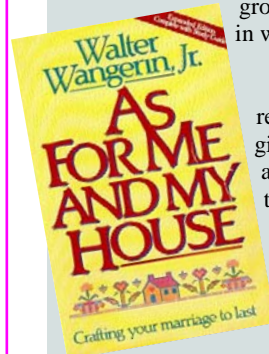


RECOMMENDED RESOURCES & SUPPORT**AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE**
by Walter Wangerin, Jr.

This is the story of a vulnerable growing marriage in which Wangerin portrays the marriage relationship as a gift—an entity in and of itself that the husband and wife must cherish and nurture.

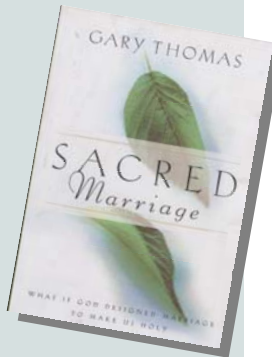
APRIL IS NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

The days, weeks, and months after a sexual assault can be frightening, confusing, and lonely. If you need help, please call:

ADA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
377-6708
BOISE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
377-6790
ST. ALPHONSUS RMC EMERGENCY DEPT.
367-3221
ST. LUKES RMC EMERGENCY DEPT.
381-2344
WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE
RAPE CRISIS LINE
345-7273

SACRED MARRIAGE
by Gary Thomas

Sacred Marriage invites you to view your marriage in a new and different light—as a spiritual discipline, a means whereby you can come to know God more fully and intimately.



UPDATED 2003 ADA COUNTY RESOURCE DIRECTORIES NOW AVAILABLE!
Cost including binder and tabs is \$35.00. Refills are \$15.00. Call or e-mail the SPM office for your copy.

Contact us at 323-2169 or splace@spro.net

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
BOISE ID
PERMIT NO. 157



Safe
Place
Ministries

P. O. Box 4892
Boise, ID
83711
208-323-2169

We want very much for *SAFE PLACE NEWS* to be a helpful resource for many people. With this in mind, permission to duplicate this newsletter for free distribution is granted. Any quotations or references to it should give proper credit to SAFE PLACE MINISTRIES. We encourage input and suggestions. Send correspondence to:
SPM, P. O. Box 4892, Boise, ID 83711, or call 208-323-2169.
An annual tax deductible gift of \$10.00 is welcome to help cover expenses.

SAFE PLACE NEWS

Promoting safe places, consistent with the character of Christ, for women and their families to heal and grow.

Issue 19

April 2003

THE SORROW OF WOMEN: ONE HUSBAND'S RESPONSE

There is a deep sorrow that follows abuse. Sometimes it is masked by anger or fear or numbness, because to recognize it awakens a terror that we will drown in its depths. Women who have been victims of sexual assault and/or domestic violence often have been stripped of the belief that who they are and what they have to offer in relationship is good. Their love has not been enough to evoke their husbands' love and tenderness. Nor to protect their children from the effects of abuse or alleviate their own pain. When determined efforts to be more or do more do nothing to lessen the pain or change the abuse, sadness deepens, hope diminishes, and sorrow becomes a companion.

Dr. Barger, author and publisher of the *Catholic Reader*, in an address to a

group of men, described his home beginning with the deep

sorrow his actions caused his wife and children.

He had been a hard-bitten, angry man who had alienated his wife and seven children with scorn and intimidation, using scripture as justification for his privileges and authority. No one challenged him outright, afraid of the fury it might provoke, but resentment simmered just under the surface.

"Home was not a pleasant place to be—for them or for me," writes Dr. Barger. "By 1983 Susan would have left me if it weren't for the children

and even that bond was losing its force."

The fact that my wife is made in the image of God calls me to a far more noble response than simply refraining from being condescending to her. Certainly it is wildly inappropriate for me to look down on Lisa because she's a woman, but not acting with disdain toward her is a far cry from what God really calls me to do, namely, to honor her.
Gary Thomas

Four years later, Susan would leave when she lost the battle to terminal cancer, but not before their love was rekindled. Dr. Barger tells about the event that began the workings of God's grace in his heart.

"At two in the morning in a stark, bright hospital delivery room, I held in my left hand our tiny lifeless son, and stared in disbelief...I had the power to make [my family's] lives worse by raging against my

(Continued on page 3)

SPM'S QUILT TRAVELS CROSS COUNTRY

SPM's 3rd Annual Benefit Dessert was an evening of celebration beginning with a silent auction and followed by a collection of yummy desserts, a little light opera, and drawing the winner of our yearly quilt raffle.

