



FOCUS Newsletter

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

Issue 2 2006

Refuge

Refuge means different things to different people.

- To the one who is fleeing violence, refuge means protection or temporary shelter.
- To the one who is homeless, refuge means a place to live.
- To the one who is suffering, refuge means a source of help, relief, or comfort in times of trouble.

To whom or what do you turn when life throws you a curve ball? If the answer is anything other than God (or Jesus) you may experience temporary relief, but in the end it will leave you empty.

God alone has the ability to meet the deepest needs of your soul. Anything else is a counterfeit.

The psalmist David knew about taking refuge in God. His passionate prayer is recorded in Psalm 5.

“Give ear to my words, O Lord; consider my groaning. Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray.” (vs. 1-2)

Notice the progression of emotions in David’s prayer:

- Words
- Groaning
- Cry

When words are inadequate to describe the pain, how great to know that God hears and understands your groaning. When you cry out to him, it may be through quiet weeping or desperate screaming. He hears . . . and bears your grief in his own heart.

“O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice;” (v. 3a)

David began his mornings by presenting himself to God. Worship was as normal for him as breathing.

What are your first thoughts when you awake? Instead of jumping out of bed and racing through the day, take a few moments to present yourself before God. Share with him the deepest concerns of your heart and take time to worship.

“In the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.” (v. 3b)

What kind of sacrifice does God require of us today? David describes the sacrifice God desires in Psalm 51:17 (ESV):

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”

God responds to brokenness and repentance, but despises an arrogant, prideful attitude of entitlement and demand.

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice.

Let them ever sing for joy.

And spread your protection over them

That those who love your name may exult in you.

For you bless the righteous, O Lord.

You cover him with favor as with a shield.

Psalm 5:11-12 ESV

Another form of sacrifice is described in Romans 12:1:

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

God is more interested in who you are than in what you do. If your heart reflects his, you will treat others with respect and compassion, with mercy instead of condemnation.

Your acts of worship will no longer be confined to singing and praying inside the walls of a church building, but will move outside to meet the needs of the hurting and broken around you.

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After David’s sacrifice and worship, he waited for God to respond. Many of our conversations with God are one-way—from us to him. Instead, we need to wait and listen for whatever he wants to tell us.

The song *Wait For Your Rain* by Todd Agnew talks about approaching God in brokenness, waiting for him to respond:

“I cannot believe I’m this dirty. I’m ashamed to even ask to be clean. I can’t think of anyone less worthy. I have nothing to offer or to bring. So I throw myself on Your mercy. I throw myself at Your feet. I throw my

filth on the grace of One whose beauty is beyond me. And I wait . . .

What filth in your life creates a barrier to fellowship with God?

Check out the list in verses 4-6:

*“For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. The **boastful** shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all **evildoers**. You destroy those who speak **lies**; the Lord abhors the **bloodthirsty and deceitful man**.”*

Before you begin thinking of the names of evil people who have done you wrong, stop and deal with your own heart.

Have you ever been prideful and arrogant? *I have.*

Have you ever done an evil deed, even if it was just one time? *I have.*

Have you ever lied? *I have.*

Have you ever wished someone would stop existing, even if you would never commit murder yourself? *I have.*

Have you ever been deceitful? *I have.*

The song says, *“I throw my filth on the grace of One whose beauty is beyond me. And I wait . . .”*

Why wait? When you shut your mouth and open your ears to God’s truth, he will reveal the motives of your heart and any barriers to fellowship you may be unaware of.

Healing comes from a position of brokenness as God’s mercy and forgiveness washes over you. He covers you with his righteousness and makes you worthy of approaching a holy God.

*“But I, through the **abundance** of your **steadfast** love, will enter your house.* (v. 7a)

Don’t misread verse 7. It is not through your good behavior and church attendance that you are allowed to approach God. If you’re having trouble with that thought, go back and read verses 4-6 to refresh your memory of who you really are without God’s righteousness.

Then read the words (bold print) in verse 7 that describe God’s love—abundant and steadfast. Abundant love means he has

Steadfast love is what we all long for. It goes the distance and never changes. This kind of love is not based on your appearance, good or bad behavior, or your response. It reflects the very character of God that is immutable—unchangeable.

enough for the rest of your life—it won’t run out and is not dependent on whether or not you are good. It is based on his goodness.

Steadfast love is what we all long for. It goes the distance and never changes. This kind of love is not based on your appearance, good or bad behavior, or your response. It reflects the very character of God that is immutable—unchangeable.

