



# FOCUS Newsletter

a newsletter for women in difficult relationships, feeling emotionally and spiritually alone

## Fearless “I am with you”

When the angel announced the baby’s name would be *Immanuel* (Matthew 1:22-23), God sent a message and a promise to people of every generation—**“I am with you.”**

The name *Immanuel* has three parts in Hebrew. “Im” means *with*. “Anu” means *us*. “El” means *God*.

What does it mean in the context of your life that God is “with you?”

Songwriter and musician Todd Agnew writes:

*“You know when I wake, when I rise, when I pray, when I curse You . . . And You love me the same.”*

*“And You know when I stumble and fall, and You’re there through it all, the only unchanging one.”*

*“You know my inmost being. You know my deepest scars. You know my darkest secrets.*

*You know . . . and You love . . .”*

This “knowing” and “loving” God is not perched in an ivory tower peering through a glass ball at His creatures. He is right there beside you as you sit on the brink of despair. The shame in your heart or the stench of alcohol on your breath does not repulse Him. He

offers acceptance and life when others pronounce judgment and death. *“I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days.”* (Deut. 30:19-20)

When you feel utterly alone, He wraps you in the blanket of His love. *“Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”* (Jeremiah 31:3)

When you are terrified, He shelters you under His wings. *“He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge.”* (Psalm 91:4)

When you’re anxious and uncertain about the future, He goes before you to prepare the way, and provides backup to protect you from being ambushed. *“For the LORD will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.”* (Isaiah 52:12)

When you lose faith in God’s ability to come through for you, He will increase your faith through

*“Don’t panic. I’m with you.*

*There’s no need to fear for I’m your God.*

*I have a firm grip on you and I’m not letting go.”*

*Isaiah 41:10, 12  
The Message*

the truth of the scriptures. *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* (Romans 10:17) *“God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”* (Romans 12:3)

When you’re tempted to exchange evil for evil and seek revenge when life is unfair, God will walk alongside and provide you with integrity and courage from the inside out. *“Keep my soul, and deliver me; Let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for You.”* (Psalm 25:20-21)

John Piper, pastor and author, urges you to **“stop defining and limiting your**

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***future in terms of your past, and start defining it in terms of your God. Recognize that God is greater than your personality . . . greater than your past experiences of timidity . . . greater than your family of origin.”***

In his exposition of Isaiah 41:10-13, Piper lists five ways that God is “with you:”

- “I am your God” (over you)
- “I am with you” (by your side)
- “I will strengthen you” (from inside of you)

- “I will help you” (all around you from wherever the enemy comes)
- I will uphold you (from underneath you)

Over you  
Beside you  
Inside you  
Around you  
Underneath you

The “I am with you” God can make this promise because He has been where you are. *“Jesus was angry enough to purge the temple, hungry enough to eat raw grain, distraught enough to weep in public, fun loving enough to be called a drunkard, winsome enough to attract kids, weary enough to sleep in a storm-bounced boat, poor enough to sleep on dirt and borrow a coin for a sermon illustration, radical enough to get kicked out of town, responsible enough to care for his mother, tempted enough to know the smell of Satan, and fearful enough to sweat blood.”* (Max Lucado, *Next Door Savior*)

God is not just “with us”—He is *always* with us. Even though you may not hear His voice or recognize His presence, God is there . . . always.

Another song by Todd Agnew (*Reflection of Something* album) describes it well:

*“I’ve been leaning on things  
I’m finding unstable.*

*I’ve been standing on things  
that are unsure.*

*I’ve been surrounding myself with things  
I’ve finding unable to fill me,  
unable to still my trembling soul.*

