

The LORD Is My Shepherd ...

*I shall not want. He makes me lie down
in green pastures.; He leads me beside still
waters. He restores my soul: Psalm 23:1-3 NIV*

No matter how many times I revisit the 23rd Psalm I am always amazed at how the Lord impacts my heart anew with the beauty of His character and the glory of His unfailing love!

Recently our pastor brought a teaching on this beloved passage leaving me thirsty for a fresh encounter with *The Shepherd*. Within just the first few verses the rivers of living water began to satisfy my soul.

The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not want. When *LORD* is capitalized it represents *Jehovah*, the name God uses to denote His redemptive, covenant relationship with man. Indeed all seven *Jehovah* names of God, characterized in the 23rd Psalm, denote the completeness of our restoration in Christ: *Jireh*, our provider; *Nissi*, our banner—we are part of His family thereby recipients of His everlasting love and protection; *Shalom*, our perfect peace; *T Sid-Kenu*, our righteousness; *Shammah*, the One who is ever-with-us; *Sabaoth*, the Lord of Hosts—The Sovereign is our protector; *Rapha*, our healer; and of course *Ra'Ah*, our shepherd.

The Hebrew word *Ra'Ah* is beautiful. Its meaning includes, of course, to pasture, tend, graze, and feed—to shepherd as we know it. However, *Ra'Ah* also means to be a companion or close friend and to rule with a focus on tender care and concern.¹

In his book, *A Shepherd Looks at the 23rd Psalm*, Phillip Keller, once a shepherd himself, relates that sheep cannot be made to lie down in rest unless four requirements are met. *First, due to their timidity, they must be free from all fear* (need: safety and security). *Next, because of their sociability, they must be free from friction with others of their kind* (need: emotional stability). *Third, they must be free from flies or parasites if they are to relax* (need: physical provision). *Lastly, they will not lie down unless free from hunger* (need: nurture). *And, it is only the shepherd who can provide release from all anxieties.*²

One can easily see why David exclaimed, *I shall not want* (lack, be in need, be deprived or cause to fail)³. His close friend and companion is none other than the Great Shepherd—the Blessed Redeemer and Ultimate Caregiver—meeting all of his needs!

It was no coincidence that I was led to this portion of

1. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #07462, Hebrew

2. *A Shepherd Looks at the 23rd Psalm*, Keller, Phillip, Zondervan 1970

3. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #002637, Hebrew word *Chacer*

IN FOCUS

—Rosemary Sabatino

Scripture as The Barnabas focus this quarter is Holistic Child Development.

Without question the ministry of the Great Shepherd is truly holistic. Oxford defines holistic as *emphasizing the importance of the whole and the interdependence of its parts*. We were created in the image of our triune God with a body, soul

and spirit, each interdependent on the other. We see Jesus, our Shepherd, so beautifully and compassionately concerned for the whole person—the person's physical, emotional and spiritual needs. We, His Church, are called to minister likewise: *as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you* (John 20:21).

This truth is especially evident as we attempt to bring healing and hope to hurting and wounded children. As sheep cannot rest unless their needs are met, so many times children in crisis cannot be brought into God's spiritual rest without having their physical and emotional needs met—an holistic approach.

In addressing holistic child development, we are thankful, as always, to all of our contributing authors. In her article, *What is Holistic Child Development*, Christa Foster Crawford, J.D., takes on the challenge of defining this complex subject and exhorts us to get on board. Dr. Floyd Cunningham, president of *Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary* (APNTS), relates the compelling story of how God took him from a place of complacency to passionate concern for the children in his article *What Has This To Do With Me*—APNTS is now a world-leader in the area of holistic child development. As a champion and advocate for the children, Reverend Terista Chua's article, *My Dreams*, communicates the level of perseverance and compassion it takes to engage the church in answering God's call to bring healing and hope to the hurting children in our midst. Finally, in *The Caregiver's Time-out*, we are encouraged anew to trust God in the hard times through Sandy Schmidt's article, *The Unexpected Gift*.

The challenges of ministering to the needy can be overwhelming. They require that we personally experience the love of The Great Shepherd, our wonderful companion and close friend who meets all our needs with His tender care and concern—the Ultimate Caregiver and our Blessed Redeemer

Jesus Christ our Lord!

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What Is Holistic Child development?

