

WHAT DO WE WANT TO BE
WHEN WE GROW UP?

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GROW UP?

KENNY HAYES *and*
MARLENE HAMILTON



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This Book is Dedicated To . . .

*Dad,
Thanks for your encouragement that allowed me to
Reach God's will in my life,
And
Uncle Bob,
Who stepped in to fill the gap,
And gave me the courage to live out my dream.
Kenney*

*Mom,
Thank you for passing the baton,
Dad,
Thank you for believing in me.
Marlene*

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans for welfare and not calamity, to give you a future and a hope.”

Jer. 29:11 (ASV)

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Dr. Fulton Buntain, our Pastor, thanks for instilling within us a desire to reach for the unreachable.

A Very Special Thanks:

To Louise Oldham, who diligently read through all of our bad grammar, dangling participles, inverted pronouns, she spent hours and hours creating a better document for our readers though the magic of her red pen.

What You Will Get From Reading This Book

So you're standing in the bookstore wondering if this book is worth your time. Or suppose you've surfed the Internet to find a book that will help you deal better with life. Maybe you're trying to determine if there is "real value" in spending your hard-earned money on two new authors.

You may even find yourself giggling a little inside about the crazy title. After all, you are a grown-up individual who already has a "thing" going. Well, here are just a few reasons why:

- You'll gain an insight about your secret dreams and why many of them are still a secret.

- You'll hear from two women, one from the business world, and the other from Christian ministry, who have a passion to desire more, to be more, to do more.

- You'll discover that some of the most frustrating moments in your life were actually planned by God to prepare you for your own dream.

- Most important, you will get in touch with your "inner woman," motivate her, shake her up a bit, resulting in a potentially life-changing experience.

We dare you to take the challenge and find out!

Meet Kenney

Hi! I'm Kenney Hayes.

I am a thirty-year veteran of the mortgage banking business. I am a true salesman at heart. I feel it is a very special calling to encourage people of all walks of life to reach beyond their own knowledge and expertise and make wise, lasting choices. I love “selling” them on these “far better” opportunities in every facet of life. The mortgage-banking business is one of the most fascinating, essential enterprises of our contemporary human culture! It will always be! It has always been! It just changes from beginning to end, generation after generation. What a challenge this work is and has been for me. And what a glorious opportunity day after day to help, assist, salvage and encourage client after client—simply because of the work God has placed me through these years.

Since I began my career in mortgage banking, I have been fortunate enough to muster up the courage at various times to pioneer untried pathways, thus, challenging other women to excel a lot faster and hopefully on a smoother and more productive path. I love broccoli and hate spinach. I realize you probably don't care about that, and it has absolutely nothing to do with this literary document; I just wanted you to know.

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I have had five major surgeries on my hip. Unfortunately, I still have more hips than I need. In fact, I have so much hardware in my hip that at airports I immediately assume the “spread eagle” position for a pat-down from one of the female attendants. I was diagnosed with a genetic bone disease during my late thirties. It seems that the bone dissolves into small pea-like pieces, begins to form into benign tumors, breaks the bones in half where it would be short of impossible to walk, or have any flexible movement below my waist. So, to take up some slack time I had in my working schedule, I made time for doctors to take a stab (no pun intended) at solving this extremely complex problem.

Although at times it is very painful to walk with all the titanium rods, ceramic hip-ball screws (just like Arnold Palmer’s I might add), pins, bone grafts, and ankle fusion, I am thankfully blessed to be vertical. I try not to complain because I realize the alternative. God has been so good to me!

Golf is my athletic exercise. Yes, I said athletic. I bend over to place the small white ball on the tee. I swing many, many times, which helps my waist; and I am in and out of the golf cart so many times I have muscles in my toes! I love the game, absolutely love golf. I think I’m hooked on the fresh air, good friends (provided they don’t laugh at me too hard), and the challenge against the course and myself.

I was blessed to be born in a Christian home, and raised with firm (I mean firm) Christian standards in a small town outside of Dallas, Texas. Right now, you’re probably saying, “So, what’s the big deal here?” But, here’s something I believe we can connect with—and hopefully begin our common interrelationship throughout these pages—I’m just your ordinary, standard cookie-cutter gal with varying degrees of potentially usable talents. Nonetheless, this ordinary gal, with a dream God laid on her heart three decades ago, found fulfillment and complete happiness with and through all the

contradictions of life that I didn't know what to do with, except to continually exhibit frustration about everything. I saw the vision "out there," but I didn't know how to get there, and I wasn't going to stop until I figured out how.

Now, this chatter must not imply that I don't understand the power of spiritual things. I am a "P.K.," preacher's kid, for those of you who were not raised in the church. But I have been blessed with a Mom who has a hotline to Heaven—every hour on the hour. I've had an incredible Dad who spent a lifetime preaching to others about the eternal issues of life, just by walking his talk. And I have a brother who has been both an essential blessing and a curse. He's my fan, whatever I choose to do! I do love him so.

Additionally, I have an incredible friend—who you will meet next—who walks closely with the Lord, and has been my daily encourager. Our coming together as friends and partners has been totally planned by the watchful eye of God.

