

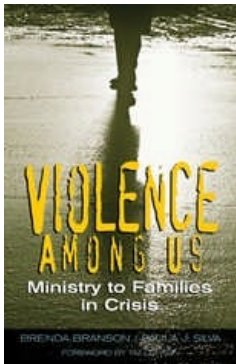
O Lord, You alone are my hope!
Psalm 71:5



FOCUS Ministries, Inc

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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.

May, 2008

Dear Friends:

Through your support of the ministry, we continue to serve women and families who have experienced the destructiveness of domestic violence through our counseling, support groups, and educational material. We have seen women grow in their personal relationship to the Lord. Others that come seeking friendship and support have been introduced to the best friend they could ever have, Jesus Christ.

Trainings for pastors, churches, organizations, and support group leaders remain an essential part of our ministry. Our next Train the Trainer will be October 10-11, 2008 in the Chicago suburbs. The need for education in domestic violence is increasing.

Life in America has changed dramatically over the years. Teens growing up in today's society face many challenges on a daily basis. The simple life has been pushed aside with the advancement of new technologies and "relative truth". Meesha is a teenager facing these daily struggles in her young life.

As a new day began, Meesha anxiously prepared for school. Locked in her heart was a secret she feared would someday be revealed. The charming words of a young man had lured her into a relationship she began to question.

Being a twosome had felt so special yet so isolating. Numerous text messages and cell phone calls kept them in constant communication. Why did she feel she had to give an accounting of her time? Jealousy meant he loved her. Didn't it?

Woed away from her parent's wisdom and guidelines, Meesha began to feel pressured by his sexual advances. Starry eyed though she did not see the warning signs flashing before her. Relinquishing to the pressure, she gave herself to him.

It happened so subtly. She now felt trapped in a relationship that was destroying her self-concept. Guilt, despair, depression, and suicidal thoughts enveloped her days. Who could she trust? Where could she reach out for help?

According to the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline, a significant number of teens are experiencing dating violence.

- 1 in 5 teens who have been in a serious relationship report being hit, slapped or pushed by a partner.
- More than 1 in 4 teenage girls in a relationship report enduring repeated verbal abuse.

Ministry Needs

- Prayer Partners
- A facility in the Chicago suburbs to enhance our services to women, teens, tweens, and families
- Wal-Mart gift cards to provide food, clothing, baby essentials, and other practical needs
- Translation of our literature into Spanish and other languages
- Grant writer
- Fundraiser
- Commercial copy machine
- Wireless laptop computer

Save the Date

October 17, 2009

FOCUS Fundraising Luncheon.

Speaker: Leslie Vernick,
author of *The Emotional Destructive Relationship: Seeing It, Stopping It, Surviving It*

Location: Chicago Suburbs

***Watch our website,
www.focusministries1.org,
for further details.***

- One-third or more of teens who have been in a relationship have been with a partner who frequently asked where they were and whom they were with.
- 1 in 4 teens who have been in a serious relationship say their boyfriend or girlfriend has tried to prevent them from spending time with friends or family; the same number have been pressured to only spend time with their partner.
- Nearly 1 in 5 teenage girls who have been in a relationship said a boyfriend had threatened violence or self-harm if presented with a break-up.
- One in three teens (30%) say they are text messaged 10, 20, or 30 times an hour by a partner inquiring where they are, what they're doing, or who they're with.

These alarming statistics has stirred us to expand FOCUS Ministries' vision to encompass teens and tweens. We are excited as we press on to develop a program for them. The program will include:

- Teens and tweens workshops that provide education on God's design for relationships verses destructive ones, life skills, self image, and discovering God's purpose for their life.
- Workshops for parents of teens and tweens
- Curriculum for youth pastors and leaders
- Train the Trainer seminar for youth pastors and leaders
- Teens and tweens support groups

We are inviting you to partner with us through your prayers and donations as we begin to minister to confused, hurting teens and tweens .

We want to thank you for your continual support of the ministry.

Warmest regards,



Paula Silva
President