—Christa Foster Crawford



A week ago I finished my last class in the Masters of Holistic Child Development (HCD) program from Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary. And, a month ago I took my first class towards a Ph.D. in HCD at Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary— taught by none other than Dr. Phyllis Kilbourn. In partnership with Compassion International, these seminaries are two of the pioneer institutions providing graduate degrees in Holistic Child Development.

First of all HCD is holistic ... our interventions must address all aspects of the child.

So, what is HCD? You'd think with all of this HCD education under my belt, it would be easy for me to answer this question. You'd be wrong.

Since I had just asked the same question in one of my last classes, I knew the timing was of God when Rosemary contacted me to write an article on HCD for *The Barnabas Letter*. I am a new convert to HCD. I never heard of the subject before beginning my master's program three years ago. But I am an enthusiastic believer, having recruited others to the program as well as teaching in and starting to write textbooks and curricula for the discipline. Yet, there I was on the last day of class realizing that I did not know what the "key principles of HCD" really were. Was I really such a terrible student?

I suppose I was somewhat comforted when the professor was unable to give a definitive list of the "Top 10 Principles" of HCD, though obviously he was a leading expert in the subject. I was even more surprised when I went to the HCD Global Alliance website¹ for a definition and found none. So the invitation to write an article on HCD for *The Barnabas Letter* gave me the opportunity to answer my own question, and to share some of those

thoughts with you. I am not a representative of the Holistic Child Development movement, nor one of its architects. I can only tell you what I have learned about HCD and how it has enhanced my understanding of the needs of and interventions for the sexually exploited children with whom I have been working in Thailand and the surrounding region for the past nine years.

So, then, what is Holistic Child Development? First of all, HCD is holistic. It recognizes that our interventions for children in crisis must address all aspects of the child: body, soul, mind and spirit. HCD understands the child's need to develop mentally, emotionally, physically, spiritually, and in a whole host of other ways.

Second HCD is about the child ... it puts the child at the center ... just like Jesus did.

A child in crisis is in need of salvation, but he or she is also in need of food, clothing, safety, security and healing. Christians working with children in crisis must recognize, understand and seek to provide for the full range of the children's needs through partnering with others. This criteria requires us to learn about the holistic needs of children by taking advantage of the training resources provided by CCTI, HCD programs and others. At the same time, we must realize that the "core of human and social transformation is spiritual."²

¹ www.hcd-alliance.org
² Wayne G. Bragg, "From Development to Transformation," in *The Church in Response to Human Need*, ed. Vinay Samuel and Christopher Sugden (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1987), 46.

In other words any truly holistic intervention “must give attention to spiritual as well as physical needs.”³ Any intervention that does not recognize the spiritual needs of children will ultimately fall short. In this way Christians play a unique and vital role in ministering to children in crisis. The world can meet the physical, emotional and mental needs of the child; only Christ provides an answer to the spiritual needs of the child and the spiritual root of their problems, which is in a word: Sin.⁴

Second, HCD is about the child. Like its name, holistic child development puts the child at the center. In our HCD courses we talk about putting the “child in the midst” just like Jesus did in Matthew 18:2 when he brought a child into the middle of the disciples’ argument about who is greatest in the kingdom.

By seeing how important children are to God, we recognize how important they must be to us all.

The HCD movement has some overlaps with the Child Theology movement, the key theological question of which is this: “What does it mean for us today to respond to the teaching and example of Jesus when He placed a little child in the midst of his disciples so that they could be encouraged to change and become lowly like little children in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?”⁵ This question also provides a core theological foundation for all of HCD.⁶ Rather than being incidental and marginal, children and childhood have a surprisingly significant presence and role in Scripture that we often overlook.⁷ By seeing how important children are to God, we recognize how important they must be to us as well. By listening to what Jesus had to say about children, we hear how He expects us to respond. For if welcoming a child is like welcoming Jesus, then it is vital that we keep them in the center of our focus.

Finally, holistic child development is about development.

³ Dan Brewster, *Child, Church and Mission: A Resource Book for Christian Child Development Workers* (Makati City, Philippines: Church Strengthening Ministry, Inc., 2005), 41. (Originally published by Compassion International).

⁴ See, Brewster, 56.

⁵ Keith White, *Theological Foundations for Holistic Child Development* (Booklet from the Holistic Child Development Institute, Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary, Penang, Malaysia, 2009), 4. Available from www.hcd-alliance.org.

⁶ See, White, 21-2.

⁷ See, for example, Brewster, 25 ff and Roy B. Zuck, *Precious in His Sight: Children and Childhood in the Bible* (Grand Rapids: MI: Baker Books, 1996).

