



“...Angels came and attended Him.” -- Matthew 4:11

The pace of Southern family life slows down in the summertime, making room for lazy days in the sun at the beach, or skipping rocks in a mountain creek, or catching fireflies in the twilight hours, or churning homemade ice cream on the back porch, or reading a good book during a thunderstorm, or chatting with friends on a balmy evening in a restaurant's outside seating. Often it's a time to get together with extended family over a backyard barbecue as cousins play games, siblings reconnect, aunts and uncles describe their vacation plans, and grandparents smile at everyone, thankful that their hearing is impaired.

But those extended family times can also carry undercurrents, can't they? Because families can have a dark side. Every family includes those who have been wounded. Even Christian families. Even church families. Sadly, the most painful wounds are often those inflicted by another family member.

Have you experienced those kinds of wounds? Have you been wounded by one or more people within your own family? Do you know of another person in your extended family who has been wounded? Families are not always a safe place to be.

Jesus understands, because His family wasn't safe when “He came to that which was His own... His own did not receive Him.”¹ Yet Jesus loved His own. He welcomed their intrusion into His daily life, ministered to them as He taught and healed them, seeing them as sheep that needed a Shepherd.²

Even today, His family doesn't always act like His family should. It includes the wounded... and the wounders. And so does my own family. I expect yours does, too, which can make them hard to love.

One thing I have learned is that our families do not have to be perfect in order for us to love them or in order for them to be a blessing. The sin and the shortcomings, the hurts and the heartaches, the failures and the fragments, the brokenness and the weakness, the mistakes and the memories, the rebellion and the wrong-doing, can be redeemed by our loving and gracious Heavenly Father.

So as you reflect on your summer family gatherings, or as you anticipate some still to come, don't focus on the dark side. Focus on the One who has the power to transform and redeem. Then ask Him to help you be a ministering angel to the weak and wounded within your own family...for His sake.

For His Glory,

¹ John 1:11

² Luke 9:11

Instruction: His Extended Family

Read Matthew 1:1-16

The redemptive power of God is highlighted by the names of women that appear in the genealogy that begins Matthew's Gospel—a list of names that make up the extended family of Jesus.

- ** Give the names of the five women in Matthew 1:1-16.
- ** Match their names with their stories as related in the following passages: 2 Samuel 11:1-27; Joshua 2:1-24, 6:12-25; Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-7, 21-24, 39-40; Ruth 1-4; Genesis 38:11-30.
- ** Using your imagination, as well as the Biblical stories, what wounds did each one experience? Which ones were also wounders, and how did they wound others?
- ** What was the ultimate purpose for this family? Matthew 1:16

If God could transform these women and their families into a testimony of His amazing grace so that ultimately Jesus Christ was revealed, why do you think He can't do the same for you and your family?

Information

AUGUST

- 14 NORTH CAROLINA, Boone - Spiritual Retreat for Staff of Samaritan's Purse
- 21 NORTH CAROLINA, Charlotte - Spiritual Retreat for Staff of Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

Various dates for Media Tour of *Wounded by God's People* (to be determined)

NOVEMBER

- 14-17 NORTH CAROLINA, Asheville - *Filling Up to Overflow* Seminar; Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove; 1-800-950-2092; www.thecove.org
- 21 NORTH CAROLINA, Raleigh - Fellowship of Christian Athletes Banquet; 919-848-4646 www.trianglefca.org; fcaevans@gmail.com

FILLING UP TO OVERFLOW

NOVEMBER 14-17, 2013

Are you a serious Bible student? Come enrich and prepare yourself to become an effective communicator of God's Word. Be equipped to read, study, and teach the Bible with relevance and power. Learn how to immerse yourself in Scripture and allow God's Word to saturate your life and spill out to others. Inspiring worship will be led by Fernando Ortega.

For more information:

Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove
Box 19223, Asheville, NC 28815
Call: 800-950-2092 Visit: www.thecove.org

Intercession

- ** For God to use Anne's two messages to the staff of Samaritan's Purse on August 14 to refresh the hearts of those who minister to hurting, needy people all over the world.
- ** For God to use Anne's two messages to the staff of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association on August 21 to revive the hearts of those whose lives are dedicated to sharing the Gospel with the unsaved.
- ** For the late summer and early fall marketing and promotion of *Wounded by God's People* to be effective, getting the book into as many hands as possible; for God to use this new resource to "heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3)
- ** For the production of our video Bible studies for Uganda, based on Anne's teaching there from last October, to be ready for the one year anniversary of *Rooted in MORE of Jesus*.
- ** For the development and production of videos and audios, based on Anne's teaching in Israel, so that we have new resources available for Christmas.
- ** For God to continue to open doors of opportunity to revive the hearts of His people by getting them into His Word, whether through Anne's writing, media appearances, speaking, social media, or website ministry.

Read what others are already saying about Anne's new book, *Wounded by God's People....*

"Anne has written a deeply personal book. You will be moved by her transparency and vulnerability as she shares her most hurtful wounds, inflicted by those in the body of Christ. But ultimately, as the story of Hagar shows and Anne illustrates so eloquently, God is the Great Healer of your wounded heart."

--**Mark Batterson, New York Times best-selling author of *The Circle Maker***

"*Wounded by God's People* is a remarkable book that sheds light on the devastating problem of being wounded and inflicting wounds within the Christian community. Speaking from experience, Anne brings clarity and understanding to those who have suffered through seasons of great loss. Insightful and authentic, she pulls back the veil on the darkness of betrayal by God's people and offers alternative, Godly responses to the wounding that has been done."