*I’ve been reaching for things  
that are no good to me.*

*I’ve been wrestling with things  
that are bringing me down.*

*I’ve been losing sleep over things  
that really don’t matter . . .*

*But You’re always there  
when I turn around*

*Even though I’ve been running  
for so long.*

***“Stop defining and limiting***

***your future***

***in terms of your past,***

***and start defining it***

***in terms of your God.”***

*You’re always there when I cry out  
Even when I’ve been silent for so long.*

*You’re always there when I need You.  
I need You!”*

Along with God’s presence comes power! When you invite Him to come “near,” He brings everything you need to face the most vicious life storms and the most terrifying enemy. His presence brings:

- **Light**—How long have you sat in the darkness of depression or addiction—hiding in shame and hopelessness? *“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”* (John 8:12)
- **Truth**—Think of all the lies you have believed about yourself. When you invite Jesus to come near, the power of His truth will set you free! *“When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth . . .”* (John 16:13)
- **Acceptance and Healing**—Acceptance is one of the heart’s deepest desires. How many times has your heart been broken because you were not good enough, not pretty enough, not smart enough? When God comes near, He accepts you for who you are, and heals your brokenness so you can become all He created you to be. *“He gathers together the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”* (Psalm 147:2-3)
- **Justice**—Don’t you sometimes want God to ride in with a vengeance to straighten out our legal system and

make all those who have hurt you pay? He promises to set things right, but it will be in His time and in His way.

*“Therefore all those who devour you shall be devoured; and all your adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; those who plunder you shall become plunder, and all who prey upon you I will make a prey. For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds,” says the LORD.*” (Jeremiah 30:16-17)

- **Freedom**—Even if you are not a prisoner in your home, you may be one in your own skin, unable to let the real “you” be known. God brings freedom, passion, and expression to a passive, timid soul. *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”* (Galatians 5:1)
- **Joy**—God’s presence does not guarantee you will always be happy, but He does promise joy . . . and the best part is that no one can take it away! *“Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”* (John 16:22, 24)
- **Purpose**—Have you discovered your purpose for being born? When God comes near, He gives you a unique perspective on your eternal value. *“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. But if you stay joined to me and my words remain in you, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted! My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father.”* (John 15:5-8)
- **Peace**—How much would you give for a little peace in your chaotic world? *“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33)

When God comes near, He brings power, passion, and purpose. Live fearlessly—God is with you. Immanuel!

## Letters/E-Mail



Dear FOCUS,

I am really struggling right now, and I'm very grateful for the resources you are providing. Your availability, expertise, and kindness are a great gift to me. Thank you for placing yourself in the Lord's service because you are serving me as a result.

—Email contact

The Women's Ministry at our church is interested in developing our ability to minister to abused women. We heard of your organization through Focus on the Family. Enclosed is an order for the "Pastor's Guide to Dealing with Domestic Violence."

*Katina Bartin*  
Blue Ridge Christian Church  
Columbia, MO

**Editor's Note:** If your church would like on-site training to help you minister to families dealing with domestic violence, please contact us by email at [contactus@focusministries1.org](mailto:contactus@focusministries1.org) or call 270-825-2423.

## In The News . . .

**Oklahoma**—A program developed by 18-year-old Claire Richard to train high school students to tell elementary school children that "hitting is not cool" has been expanded to ten schools in the southeastern part of the state. Richard became interested in the issue in middle school when one of her friends became a victim of dating violence. Her Project Falummichechi (in Choctaw, the word means "to reclaim") has received support from the tribe and Richard has pitched it to school principals and superintendents. She is organizing a weekend training session for participants, according to the *Associated Press*.

**Canada**—As part of a four-year, \$66 million domestic violence plan, the government is training elementary school teachers, principals and counselors to identify and support students who have been exposed to violence in their homes, reports *Canada Newswire*. "Educators are among the first to notice if a child is showing physical or emotional signs that indicate exposure to domestic violence," said Minister Responsible for Women's Issues Sandra Pupatello.