In one sense it is about “child development” – the science of understanding how a child develops in each of the holistic ways mentioned. Child development theory helps us to better understand the nature and effects of crisis on every aspect of a child’s development, making us better able to meet the child’s individual needs. But HCD is also about the practice of development – of addressing the spiritual, structural, societal, economic and other roots of the problems that put children at risk and responding to those problems at the individual, familial, societal and spiritual levels. Because HCD is holistic it can help us formulate comprehensive responses to these interrelated causes and needs. Because it is Christian, it can be truly transformational – not just alleviating harm to children in crisis but also bringing them to Jesus who restores their souls.

So, what difference does my understanding of HCD make in my ministry to children in crisis? There are many advantages. Perhaps most important is that HCD has given me a new set of lenses with which to view the needs of children and a new set of tools by which to respond; lenses that see children with their holistic needs as central, and tools to develop their full range of potential.

While the concept of holistic child development may be new, the principles behind it are not. HCD helps us to bring back into focus what Jesus put in the center: a child. HCD reminds us of God’s special concern for children and of His particular call for Christians to care for their needs. This is a responsibility not just of development practitioners but of the church as a whole – of any who would seek to welcome Jesus. May HCD enable the church to see the hurting children in its midst and equip it to respond holistically to God’s call.

Christa Foster Crawford, J.D., is a child advocate who has taught HCD using materials from CCTI. A published author, she teaches on human trafficking and sexual exploitation at a number of seminaries and universities, including the Children at Risk program at Fuller Theological Seminary, another leading institution in the HCD movement. Since 2001, Christa and her husband have worked with sexually exploited children in Thailand, where in addition to research, writing and teaching, she tries to apply what she has learned about holistic child development to their adopted Thai son, who himself was once a child at risk. She can be reached at christafscrawford@gmail.com.



“What has This To Do With Me?”

Holistic Child Development at Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary

—Dr. Floyd Cunningham, President



“What has this to do with me?” was my response to Dan Balayo, former student and friend. Now, in charge of child sponsorship for Nazarene Compassionate Ministries for the Asia-Pacific Region., he was urging me to attend a conference in Chaing-mai, Thailand, on holistic child development. “Holistic child development? I don’t even know what that means!” I told myself. “After all, I teach church history!” But, Dan insisted and found some money to help pay my way —so I consented.

The more they spoke, the more I felt God nudging me as He turned my thoughts to the children.

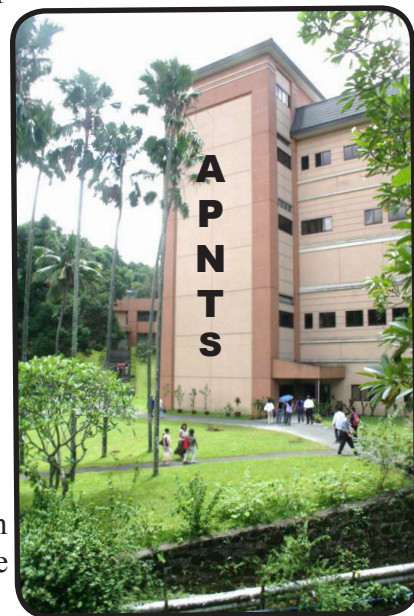
The co-sponsors of the conference, Compassion International and Fuller Theological Seminary, aimed to promote holistic child development courses in colleges and seminaries around the world. I quietly listened as various speakers, including Dan Brewster, Phyllis Kilbourn, Keith Wright, Menchit Wong, Doug McConnell and others, pled for us to put the “child in the midst.” They implored us to include children in the priorities of the church and in the curricula of its schools as well.

The more they spoke, the more I felt God nudging me as He turned my thoughts to the children of the Philippines. As a resident of Manila, I could easily empathize with the crises of the children—even small children—who are on the streets at any hour begging or selling candy, flowers, cigarettes and themselves. I remembered that one-third of the population of the Philippines is under the age of 14 and that our missions’ professor, Dr. Robert Donahue, has had ongoing ministries to these children. Suddenly, I responded to the Lord with a resounding, “Yes!” Whatever holistic child

development was, it did have something to do with me and with Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (APNTS).

