



GOD HAS A PLAN

By Kaylene Subritzky

Foreword by Bill Subritzky

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Kaylene Subritzky

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There are so many people who have encouraged me on my Christian walk. Some have never been aware of their importance to my spiritual development but I am grateful to them. Others have also had a deep influence on me, particularly Cam Rimmer, Maureen and Maynard Rutherford, Leanne, and the Reverend Brian and Trish Jenkins.

I thank them all and want to say that I would never have come to this point without their example or their words or actions. I rejoice that I have so many brothers and sisters who have shared my journey.

I am especially grateful to my son Sam, who has always believed that I can do whatever I want to do and my husband Bill, who has helped make it possible to do so. Not long after our wedding, someone asked me what it was like to be married to Bill. He said that Pat, Bill's former wife who named me as her successor before she went to glory, had once told him that it was like being in the presence of God. Bill and I have not been married nearly as many years as Pat and Bill but I can only agree with her.

I offer special thanks to my friend, The Venerable Carole Graham who has been so patient with me over all these years and whose faithfulness to me and to God is unshakeable.

Pastors Craig and Sonia Munro have believed that there is a book in me and challenged me to write it and Julia and Alex have done a wonderful job of setting it and printing it.

I want to acknowledge the contribution of Jo Joiner and Stacey Beatson – both have worked with honesty and integrity to call me onwards, to express the truth and shape the reality in a clear and concise way. They have never allowed me to take the easy road and the energy and time they have given to me is much appreciated. Special thanks to Stacey in particular for her knowledge and experience and for finding the right people at the right time.

Above all, I thank the Lord for all He has done in my life – for calling me and for protecting and leading me into His divine plan. I pray that He will bless this work and accept it as my own humble offering and use it for good purposes in the lives of others. To God be the glory.

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Introduction

BILL SUBRITZKY

While reading this book about Kaylene's life, I was reminded over and over again how wonderful the grace of God can be in our lives.

Here is a life that was virtually shipwrecked, but from a very young age, God had placed in Kaylene a desire to know Him.

Many people sense that God is calling to them, but few respond.

This book demonstrates the long-suffering patience and love of God. While Kaylene led her own life for many years without God, He never failed to keep calling her.

Kaylene's underlying integrity, a trait I believe she inherited from her father, led her eventually to the painful self-examination process that comes before turning to the light.

In Psalm 40:2 we read:

*He brought me up out of a horrible pit,
Out of the miry clay,
And set my feet upon a rock,
And established my steps.
He has put a new song in my mouth.*

Kaylene has clearly and honestly retold her experience of coming out of the world and into the kingdom of God. There she has found the peace, love and joy that God offers all of us, if we would just submit to Him.

God had a plan for Kaylene, as He does for all of us. Kaylene is an extraordinary person. She seeps love. Everybody she meets seems to like her and I've found her to be a remarkable wife. She is an excellent, loving, caring and very wonderful person.

As you read this book, I pray that God will reveal to you His plan of redemption and salvation for you and your family.

Blessings,

Bill Subritzky



Chapter One
GOD HAS A PLAN

Even when I was very young, just five or six years old, I felt there was a big plan for my life. As I got older, I visualised great things, wonderful things, things that were indescribable. Things that would happen to me and colour my life and my world in ways that I could not explain or communicate. I just knew they would happen.

Perhaps God placed them into my heart even then, to keep me dreaming about what might be. He wanted to let me know in some way that there was more to life than my confused existence. I didn't know what that could be. I just had a feeling.

I was brought up in a private hotel – a 100-year-old brick bed and breakfast establishment that slept 90 people in holiday times. It was in the middle of Christchurch city on the train route. It's gone now – diminished with the advent of planes and fully-serviced hotels, and finished off with earthquakes and bulldozers to make way for new and exciting replacements.

My parents owned and operated the hotel from the time I was two until I was 14 years old. I was the envy of my school friends who, on occasions, loved to play on the stairs, run around the rooms and along the corridors, and enjoy iced buns and cordial in the guest lounge. But I longed for a normal house in the suburbs and picnics on the lawn – and I must have driven my parents mad with my requests for a horse!

That private hotel was my home. We lived there in a suite on the first floor, using facilities we shared with the guests, in rooms that told stories of life and living, and pain and death. It was where I grew up too fast and had the burden of too much adult responsibility far too soon.

When I turned six, my parents determined that my brother and I should go to a private school. I went to a small Anglican school in the suburbs. It meant I attended church at the beginning and end of the term. I didn't really understand much about religion, but I loved the candles and incense, as well as the peace and beauty of the old church. I didn't have any real concept of God, but looking back now I feel that God was already drawing me in, whispering to me through the rituals and the symbols of that church.

