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REFUGE RANGE

THE GLORY CONTINUES

BONNIE WALKER

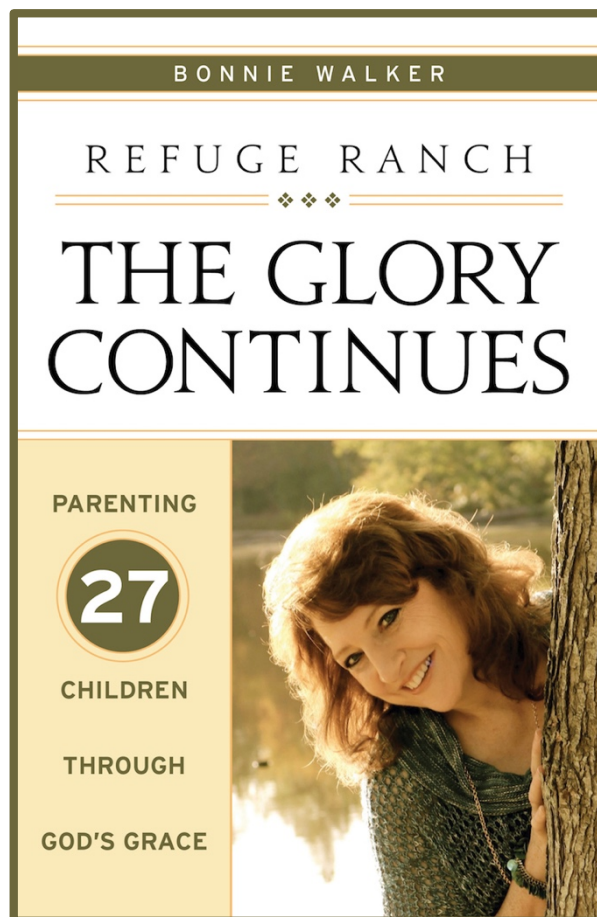
Superwoman? Super mom? Or just super dependent on Jesus? At age 51, Bonnie Walker was already the mother of 21 children, 18 of whom were adopted. She was “semi-retired” from adoption. She thought her family was finished expanding. God had other plans.

Bonnie eased back into children’s ministry at her church, and not long after met two little boys who were in the foster care system. Then, she met their sister. Before long, a sibling group of six, with ages ranging from newborn to 10 years, had waltzed into the Walkers’ life and pulled them out of adoption retirement. Now they faced an old, familiar enemy: bureaucracy.

With raw transparency, *Refuge Ranch* shares the struggles, fears, and heartaches Walker and her family experienced during this time, alongside the ecstatic joy of being called to steward and bring Jesus’ healing love to six more hurting hearts. Bonnie draws readers into her life, exposing all the chaotic struggles of walking by faith, and through her story, readers experience the results that obedience can bring—how broken lives can be restored by God’s love, and how obedience to Christ and His empowering Spirit provides us with faith to walk out what we’re called to do.

With poignant, firsthand accounts, she also exposes the broken pieces of a legal system that has strayed from its purpose of protecting the helpless and abused children that become entangled in its bureaucracy. Bonnie’s story proclaims a rallying cry against the injustices done to foster children, asking for new laws that will protect and speak for children who are unable to speak for themselves.

Her story will inspire you to walk your own journey—whatever it may be—with a faith and tenacious passion that only can be accessed through Jesus. She’ll stir hearts called to adoption into a full-blown flame of passion for every hurting and homeless child, boldly declaring that adoption is not just a good thing; it’s a God thing.



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About the Author

BONNIE WALKER

Bonnie Walker and her husband, Billy, are the parents of 27 children—24 of whom are adopted. Bonnie's dream is to inspire one million adoptions worldwide, and her passion is to share her love of Jesus with all who will listen. In addition to being a mother and author, she is an avid speaker for adoption at churches and parenting groups, a prayer counselor and life coach, and the president of Bonnie Walker

Ministries and Hephzibah Pictures. Plus, she still finds time to homeschool their six youngest children. In 2008 she published her first book, *Refuge Ranch: A Story for His Glory*, and in the spring of 2012 she released a short film, *Refuge Ranch*, depicting their adoption story. Billy and Bonnie live at their home on Refuge Ranch in Rhine, GA, along with their seven youngest children.

Connect with the Author

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What Others Are Saying About **Refuge Ranch**

Bonnie and Billy Walker are a visible picture of the Father heart of God. As an adoptive mom myself, I know the journey of becoming family is a process that takes steadfastness and determination. This family has all that and more. You will LOVE their story! This book is appropriately subtitled *The Glory Continues* because through it all Bonnie makes sure all the glory goes to the Lord. **As you read, you'll find yourself trusting God for all the details in your own life.** I can't wait for book #3!