Returning to Manila, I consulted with our faculty and with Dr. Dan Brewster and Carmen Menchit Wong of Compassion International and Theresa Lua, Dean of the Asia Graduate School of Theology, Philippines, and we began to move. We shaped a graduate program in holistic child development somewhat modeled on the program at Malaysia Baptist Theological Seminary, but with our own stamp. Key to the success of the program was the appointment, with Compassion International’s help, of a full-time professor in this area: Dr. Nativity Petallar—“Natz” for short. Natz was one of our own graduates, but I was not aware that she was working as a project director for Compassion International in Davao City. She has turned out to be the perfect choice, not in the least because she and her husband Mark have a darling three-year-old daughter, Zoe, who is often in our meetings as the semi-official “child in the midst!”

With Dr. Petallar in place, we went to work. First, we set up an 18-credit-hour “Graduate Certificate in Holistic Child Development” which could be earned in two summer sessions. It includes a practicum that students can work on in their own ministry contexts.



Next, we worked with the Philippine government in adding a Holistic Child Development concentration to our existing Master of



Arts in Religious Education, with all of the Graduate Certificate courses transferring directly to the MA RE. More ambitiously, in cooperation with the Asia Graduate School of Theology, we launched a Ph.D. degree in Holistic Child Development—one of the few programs like it around the world. Faculty members include Dan Brewster, Phyllis Kilbourn, Glenn Miles, Gustavo Crocker, Catherine Stonehouse and other prolific authors and practitioners with hearts for children.

Whoever graduates from APNTS ... in no way will they neglect the centrality of children to the church in the world.

Now all of our faculty members, whether we teach Christian education, Old Testament, missions or even church history, are endeavoring to put the “child in the midst” of our studies and courses. We have also developed a StepUp program (Stop Trafficking and Exploitation of People Through Unlimited Potential), in partnership with MicroSoft, through which we train and grant certificates in basic software to young people in jeopardy. Additionally, we initiated an Alternative Learning System, in cooperation with the Philippine Department of Education and Overseas Council International, which enables persons who have been out of school for some time to finish their elementary and high school studies.

Of one thing I am sure, whoever graduates from APNTS, whether they become pastors, missionaries or church history teachers, there is no escaping that they will revere the preciousness of children, and in no way will they neglect the centrality of children to the mission of the church in the world.

Dr. Floyd Cunningham is currently the president of the Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary in Manila, Philippines. He has served as a missionary with APNTS since the school began in 1983 teaching church history. He held the position of Academic Dean from 1989-2009 and has been president of the seminary since 2008. He holds a Ph.D. in History from John Hopkins University and is the author of *Holiness Abroad* (2003) and *Our Watchword Song* (2009).



Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary is a graduate school in the Wesleyan tradition, preparing men and women for Christ-like leadership and excellence in ministries.

Our Vision

Bridging Cultures for Christ, APNTS equips each new generation of leaders to disseminate the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Asia, the Pacific, and the world.

www.apnts.org

Holistic Child Development at APNTS

equipping students to be child advocates, teachers, and practitioners with the gifts, skills, and commitment to care for children inside and outside the church.



MA-RE Program Vision

In response to God’s heart for children, APNTS HCD graduates will be leaders, teachers, advocates and practitioners on behalf of needy children, understanding the biblical and strategic significance of children and having the ethos and mindset for holistic ministries to and with children.

PH.D. Program Vision

The program envisions equipping leaders and churches with the ethos and mindset for holistic ministry with children.

Rationale

The Ph.D. in HCD is a multi-year, inter-disciplinary, research-oriented degree that builds on an earned master’s degree. Graduates of the Ph.D. in HCD will be prepared to teach, to lead specialized ministries for children, and to engage in intensive and original research. It is intended for those who are or will be high-level practitioners and for those who are leaders or administrators of ministries with children.

My Dreams

*I will pour out my Spirit ... Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams, your young men
will see visions. Joel 2:28*

Rev. Teresita S. Chua



In My Dreams

I never dreamed of becoming a Christian, because I thought I was one. Raised and nurtured in a Roman Catholic home and educated by St. Paul Sisters, I had my own religious training and life. I never dreamed of becoming a child worker, because I love solitude, but children come in flocks. I love serenity, but children are noisy. I love orderliness, but children make a mess, and I love saving money, but children are expensive.

In My Father's House

When I was growing up our house was never private. It was the office of my father who was a Barangay Captain for 21 years. It also functioned as a lodging house for government officials and employees, and a transient home for strangers. As a consequence, our table was always packed and most of the time, fully extended. In the house my ears heard conflicts and disputes settled between tenants and landlords. My eyes saw the plight of the poor and their children – their plight for a better life, for an education, and for a socio-economically balanced life.

