



FOCUS

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



October 2004

Volume 10 Issue 1

Do you Trust God Even In The Dark?

Susan is desperate! Her husband recently divorced her, and she is facing eviction from the family home because he failed to make a mortgage payment. In just five days, she and her children, along with 25 years of belongings and memories, must pack up and move to another place.

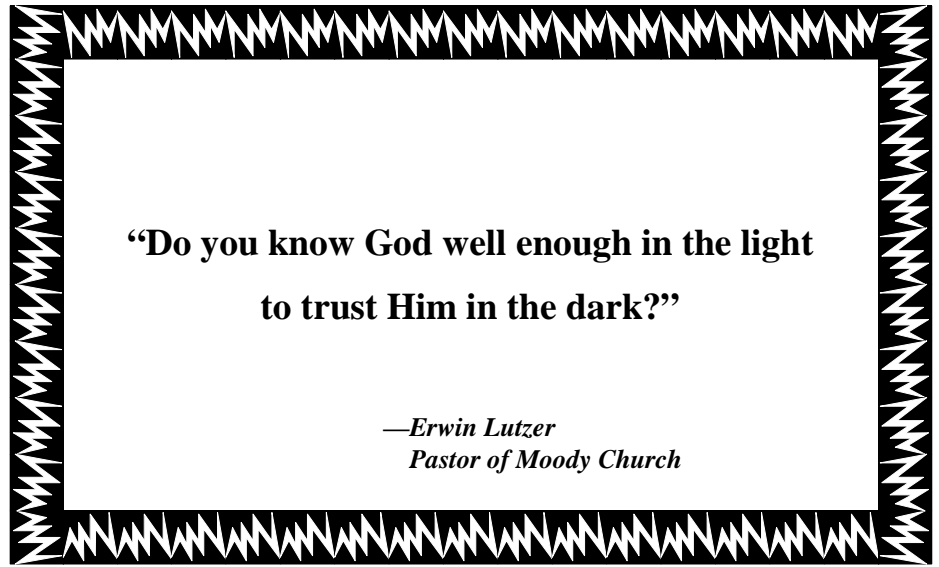
Facing the prospect of being homeless and unable to provide for her children, Susan sank into the deepest, darkest depression of her life. It is like being thrown into a pit of quicksand where even though she struggles to get out, it pulls her under a little bit farther each day—sucking the very life out of her.

After her dreams of a happy marriage were destroyed, and the concern of a few friends proved inadequate to meet her needs, who can she turn to for help except for God?

In his series on the life of Joseph (who also found himself thrown into a pit—Genesis 37-50), Pastor Erwin Lutzer asked a penetrating question, “Do you know God well enough in the light to trust Him in the dark? When your dreams are shattered at your feet, can you trust God to give you another dream?”

When your troubles and pain start to close in on you like a dark, oppressive room with moving walls and a shifting floor, do you cower in a fetal position awaiting impending doom . . . or do you focus your eyes on the tiniest sliver of light breaking through a crack in the darkness—the light that gives you hope for escape and salvages your sanity?

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You're Invited!

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



FOCUS Support Groups

- ◆ **Cedar Rapids, IA** Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Call Celeste at 319-447-1963 or Pat at 319-395-0021 for directions.
- ◆ **Aurora, IL** 1st Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Call Brenda at 630-370-0138.
- ◆ **Wood Dale, IL**, 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Call Paula at 630-595-7023 for directions.
- ◆ **Palos Heights, IL**, 1st Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Call Debbie at 708-499-5058 for directions.
- ◆ **Westmont, IL**, First and third Saturday at 9 a.m.. Call Stephanie at 630-852-5273.
- ◆ **Wheaton, IL**, 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Call Joan at 630-690-0976 for directions.
- ◆ **Carbondale, KS** Call Vicki at 785-836-7475 for more information.
- ◆ **Madisonville, KY** Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. Call Brenda at 270-825-2423 for directions.
- ◆ **Lexington, KY**, 1st Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. Call Kim at 859-977-2742 for directions.
- ◆ **Olmsted Falls, OH** 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Call Sally at 440-427-7700 for directions.
- ◆ **Danville, PA** 1st & 3rd Thursday at 6:45 p.m. Call Janet at 570-208-5900 (x.5649).
- ◆ **Knoxville, TN** Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Call Roberta at 865-470-2820 x226 for directions.