Insight:

Often in our lives before Christ, we have no idea that the Lord is calling us. It makes me think of the animals in the story of Noah and how they turned themselves towards life and safety in the ark. How did they know where to go and when to go? (Genesis 7). How indeed do we know where to go and when to go. For myself, even as I was born and then at the age of six when I attended a church I understood nothing about, I believe the Lord was calling me. He was placing in my heart a love and a sensitivity that could only be truly satisfied by Him.

Psalm 139:1-16

*O Lord, You have searched me and known me.
You know my sitting down and my rising up;
You understand my thought afar off.
You comprehend my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.
For there is not a word on my tongue,
But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.
You have hedged me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is high, I cannot attain it.
Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
If I ascend into heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.
If I take the wings of the morning,
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there Your hand shall lead me,*

*And Your right hand shall hold me.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me,"
Even the night shall be light about me;
Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You,
But the night shines as the day;
The darkness and the light are both alike to You.
For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb.
I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvellous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well.
My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.
Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them.*

Perhaps the Lord is speaking to you, even now, no matter what age you are or what situation or circumstances you are in. Perhaps He is calling to you, wanting to reveal the plan that He has for your future.

May I encourage you to come into a right relationship with God, and be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, so that you can indeed hear what it is He wants to teach you and what He wants for your life.

Remember that He knew you before the beginning of time and wants only the very best for you.

Chapter Two
MY FATHER

My father was an alcoholic. He had stopped drinking when I was very young, but started again when I began going to school.

I remember walking with him along the street when I was very small, wearing my favourite spotted dress, black patent leather shoes and white socks, with my hair all up in a bow. We stopped at the curb and I put my hand up into his and we crossed the street together. This is my only vivid memory of my father in my early life. I felt safe then.



My brother Noel and me

My father's alcoholism meant that I looked after the family. Although my adopted brother was two years older than me, he wasn't able to cope with my father and turned on the television to escape. My mother's ability to help was limited. She struggled with my father's drinking and was going through a difficult time with her own health. I found that it was better to manage him myself.

My daily life, through childhood and adolescence, was mostly about walking on eggshells and worrying about what might happen next. I tried to manage every circumstance – a big job for a young girl and one that was doomed to failure. But somehow – even in the rooms and the corridors of the hotel, in the work



Noel and me at the beach

that I did making beds and serving meals and working in the kitchen, and during all the trials of dealing with my father – I felt a pull to greater things; to a future far away from this and to a place where dreams were real.

By the time I was in my teenage years, my parents had sold the hotel and we were living in the suburbs of Christchurch. My father was a binge drinker. He would be sober for a few weeks and then break out. During his binges he would often be away for a few days. Every evening around 5pm the tension between my mother, brother and me would grow until we became totally silent, while we waited to see if he would come home. Even to this day I can't be sure which was worse – him coming home or not coming home.

If he wasn't home by 6pm, we knew he wasn't coming home that day. My mother would get angry, then sad and then finally weep, as she looked in hopelessness at the shattered lives we were all living.

If he did come home, we'd hear him arrive in his car. If no-one went out to meet him, he would toot the horn until all the neighbours would say, "Oh, there's that Colin, drunk again". Often I would go out and as I came to the car he would drive off. This would happen two or three times until finally he could only make it to the gate, and slump onto the horn. I would drag him inside, undress him and put him to bed while trying to keep my mother from nagging him.

And then, in my own expression of anger, fear and hurt, I would steal his money and his gin.

Insight:

Perhaps you have been in a situation where you had to take responsibility beyond what you should have to carry. It might be that you had to care for a sick parent, work to provide for others or remain silent in the face of abuse. As we think of those situations, our natural mind screams "unfair" or "revenge" or "victim".

Sometimes we are subject to circumstances beyond our control for many long and difficult years. Our own needs and desires are submerged under the demands of others. It is never right when one person takes control of the life of another and uses it, wittingly or unwittingly, for their own advantage.

Even in the dark cloud of my situation, I learnt how to persist, how to persevere and how to make the most of the circumstances around me. Many years later, as I learnt how all things work together for good to those who love God and to those who are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28), I came to understand that even these burdens - part of my history - could be redeemed in Christ. I saw that God uses all kinds of people and situations to fulfil His purpose. Jesus chose Judas as one of His closest friends and that relationship accomplished the purposes of God. Even the least-affirming friends and the most difficult circumstances play their part in bringing God's ultimate blessing into your life.