God opened my eyes to the plight of the poor and ... a great love for the children was born.

At the University

I enrolled and completed a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture intending to develop our rice coconut farm. While at the university, my involvement in social activism was wide spread; I took part in publishing and distributing propaganda against the exploitation and oppression of the poor by promoting IGP (Income Operating Project), which fought against the persistence of poverty. During my junior year something happened – I met Jesus as my Savior and Lord through a Navigator's Campus Ministry. This ended my social activism. From then on, my life became focused on spiritual pursuits.

In the Government's Service

One month after graduation, I was employed as the Institutional Officer of Farm Systems Development Corporation. Again, I saw myself organizing communities, conducting workshops for Basic Institutional Development Training, and promoting cooperatives to improve the lives of the farming communities. Social activism was resurrected.

The Call

After three years in the government services, God called me to the ministry. I moved from tribal ministry to church planting and then Bible College teaching. At the college, I taught Sociology. During one of our community immersions, God reopened my eyes to the plight of the poor and their children. A core group of five Bible College students was organized providing street education for street children, basic literacy to the out-of-school youth at the dumpsite, and a coffee time with the pimps and hookers at the parks. A great love for children was born.

While street ministry was taking its first steps, God called me as Project Director of Kids Keeper Student Center – a Compassion International assisted project. While working in this project, my passion for children was deepened, and my interest for Holistic Child Development was honed. After three years, I left my post in the project and pursued my vision of a marriage between Holistic Child Development and Community Development; AHON Ministries was born.

After 10 years of deepening the roots of social ministry, finally, my church – The Free Methodist Church of the Philippines, has officially approved the project as the socio-economic arm of the church. This inspired me to intensify campaigns and to rally the churches to commit to Holistic Child Development and Community Development. I will continue to seek opportunities to promote the causes of children and other vulnerable sectors of society.

My New Dream

I now have a dream to establish a community care center that will house a Home for Boys and Girls, a Crisis Center for Women and Children, a Home for Retired Ministers and the Elderly, and a Mission Hospital. A missionary friend said that this dream takes a miracle to be realized, and I believe our God is a miracle working God. I will always be inspired by the words of William Carrey who once said, *Attempt great things for God; expect great things from God.*

*Rev. Terisata Chua is the
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Resources Addressing Holistic Child Development

Articles

What does holistic child development look like?

By: Provashish Dutta

<http://blog.compassion.com/holistic-child-development-what-does-it-look-like/>

What Is Holistic Child Development

By: Susan Greener

<http://prevetterresearch.net/wp-content/2009/07/What-Is-Holistic-Child-Development.pdf>

UNICEF congratulates Nigeria on the launch of a national Integrated Early Childhood Development policy

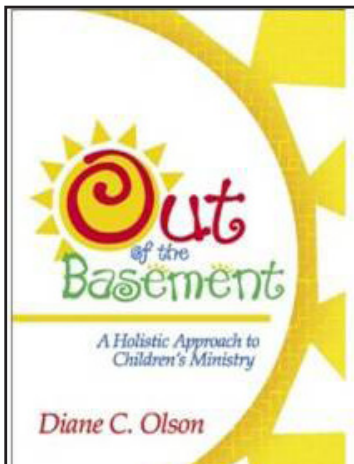
http://www.unicef.org/nigeria/media_2218.html

Aspects of Holistic Child development – Chapter 1

<http://www.pearsonschoolsandcolleges.co.uk/FEAndVocational/Childcare/ChildDevelopment/ChildDevelopmentCollection/Samples/Samplematerial/Child%20Dev%20Chap%201.pdf>

Books

Out of the Basement: A Holistic Approach to Children's Ministry



By: Diane C. Olson

Publisher: Discipleship Resources

Publication Date: 04/2001

Binding: Paperback

ISBN-10: 0881773514

ISBN-13: 9780881773514

Designed to help local church leaders examine how they minister with children.

Resources from CCTI

www.crisiscaretraining.org

Trauma and Crisis Care

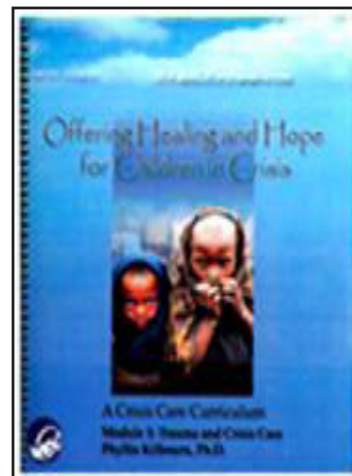
Curriculum and Module developer: Phyllis Kilbourn Ph.D.

