

O Lord, You alone are my hope!
Psalm 71:5



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

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

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Dear Friends:

As we witness the trauma of human suffering, our question is not "Where is God?" but "*Where are God's people?*"

Our hearts are broken as we write to you. Every day, either online, by phone, or in person, we encounter women from all over the world who are terrorized in their own homes. Many of these women are pastors' wives. They often have no one to turn to so they reach out anonymously on our online forum or by phone thousands of miles away.

One dear lady called our Women's Center in Kentucky from somewhere in Africa. As she told her story of working multiple jobs while her pastor husband refused to work, she had just one request. "*Please pray with me.*"

Can you imagine the scene from heaven's perspective? A telephone line created a connection between two women—one in Africa, and the other in a small town in Kentucky—and heaven itself! Their conversation transcended the mundane things of earth and approached the throne of God with pleadings and tears.

Did God hear? I believe He did. "*O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.*" Psalm 10:17 ESV

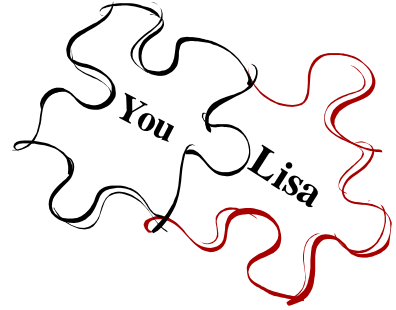
When you hear the cries of the broken and hurting, how do you respond? Are you willing to give up some of your comfort to make a difference in the life of another?

Lisa was assaulted by her "Christian" husband. This is her account to us of a recent incident:

He was stronger in one of his hands than I was in my whole body. I was terrified. When he came after me, I would make myself limp and crumble to the floor. Once I tried to fight back. He began twisting my wrist. I tried to bite him to make him let go, but he punched me in the mouth with the back of my own hand.

He tried to strangle me once, and gasping I told him, "Go ahead. I'll be in heaven and you'll go to jail." He squeezed harder and told me he could kill me and not spend a day in jail. Then I had to get the fine bones in my throat and neck adjusted because he damaged them so it was hard to swallow or talk.

Enclosed is a puzzle piece that represents Lisa's life. God is the only one who can see the whole picture—we only have one piece of the puzzle. But each piece is important and we all have a role to play in God's grand design.



Through your connection with FOCUS Ministries, you have an opportunity to impact the life of someone like Lisa who needs healing and hope.

The need will always be greater than the resources you have, but you can do *something*. As we link our resources together, God will multiply them to meet needs all over the world. Here is a list of needs that are most urgent in our ministry:

1. **Homes of Refuge**—Whether you can give \$1 or donate a house or land, your gift will help provide shelter for women and children who need a fresh start. It grieves our hearts when we see a desperate need and can't respond due to a lack of resources.
2. **Practical Needs for Daily Living**—We have provided diapers, food, clothing, and more to families throughout the U.S. using *gift cards* from stores like Wal-Mart, large grocery store chains, restaurants, etc. When you donate a gift card to FOCUS, it will provide practical help to women like Lisa and her children who are struggling to make ends meet.
3. **Ministry Needs**—We have experienced a 50% *decrease* in regular donations this year compared to last year. However, our number of contacts this year have almost quadrupled due to our enhanced website outreach. Funds have been critically low which affect the amount of free literature and resources that can be produced and mailed worldwide, assistance that can be provided to meet needs of women and children, and whether or not salaries can be paid or needed repairs made to the women's center.

We are committed to the ministry of hope God has set before us. Will you join with us? As you hold the enclosed puzzle piece in your hand, ask God what He would have you do to meet the need of just one woman like Lisa. Together, we can make a difference.

Thank you for your prayers and support. May God's presence be your greatest treasure throughout this holiday season and in the year to come.

Warmest regards,

Brenda Branson Paula Silva

Brenda Branson & Paula Silva

“If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness; if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.”

“And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall rise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.” Isaiah 58:9-12 ESV