Several times I talked to my mother about committing my father to a rehabilitation centre like Hanmer Springs. I even visited her doctor and said that he needed to do something, but nothing changed. It all came to a head the day my father attacked us. I was 14 at the time and my mother and I were in the kitchen. She'd been nagging him, unable to realise that it's impossible to talk reason to a drunk. I knew the nagging didn't work, but she continued to badger him - trying to make him see sense. He lost his temper and grabbed a knife. He held it up and stood over us. My mother was afraid, but as I looked up at him I realised that this was not really my father - this was some other person who seemed to inhabit his body. I hit his arm and the knife flew out of his hand under the table.

Finally my mother realised she had to do something. She committed him to a programme for alcoholics. It worked at first and he was a star pupil, but when he came out he started drinking again. So he went onto another programme. Eventually, by the time I was 16, he had stopped drinking completely.

Insight:

If you can relate to the hurt and pain of addiction, let me say that God, in His sovereign power, can take away addiction instantly. In my working life and in social situations, I always drank a glass or more of wine. But when I was born again, the Lord totally removed any desire I had to drink alcohol. I was not the alcoholic that my father had been, however I recognised that wine fuelled the fire in social situations and allowed my hidden anger to escape.

Proverbs 20:1

*Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler,
and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.*

As we turn to God, repent and follow Him in obedience, so we can be delivered from the demons of addiction and obsession.

I know that God is the God of the impossible and that in Him we can be set free and delivered of all things.

Chapter Three
AN ADULT TOO YOUNG

When my father stopped drinking, we started to live more like a family but it was already too late for me. I was in my middle years at high school and I was heading for trouble – more adult in some ways than most adults, but still young and immature in other ways.

I had been the one at home holding everything together, mothering and fathering the family and providing stability for them. But it was done at the expense of my own personal wellbeing and character. The dreams of my youth were still calling to me and dancing around in my heart and spirit, but they were becoming smaller and somehow colder and more distant.

I had witnessed too much to be a regular teenager, and I knew how to get what I wanted. I was well beyond the experiences of my friends and far older than my own years. I was arrogant and pushy, manipulative and smart. I began to hang out with the cool group who liked my way of doing things.

As I look back now on those tumultuous early teenage years and beyond into university life, I can see that God was there. Although I was not thinking much about Him, God was thinking about me. I was exchanging letters with The Venerable Carole Graham, a family friend who was an Anglican priest. She had been an influence in my parents' lives and in my life too, from the age of 16. But I denied what she was saying about God. Looking back, I believe God placed her into our lives to be a seed for my future.

The desire for love and security, so lacking in my early life, transformed into a sad cycle of unhappy relationships. I had a job and was able to support myself, but every relationship folded up in front of me. Because of the way I had learned to deal with my father's alcoholism, I had a need to always be in control. And so in my 20s and 30s, I was attracted to situations where I could be in charge, where I was the rescuer. Inevitably it ended with pain and rejection.

Insight:

When you are a rescuer, you think "Nothing's going to work well unless I manage it". So you take on everything. You don't really have to, you just think you do. I'm sure a lot of people can relate to this problem. In circumstances where everything seems to rest on their shoulders, they believe that if it's not done by them, it won't happen. It's often the result of having an abused life. When you're living with abuse, you're walking on eggshells - you have no control. To counteract this, you want to keep your environment totally under control so that nothing can sneak up on you - there are no surprises. This is an agonising, lonely, painful and exhausting way to live and not what God intends for us.

John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

As a Christian, I have learnt that it is Satan who comes to take our life away - into fear and pain, sadness, drugs, addictions and despair. But Jesus came into this world to bring love and hope. As we repent and turn to Him, we can trust in the One who is available to us; the One who desires for us to live life in abundance.

"And in acknowledging that I had something to be thankful for, I started to change."

KAYLENE



Chapter Four
FINDING GOD

More than once I wrote to Carole Graham, asking her the question, “Where is your God?” I was angry that she believed in a God I could not see; a God that wasn’t in my life. She continued to respond to me with grace and love. I believe that it was her prayers over all the years that brought me closer to the God I now know was calling to me, whispering to me, drawing me on and waiting for me to turn to Him.

That time came when I was in my mid-30s. By then I was married with a young son, living in Christchurch. It was Easter and Carole was conducting a service in her church on Easter Sunday. Out of the blue, my husband suggested that we go to church, so we went that morning with his daughter and granddaughter, and my son Sam. We filed in and sat down right in front of Carole.