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

## FOCUS Support Groups

- Eustis, **FL**—Saturdays 10 a.m. to Noon. Call Sherry at 352-434-9310
- Savannah, **GA**—Saturdays. Call Patty Jean at 912-629-4720
- Cedar Rapids, **IA**—Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Call Pat at 319-395-0021.
- Aurora, **IL**—Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. Call Brenda at 630-370-0138.
- Tinley Park, **IL**—Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Call Stephanie at 708-503-4470.
- Wheaton, **IL**—1st and 3rd Saturday at 9:30 a.m. Call Joan at 630-690-0976.
- Wood Dale, **IL**—2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Call Paula at 630-595-7023.
- Lexington, **KY**—Saturdays at 9 a.m. Call Leslie at 859-224-1619 (x 143).
- Madisonville, **KY**—Thursdays at 6 p.m. Call Brenda at 270-825-2423.
- Olmstead Falls, **OH**—Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Call Sally at 440-234-8430
- Knoxville, **TN**—Tuesday at 7 p.m. Call Roberta at 865-470-2820 (x226).

If you are interested in starting a support group in your area, contact Paula Silva at 630-595-7023.

### "Train the Trainer"

Weekend seminar (for support group leaders or those interested in starting a support group):

**March 31—April 2**  
**Oakbrook Terrace, IL**

Register online at [focusministries1.org](http://focusministries1.org) or call Paula at 630-595-7023.

**FOCUS Newsletter** is published monthly. *Editor/Author:* Brenda Branson (unless otherwise noted). Articles may be emailed to [Brenda@focusministries1.org](mailto:Brenda@focusministries1.org) for consideration to be used in future issues. All articles are considered to be voluntary submissions without remuneration. Copyright © 2005 FOCUS Ministries, Inc. All Rights Reserved

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## Things God Understands

Our Experiences	Jesus' Experiences
Average appearance; ordinary	"There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him." (Isaiah 53:2 NLT)
Rejection, Grief	"He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief." (Isaiah 53:3 NLT)
Treated badly and unfairly; oppressed	"He was oppressed and treated harshly." (Isaiah 53:7 NLT)
Poor family	"So they offered a sacrifice according to what was required in the law of the Lord—'either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.'" ( <i>This was an offering given by the poor.</i> Luke 2:24 NLT)
Single parent home; blue collar job	"He's just the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us." ( <i>Apparently Mary's husband, Joseph, died while Jesus was still living at home.</i> Mark 6:3 NLT)
Demanding life	"Then Jesus said, "Let's get away from the crowds for a while and rest." There were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat." (Luke 6:31 NLT)
Misunderstood by family	"When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him home with them. 'He's out of his mind,' they said." (Mark 3:21 NLT)
Falsely accused	"And I, the Son of Man, feast and drink, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of the worst sort of sinners!'" (Matthew 11:15 NLT)  "Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find witnesses who would lie about Jesus, so they could put him to death." (Matt. 26:59 NLT)
Unreliable friends	"Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, 'Couldn't you stay awake and watch with me even one hour?'" (Matthew 26:40 NLT)
Abandonment	"Around mid-afternoon Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly, " <i>Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?</i> " which means, 'My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?'" (Matthew 27:46 The Message)
Range of emotions; temptations	" <i>Jesus was angry enough to purge the temple, hungry enough to eat raw grain, distraught enough to weep in public, fun loving enough to be called a drunkard, winsome enough to attract kids, weary enough to sleep in a storm-bounced boat, poor enough to sleep on dirt and borrow a coin for a sermon illustration, radical enough to get kicked out of town, responsible enough to care for his mother, tempted enough to know the smell of Satan, and fearful enough to sweat blood.</i> " (Max Lucado, <i>Next Door Savior</i> )

## Book Review



### Next Door Savior

*Near Enough to Touch; Strong Enough to Trust*

by Max Lucado

What would it mean to you to have Jesus living right next door, always ready with an encouraging word, a shoulder to cry on, a listening ear, a law degree to advocate your cause, a Ph.D. to counsel you, and a heart that truly understood you, even when you don't understand yourself? This book puts into words the reality that God *is* with us!