--**Vonette Bright, co-founder, Campus Crusade for Christ, Intl.**

"Anne Graham Lotz has boldly taught God's Word and stood courageously for biblical principles. Even in the face of wounding criticism, she has never wavered in her convictions. There is no one I respect more than this godly woman."

--**Shirley Dobson, chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force**

"Anne's extraordinary new book encourages us to find our "inner Hagar" and set her free by the power of forgiveness. She has turned her own deep wounds into profound healing for others."

--**Kathie Lee Gifford, TV host/personality**

"It's important to talk about our wounds this honestly. Anne has done a beautiful job using the pain of her past to tell the story of a loving, healing, and redeeming God. This book is a testimony to a God who never gives up on us, never stops chasing us, and loves us more than we ever thought – even if His people don't."

--**Kyle Idleman, pastor, Southeast Christian Church, Louisville, KY**

"Why are we surprised when another follower of Christ wounds us? God's people - as all people - are broken beings who hurt others with our actions. Anne Graham Lotz brings good news to both the wounded and the wounding children of God: God redeems our pain through his own. By His wounds we are healed. Read and be restored."

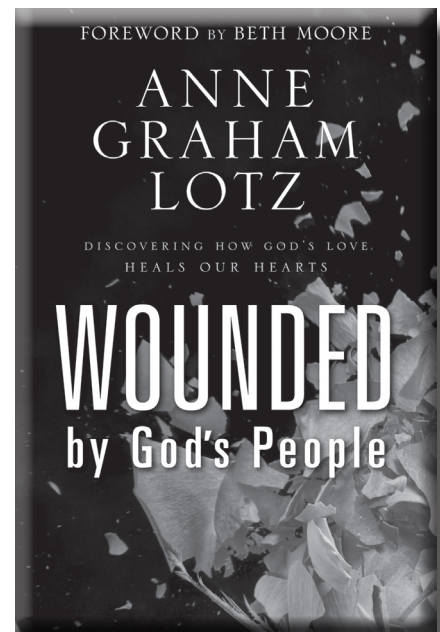
--**Elisa Morgan, publisher, speaker, author, *The Beauty of Broken***

"OUCH! It hurts to be maligned by some in the world who believe we Christ-followers are haters and bigots. But that pales in comparison to the hurt we feel from wounds inflicted by those who also purport to follow Jesus. Those are the deepest cuts. Anne Graham Lotz knows that pain full well. But she also knows where to go to bind those sharp wounds. Open this book and let Anne guide you to forgiveness and restoration as she shares the pain that she has known; that Hagar experienced; that, perhaps, you too have encountered. Let Anne walk you right to Jesus, for He too knew those wounds - and He can heal your pain."

--**Janet Parshall, nationally syndicated talk show host**

"*Wounded by God's People* is a book that we have needed for a long time. I know so many people who have been hurt by the church - and too many have hit back. I left the church for years because of one comment one elder made about me. It was two decades before I came back. I highly recommend this love-saturated, scripture-based, long-needed combination of straight forward teaching and poetry, both convicting and healing, rich and deep. I am ordering multiple copies."

--**Francine Rivers, best-selling author of *Redeeming Love***



“Friendly Fire. It’s the term used to describe soldiers killed in the line of duty by their own fellow fighters. In every war, the percentage of deaths attributed to this phenomena is shocking. Yet, it pales in comparison to the number of human hearts that have been disparaged and broken by fellow believers – people who were supposed to be fighting with us not against us. In *Wounded by God’s People*, Anne bravely and with vulnerability brings this issue to light and then gives us a solution; a salve to soothe the wounds of the offended. This book is a much needed, long anticipated tool that will change the future of the body of Christ.”

--Priscilla Shirer, New York Times best-selling author of *The Resolution For Women*

“I love this book because it’s wise, humble, and remarkably transparent. Whatever your pain, you will find that Anne Graham Lotz understands. With candor and grace, she offers the kind of help that may well heal your soul.”

--Ann Spangler, author of *Praying the Names of God*

“Enemies cannot betray you. Only a friend can. And sometimes, that friend can emerge from your inner circle of closest confidantes. It’s why the wounds we suffer at the hands of other Christians always run deep and leave scars. Thankfully, my friend Anne Graham Lotz provides wise words of comfort and encouragement in *Wounded by God’s People*, one of her finest works. She answers the prophet’s age-old cry, ‘Is there no balm in Gilead?’ reminding us that Jesus restores, heals, and gives us the heaven-sent ability to forgive. I heartily recommend *Wounded by God’s People* for every follower of Jesus!”

--Joni Eareckson Tada, *Joni and Friends International Disability Center*

“I so appreciate Anne writing these honest words about the deep hurts of being wounded... betrayed... rejected... and accused. I know these hard places personally. And it’s doubly hard when it comes from within the body of Christ. But we don’t have to just stew and suffer alone. With great wisdom and deep empathy, Anne has given all of us wounded warriors a place of sweet grace to turn to when we get knocked down.”

--Lysa TerKeurst, New York Times best-selling author of *Made to Crave and Unglued*

When Christians cause harm to other Christians, there is often a ripple effect: you have the injury itself, then an inability to trust God’s people, and then even an inability to trust God Himself. Anne Graham Lotz provides hope and transformation for this issue in her book. I highly recommend it.

--Dr. John Townsend, leadership consultant and psychologist, co-author of *Boundaries*



Wounded by God’s People will be available for shipping the first week in September.
Pre-order your copy today!

339 *Wounded by God’s People* Hardback Book

For details and a complete list of resources, visit www.annegrahamlotz.com

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