She says that it was an amazing experience for her. She had been praying for me all these years, with no obvious effect. And then, on the very day when she was feeling tired and drained following the demands of a full and busy Lent, there we



*Family friend and Anglican priest
The Venerable Carole Graham*

were. It was uplifting for Carole, both personally and spiritually. For us both to experience a personal resurrection on that special Easter day – Resurrection Sunday – was more than coincidence, it was a confirmation of God’s great plan.

From that time on I kept going to Carole’s church. The Lord was drawing me into faith and I was pleased to be supporting my friend.

Becoming a regular churchgoer was a significant step for me. When Sam and I moved to Auckland some years later, I immediately began attending St Philips Anglican Church in St Heliers, a church Carole had recommended.

Although I was attending church, my early years in Auckland continued the spiral of poor choices and disappointments. The joy of being close to God in those Sunday services and the wonderful fellowship with others was a comfort to me, but there seemed to be little real change in my life. Is this what church and being a Christian was about? It was certainly a great ‘club’ to belong to, but there was no real power and growth in my spirit. The dreams and yearnings and hopes of my youth had returned, however church did not seem to be the place to live these out or to really experience the spiritual life as I thought it might be.

But then I had a personal revelation. As I thought of all my experiences, of the disappointments and failures, of the disillusionment and the endings, I wondered, “What is the common denominator here?” The answer I gave myself was, “It must be me”. This was followed by a string of big questions: “What is my life about? Where am I going? How can I stop repeating the same mistakes?”

But God had a plan.

Everything seemed to be crumbling around me. I felt there wasn’t very much in my life that I could be grateful for. I had no home, no husband, no money, no hope. But there was one thing that I could be grateful for and that was Sam, my precious son, who was in his mid-teens at the time. I thanked the Lord for Sam. I began praising the Lord that I had a child of my own flesh. I literally thanked God for Sam.

And in acknowledging that I had something to be thankful for, I started to change.

Insight:

The change point for me was when I started to say "thank you" to God. I turned away from focusing on my problems and started to look at what was good in my life. I recognised there was something of real value in my life that I was so grateful for. And as I thanked the Lord for my son Sam, I had this immense feeling that the Lord was speaking to me - "I value you, even more than you value your son. The love I have for you is that and so much more. Jesus died on the cross for all of creation - I love you that much". As I turned away for just a moment from all my own issues and all my own problems, and said "thank you" it was as if God was just waiting for me to look beyond, to look outside of myself, to look to Him. He blessed me with an overwhelming feeling of love, of not being alone and of being cradled in His loving arms.

For a moment, I had a clear vision of those great things, those wonderful things that I had seen when I was a small child, those things that would colour my life and my world in indescribable ways. And for the first time in many years, I felt hope spring up in my spirit.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

The feeling of God's love and of not being alone grew and grew. Just the next day, the Lord led me to have coffee with a friend who I hadn't seen for a long time. She was a Christian, and she told me about a radio station to listen to - Radio Rhema.

I began listening to Radio Rhema. The messages and music spoke to me and the feelings of love increased. On Sunday nights there was a talkback show, when people rang in with their problems. There was a female presenter running the show, assisted by a pastor who was praying for callers. I felt compelled to listen and one night I rang up. I'd never called a radio talkback show before, but they were discussing how unresolved pain and hurts from the past influence our actions in the present. I was reminded of the correlation between my past and my problems, and how I was still repeating the same negative behaviours. Later in the show a caller spoke about her mother who was an alcoholic, and the presenter talked about a group called Al-Anon – for the families of alcoholics.

I found an Al-Anon group for the adult children of alcoholics and started attending meetings. In my whole life, I'd never spoken about my father's drinking and how it had affected the family. Like a lot of women, I just bottled it up and kept going. The meetings were at 7.30pm on a Tuesday night. And when I went there and sat down, the meeting started exactly at 7.30pm. The same the next week. And the week after. I remember being so grateful for the order that it gave my life. I could rely on that meeting. I didn't have to walk on eggshells to make it happen. I didn't have to manipulate or manage. I could trust that it would be there and start on time.


I felt so grateful. I developed friendships. Depth and colour came into my life. I was interested in all that was happening and people responded to me too. I did not have to be the boss.

I realised then how much trust I had lost. I hadn't been able to rely on my parents, particularly my father to be the father I needed. I couldn't rely on my mother to protect me from things she should have protected me from. I couldn't rely on my brother, because he was never able to cope with the situation at home.

In my relationships, I didn't trust people and I wouldn't let them try to change that. It was a revelation.