Another concept described in this book is the fact that God wants to be part of our ordinary lives, not just a deity to be worshipped on Sundays. God longs for an ongoing, intimate relationship with us.

This is a great book to help you conceptualize the role Jesus can play in your every day life if you invite Him into the depths of your being instead of keeping Him isolated as just a religious icon.



## Recipe of the Month

### Bacon & Tomato Cups

8 slices bacon  
 1 tomato, seeded and chopped  
 1/2 onion, chopped  
 3 oz. shredded Swiss cheese  
 1/2 cup mayonnaise  
 1 tsp. dried basil  
 1 16 oz. can refrigerated buttermilk biscuit dough (regular size, not Grands)

Preheat oven to 375°. Lightly grease mini muffin pan.

Cook bacon until crisp. Drain on paper towels. Crumble bacon into medium bowl and mix with tomato, onion, cheese, mayonnaise and basil.

Separate biscuits into halves and press each half into muffin tin. Fill with bacon mixture. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until golden.

## Words That Heal



“Don’t panic.  
 I’m with you.  
 There’s no need to fear  
 for I’m your God.

I’ll give you strength.  
 I’ll help you.  
 I’ll hold you steady,  
 keep a firm grip on you.

Count on it:  
 Everyone who had it in  
 for you will end up  
 out in the cold—real losers.

Those who worked against  
 you will end up  
 empty-handed—nothing to  
 show for their lives.

When you go out looking  
 for your old adversaries  
 you won’t find them—  
 Not a trace of your old  
 enemies,  
 not even a memory.

That’s right.  
 Because I, your GOD,  
 have a firm grip on you  
 and I’m not letting go.

I’m telling you,  
 ‘Don’t panic.  
 I’m right here to help you.’”

*Isaiah 41:10-13*  
*The Message*

# Pornography and Sexual Addiction *Part 3*

By Eileen Warren, CADC III, CCS I

Pornography and sexual addiction are two great destroyers of self-esteem, marriage, intimacy, and spiritual growth. It is important to understand that treatment is very complex and healing is often slow. It seems on the surface one should be able to “just say no,” but like most addictions there is often a cycle of use or abuse, leading to guilt and shame, then to an attempt to stop, followed by depression and frustration, and finally back to use or abuse.

There are three subgroups of men (and a growing number of women) who seem to be the most vulnerable to pornography and/or sexual addiction:

1. Men who tend to be stimulant-seeking (e.g. high energy, easily bored) and attracted to fast vehicles (cars, bikes, boats). Wherever there is intensity and/or danger, it creates a reaction in the brain chemistry that gives a sense of power and pleasure (a good feeling). When the brain produces this chemical, it is intoxicating and produces a “rush.” Men who are naturally wired toward stimulant-seeking behaviors may have an elevated sex drive.
2. Men and women who have very low self-esteem and a passive struggle with feeling inadequate in relationships. Managing life for these individuals is hard. They tend to seek stimulation to counter the “bad” feelings. Sexual stimulation gives a sense of relief from the bad and many report a feeling of “coming alive.”
3. Teens are already a chemical nightmare. They have awakening sexual feelings and have not learned skills in managing them. Teens today have poor relational skills and are more stimulant-seeking than any generation thus far. The availability of pornography complicates an already predisposition toward this addiction.

The very nature of addiction causes the need for porn or sex to become progressively more demanding and less satisfying. With all addictions, the level one engages in their addiction is an important part of how to develop a plan of treatment. Addiction

therapists usually try to get “collaborative” statements to gain a full picture of the degree of engagement. However, this is often not possible with porn and sexual addiction. People often try to minimize and deny the level of their own addiction, and these addictions are very easy to hide. It is not something people necessarily want to stop. Drinking and drugging often create other problems, and the motivation to stop using is often related to the secondary problem. However, it is difficult to motivate people to stop their addiction to porn and sex.