—Terry Meeuwsen, cohost of *The 700 Club*, founder of Orphan's Promise

I was amazed when I read Bonnie's first book, *Refuge Ranch: A Story for His Glory*, and learned about a family who took in eighteen children, one set of siblings at a time. **What a wonderful ministry and testament to what God can do** through people who would be considered ordinary by most standards but who accomplish amazing and wonderful things. . . .

I couldn't put Bonnie's new book down as I learned that Bonnie and Billy have taken six more children into their hearts and family. Six more siblings who needed special care and a loving family. As it is said, "the proof is in the pudding," and, as all of these children grow, they are becoming wonderful adults who are making positive contributions to their community. Thank you, Bonnie and Billy, for all that you do.

—Cheryl Rogers-Barnett, eldest daughter of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans-Rogers

[*Refuge Ranch: The Glory Continues*] is incredibly anointed! It was a page-turner and I found myself not wanting to put it down. Even though I knew some of the details, it felt like I was riding along in the passenger seat with [Bonnie]. **What you view as emotions, frustrations, heaviness, and negativity is really the flesh-and-life reality of this incredible call of God.** Believe it or not the realism has an ability to jump into the hearts of others. In that jump I sense the change of how we view adoption in the lives of others, how we hear the Father's heart on adoption, how we need to stand up and lobby for change in the system of red tape, and most importantly **the desire of every born-again believer to intercede** on behalf of the children, biological parents, adoptive parents, families affected, churches, and system change! I know that is a lot to inhale but this book has an ability to present an "empowered reality." I believe it will be an anointed fire whose embers can't help but touch those who read it. To say I was blessed and wanted to go grab a baby right out of foster care would be an

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understatement. In simple terms: I LOVED IT! It was the perfect balance of realism and information without being heavy or judgmental.

—**Alicia Hardy, Bonnie’s spiritual daughter and friend**

Bonnie’s heart and mission run parallel to God’s—redemption for His seemingly abandoned and forgotten children. The story of my little siblings’ placement and adoption into our family is sure to leave you breathless and in awe of a godly woman’s determination and the faithfulness of her loving Father. This story is a great encouragement to foster and adoptive families and also a challenge to all Christians seeking God’s direction in their daily lives.

—**Katrina Hilliard, foster parent and Bonnie’s biological daughter**

“He predestined us for Adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will” (Eph. 1:5).

As one of the children to have been adopted by Billy and Bonnie Walker, I know the joys of finally belonging to someone who truly loves me. I have also witnessed the emotional struggles my mom has faced as she waited for “her kids.” Despite every obstacle the enemy threw at her, she NEVER lost her faith in what God had promised her.

I am blessed to call Bonnie Walker my mother. She truly has a strong love for her Lord and her kids. This book details the emotional and spiritual struggles my mom encountered. You will truly be blessed as you read her story!

—**Alex Walker, Bonnie’s eldest adopted son**

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Suggested Interview Questions

For Bonnie Walker, author of

Refuge Ranch

The Glory Continues

Q: Bonnie, you and your husband, Billy, got married very young. Did you both know you wanted to have a large family?

A: Yes, we both said we wanted ten! I knew that there would be more, but ten was all that I was brave enough to say. People thought we were crazy saying that many. After our three miracle daughters were birthed, multiple miscarriages and surgeries later, we decided to follow God's leading into foster care—even though we truly did not want to go that route. Our hearts were broken that we were not able to have more biological children, but now we can't imagine our lives without all of the beautiful treasures that God has entrusted into our care! God has been so awesome telling us something about each child before they ever came to us! It has been an incredible journey!

Q: You wrote an autobiography about your first eighteen adoptions, and mentioned that you all had retired from adoption, or so you thought. What made you take in this last sibling group of six you have written about in your second book?

A: Well, basically God literally dumped these children in our laps. I had bonded with the oldest three as their children's church teacher at our church. They were in foster care at the time, and my heart immediately went out to them. I desperately wanted them, but legally I didn't think the state would allow us to get them because of their regulations on number of children in the home and such. And truthfully, I was also struggling with lots of fears. What about our age? We were in our fifties. What about Billy's health? He had been diagnosed with diabetes several years prior to this. Were we up to the task? Then Noah, the oldest boy in the sibling group of four at the time, got thrown into a children's home separate from his siblings. I knew the home wasn't safe and that abuse took place there. I had to

