

The story behind *Intimate Issues* by
LINDA DILLOW
& **LORRAINE PINTUS**



How did two women, a missionary and a girl from rural Nebraska, wind up speaking to hundreds of thousands of women all around the world about intimate issues? These women, Linda Dillow and Lorraine Pintus, would answer that question with a single word: God.

“We never set out to have a ministry speaking to women about intimacy in marriage. We never planned to do conferences and all that goes with that—all we wanted to do was obey the prompting that God had put on our hearts.”

It started when they met at the house of a mutual friend for tea. From that meeting, they began walking together. “We were both teaching at women’s retreats,” Linda explains. “I was teaching on ‘contentment,’ and Lorraine on ‘abiding with Christ.’ On our walks together we’d pray for each other and reason together about how to present different aspects of our talks. One thing that puzzled us both: We were speaking about spiritual issues to women, but repeatedly we both wound up addressing questions women had about sex.”

At that time, Linda was working on a new book, *Calm My Anxious Heart*, and Lorraine, who had just published her first book, *Diapers, Pacifiers and Other Holy Things*, helped Linda edit and write portions of it. Through that process, they discovered a kindred spirit and an ability to work together that could only have come from God. “God knit our hearts together from the beginning,” Lorraine shares. “We spent many hours on our knees praying, seeking God’s heart, and laying before him the anguish women felt over the subject of sexuality. We knew a book needed to be written by women for women on this topic—at the time, books on this subject were written primarily by men or by couples. A different kind of book was needed.”

Linda and Lorraine read through the Scriptures from Genesis through Revelations and made a list of every verse about sexuality. They looked at the whole of it and, on their knees together, they asked God to speak to them about what was on His heart for His women. God’s heart drove the message. They also surveyed 1,000 women and asked them, “If you could have any two questions answered about the subject of sex, what would they be?” These questions became the chapter titles for *Intimate Issues*.



“After two years of intensive research and writing, working together long hours, we turned in the book,” Linda recalls. “We thought we’d completed God’s assignment for us and breathed a sigh of relief. Within a few weeks of the book being out, we began to get calls to do women’s conferences on the subject. We turned to each other and said, ‘When we agreed to do this, did God say anything to you about conferences?’” Linda laughs, “We are glad that God did not tell us all that He had in advance for us to do, or we might have dissolved into puddles on the floor. Who would have known that from that time we’d end up teaching nearly 70 conferences in such diverse places as the backwoods of Mississippi to the far reaches of Poland and Hungary?”

Lorraine says she never dreamed that there would be two more books: one about God’s perspective of sex for single women, *Gift-Wrapped by God*, and one for couples, *Intimacy Ignited*. And *Simply Romantic Nights*, which was done in collaboration with Family Life Today, which is a year’s worth of creative dates for couples.

Hundreds of thousands of women have heard the teaching about God’s perspective of sex, but it was never Linda and Lorraine’s message. It was always God’s message.

The two are in awe as they consider all that God has accomplished through this ministry. Marriages have been saved, babies born, sinful lives abandoned, healthy perspectives embraced, forgiveness received and extended, healing of sexual wounds at the deepest level. But it has always been and forever will be all about God—His mercy, His message, His power being poured out in response to the cries of His women.

Our cry: Heal me O Lord and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for You are the One I praise. (Jer. 17:14)

God’s response: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. (2 Kings 20:5)