Often the result of using porn is acted out in the bedroom of married couples. The sexual relationship is broad with ideas or definitions for how to increase desire and pleasure. Many (even Christians) believe that whatever the married couple wants to do together sexually should be okay. Many women who are married to porn addicts are left alone in the bedroom with a range of feelings from being objectified to shame, guilt and sadness. They feel embarrassed and helpless to tell anyone what their sex life is like, and equally ashamed of their own pleasure in participation. ***This is not okay!***

It is important to understand that sexual boundaries are important in marriage. The rule of thumb should be that your sexual relationship should not leave you feeling embarrassed, uncomfortable, in pain, and/or crying. It should be a time of intimate connection that feels close, loving, and beautiful. ***It is okay to say “no”*** to your spouse’s sexual requests that make you feel bad, used, hurts you, or repulses you.

Spiritual formation at its essence is a holy relationship where we seek to desire God above all else. A Christian marriage is to be a mirror of our relationship with God. The root of all addiction is desiring our addictive substitute more than desiring God. The cure for all addiction is to desire God more than the addictive substitute. Anyone with an addiction must work harder to develop their own relationship with God than the rest of the church. People prone to addiction for whatever reason must continually be diligent, aware, and accountable.

In my perfect world, we would develop groups that focus on building a life in God that becomes our greatest source of joy, hope, and complete satisfaction. In relationship with God, love flows out toward others as an overflow. It becomes a perfect expression of love. However, we tend in our culture to do the opposite. We focus on the addiction and a need for ongoing support rather than teaching people how to become truly God-dependent, God-surrendered, God-led, and most importantly, God-satisfied.

There needs to be a shift in our thinking and in our ability to address the *whole* person instead of just addressing one behavior. In all addiction recovery, we must get to the heart and turn the soul toward the only substitute Who can satisfy our deepest longings.

We do not have the power to sustain recovery without a plan for spiritual formation in our lives. Addicts may stop using porn or stop abusing drugs or alcohol, but these longings are often substituted for other “healthy” addictions (exercise, work, church, hobbies, etc.).

The good news is that the transforming power of Christ is able to cure the very nature of addiction. A person must come to God honestly, with all their desires exposed. This painful brokenness feels like death because it is death to self. There will be depression, confusion, and sadness. It can be a terrifying process, but the healing is complete. The cure is sure. The joy is promised. Deep joy and satisfaction fills the heart that once felt empty and desperate.

If your husband is addicted to porn, or if you suspect your husband has a sexual addiction, seek help from a Christian counselor who understands the root of addictions. Surround yourself with others who will pray for you and support you in making difficult decisions and setting healthy boundaries. Pray diligently for your husband to seek God for the power it takes to overcome his addiction.

To contact Eileen Warren with questions about sexual addiction, please email [contactus@focusministries1.org](mailto:contactus@focusministries1.org).



## 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 FOCUS Women's Centers and Homes of Refuge and provide salaries for 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 \_\_\_\_\_

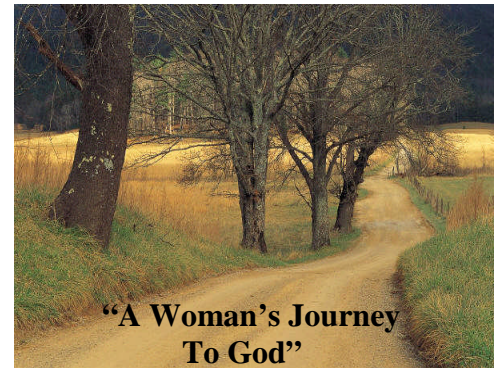
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip

