

## *What Do You Want Me to Do for You?*

May/June 2010

*Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me!”*

*Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”*

*Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”*

*So they called to the blind man “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.*

*“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.*

*The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”*

*“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road. Mark 10:46-52 NIV*

This passage of Scripture denotes elements that correlate with devastating times in our lives. Times when we desperately need Jesus.

Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, did not possess the appropriate social status

to be noticed or acknowledged especially in a large crowd, but he had a pressing need that he knew Jesus could meet. His need created a boldness within that was expressed by shouting “have mercy on me.”

When our circumstances become greater than our ability to fix it, we cry out to Jesus hoping that He will supply. As our need increases, our desperation is more boldly expressed.

The crowd’s reaction though to Bartimaeus’s cries was one of rebuke. It was as if they were saying, “You are not worth being heard. Shhhhhh!!!!” But that did not stop Bartimaeus. He shouted louder trying to get Jesus’ attention.

This kind rebuke often happens to those who turn to the Christian community looking for compassion as they tell the secret of domestic violence that is destroying them and their families. They are told to be quiet and to live in peace, but Jesus is calling them to him for He hears their voice just like He did for Bartimaeus. Jesus values each one of us in spite of our circumstances.

When Jesus acknowledged Bartimaeus’ cry for mercy, the crowd changed their tone and actually

told Bartimaeus to cheer up and go to Jesus.

Isn’t that just like us in the Christian community? We don’t apologize for our previous actions or lack of compassion. We change our response to be more “godly” and deny our judgmental attitude. It is interesting that the crowd’s hypocritical response did not deter Bartimaeus from expressing his need. Are we willing to do the same?

When Bartimaeus faced Jesus, Jesus asked what he wanted him to do for him. Bartimaeus’ desire was to see. Because of his faith, he was healed.

When we approach Jesus, do we know what we want Him to do for us? Do we believe He will do it? Or do we timidly fade into the crowd because of fear and shame wanting not to be noticed and resigning ourselves to living out the rest of life in our difficult circumstances?

Circumstances can change, but we need to **“speak up boldly” and not be silenced! Jesus is waiting for us to come!**

*By Paula Silva*

# AMBIVALENCE

Webster's says ambivalence is simultaneous conflicting feelings toward a person or thing. I am not ambivalent about the topic of ambivalence I hate it!

Dan Allender has two books that address this topic *The Healing Path* and *The Wounded Heart* for women and men who have been sexually abused. In *The Wounded Heart* he states that the fact that we may have felt sensual and/or sexual pleasure during the abuse or assault perpetrated on us is so confusing that we engulf ourselves with shame. It makes us think the abuse must somehow be our fault because of those feelings. The book continually states that shame; contempt and ambivalence all come together in one package.

Paralyzing ambivalence is a symptom of abuse, but shame and fear are the diseases that create it. Ambivalence in everyday situations is normal, but when we have a difficult time making everyday decisions many times we heap more shame upon ourselves. What do I wear? What route do I take? What do I order in a restaurant?

Sometimes making decisions can almost cripple us because we feel the answer will always be "wrong". Did you grow up being told that whatever you did or said was wrong? Did you feel you couldn't please a certain someone or anyone in your family?

Or maybe all of your decisions were made for you and you were told what to think and what to feel. Does it give you any freedom at all to

know ambivalence is a normal result of having been abused or manipulated, or does it just add to your shame?

Many women come into the healing process from abuse and say they have weird or crazy feelings about people and situations in their life. When you study the topic of ambivalence you realize these feelings are normal for people who have been abused. Steven Arterburn in "Addicted to Loves" says it is like a double bind of knowing that,

"What Dad is doing to me is wrong" at the same time trying to believe that, "Dad loves me." He says it's like being kissed and slapped at the same time.

One of the results of abuse and ambivalence is getting involved with men who are emotionally unavailable or disconnected. We learn to replace true love and intimacy with sex. You may have heard intimacy described as: INTO ME YOU SEE. The thing about replacing sex for true intimacy is no one sees into you. No one really gets to know the real you or who you are. That feels safe to us because we think, "if they really know me they won't want me".

Someone else knowing who we really are feels dangerous to us. Anyone who has done this also knows that when you start having sex in a non-marital relationship the relationship becomes all about sex and you stop talking and the "getting to know you" stops.

There are three solutions for the shame and fear of ambivalence: prayer, faith and trust. Pray for

guidance, have Faith in God and Trust he will guide you into His will. I heard an excellent anagram given by Pastor Adrian Rodgers for Faith.

**F**or  
**A**ll  
**I**  
**T**rust  
**H**im

Will you have faith in Him to guide you? Read and know the Word of God that is the best faith and trust builder I know of. It will also boost your self-image to know what God really says about you.