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



Train the Trainer Seminar for Support Group Leaders
Looking Back, Forging Ahead
Just For Fun, Bookshelf, and Recipe of the Month
The Princess and the Predator (a story of God's grace)

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When violent life storms have destroyed everything you've worked so hard for—all your hopes and dreams for the future—do you sit in the middle of the ruins raking through the rubble, looking for anything you can salvage to give your life meaning, or do you rise up out of the dirt, determined with God's help to rebuild your life and renew your spirit?

God is not a troublemaker or a destroyer of dreams. He is the one who restores and redeems, the one who holds us up so we won't fall, the Father who holds us close so we won't be afraid. That's what He wants to be to us if we will let Him.

In his book, *The Great House of God*, Max Lucado writes, "*Is an eagle disturbed by traffic? No, he rises above it. Is the whale perturbed by a hurricane? Of course not, he plunges beneath it.*"

"Is the lion flustered by the mouse standing directly in his way? No, he steps over it. How much more is God able to soar above, plunge beneath, and step over the troubles of the earth?"

"If He is able to place the stars in their sockets and suspend the sky like a curtain, do you think it remotely possible that God is able to guide your life? If your God is mighty enough to ignite the sun, could it

be that He is mighty enough to light your path?"

The only way to trust God in the darkest, most painful storms of your life is to get to know Him personally and intimately in the light, sunshiny, carefree days:

- Wake up thinking about Him and praising Him in the morning. (Sing some praise songs in the shower!)
- Start the day asking for His strength. (Keep your Bible and favorite devotional book next to your bed or near

When you've lost everything, and all you have left is the breath in your body and a hole in your soul, God is there.

the breakfast table so you can nourish your soul in the Word each morning.)

- End the day with thanksgiving for His faithfulness, and just before you go to sleep, unload into His capable hands all those heavy burdens you aren't strong enough to carry and the hard problems you can't solve.

How well do you know God? Is He your closest friend with whom you communicate several times a day? Or is His name simply a curse on your tongue or a habitual slang in your vocabulary?

Perhaps you're already in the dark—terrified and anxious—unable to trust God because you don't know if He really cares about you, if He can forgive all your mistakes, if He's able to put the pieces of your life back together, if He's really there at all.

If you've never trusted Him before, how do you begin?

- As you look around at God's creation, remind yourself that if He can keep the planets and stars from crashing into each other, He has the power to make sense out of your struggles. He loves you and is concerned about every detail of your life.
- Read the book of Psalms to find out more about the character of God: His faithfulness (Psa. 89), His unfailing love (Psa. 36), and His great mercy (Psa. 86).
- Realize that your sin separates you from God, but because of His great love for you, He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross as a sacrifice for your sins, to take the punishment you deserve so you could be reconciled with and reconnected to God. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God has offered you forgiveness and new life. By faith, accept this wonderful gift and invite Jesus Christ to come into your life.
- Plug into a small fellowship of believers where you can grow as a Christian, share concerns, have accountability with other believers and study the Word together.

When you've lost everything, and all you have left is the breath in your body and a hole in your soul, God is there.

*"God wants to be your dwelling place. He has no interest in being a weekend getaway or a Sunday bungalow or a summer cottage. Don't consider using God as a vacation cabin or an eventual retirement home. He wants to be your mailing address, your point of reference; He wants to be your home. You may go days without thinking of Him, but there's never a moment when He's not thinking of you."*¹

¹ The Great House of God by Max Lucado

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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.

Funding: FOCUS Ministries is a not-for-profit organization. This ministry is funded by contributions and grants. **If you would like to help us minister to hurting women through the distribution of printed materials, support groups, workshops, and financial assistance to victims of domestic violence, please send your gift to FOCUS Ministries, Inc., P. O. Box 323, Hanson, KY 42413.** A tax-deductible receipt will be provided for all contributions.

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.



***FOCUS Support Group Leader's Training Weekend
March 11-13, 2005
Drury Inn, Evansville, IN***

You are invited to attend a weekend training seminar for women who are:

- Interested in starting a FOCUS Support Group
- Currently leading a Bible study or support group for women
- Interested in helping other women deal with domestic violence, spousal abuse, or divorce.
- Interested in a forum for current support group leaders

As you travel life's journey, hurting women will come across your path. Discover in this seminar what you can do to help.