Module One of Curriculum: *Offering Healing and Hope to Children in Crisis*

About the module: This 15-lesson module provides an understanding of the impact of trauma-produced losses in the life of a child and how to restore those losses.

The lessons place emphasis on **holistic ministry**, covering various effective intervention principles that promote healing and facilitate closure to a child's traumatic experiences.

Included with the module are lesson enrichment resources, notes on childhood development, a crisis care teaching guide, a children-in-crisis DVD and a CD containing more than 50 visual aids suitable for producing transparencies and/or handouts.



Web Sites

Compassion International

www.compassion.org

Fuller Theological Seminary

www.fuller.edu

APNTS

www.apnts.org

Caregiver's Time-out

—Sandy Schmidt



The Unexpected Gift

Have you ever prayed one of those well intentioned prayers where you have a particular answer in mind but the answer God gives isn't at all what you had anticipated? You know the kind—like asking for patience. More than likely, God doesn't simply wrap-up patience in a pretty box and put a bow on it. Usually, what He does do is wrap-up a *few circumstances* that require us to develop patience. Ouch! However, it isn't until much later that we see those very situations as His answer to our prayer.

Feeling spiritually dry, it looked as if the desire of my heart would never be fulfilled

A while back, having a desire to go deeper with the Lord, I prayed this prayer: "God, your word says that I am to love you with all my heart, all my soul and all my mind. Lord, please show me how to do that." Soon after, a funny thing happened—instead of feeling closer to God I felt as though He was absent. Someone told me, "If you don't feel God's presence, someone moved and it wasn't God." But, I had no idea when I had moved, where I moved to or how to find my way back. In my flesh I cried out, "God, this stinks! I wanted to learn to love you more. Where are you? What is happening?"

As I read the Bible nothing seemed to speak to me and I couldn't pray. Instead of finding the joy of loving God I felt as though I were in a desert. Nonetheless, during this time, God was using my life experiences and gifts to speak into the lives of the many broken women who walked through the doors of the transitional home where I worked as a counselor. However, I wasn't allowed to speak of the healing that only Jesus the Savior could bring since I worked in a secular setting. This had always been the desire of my heart—to bring the light of Jesus into these desperately dark places. But now, feeling spiritually dry, it looked as if the desire of my heart would never be fulfilled and the only prayer I could muster was to cry out for help. I was exhausted and it took all my energy to go to work each day.

Then, one day I showed up for work and was told my job had been eliminated. In shock I sat at my desk and wept as I told God: "How could you let this happen?" When the shock wore off anger took over. I had worked so hard and my original prayer to learn to love God with my heart, soul and mind kept coming back to me. The sense of loss I experienced was tremendous, not just for the job but I truly loved working with those women and I felt all my dreams were shattered.

In an attempt to find answers, I picked up every book I could find about disappointment and finally came across "Shattered Dreams" by Larry Crab. His writing really spoke to my wounded heart and I came to realize that part of loving God with all my heart, soul and mind was surrendering to Him and trusting Him in the midst of my circumstances. During my job search I found one closed door after another and started to become disillusioned. Then it dawned on me that each closed door was an answer to prayer; a place God *didn't* want me to go. Soon I began rejoicing in the no's!

Now I can picture the pretty box wrapped-up with a big bow that God has given me

While seeking the Lord's will, He once again confirmed His calling on my life through Isaiah 61:1-3. As I reread those familiar verses I cried with joy that God still wanted to use my life to be His hands and feet in order to accomplish His will. The where was still a question but the what was once again clear.

Now, sitting here, resting in Him, I can picture the pretty box *wrapped up* with a big bow that He has given me. Losing my job was *a gift* that gave me the opportunity to study and pray and learn about my God and how to love Him—to surrender fully to Him. I know I can trust Him no matter where He takes me and I am fully confident that, "He who began a good work in me will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6, NKJV)



Crisis Care Training International is a ministry of WEC International.
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Rosemary Sabatino, Editor/ layout artist
www.crisiscaretraining.org

Sandy Schmidt is a counselor specializing in addiction and grief and loss with a passion for bringing healing and hope to women who have experienced trauma and loss in their lives. She is a graduate of Columbia International University and holds a masters degree from the University of South Carolina in Rehabilitation Counseling.