This year's winning quilt raffle ticket was purchased by Phyllis and Harry Groezinger of



Harry & Phyllis Groezinger

Rindge, New Hampshire. It "just happened" that their daughter, Sally Turcotte, was leaving the very next morning to visit her parents, so the quilt was hand-delivered with extra special care.

We want to thank each of you who helped make the dessert a great success, and welcome each of you who joined with us in ministry.

Inside this issue:

The Sorrow of Women	1
SPM Quilt Winner	1
From the Director's Desk	2
Young Women at Risk	2
Resources & Support	4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy Edwards
Hank Bothman
Mike Marchbanks
Kim Peake
Krista Roller
Connie Werner
Wayne Werner
Rob Zaklan

STAFF

Nancy Edwards
Executive Director
Linda Bothman
Education Resource Coordinator
Shari Minegar
Support Services Manager
Jackie Thompson
Social Services Director
Angela Hills
Gail Rubelt
Office Assistants

ADVISORY BOARD

Ron Minegar
Richard Roller
Carolyn Roper
David Roper
John Simpson
Dee Sarton



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I think I need a break. I've been thinking and planning and talking and teaching for over seven years now.

I'm tired. I've worked a second job, learned to write grants, studied nonprofit management, planned desserts, developed programs, and met with clients.

It's not the amount of work though that makes me tired—it's my lack of integrity. The work is just as often energizing as draining. I consider myself very fortunate that "my job" involves pursuing the deepest convictions of my

heart. I love what I am doing! I love what I am doing so the fact that I haven't been living in a manner consistent with those same deep

Unless the LORD builds the house,
They labor in vain who build it;
Unless the LORD guards the city,
The watchman keeps awake in vain.
It is vain for you to rise up early,
To retire late,
To eat the bread of painful labors;
For He gives to His beloved even in his sleep.
Psalm 127:1-2

convictions crept up on me. It hit me a couple weeks ago though—I'm not walking my own talk. I'm "riding ahead of the wave"—going from one thing to the next—losing

some of my perspective, clarity, and peace along the way.

That's not how I believe a person ought to live—that's not what I share with our clients about healing and growing and

living. I believe in living deliberately. I believe in resting as an expression of faith that God is in control. I believe in being quiet long enough to hear the voice of God. I believe God is the author and sustainer of SPM, not me. So I'm going to take a break (for three weeks starting the middle of May)—slow down, rest, read, pray, listen, journal, plant my garden, play with my dogs, and hopefully begin living with more integrity. I'll get back to you all in the next newsletter and let you know how it goes. Thanks for caring about and praying for this ministry.

Nancy

YOUNG WOMEN AT RISK

"Some rapists use a loaded gun. Others use a loaded victim."

Date rape drugs have gained local media attention in recent months as they have appeared on the high school and college dating scene in Idaho. A date rape drug is any substance used with the intent of obtaining sex. In many cases, the illicit substance is added to the intended victim's beverage without his or her knowledge.

Perpetrators of sexual assault often use alcohol or other drugs to compromise a victim so they can assault them and also lessen the likelihood of the victim remembering the crime. Some perpetrators also use substances in their own defense, claiming they were the ones under the influence and therefore do not remember the crime they allegedly committed.

Some date rape drugs are illegal substances but all are readily and inexpensively available. Most are tasteless, odorless, and colorless and easily dissolve in a soda or an alcoholic beverage.

The most commonly identified rape drugs are:

- ♦ **Alcohol**

- ♦ **Rohypnol** (roofies, wolfies, Mexican valium) - a potent sedative which may cause drowsiness, confusion, dizziness, or reduced consciousness.

- ♦ **Gamma Hydroxybutyrate** (GHB, Grievous Bodily Harm) - used by body builders and approved for limited medical use; may cause dizziness, seizures, unconsciousness, and memory loss.

- ♦ **Ketamine** (Special K, Vitamin K, Kit Kat) - a fast-acting animal tranquilizer; may cause numbing, hallucinations, difficulty speaking, breathing, or loss of body control, unconsciousness, and amnesia.

- ♦ **Thunder** - similar to GHB; may cause muscle spasms, dizziness, bed-wetting, unconsciousness, and memory lapse.

- ♦ **Prescription and over-the-counter medications** - Antihistamines, anti-anxiety drugs, muscle relaxants, and sedatives.

We encourage you to be aware and to talk to your children. Girls and young women from age 12 to 25 make up over 85% of all sexual assault victims. And over 85% of rape victims are acquainted with the perpetrator.



- Watch out for friends and ask them to watch out for you.

- Be assertive with your words and body language. Communicate your limits clearly.

If you or a friend experience any of the symptoms of being drugged, get to a safe place and call a family member, friend, rape crisis center, hospital and/or a law enforcement official.