Next, notice the posture of the body and heart when you encounter a holy God:

“I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.” (v. 7b)

Bowing down indicates an attitude of humility. In a radio interview with Spirit 1053, Todd Agnew was asked how he stayed real. He responded, *“When Isaiah came into the presence of God it forced him to his face. When you encounter God, it keeps you humble, it keeps you real, it keeps you normal. You don’t have any option in the face of perfection, in the face of holiness, than just to be broken and seek after what He wants. So rather than have a goal of staying humble or being real, my goal is to stay connected, keep staring into the face of the Lord, and trust that whatever interaction I have with Him, that’s going to make me into the person I need to be.”*

The other response to God is fear (v. 7b). However, this is not fear that God is going to punish you for being bad—it is a response of reverence and awe in the presence of holiness.

In verses 8-10, David discusses his need for God’s righteousness in dealing with his enemies.

*“Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make **your** way straight before me.”* (v. 8)

How often do we ask God to bless *our* way? We want to control our own lives, but still expect God to come through when we need something. Look closely at the beginning of the verse: *“Lead me. . .”*

How do you deal with those who hurt you? Do you ask God for his righteousness instead of wallowing in your own vindictiveness?

Read the description of David’s enemies in verses 9-10. Do any of them look familiar in your world today? They are people who:

- Speak lies
- Seek to destroy and tear down
- Speak death instead of life (verbal abuse)
- Flatter, charm, and deceive

In verse 10, David gives up his right for revenge and places it in God’s hands. If you’re holding on with both fists clenched, let go and let God deal with them in his way, in his time.

Why be embroiled in a fight when you could find **joy, rest and peace**? Refuge!

*“But let all who take **refuge** in you rejoice; let them ever sing for **joy**. And spread your **protection** over them that those who love your name may **exult** in you.”* (v. 11)

*“For you **ble**ss the righteous, O Lord; you **cover him with favor** as with a shield.”* (v. 12)

Not only can you find refuge (help, relief, comfort) in God, but he gives you a joyful heart and covers (shields) you with his favor. When you’re broken and hurting, present yourself to God, allow him to cleanse your heart and mind, humble yourself as you encounter his holiness, walk confidently in his righteousness, and hide yourself in his protection and favor.

*“If I could just sit with you a while,
If you could just hold me;
Nothing can touch me, though I’m wounded,
though I die.
If I could just sit with you a while,
I need you to hold me
Moment by moment ‘till forever passes by.”*

—Dennis Jernigan

Letters/E-Mail



Dear FOCUS,

God bless you. You have given me hope. I am blessed to know you.

I am learning that I cannot change my husband. I cannot stop his mood swings. I can only try to shelter my heart when they happen. I can usually see them coming on just by the expression on his face but sometimes he catches us off guard. I am convinced that I need to work on me and protect my girls as much as possible.

My 4 year old is very upset when he gets angry and she runs to me telling me we have to go. I do not remember such pain in my other children. They seem to remember so much more. I believe it is because I tried so much to side with their father and give him opportunities to change as he said he would. I wanted him to know that I believed in him, but every time he would go back to his old self and all the promises were never carried out.

Sometimes, I feel I can't go on and actually fear I may destroy myself to be set free. It doesn't last, however, as I know I can never leave my girls. They are so wonderful and full of life. They are a stronghold for me to press on.

Thank you for your prayers. You have shown me Jesus.

—Email

In The News . . .

In Their Own Words

"I've lived in domestic violence shelters three times. My brother and I would have to deal with situations like our father or one of our mother's boyfriends drinking and beating my mother or beating us. We lived in foster care three different times. I was then taken out of my mother's home because she swatted me with a hot spatula and it left a mark—and made to live with my father. He smoked meth in front of us and would beat us when he was high and then forget that he had done so. I had to get out of the house to escape my father's beatings and drug abuse. I became partially homeless and later I got involved in gangs. I know the things the gang did were wrong, but they took care of me. I became addicted to coke. My sister brought me to DC to live. I've been clean for six months and I'm on the honor roll at Cesar Chavez High School. I have been given a second chance. Break the Cycle gives you a second chance. You cannot put a price on a safe environment."

—Cesar Chavez High school 10th grader Nathaniel Duran, a Peer Leader with Break the Cycle, at a Washington, D.C. Public Oversight Hearing on increasing funding for domestic violence services, May 3, 2006.

