kentucky to provide education and free resources to women in the areas of relationships and spiritual direction. It has been a dream fulfilled for me to set up a library of books, audio and video tapes, and Bible study books which could benefit others.

These are just a few memorable stops on my journey to this moment in time. There have been many other significant landmarks and countless people (too numerous to mention) whom God has used to enrich my life and this ministry along the way.

Now we (Paula and I) are getting ready to hit the road again as God leads us to new opportunities of service.

How about joining with us on this new adventure? All of you can go with us by partnering with us in prayer and/or financial support.

Here are a few exciting stops God has arranged for the next few months:

- **Illinois Women's Center**—Earlier this month, Paula quit her job to work full-time with FOCUS. She is also taking a huge leap of faith since there is no funding available at this time for her salary needs.
- **Train the Trainer**—On June 26, we will host a one-day training seminar for support group leaders and those interested in starting a group. The seminar will be held in Villa Park, IL and people from

several states are expected to attend.

- **Focus on the Family**—We will leave for Colorado Springs on July 11 to tape a radio program on July 15 with Dr. James Dobson. I will be part of a four-member panel (including Don Stewart, author of *Refuge*) discussing domestic violence. The program will be aired sometime in August or September. This opportunity is truly one of God's special surprises as He orchestrated the entire thing without our help! ☺ The trip to Colorado will cost approximately \$2,000. We are trusting God to provide for our needs as He has in the past.
- **School of Spiritual Direction**—This time Paula is enrolled in the School of Spiritual Direction, and will begin her week-long experience a few days following our taping at Focus on the Family in July. While Paula is taking classes, I will spend the week secluded in a hotel room with my laptop computer and lots of books. I hope to get several newsletters written and finish a few more chapters in my book. We will travel back home from Colorado on July 25.
- **"Face to Face Weekend"**—On August 20, we will attend a conference in Cincinnati hosted by two of our favorite people, John Townsend and Henry Cloud. We hope to take several ladies from our Illinois and Kentucky support groups.
- **Midday Connection**—We will be guests on Midday sometime prior to our "Restoring the Hope" Conference in September.
- **Responses from Focus on the Family and Midday Connection broadcasts**—We are expecting an overwhelming response during September after both of these broadcasts air. There is no way to anticipate the cost for printing and postage or the time involved in filling requests for resources and answering phone calls and emails.

Please pray that God would send us quality volunteers to help so requests can be met in a timely manner.

- **"Restoring the Hope" Conference in September**—We will host our annual Illinois Conference on Sept. 18 in Villa Park, IL. Lynda Elliott will be our guest speaker. Reservations can be made by calling Paula at 630-595-7023 or sign up online at www.focusministries1.org.
- **Gigi Graham**—We will host a "Focus on FOCUS" event in Madisonville, KY on October 1 featuring Gigi Graham, the oldest daughter of Billy and Ruth Graham. Pray with us that this event will bring more community awareness of our ministry and provide funds for salaries. Tickets may be purchased by calling 270-825-2423 or online at focusministries1.org.
- **AACC in 2005**—We are already making plans to attend the AACC World Conference in Nashville next year. We have reserved two exhibitor booths as the one booth last year was too small to adequately display our resources. We are working on a manual for youth leaders called "Girl/Guy Talk" which will include curriculum on dating violence and safe dating relationships.

As you can see, our journey is filled with exciting and challenging events which both thrill and terrify us.

We feel woefully inadequate for the task, but God will equip us for the journey and provide the strength we need. We don't want to take a single step without His clear direction and guidance. Pray for us to keep our eyes, ears and hearts attuned to Him.

We can't make this trip alone. **We need YOU!** Will you partner with us by praying, volunteering your help, and by giving whatever God directs.

Immediate Volunteer Needs:

1. We need an experienced grant writer to research and write grant applications as soon as possible.
2. We need someone to "house sit" at the KY Women's Center from July 11-27 while we are in Colorado.

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?



Words That Heal

I love you God—You make me strong.

God is bedrock under my feet,

The castle in which I live,

My rescuing knight.

My God—the high crag

Where I run for dear life,

Hiding behind the boulders,

Safe in the granite hideout.

You protect me with salvation armor;

You hold me up with a firm hand,

Caress me with your gentle ways.

Selected verses from Psalm 18 (The Message)

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 7

... A True Story of God's Grace

While Ron's first victim testified on the witness stand, Ron sat next to his attorney arrogantly winking and smirking. He appeared over-confident and oblivious of the pain and embarrassment this courageous young man was feeling.

When Ron was called to the witness stand, he raised his right hand and swore to tell the truth. Yet his mouth spewed out lies and deception.

Ron's behavior can best be described by the following passage from Proverbs 6:12-15:

"A worthless person, a wicked man walks with a perverse mouth. He winks with his eyes; he shuffles his feet, he points with his fingers. Perversity is in his heart. He devises evil continually. He sows discord. Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; suddenly he shall be broken without remedy."

But in Ron's over-confident arrogance, he made several contradictions in his testimony that raised major red flags.

Attorney: "When did you first start taking a bath with Rico?"

Ron: "He was three months old."

Attorney: "When Rico was three months old and you would take a bath with him, the two of you were in the bathroom together?"

Ron: "I was not taking a bath with him. I was taking a bath in the tub with him."

Attorney: "You were also unclothed?"

Ron: "I had on my swimming trunks."

Attorney: "For your movie you had on the swimming trunks; when you had a

bath you would not wear swimming trunks?"

Ron: "I would not take a bath with my son."

Attorney: "When you would give Rico a bath and be in the bathtub with him, would you also be unclothed?"

Ron: "Normally, yes."

Attorney: "How often did you take a bath with him? Was it every night?"

Ron: "It did not happen."

Attorney: "What did not happen?"

Ron: "You are saying taking a bath every night—that did not happen."

Attorney: "How often did it happen?"

Ron: "I do not know."

Listening to Ron incriminate himself was like watching a tennis match where words flew across the net so fast it gave the bystanders whiplash.

When asked whether Glenda was a good mother, he replied, "I believe she loves Rico and cares about him." But when asked about the relationship between mother and son, he said it was cold and indifferent.

Attorney: "Isn't that just the opposite of the loving and caring that you just mentioned?"

Ron: "I think she provides and does care about him, but they lack spending time together."

Once again, Ron's ramblings lacked substance since it was evident to everyone that Glenda took excellent care of her son and was actively involved in his life.

During a recess in the proceedings, Ron's attorney explained to him that his case was in jeopardy due to the testimony of the young man who accused Ron of molesting him, and in anticipation of two more witnesses who would testify against him the next day.

She advised him the court would not look favorably on him after those testimonies, and he might lose the liberal visitation in the parenting agreement when the judge made his final ruling.

When the court reconvened, Ron's attorney indicated he had reconsidered his position regarding custody and had signed the parenting agreement giving Glenda physical custody of Rico.

Under oath, Ron swore he understood the agreement and would be bound by it.

Attorney: "Do you think this agreement is in Rico's best interest?"

Ron: "Yes."

The judge closed the hearing by saying, "The Court is satisfied that each of the parties signed it freely and voluntarily, and does in fact intend to be bound by the terms of the parenting agreement."

The sound of the judge's gavel hitting the bench did not drown out the unnerving voice in Glenda's head telling her Ron was up to something. He had given up just a little too easily . . .

to be continued . . .