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get him out of there. In the process of fighting the system to get him placed in our home, the state made a strange suggestion. We could have Noah, but it was a package deal all five or none! They included the unborn sibling as well since they expected to place the unborn baby into care. I didn't hesitate, blink, or even draw a breath! My immediate response was "OK!" Twenty months later, we said yes again to the sixth baby of the sibling group! It has been overwhelming at times, exhausting, and has stretched us in every way imaginable! But we can't even imagine our lives without them. I'd like to encourage others who maybe have thought of adoption, but doubted their abilities to handle it. It is the greatest blessing that you could ever imagine! If you have the urge to adopt but you can't decide if it's God or not, I just want you to know that wanting to raise someone else's biological child is not natural! And if it's not natural—it's Supernatural! Adoption is not just a good thing, but it's a God thing!

Q: We've heard rumors that a movie is being made about your adoption journey. Is it true?

A: God revealed to me prophetically in November of 2007 that I would give birth to twins—a book and a movie. Since that time we have been trying to get the film made. My heart is to spread Father's heart for adoption across this nation and around the world. Funding for the film has fallen through several times, but I know what the Lord said, and He will do what He has spoken. God has the right producer out there somewhere, and I will not stop until He connects us! My desire is to inspire Christians to open their hearts and homes to the hurting and homeless children in the world. In a personal encounter with the Lord, He placed a passion inside of me to inspire one million adoptions. I am so thrilled to be a part of something so close to Father's heart!

Q: What have been the drawbacks of laying your lives down for these children?

A: My first response would be NONE! We love them each so much that we don't see it as a sacrifice. It's just our normal lives. But I know that others watching might think it difficult, or even impossible. Terri Meeuwsen, from our 700 Club interview, said that the laundry alone would make any mother faint. The truth is we have worn out lots of washers and dryers through the years. But I guess it all

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boils down to what you value and what you see as important in life. We place value on the things that we can take with us when we leave here—like children’s souls that have been taught all about Jesus’ marvelous love! Someone once said that what’s going to matter at the end of my life is not how much money is in my bank account but that I was important in the life of a child! I like that—I plan to touch as many little lives as possible! If not with my hands, may it be through my words inspiring others to join Father’s adoptive heart!

Q: What has been the response of the world around you when they see you adopting so many kids of different races and backgrounds?

A: Some have been unkind. Billy and I both have been cussed out publicly and privately. We are called crazy, quite regularly, to the point we just laugh or smile. They thought our big brother, Jesus, was crazy too. We figure we are in good company! Prejudicial people are everywhere. They can be found in the strangest places—even in churches. Someone at one church asked us to please take our black children to a black church. But thankfully, that’s been the exception, not the rule. Most people are supportive, at least from a distance—and God has brought us many precious people to support us and help meet our everyday needs over the years.

Q: What is the biggest challenge potential adoptive parents face today?

A: The system! There are so many dedicated, good-hearted social workers who are doing their best, but they are way overworked and underpaid. The system, itself, is so flawed—placing importance on so many things other than the child’s best well-being. If you plan to enter the adoption arena, I would suggest using Christian adoption agencies if you can afford that route. If you have to use the state for the necessary training and home study approval, then be prepared to hurry up and wait! The state agencies are so understaffed, and they have killer workloads. You have to wait for a natural pregnancy as well, and I can tell you without any hesitancy—your child is worth the wait! So get started!

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Q: How does one manage a household the size of yours?

A: Well, we teach the children at very young ages the joy of responsibility. We're not slave drivers, by any means, but we believe parenting isn't doing everything for your child, but teaching your child to do things for himself. So, we have age-appropriate rotating chores for them to help out with. They learn to cook, practice secretarial skills, do laundry, take care of pets and farm animals, and more everyday life skills that will come in handy down the road.

Q: What have been some of the benefits that you see of homeschooling?

A: The biggest benefit is giving these kids, who usually come to us traumatized or with slight learning disabilities, a quiet, stable environment where they can learn and grow at their own pace. It also gives me a chance to get them off most of their ADHD medications and pray for them daily as we watch God heal their minds and emotions. The public-school system has many fine teachers, but they are overwhelmed and can't give our kids the one-on-one attention they need. My stressed kids began to thrive when we began homeschooling.

Q: Where do you see yourself ten years from now?

A: Most of these younger children will be grown, but I certainly will not be retired! I'm looking forward to increased time with my writing. I'll continue with Bonnie Walker Ministries' mission of promoting Father's heart for hurting children and inspiring adoptions. The film should be out by that time to help give a huge media boost along those lines, and I plan to build a community of adoptive parents where others like us can come and be trained on how to minister to hurting, traumatized children through prayer in the name of Jesus Christ!

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