Mail to FOCUS, P. O. Box 323, Hanson, KY 42413

## Upcoming Events

- **March 24-26**—“**Know the Hope**” Women’s Retreat in Dav-  
enport, IA. Keynote speaker:  
Carol Kent (BB & PS will pre-  
sent two workshops). Contact  
Linda Hall at 563-332-4692 to  
register.
- **March 31-April 2**—“**Train the  
Trainer**” weekend seminar (for  
support group leaders and others  
interested in helping victims of  
domestic violence) in Oakbrook  
Terrace, IL. Contact Paula Silva  
at 630-595-7023 to register, or  
register online at  
[www.focusministries1.org](http://www.focusministries1.org).
- **April 22**—“**Restoring the  
Hope**” Conference for Women,  
Hanson, KY. Keynote speaker:  
**Rachael Crabb**. Contact Brenda  
Branson at 270-825-2423 to  
register, or register online at  
[www.focusministries1.org](http://www.focusministries1.org).
- **July 10-19**—Trip to Colorado  
Springs (**School of Spiritual  
Direction**) for Jenny, Paula, and  
Brenda.
- **August 10-12**—**Leadership  
Summit** at Willow Creek, Bar-  
rington, IL for FOCUS Board  
Members.
- **Sept. 9**—“**Restoring the Hope**”  
Conference for Women, Villa  
Park, IL. Keynote speaker:  
**Rachael Crabb**. Contact Paula  
Silva at 630-595-7023 to register,  
or register online at  
[www.focusministries1.org](http://www.focusministries1.org).
- **Oct. 10-17**—**AACC Conference**  
in Denver, CO (tentative)



*A weekend retreat for women in pursuit of God*

**If you would like the FOCUS team to come to your church for a women’s retreat (see above), seminar on domestic violence, or other speaking engagement, please contact us as soon as possible as our calendar for 2006 is quickly filling up!**

**Contact Brenda at 270-825-2423 or Paula at 630-595-7023 or by email at [contactus@focusministries1.org](mailto:contactus@focusministries1.org).**



**FOCUS Ministries, Inc.**  
P. O. Box 323  
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270-825-2423 KY  
630-595-7023 IL  
**Focusministries1.org**

**Our mission is to encourage women who are struggling in difficult circumstances to find strength and hope in Jesus Christ. “O Lord, you alone are my hope.” Psalm 71:5 NLT**

**Endorsement:**

“These women are called, prepared, and surrendered to their crucial ministry. The stamp of God is on their lives and work. It’s my prayer that God will use their gifts across the world to draw thousands of women to the hope that Christ provides. This is one ministry I’m sold on.” **Dr. Larry Crabb**, New Way Ministries

**Funding:**

FOCUS Ministries is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization 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, transitional housing, 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.

## Prayer Requests & Urgent Needs

**Urgent Needs:**

- **Finances** are at a critical low!
- **Gravel** for driveway at KY Women’s Center
- New **furnace and air conditioner** at KY Women’s Center
- **Replacement windows** at KY Women’s Center
- New **copy machine** for IL Women’s Center
- **Facility** in western suburbs of Chicago to house IL Women’s Center
- Professional **grant writer**

**Prayer Requests:**

- Pray for “**Restoring the Hope**” Conference on April 22 in Hanson, KY with Rachael Crabb.
- Pray for individuals, churches, and businesses to commit to **monthly giving**.
- Pray for funding to purchase **school building** in Madisonville, KY (\$50,000) for expanded women’s center and transitional housing.
- Pray for **Sylva Neubauer** and the startup of a FOCUS branch office and

support group in St. Louis, Missouri.

- Pray for God to send **people** alongside us who have expertise in development, fundraising, public relations, and grant writing.
- Pray for **property** near Elmhurst, IL to be donated for IL Women’s Center and transitional housing.
- Pray for **funding** to send Paula, Brenda, and Jenny to Advanced School of Spiritual Direction in Colorado Springs (July 2006).

- Pray for **property** to be donated for FOCUS Women’s Retreat Center.
- Pray for **houses** in IL, KY, and MO to be donated for use as transitional homes.
- Pray for funding to provide **scholarships** for women to attend our weekend retreat, “A Woman’s Journey to God,” and our “Train the Trainer” seminar for support group leaders.
- Pray for more **invitations** from churches to train pastors, staff, and congregations about domestic violence.

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