From the age of five, I have been involved with—or empowered by, or overwhelmed by, or magnetically drawn to—music. I had the privilege (actually, I didn't used to call it a privilege; I called it a real pain) to function as my Dad's organist, pianist, soloist, music group maker, youth choir leader, and so on, from the age of twelve growing up in my Dad's church. This gave me a firm foundation in God's word and work, and a totally committed work ethic. This pattern of stringent discipline created in me an understanding of the value of the eternal and the temporal.

All things considered, I consider myself very fortunate that my husband, Stan, has been patient with me for thirty-plus years of marriage—and thirty years of anything isn't easy, especially being married to me! He has stood quietly by and watched my hormonal moods come and go. He has given me the desire to muster up strength and discipline though all that life's handed us. We didn't always win, but we

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survived! It has been a challenging and rewarding journey.

One last item: I have two incredibly talented and courageous daughters. They have meant more to me in every corner of my life than they will ever know. Both followed me into the mortgage-banking arena, and both have done extremely well. In fact, the three of us operated and managed our own mortgage company until recently.

And last but certainly not least, the most important role I play is being a grandmother. We call it “Nana” at my house because all the other “G” words like Grandmother, Grandma, Granny (yuck!), are taken—and I’m glad! Our grandson, Bailey Thomas, is truly a unique beautiful boy, and is the most perfect gift that God could give Mom and Dad: grandchildren—too bad we couldn’t have them first! In October 2000, we welcomed into the world our granddaughter, Aly Earlene. Naturally, she’s a darling baby, and the apple of her Nana and Grandpa’s eye, just like her brother!

With that as a backdrop of one of your authors, read on to discover some “juicy stuff” about my partner Marlene.

Meet Marlene

I am Marlene Alyce Anderson Hamilton; however, my up-close and personal friends just call me “Mar.” I am blonde, first by nature, now by choice. I am “fifty-ish” (I can keep the “ish” part for a few more years, thank goodness).

If you have studied personalities, you will understand when I say I am a motivated phlegmatic, with a touch of sanguine and a slightly dry humor. That means I am very easy going, with a sassy side, but not nearly as sassy as Kenney! I am a dreamer at heart. As only God can do, He has enhanced my motivational gifts of leadership, shepherding, and encouragement. Officially this means, “God has ordained me with a divine ability to cast vision, motivate, and direct people to harmoniously accomplish the purpose of God.” That’s a mouthful, but oh, so true. Somehow, at exactly the right time, God allows those qualities to ooze from me, even when I am not trying. I am of average intelligence. I have tiny little corners of many potential talents, which certainly come in handy for Christian ministry, but would never win any tall trophies.

I grew up in a wonderful Christian environment in northern California. I am a preacher’s kid. In fact, a “double-

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whammy” P.K., for both of my parents were in full-time ministry. That is when my mentoring began, even as a young girl.

I have always had the strong instinctive feeling that God had a higher purpose for my life, as He does for everyone.

For the past twenty years, I have been in women’s ministries, doing everything from speaking at regional and national retreats to holding a staff position for a church of five thousand people, never a dull moment for sure.

For over thirty-four years, my husband, Bruce, has not only tolerated my schedule that is frequently life consuming, but also is a continual encourager. I have two great kids. Roxann Rose, who is the best nanny on the face of the planet, and Rex Patrick, who is the youth pastor at Life Center where I was also on the pastoral staff. How fun to have him, just down the hall, givin’ me a “bad time” every chance he gets. And now, I have a new daughter-in-law, Christalle, a beautiful and most precious gift to our family. Someday I will have grandkids. Oh, am I ever ready for that one! (Hint, hint!)

I have hard days, just like you. I have gone through difficult seasons, just like you. There are things in my life that are just not fair, just like you. I love what I do and I work hard. And yes, I feel like quitting just as often as you do. I have a passion for women and girls “becoming,” and I have big dreams for you and me. Now, perhaps, this was more information than you asked for, but that’s me in a nutshell!

You have probably already discovered the difference in temperament between Kenney and myself, Texas and California. Our strongest gifts are different (her mortgage company would have gone under quickly if I had been her partner). Therefore, our careers are different worlds. Yet we are so similar and like-minded it is downright scary at times. We are truly soul mates and dream mates! I think you will

Meet Marlene

enjoy our candor as our individuality leaps off these pages, all the while shouting—or in some cases whispering—the same messages.

I am so glad you have chosen to read our book. I am thrilled you are drawn to this topic, for that means you will really identify and “connect” with us. Get all cozy in your favorite chair and prepare to spend some fun, challenging, and intimate time with us, woman to woman . . . Kenney and Marlene . . . girlfriend style! You will find our book very candid, humorous, personal, refreshing, and powerful, as we sincerely share our hearts with you. As the words begin to leap off the pages, I pray that they will become inspiring and full of direction for your life.

Get ready to *visualize the invisible dream* God has for you, or the one you have tucked down deep within your heart. Dream along with us and begin your journey toward new levels of awareness, which will lead you to a winning position as you are growing up and filling those big shoes.

Thank you for choosing to spend some of your valuable time with us. I believe you will not only enjoy yourself, but also be empowered to make some important changes that we all need to make toward the exciting discovery of “What Do We Want To Be When We Grow Up!”

So, enjoy!

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