Reprinted and adapted from "News Flash" (<http://www.fvppf.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
- Aurora, **IL**—Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. Call Brenda at 630-370-0138.
- 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.
- St. Louis, **MO**—Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Call Sylva at 314-918-7647
- Akron, **OH**—2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7 p.m. Call Patty at 330-877-2307.
- 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.

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When Struggles Come . . . Where is God?

By Eileen Warren, CADC III, CCS I

Part Two: Stay Calm

Read 1 Sam. 16:1-18:1

“Ladies and gentlemen, the pilot has just turned on the seatbelt sign. We are expecting some mild turbulence, so please fasten your seatbelts and return your tray tables and seats to their upright positions.” I was on a flight to Tampa, Florida when the flight attendant made that announcement. In only a second, attendants were bustling about the plane, checking for potential hazardous objects by gathering sodas and other drinks and making sure overhead luggage and loose items were securely tucked away.

We had a couple of mild bumps, then three or four hard “elevator drop” experiences in a row. I quickly glanced at the flight attendant’s face. Her demeanor was calm and casual, giving smiling but silent reassurance. I continued to watch the attendants for any signal in their body language that would indicate concern. There was none, and amazingly I felt reassured.

Do you ever think God expects us to be like flight attendants and be “calm and casual” while the bottom of our lives seems to be dropping out? To better understand how to get through life’s difficulties and struggles, let’s return to our text—the “bear” versus the “lamb” (verses 34-35). Imagine that lamb being hauled off for dinner in the jaws of that giant grisly bear. If it started to flail around, the bear’s teeth would have ripped it to shreds. This lamb’s life depended on two things: *being secure in the posture of surrender and being able to stay calm and wait until it was rescued.*

In counseling, we know the greater it is that people feel out of control, the greater their fears begin to control them. To regain a sense of control, people begin to *act* out of desperation. They do things they would not ordinarily do and are often described as run-

ning around like “chickens with their heads cut off.” We all attempt to control our situations by trying to figure out something to *do*. This has caused people to make bad decisions and use poor judgment. We find distractions, we look for comfort, we grasp at anything that will make us feel better. Sometimes these have very destructive effects on our lives. We may have gotten far away from the original crisis, but in the process been ripped to shreds.

It is normal to search for indicators of how our concerns can be reassured. St. John of the Cross, a 15th century priest, was in the grip of a bear. He felt the reality of his situation and he cried out to God in direct proportion of his fear. We read this quote in *Shattered Dreams* (Larry Crabb, Ph.D; Waterbrook Press, 2001, pp. 105):

“During his long months of cold imprisonment, St. John of the Cross became acutely conscious of how badly he yearned to feel the Presence of God. He had been betrayed by his peers, his ministry lay in shambles, and he was confined to a barbaric dungeon. From depths in his soul that only pain can reach, he cried out:

‘Where have you hidden, Beloved

And left me groaning?

You fled like a stag

Having wounded me;

I went out in search of you,

and you were gone.’”

If you end up in the jaws of a bear . . . *stay calm*. Not because everything is “fine,” but because it is imperative to your spiritual life. Playing “possum” for the Christian is not to deny that our pain or our circumstances exist, but it is to position ourselves in *sacred surrender* and wait there.

It is normal to try to control or fix our problems; however faith in God obligates us to wait for His help.

David’s cries and even Jesus’ cries were an expression of real pain and deep agony (Psalm 6 and Matthew 27:46), but they waited to move in unity with God’s sovereign plan. Our confidence needs to come from trusting that He is our *best* source of help . . . and He’s on the way. You are His responsibility and it is a *sacred* responsibility. You are secure. He *will* be merciful and He *will* help you (Nehemiah 9:31). *Staying calm* is to have our fears transformed (not reassured) that His help is adequate for our need (2 Corinthians 4:17).

It has been said: “God always answers our prayers—either He says “Yes” or “No” or He says “Wait.” God has a better vocabulary than three words. God speaks to us and He is present with us.

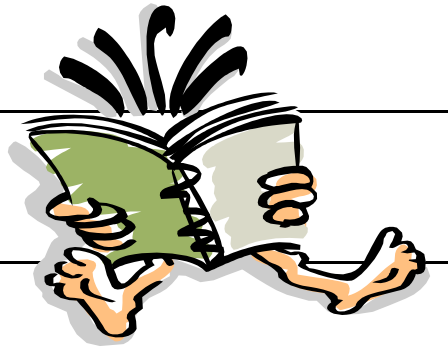
God desires to reveal His plan to you. He wants us to remain calm and be curious. Ask your why questions, try to figure out what God is up to, see His plan working in your life. Joy and peace comes in fulfilling His purpose. It becomes your *sacred bond* (Jeremiah 29:11).

