



# Prime TIME

With Philip Thatcher



## Heroic Grandparents

**B**etty Cornelius has had a hard life. Now that her children are grown, she deserves to be able to relax in her rocking chair, enjoying the sunset at the lakeside home she has carved out of the bush. But that's not the life Betty has chosen. Instead, she is one of the many courageous grandmothers who have taken on the responsibility of parenting a grandchild. And her dedication of caring extends beyond the needs of family, for she is also an encourager of dozens of other women in the same situation.

It would take a couple of pages to describe in more detail the many challenges this grandmother has faced over the years. After the scandalous murder of her own mother, Betty was raised by a grandmother as well. Then, as an adult, was the abandonment of her husband who left her to raise two sons alone – one of them handicapped. These are just the headlines of her complicated life.

Years later, Betty bravely endured a two-year legal battle in effort to win custody of her granddaughter, who is now ten. Victory in the courts was not the end of her struggles, for there were financial difficulties and emotional problems as a result. However, Betty chooses to focus only on the good things, especially her granddaughter's great love for her.

Besides enjoying the special bond of this relationship, Betty is also grateful for the wonderful healing her precious custode received. Shortly after winning custody, her granddaughter was sched-

uled for major surgery for a serious heart condition. Once again, Betty's faith in a mighty God and her unrelenting prayers overcame the fears that assailed her. Joining the concerned grandmother in the vigil was a friend from church. Together, the women prayed the blood of Jesus over the youngster. The doctor in charge of the case was perplexed over the outcome. The healing proved to be so dramatic and complete, it resulted in the cancellation of surgery.

Looking back over the span of time, Betty confesses that, while raising her two sons, she was often in survival mode. But now, years older and wiser, she is in a position to appreciate a close relationship with her granddaughter. "My priorities are different now," Betty adds.

This astonishing Christian woman, not content with just raising her granddaughter, is the founder and president of CANGRANDS. This group gives support and assistance to other grandparents who have either been granted custody of their grandkids or are forbidden to see them.

To bring needed encouragement, Betty opens up her heart and lakeside home for a CANGRANDS conference and fun camp-out during the summer. For the rest of the year, she runs an impressive web site and chat room at [www.cangrands.com](http://www.cangrands.com) so members can provide help and comfort to each other.

A hero of the faith? Yes, Betty qualifies. No doubt about it. ✨