Friday, March 11 7-10 p.m. Session 1: Starting the Journey

- **Which way do I go?** (*How to start a support group; advertising; structure of a support group*)
- **Reading the road map** (*Dynamics of the support group; team approach; curriculum; resources*)
- **Barriers in the journey** (*Identifying and handling conflict and difficult people*)

Saturday, March 12 8 a.m.—10 p.m. Session 2: What's in the Knapsack?

- **What's dysfunctional about relationships?** (*Dynamics of domestic violence; effects of DV on children; why does she stay?; teen dating violence; why does he do that?*)
- **How can I help?** (*Being an anchor in their life storms, setting boundaries with members of the group, self-care*)

Sunday, March 13 8—11 a.m. Session 3: Spiritual Direction on the Journey

- **Companions on the journey** (*Reaching hearts/touching souls; choosing companions wisely*)
- **Journeying to know God** (*Being in rhythm with the Spirit; looking at your personal journey*)

Conference Registration

- | | |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Bird Registration | \$50.00 |
| <i>includes training manual and snacks</i> | |
| Note: Each person is responsible for making their own hotel reservations! | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registration after Feb. 12 | \$60.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Group Leader's Guide * | \$30.00 |

Total: _____

Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to FOCUS Ministries. Credit card payment can only be made online at www.focusministries1.org.

Accommodations

Drury Inn 812-423-5818 www.druryhotels.com
3901 U. S. 41 North
Evansville, IN 47711
Close to Evansville Airport

Special rate if you book before Feb. 24:
\$56/night + tax for double room (1-4 people)
Complimentary breakfast
Mention FOCUS Ministries to get special rate.

** You do not have to purchase a Leader's Guide in order to attend this seminar. However, it is a helpful resource for anyone leading a FOCUS Support Group. Manual may also be purchased at the seminar or ordered later. Note: Leader's Guide is not the same as the training manual.*

Looking Back . . . Forging Ahead

True Stories of God's faithfulness through darkest moments

Continued from previous issue

John Piper's quote, "God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him and Him alone" was another thought that kept me going. But I waned and grew tired of the nastiness. By that time, I was frustrated with myself.

Why can't I just be content with the cup God has given me? How dare I expect more than grace? Isn't that an insult to my Savior?

I felt wronged and guilty simultaneously. I heard it perfectly verbalized in this statement: "I don't deserve any better than what my husband is giving because I'm not perfect either, and I owe it to God to keep loving him into loving me." After all, love suffers long and love never fails. If I would just submit more or serve more, then he would be kind. Surely there must be something I can do to change the way he treats me. Why can't I just stop caring how I am treated?

So I prayed again and again, and begged God to change me and make me more loving, submissive, serving, and humble.

Now I know love is giving someone what they need and not what they want, and certainly love includes truth. But how can someone in the role of submitting, respecting, honoring, and serving expose a truth that would be considered disloyal, dishonoring, and disrespectful?

The consequences of the truth are very high and very risky. "*Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.*" Isaiah 59:14-15

What seems so overwhelming about the whole situation is the helplessness of it all. Once a woman realizes nothing she does will change the way she is treated, she begins to lose hope and

die inside, especially when the only end to the cruelty seems to be her death or her husband's.

She sees only decades of cruelty to hope for, and her life seems stripped of joy, love, and kindness. Because she is married to her oppressor, she must suffer silently. She becomes bitter, cold, and resentful watching the years pass.

She has no desire to touch or be touched. The promises of God seem meant for someone else and she begins to doubt if God ever loved her, and if these are "*the plans He has for her, plans for peace and not evil, to give her a hope and a future.*" Jeremiah 29:11

She can find no recourse. Her prayers seem to be unheard, and the church preaches submission and no divorce. She tries to get guidance from older and wiser women without violating the sacred code of silence regarding marriage.

Without hesitation, she is told that no matter what the issue, she is required by God to submit with a smile on her face, serving hands, and open legs. No wonder she feels like a hated thing. She just wants to hurry up and die so she can be with the only One who truly loves her. I remember thinking the same thing Harriet Tubman's father said to her, "We'll be free together in heaven."

While God certainly promises freedom in heaven, He does not think highly of oppression on earth in any form. In fact, scripture is filled with warnings and indictments against oppressors and charges for His people to root out injustice, end oppression, and to show mercy (Isaiah 58:6-10).