God desires for us to be free. He wants us to remain calm and wait for His rescue. Get desperate for HIM. Retreat to pray. Listen for Him to speak. Trust He will come. He will swaddle you until His *sacred bond* is secure in your heart (John 8:32).

God desires our posture of surrender—He wants us to remain calm, but clean up any loose objects. Surrender all of the things in your life that makes this journey unsafe. Cry and feel scared—it’s real. *Give up the illusion of control and calm*. Trust only in the one who does have control (the pilot). His *sacred bond* is that we will complete the journey (2 Timothy 2).

(Continued on page 6)

Book Review



Finding God

by Larry Crabb

Life has a way of throwing you curve balls which leave you confused and discouraged. One of the lessons you will learn in this book is that there is no escape from pain and problems. The author writes, “*More than anything else, I need a **person to trust**, someone who can give me hope, joy, and peace in the midst of life’s unpredictable struggles. A plan to follow is not enough. The rhetoric we’re all used to—‘just trust the Lord, pray more, get counseling, follow God’s plan more carefully’—must give way to the reality of finding God.*”

If feeling better is more important to you than finding God, your thinking is backwards. This book addresses the obstacles to finding God and two mistakes people make in trying to find God: moving around our problems or getting absorbed in them.

Developing an intimate relationship with God is the most important step on your journey through life. If you seek fulfillment of your soul in any other way, you may find temporary relief, but the end result is emptiness and disillusionment. This book does not promise you easy answers to life’s problems, but helps you redirect your thinking toward God, your faithful traveling companion on the journey. His presence will give you the strength and courage you need to encounter every bump in the road and every enemy that threatens to destroy you.



Recipe of the Month

Asian Chicken Salad

4 chicken breasts (skinned and boned)
 2 romaine lettuce hearts, chopped (9 cups)
 1 (15 oz.) can mandarin oranges, drained
 1 (8 oz.) can sliced water chestnuts, drained
 1 red bell pepper, cut into strips
 1 bunch green onions, sliced
 1 cup shredded red cabbage
 1 cup dry-roasted peanuts
 1 cup poppy seed dressing
 1 cup chow mein noodles

Grill chicken (season with salt and pepper) and cut into strips.

Combine chicken strips and next 7 ingredients in a large bowl. Drizzle with poppy seed dressing and toss to coat.

Sprinkle with chow mein noodles.

Makes 6-8 servings.

Words That Heal



Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies.

Make your way straight before me.

**For there is no truth in their mouth;
 their inmost self is destruction;
 their throat is an open grave;
 they flatter with their tongue.**

**Make them bear their guilt, O God;
 Let them fall by their own counsels.**

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;

Let them ever sing for joy,

And spread your protection over them,

That those who love your name may exult in you.

For you bless the righteous, O Lord,

You cover him with favor as with a shield.

Psalms 5:8-12 ESV

When Struggles Come . . . Where is God?

(Continued from page 4)

God desires relationship with us. He wants us to remain calm and trust in his love and mercy. He so loves us. His love stays our calm. He plays sweet music and sings us to sleep. His **sacred bond** is in giving us Himself. He is God, and He is God Almighty (Isaiah 26:3, 4).

I return to the quote from St. John of the Cross:

“Ah, Gentle and so loving

You wake within me proving

That you are there in secret and alone;

Your fragrant breathing stills me,

Your grace, your glory fills me

So tenderly your love becomes my own.”

Crabb followed this poem with: *“It is possible to meet God. He does visit people in this life. We can experience His Presence.”*

In my own struggle, flailing about only caused damage to my spiritual life. I didn't know what else to do except to try and figure my own way out of the “jaws” of my “bear.” The position of surrender was not natural to me. I'm very independent (i.e. stubborn) and I wanted to move out of my situation as quickly as possible.

My anxiety directed my actions and reactions, but the result was destructive to my energy, my functionality, and my spirituality. I made some headway resolving my personal issues that *were* positive and even necessary, but spiritually my trust in myself grew stronger (i.e. arrogant) as my *faith in God* grew weaker. As I began to embrace the concepts of staying calm, I realized my crisis was not my biggest problem. My arrogance and lack of faith were spiritual problems that I did not see.

