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Keeping the faith through life's unexpected turns *Author, speaker discusses dealing with loss in new book*

ORLANDO, Fla. – If you're reading this, chances are you know what it is to hurt from an unexpected turn of events, something so life-changing that it leaves your faith rattled and weak. *TIME* magazine recently published an article revealing that even Mother Teresa struggled with a crisis of faith as she worked among Calcutta's poor and dying. When feelings of loss and desperation leave you searching for answers and meaning in life, how can your relationship with God remain intact?

Barbara Francis, author and popular inspirational speaker, says it is possible to grow closer to God during times of loss. She shares her personal story of overcoming grief in her new book, *Unexpected Turns: Leaning into the Losses of Life* (Expert Publishing, Inc., 2007). Francis defines these "unexpected turns" not as catastrophic events of loss solely, but as any event in life that makes you stop and say, "Oh no, not this!"

"I have found that God is always in the conversation when loss hits—from those dealing with the death of a loved one to infertility to financial strife—people either run to God or blame him," says Francis, who has served for 30 years in the ministry organization Campus Crusade for Christ.

Francis's own experience with loss stemmed from the death of a close friend, who was killed in a plane crash. Left devastated and grief-stricken by this sudden loss, Francis details in *Unexpected Turns* her spiritual journey from darkness to light in order to help others give words to their own grief.

"Though my friend's death plunged me into the valley of the shadow of death, the gracious hand of God saw me through to the other side," says Francis. "Good lessons can be learned in dark places."

As a guest, Francis can discuss:

- How to deal with a crisis of faith during dark times
- How to spiritually grow through loss
- Tips for helping friends and family through the grieving process
- How to keep perspective through prayer
- One size does not fit all: The many forms of loss we experience in life

Francis currently resides in Orlando, Fla., with her husband of 33 years with whom she has two grown children. She founded an outreach program in Minneapolis, Minn. — the Jesus Loves Project — which partners with other community service organizations in the Twin Cities area to provide much-needed supplies and volunteers. Francis 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