You may wonder what does God think about ambivalence. Jesus experienced ambivalence in the Garden. He knew what was before him: beating, torture and death; but he knew the only way to save mankind was his sacrifice for us on the cross. He pleaded, "Let this cup pass from me", but he humbled himself to the Father's will.

You also see ambivalence in Peter; first he cuts off a soldier's ear to defend Jesus, the next time you read about him he's denying Him. Did the Father hold these actions against either one of them or heap shame upon them? NO.

Unlike people in our life God never shames us. Shame says, "You are bad", God says we are made in His image, we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." He is always out to restore our relationship just as Jesus did with Peter.

*By Karen Ferguson*

## Prayer Requests & Urgent Needs

### Urgent Needs:

- **Wal-Mart gift cards** to meet the physical needs of women and children
- **New board members** that share the vision of FOCUS Ministries
- **Part time** professional grant writer and fundraiser
- **Part time** administrative assistant.
- An **office space** to accommodate the increasing need for the ministry

### Praises:

- **Churches** that are just beginning to understand the dynamics of domestic violence
- **Development of webinars**
- **Women** who are coming to the support groups who are growing, learning, and making the necessary changes

### Prayer Requests:

- **Pray for a facility** for our FOCUS Women's Center. It would enable

us to expand our services and provide more trainings, seminars, and conferences.

- **Pray for funds** to be able to hire Brenda Spivey as vice president of FOCUS Ministries..
- Pray for board members to serve on the FOCUS board
- Pray for woman and families who contact our FOCUS Women's Center. Pray for pastors' wives that are being abused.

- Pray for individuals, churches, and businesses to commit to **monthly giving**.
- Pray for all the **FOCUS support group leaders** in the U.S
- Pray for **houses** in IL, to be donated for use as transitional homes.
- Pray for more **invitations** from churches to train pastors, staff, and congregations about domestic violence.



## Upcoming Events

- **May 14, 2010**— Violence Among Us Free Webinar, IL
- **June 15, 2010**—Violence Among Us Free Webinar, IL
- **June 19, 2010**—FOCUS Interview, Hazel Crest, IL
- **July 17, 2010** —Emotional Abuse Seminar, Emmanuel Bible Church, Berwyn, IL
- **Sept. 10-11, 2010** —**Train the Trainer** (training for support group leaders), Oakbrook Terrace, IL
- **Oct. 2, 2010**—Hidden Treasure, Second Annual Fundraiser, Calvary Church, Naperville, IL
- **Nov. 21, 2010**—**Purple Event**, Calvary Church, Naperville, IL

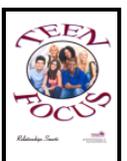
If you would like the FOCUS team to come to your church for a women's retreat, seminars or other speaking engagement.

Contact Paula Silva at 630-595-7023 or [contactus@focusministries1.org](mailto:contactus@focusministries1.org)



*Behind the faces of domestic violence, there is buried a hidden treasure, the priceless jewels of God's creation. Uncovering and restoring that hidden treasure brings hope and healing.*

*Partner with FOCUS Ministries as we continue to provide a safe place for teens, women and families to find hope and healing in Jesus Christ. Reaching out to teens through our TEEN FOCUS curriculum proactively strives to break the generational effect of abuse.*



## FOCUS Support Groups

- Conway, **AR**  
Sundays 3 p.m.
- Brandon, **FL**  
The second or third Saturday of each month
- Eustis, **FL**  
Saturdays 10 a.m. to Noon.
- Bolingbrook, **IL**  
Monday - 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
Saturday - 2:00-3:30 p.m.
- Hazel Crest, **IL**  
Third Saturday of each month
- Lyons, **IL**  
Last Friday of every month  
6:30-9 p.m.
- Naperville, **IL**  
Second and Fourth Thursday of every month 7 p.m.
- Wood Dale, **IL**  
Second Thursday at 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
- Hartville, **OH**  
The second and fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
- Lynnwood, **WA**  
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

If you are interested in information about a particular support group or would like to start a support group in your area, contact Paula Silva at 630-595-7023 or paula@focusministries1.org.

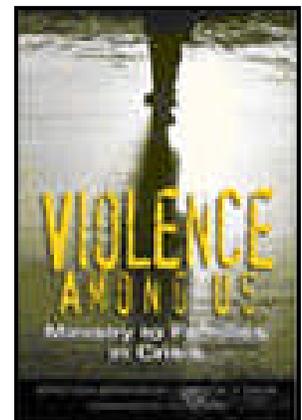


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The mission of FOCUS Newsletter  
is to encourage women  
who are struggling in difficult circumstances  
to find strength and hope in Jesus Christ.

**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 2014, Elmhurst, IL 60126.** A tax-deductible receipt will be provided for all contributions.

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Paula Silva, Coauthor

FOCUS DVD Promo -Safe Place

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGalZ8aBIMA>