Some use the scripture in 1 Peter 3 to suggest that wives should submit silently to anything. However, the cross was not an act of submitting to wickedness and sin, but submitting to the will of God. The cross was the ultimate act of truth and love, fulfilling justice, righteousness, and mercy. Christ did not cover up

sin, submit to sin, or respect sin. He did not pretend the sin wasn't there or make excuses for the sin. Instead, through the cross, He became the redeemer and deliverer of the very sin He paid for with His life.

I realize, of course, that the church is trying to reclaim the role of a godly wife in response to a century of feminism that has wreaked havoc on our culture. Yet if you look to the roots of feminism, these women had something very different in mind than what has occurred. The majority of suffragists had another goal—temperance, the absence of the angry drunk, or rather peaceful, prosperous, loving homes. They were not power hungry feminists, but women who felt something must be done about the saloons and pubs where men would drink away the children's food and clothes, and return home only to inflict their drunken anger on wives and children.

Why did the suffrage movement happen then and not at other periods of history? Personally, I believe it was in response to a situation made desperate by the industrial revolution and westward expansion. But whatever the social and economic reasons for the problem, the cry was against the ugly reality in many families.

They desired women and children to be free from the fear and oppression found in their homes. Neither men, nor state, nor church made much of an attempt to rescue the women from their harsh reality, but instead lauded each other on proper roles, the authority of man, and the necessity of man to rule his roost and keep his woman in her place.

However, the suffragists mistakenly identified the pub as the problem, and since men would never vote their own pleasure-seeking away, women sought to insert her voice, or vote, into the public arena. If man would not save himself, then woman would save him whether he wanted to be saved or not.

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While her motive was sound, the suffragist was wrong in theory and action.

The reason the Great Experiment failed was because beer was not the root of all the evil they saw—sin was and still is. And just as drink was not the problem, the problem was also not with all men, but all men bore the sacrifice to the suffrage/temperance movement.

The problem the suffragists failed to deal with was sin—selfish, angry, violent, cruel, oppressive sin from the one with all the authority. They reasoned that by removing woman from under the authority of man, and drink from man, decency and dignity would prevail, and hopefully peace and prosperity.

Modern feminists seek equality by attempting to blend the sexes and by destroying the true, God-given attributes of women. Their motive is not nearly so noble, as it is overwhelmingly political in nature. Yet equality with man should never have been the goal because man and woman are inherently different—needing and desiring very different things. They do, however, share in one singular purpose, their chief end—the glory of their Maker, Lord and Savior.

G. K. Chesterton begins his book, *What's Wrong with the World*, with a theological discussion of the chicken and egg. His conclusion is that the only purpose of the egg is to produce a chicken, whereas the chicken can lay eggs, amuse herself, inspire painters, squawk incessantly, or even praise God.

So we are not only procreators, but creatures bearing His image. We are not only products of the fall, but knit, chosen, and redeemed by our Father as well. The life we live has purpose and dignity and worth because God Himself died for us.

“The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God who died and gave Himself up for me.”
Galatians 2:20

Yet many men treat their wives in such a way as to remove any hope of dignity or love. These women become diligent ants, scurrying to manage and repair all the angry footprints their husbands leave trying to squash them or keep them in their place. They cannot even begin to heal or deal with the damage to their spirit because they must prevent the next outburst if possible, or accept the mess as their fault. After all, “they are the one with the problem.”

This environment leaves entire families scarred and shattered. The damage done to the children is extensive and is often passed down to the next generation for another lifetime of hopelessness and despair. So wouldn't the dignity of godly womanhood, the future of children and entire families, justice, liberty, and the glory of our God be better served by destroying this tyranny rather than destroying these women by ignoring their plight?

Now I have been taught ever since I was a little girl that grace is sufficient, that the only thing I need is Jesus. So I sat in my misery, trying to be content and grateful and silent, holding out for when I would meet my Savior and enter His everlasting grace.

“I will wait upon the Lord. My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”
Psalm 73:26

“The Lord is my portion, says my soul. Therefore, I hope in Him! The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth. Let him sit alone and keep silent because God has laid it on him; let him put his mouth in the dust—there may yet be hope. Let him give his cheek to the one who strikes him and be full of reproach. For the Lord will not cast off forever. Though He causes grief, yet He will show compassion according to the multitude of His mercies. For He does not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.” Lamentations 3:24-33

I used to say to myself, “Well, if he does it again, then I'll do something.” I'm

embarrassed by how many times I said that statement. I remember the day I asked myself a different question, “Why won't I leave or at least say something?”