I began to ask for mercy and help (rather than release from the jaws) and I began to

seek it in *secret and alone*. Amazingly, like St. John of the Cross, *His fragrant breathing stilled me; His grace, His glory filled me. So tenderly His love became my own*. My fears were transformed (not just reassured) into a supernatural calm. Trying to calm myself during my crisis was impossible. *I stayed* in the jaws of my bear and *He calmed* all my fear.

Prayer: (Psalm 46:1-3)

Oh God, You are our refuge and strength (mighty and impenetrable to temptation), a very present and well-proved help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains be shaken into the midst of the seas;

Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling and tumult. Selah! (pause, and calmly think of that)

Words to ponder: calm, safe, surrender, control, reassurance

Journal: Attend to where God is . . . and what He may be saying to you.

If you have thoughts or comments about this devotional, email Eileen Warren at:

eileen@mwacounseling.com

The Rope

A mountain climber wanted to climb the highest mountain. He began his adventure after many years of preparation, but since he wanted the glory just for himself, he decided to climb the mountain alone.

The night felt heavy in the heights of the mountain, and the man could not see anything. All was black—zero visibility, and the moon and the stars were covered by

the clouds.

As he was climbing, only a few feet away from the top of the mountain, he slipped and fell into the air, falling at a great speed. The climber could only see black spots as he went down, and the terrible sensation of being sucked by gravity. He kept falling . . . and in those moments of great fear, all the good and bad episodes of his life came to his mind.

He was thinking about how close death was getting when all of a sudden he felt the rope tied to his waist pull him very hard. His body was hanging in the air. Only the rope was holding him, and in that moment of stillness he had no other choice but to scream: “Help me God!”

All of a sudden, a deep voice coming from the sky answered: “What do you want me to do?”

“Save me, God!”

“Do you really think I can save you?”

“Of course I believe You can!”

“Then cut the rope tied to your waist . . .”

There was a moment of silence, and the man decided to hold onto the rope with all his strength.

The next day the rescue team found the climber dead and frozen, his body hanging from a rope, his hands holding tight to it . . . only 10 feet from the ground.

And you? How attached are you to your rope? Will you let go?

Don't ever doubt the things from God. You never should say that He has forgotten or abandoned you.

Don't ever think that He does not take care of you. Remember that He is always holding you with His right hand. (Isaiah 41:13)



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

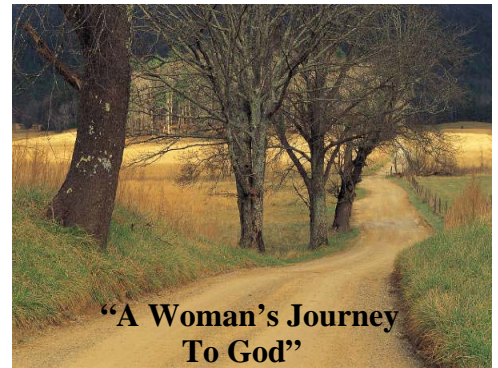
Mail to FOCUS, P. O. Box 323, Hanson, KY 42413

Upcoming Events

- **July 10-19**—Trip to Colorado Springs (**Advanced School of Spiritual Direction with Larry Crabb**) for Jenny, Paula, and Brenda.
- **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.

If you would like the FOCUS team to come to your church for a women's retreat ("A Woman's Journey To God"), 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.



"A Woman's Journey To God"

A weekend retreat for women in pursuit of God

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

or call 270-825-2423.

NEW: Virtual Office!

Join our free virtual office (forums, Bible search, lots of links and free downloads) by going to our website: Focusministries1.org and signing up. You can communicate with others and us on lots of interesting topics!



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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 or donate online at focusministries1.org. A tax-deductible receipt will be provided for all contributions.

Prayer Requests & Urgent Needs

Urgent Needs:

- **Gravel** for driveway at KY Women’s Center
- **Storm doors and entry doors** with deadbolt on both entrances.
- New **furnace and air conditioner** at KY Women’s Center—approximately \$2,000.
- **Replacement windows** at KY Women’s Center
- **Insulation** for attic
- Professional **grant writer**

Prayer Requests:

- Judson Press has invited Brenda and Paula to write a **book for pastors and counselors** on how to help victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. Pray for us as we work toward a late fall deadline.
- Pray for individuals, churches, and businesses to commit to **monthly giving**.
- 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 **property** to be donated for 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