

About Barbara Francis

Author of *Unexpected Turns: Leaning into the Losses of Life*



An inspirational speaker and author, Barbara Francis has spent the past 30 years utilizing her unique ability to engage others on a personal level to help guide people on their way to emotional and spiritual healing.

Born and raised in California, Francis graduated from California State University with a bachelor's degree in mass communication and a minor in political science. Though she was offered an internship by *People* magazine, Francis chose instead to follow a career in ministry. She joined Campus Crusade for Christ (www.ccci.org) in 1977 and continues to serve today on the national team, providing prayer strategy leadership for the organization's staff worldwide.

During her time in Salt Lake City, Utah, Francis created a non-denominational Bible study and evangelical ministry named Koinonia, after the Greek word for "fellowship." It continues to operate today, 25 years after its inception.

Francis also founded an outreach program in Minneapolis, Minn.— the Jesus Loves Project—which partners with other community service organizations in the Twin Cities area, including the Aliveness Project, the Minneapolis Children's Hospital and battered women's shelters, to provide much-needed supplies and volunteers. Weary of so often hearing about what Christians are against rather than what they are for, Francis created the Jesus Loves Project to work alongside these non-religious organizations to supply them with provisions such as Christmas gifts for AIDS patients, toys for sheltered or hospitalized children and work clothing for battered or homeless women.

Francis was dealt an unexpected personal blow in January 2003 when the death of a close friend sent her spiraling into a dark emotional state that tested the very faith on which she had built her life. Eventually, she was able to recover, regain perspective and learn to grow from the experience. Francis was inspired by her ordeal to write *Unexpected Turns: Leaning into the Losses of Life* (Expert Publishing, Inc., 2007), which describes her journey from grief to spiritual healing, in the hopes of helping others experiencing their own forms of loss.

Francis currently resides in Orlando, Fla., with her husband of 33 years with whom she has two grown children. She often speaks at seminars, conferences and retreats worldwide, and she publishes three monthly inspirational newsletters, *Embraced*, *Devoted to Prayer* and *Prayer Page*. Her previous book, *Following Him When I Can't See the End of the Road* (New Life Publications, 2002), tracks the lives of 10 women from the Bible who remained faithful despite trying circumstances. For more information, or to subscribe to Francis's newsletters, please visit www.BarbaraFrancis.com.

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To schedule an interview with Francis, or to receive a review copy of *Unexpected Turns*, please contact Amy Currie at (512) 478-2028 ext. 211 or acurrie@phenixpublicity.com