Essentially, there were two reasons: pride and fear. But I also clung to the idea that I was being godly, that a submissive wife keeps silent just as Christ did, thereby glorifying the Father.

I also hoped my silence and submission to all he did and said would somehow open his heart so that he would love me. It didn't.

What did work was truth, and the truth most certainly did set me free. How? By the power of our Lord. *“For our Lord Christ has surnamed Himself Truth, not custom.”* (Tertullian)

Deitrich Bonhoeffer, hung for resisting the Nazis said, *“We cannot follow Christ unless we live in revealed truth before God and man.”*

“They solace themselves that the enemy will be merciful. It is the madness of folly, to expect mercy from those who have refused to do justice.” said Thomas Paine.

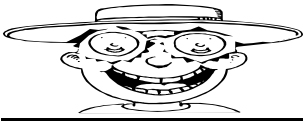
The power of truth is astonishing. Not only did truth release me to deal with the sin and oppression in our family, it released my husband from hate and anger. It released me from resentment and, most importantly, from having such a small view of God's amazing grace.

The word *sufficient* has the connotation in our culture of “just enough.” Yet that does not even begin to describe grace. For *enough* is as good as a feast (old proverb) and *enough* is an abundance to the wise (Euripades).

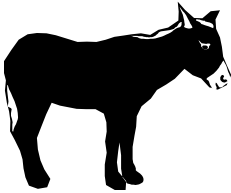
I saw that His grace is not stingy; it is abundant! His grace is not meant for heaven only, but for this life we live through Him, as well. His grace is not meant for a stale and stagnant life, but for a life of feasting on the wonderful riches of His grace.

But what does all this talk of God's grace mean to someone oppressed by sin?

To be continued next issue.



Just For Fun



There once was a farmer who had an old, stubborn mule. One day while the farmer was walking his land, he heard his mule making a terrible braying noise, but he couldn't see the mule anywhere.

As he approached the noise, he discovered his mule had fallen into a dry well. The farmer didn't know what to do. He wasn't strong enough to pull the mule out of the well, nor did he have enough help to get the mule out.

The poor farmer was afraid the mule would starve to death in the well. Since he knew the mule was going to die anyway, he decided to end the mule's life by burying it in the hole. Consequently, the farmer dumped wheelbarrows of dirt into the well.

This made the mule even more upset, but the farmer continued to pour dirt into the well. The mule instinctively shook off the dirt and stepped up on top of the pile. As the farmer poured more dirt in, the mule continued shaking it off and stepping up until he walked out of the well.

Instead of being defeated by your trials, ask God to help you shake off the dirt and continue moving forward and upward until you are free!

Book Review

by Brenda Branson



When Dad Hurts Mom

Helping Your Children Heal the Wounds of Witnessing Abuse

by Lundy Bancroft

Every mother who has been abused—physically or verbally—needs to read this book! Lundy Bancroft (author of *Why Does He Do That?*) describes how children are affected by an abuser's attitude and behavior, and what their mothers can do to protect them and develop a course of action to help them heal.

This book is essential reading for everyone involved in child protective services, including judges, attorneys, custody evaluators and social workers.

Chapter titles include:

- Understanding your child's inner world
- Dealing with child protective services
- What separation and divorce mean for your children
- Making your way in the family court system
- Helping your children heal
- Stopping the cycle of abuse

Recipe of the Month

Monte Cristo Sandwich

- 2 large eggs
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 1/2 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 8 slices white bread
- 4 oz. thinly sliced baked ham
- 4 oz. thinly sliced Swiss cheese
- 4 T. butter

In a pie plate, beat eggs, milk, and salt until well blended.

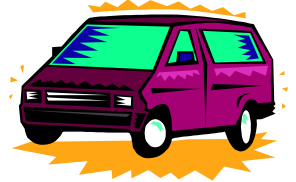
Spread mustard on one side of 4 bread slices. Layer with ham and cheese. Top with remaining bread slices.

Soak sandwiches in egg mixture, including edges.