Knowing some safety tips may help you or your child to remain safe in situations where someone wishes to harm them.

Open or prepare your own drinks and keep them in sight and covered at all times.

Do not drink from a punch bowl, keg, or other shared/exchanged drink.

Don't drink anything with an unusual appearance, odor, or taste. Avoid any beverage that tastes flat, soapy, or salty.

If a situation or drink doesn't seem right, it probably isn't.

The Sorrow of Women...(Continued from page 1) baby's death and my wife's lack of love, or to make their lives better by loving them properly. *I had to choose.* And it was a clear choice presented in an instant as I stared at our tiny helpless, stillborn infant cradled in my hand. In that critical instant, with God's grace, I chose the arduous, undramatic, discouraging path of trying to be good."

"I began holding my tongue."

"I started admitting my faults and apologizing for them."

"I quit defending myself when I was judged too harshly—for the important thing was not to be right (or to be well-thought of) but to love."

"As I had made myself the center of attention for too many years already, I said little about my labors and sorrows; I sought to know Susan's and to help her to bear them. And frankly, once I started to listen to Susan—once I began really hearing and drawing her out—I was startled at how many and how deep were her wounds and her sorrows....Most were not sorrows unique to Susan. They were the sorrows that all feel: sorrows that arise from the particular physiology of women and from their vocation as mothers, which gives them heavy duties and responsibilities while leaving them almost totally dependent on men for their material well-being and their spiritual support; sorrows that arise from loving their husbands and children intensely, but not being able to keep harm from those they love; sorrows that arise from the fact that in our society even the most chaste of women are regularly threatened by the lustful stares, remarks, and advances of men; and sorrows that arise because our society in general still considers women stupid, flighty, and superficial, and still places very little value on women and shows very little respect for them."

"Women...suffer these wounds far more often and with a greater intensity than

most men ever realize. And unless we ask them, women generally do not speak to us of these sorrows—perhaps because we men so often dismiss their troubles as insignificant or write off women themselves as simply weak and whiny..."

It took three years of "patience, listening, and growing in Susan's trust,"

In the same way, husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat her with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker (have less power) than you are but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. If you don't treat her as you should, your prayers will not be heard. I Peter 3:7 NLT

spending "literally hundreds of hours talking," but eventually Susan's anger dissipated, overcoming her cynicism, which in turn "softened and gentled her." Living in a renewed marriage, life became unusually sweet and deepened into true,

soul-deep companionship.

Writing after Susan's death, Dr. Barger discussed how this experience with his wife reflected on his relationship with God. "Consider the virtues I have recommended as necessary to a deep relationship with your wife: patience, listening, humility, service, and faithful, tender love. I hope it is not heretical for me to claim that in his dealings with us, God acts in many ways like a woman."

"Women are capable of and sometimes commit magnificent acts that manifest incredible power and awaken in us men a profound awe, if not fear and trembling. Yet when they love, they love quietly; they speak as it were, in whispers, and we have to listen carefully and attentively, to hear their words of love and to know them."

"Isn't God also this way?"

"Doesn't he intervene in most of our lives in whispers, which we miss if we fail to recollect ourselves and pay careful attention—if we do not constantly strive to hear those whispers of divine love? The virtues necessary in truly loving a woman and having that love returned—the virtues of listening, patience, humility, service and faithful love—are very necessary for us to love God and feel his love returned. As we cannot lord it over women if we are to

know them and grow intimate with them, so we cannot lord it over God if we are to know him and grow intimate with him."

"We cannot successfully demand the love of a woman or the love of God. We have to wait. And just as a woman's heart is melted when she encounters in us weakness accompanied by our humble admission of it, so God's heart is melted and he is most tender and gracious to us when he encounters in us weakness accompanied by our humble admission of it."¹

Dr. Barger allowed his wife's sorrow to do its deep work, to open the door to a deeper, surer place where hope and love were restored—with his wife and with God. By admitting his sin and allowing himself to feel deep sorrow for the pain he had caused, he made a determined commitment to change (repentance) and demonstrated a consistent (not perfect) ability to patiently love and serve his wife and his children with Christ-like love.

Statistically, however, not many abusers are willing to enter sorrow's doors. And not all who do will experience the bittersweet joy of relationships restored. Sometimes the wounds have been too great. But sorrow can create in us a deeper longing to know "the Man of sorrows, acquainted with grief" who whispers in our sorrow that "He is close to the brokenhearted."

¹Taken from the pamphlet, *Do You Love Me?* by John Barger (Manchester, NH: Sophia Institute, 1987) and retold in *Sacred Marriage* by Gary Thomas (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000).