In large, non-stick skillet, melt 2 T. butter over medium-low heat. Add sandwiches in batches and cook until browned (about 4 minutes per side), adding butter as needed.

To serve, cut each sandwich in half diagonally.

Will You Help?



- **Urgent need!** New or low-mileage minivan. (Since current vehicles are old and unreliable, we have to rent a car each time we travel to present workshops or training to churches.)
- 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.
- If 500 people pledged \$60 per month, we would have funding to hire much-needed staff, maintain IL and KY Women’s Centers, expand distribution of literature world-wide, and provide transitional housing without government funding or grants.
- 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.

Did you know donations can now be made online at www.focusministries1.org?



Words That Heal

How exquisite your love, O God!

How eager we are to run
under your wings,

To eat our fill at the banquet
you spread

As you fill our tankards with Eden
spring water.

You’re a fountain of cascading light

And you open our eyes to light.

Psa. 36:7-9 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.
- 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 12

... A True Story of God's Grace

Fraud! Coercion! Cover-up! Ron's attorney (hereafter referred to as Mr. Bock) filed a motion charging Glenda and her attorney with unprofessional conduct, fraud, coercion, deceit, and deliberate falsehoods.

What does evil look like? Glenda thought she had encountered evil in Ron's scathing words and violent rages, but Mr. Bock took the personification of evil to the next level.

Not only did he cleverly maneuver the disqualification of Glenda's attorney through lies and distortion, his next move was to petition the court to disqualify her entire law firm.

After Glenda's attorney stopped representing her, other law partners in the firm provided free advice and review of the court briefs Glenda had to file.

During the court proceeding where Glenda had to examine and cross-examine witnesses (including her previous attorney), one of the law firm's partners sat next to her to offer support and expertise. He encouraged Glenda to pursue a law degree and offered her a job in the firm.

Everyone expected Glenda to crumble under the pressure and lack the competence required in a court of law to defend a legal agreement. Mr. Bock's attempt to disqualify the entire law firm would assure him an easy win.

What chance did someone without a college degree or legal training have against a seasoned lawyer with decades of courtroom experience?

By all human standards . . . *none!*

From the beginning of time, evil has underestimated the power of God to enable His people beyond human limits. Consider how God enabled David to fight against Goliath, or how Moses led a whole nation through the Red Sea on dry ground.

If God could enable Naaman's donkey to speak, why couldn't He pour legal knowledge and wisdom into the mind of someone with just a high school diploma?

If God empowered Moses to challenge Pharaoh, why couldn't He transform a painfully shy girl into a bold, confident woman who could hold her own against a ruthless attorney and a family court judge who didn't have time or patience to deal with a novice?

In his ignorance of God's power and with incredible arrogance, Mr. Bock asked the court to vacate the court's previous judgment based on the following ludicrous allegations:

1. The Court lacked jurisdiction to enter the judgment.
2. The Parenting Agreement was secured by fraud and intimidation.
3. The Settlement Agreement is unconscionable.

Mr. Bock charged Glenda with "a mountain of falsehoods or irrelevancies" and accused her of concealing a medical report.

This was just the beginning of Mr. Bock's arsenal of evil—each attack more lethal than the rest—all designed to knock Glenda off her feet and grind her into the ground.

Mr. Bock secured all previous court transcripts and presented a distorted view of the proceedings.

After reading the riveting testimony of the young man who gave specific detail about an incident when Ron sexually molested him, Mr. Bock argued, "He never testified to sexual molestation."

It was maddening and crazy-making! Mr. Bock would read words on a page and translate them into his own truth.

When he was challenged to acknowledge the truth, he would change tactics and admit the incident occurred, but it was "too remote to be relevant."

He attacked the credibility of every witness, including professional therapists who submitted psychiatric reports. When Mr. Bock called the office of one of the psychologists involved in the case, he was advised by the office administrator that the doctor could not be reached because she had retired and was now living in Europe. He used that information to bolster his case against Glenda by claiming the doctor was involved in a joint campaign to malign Ron.

How do you respond to twisted misrepresentation of the truth? If black is called white, and credible people are reduced to conspirators, how do you defend reality? This was Glenda's dilemma and challenge for the next six months. In her own strength, she would be demoralized and crushed to pieces, but God's power was within her, surrounding her, and enabling her to face evil eyeball to eyeball, exposing error, and standing firm with the truth.

to be continued . . .