At the same time I had this wonderful sense of love coming from God that said "I love you like you love your son. I love you more".

I knew that Al-Anon was part of God's plan, and I continued going to the group and listening to Radio Rhema.



"The Lord found me there, at that place of deep hurt, anger and repentance, and I felt a new outpouring of His great love for me."

KAYLENE

Chapter Five
BECOMING BORN AGAIN

One Sunday evening on Radio Rhema, I heard about a course that was being held. It was about cleansing, renewal and having a deeper relationship with Christ. I was transfixed. I felt compelled to ring up immediately and book my place – I literally couldn't move until I'd done it.

The course was in Christchurch, so I flew down from Auckland to attend. The people running the course offered to meet me at the airport, but I organised my own transport because I thought "If these people are completely crazy, I need to be able to escape!"

It was everything I hoped for and everything I needed. On the first day, we had a wonderful time of worship and then some teaching, followed by a small group session with just a handful of women. I remember that it was mid-winter and we were in a bunk-room that was quite deep down in the ground. It was cold, hard, dark and very symbolic. I went down as one person and came up out of that place a completely new creation.

In that first group session I just poured my heart out about all the things that had happened to me in my life. Those precious sisters prayed for me, cried with me and surrounded me with their love. The Lord touched me and called me to Himself. I had a complete rebirth experience. I said sorry for all the damaging, hurtful things I had done and said to people. I forgave those who had hurt me, including my parents. The Lord found me there, at that place of deep hurt, anger and repentance, and I felt a new outpouring of His great love for me. I was born again and baptised in the Holy Spirit, and I began speaking in tongues.

Insight:

Being born again is an all-consuming experience. I came out of that underground bunker and saw the world with new eyes. The sky was bluer, the trees were greener and the sun was brighter. In every way I was a new person. A phoenix risen from the ashes. When I think about that dark room beneath the ground, it is as if the old parts of me were turned around from sadness and shame into joy and light. I buried my ashes and I was transformed.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

It says in the Bible that the Lord calls us from glory to glory. I found in the born again experience a softer, deeper more honest me. I felt more real, more truthful and yet so much more vulnerable. But the God who is our creator was always there to help, protect and encourage me and to love me exactly where I was at.

I found the courage, in His strength, to continue forgiving and because I so wanted to live in freedom, I followed His every word, His every direction.

It is a journey: going from glory to glory, growing more and more to live in His image, experiencing more and more freedom as we go deeper and deeper into who we truly are, the person God sees.

Insight:

It's only in God that we can find the courage and love to keep going through layer after layer of life's pain, hurt and rejection. A great love propels you forward.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The great love that I felt when I first started to thank God, the love that was manifested when Jesus died on the cross, that was the love that continued to draw me on.

I wanted more of that and I have never, ever felt alone again.

Chapter Six
THE PLAN UNFOLDS

Becoming a born again Christian was a 180-degree change for me. As I turned to Christ, my old life faded away and a new one began to materialise. By turning my life over to God and letting go of control, I began to see things in a completely different light. I felt a sense of peace and contentment that I had never experienced before.

As a result, I developed a deep concern and love for humanity. Sometimes I'd be walking along the street almost in tears, because I seemed to be able to see right into people. I could feel their sadness, their hurt and their pain. I felt their burdens. I had always liked people, but in the past my own issues had been all-consuming, which prevented me from feeling empathy at this level. Now, something had shifted within me. It manifested as a deeper insight into the human spirit and an overwhelming love for others.

I also began to experience a different love for my parents. As I forgave them, the love that I felt for them – previously confused and shrouded in hurt and sadness – began to change.



My parents, Colin and Kath

My mother was a courageous woman who from a young age had her own business. It was family legend that she was only 18 when she bought a brand new car! This was almost unheard of in those early days and people would stop to look at her as she drove along the road. She was a woman who was intuitively smart. Not an academic, but with an innate understanding of situations and an uncanny ability to know exactly what to do. As so many women know, much of life is about doing our best with what's available and my mother certainly did that.

As I began to forgive her, I started to see the beauty of who she really was and the qualities that I had inherited from her. I saw the sense of humour, the spontaneity and the positive way in which she dealt with life. Although she'd endured many stressful years as the wife of an alcoholic, she eventually began to trust my father again, and so she became less dependant on me. And as I became stronger in my relationship with God, I felt less driven to control her by 'caring' for her. The love we had for each other began to grow again. In her later years, we loved each other very dearly and I felt that I had my mother back.

While my life was re-shaping, I attended a variety of churches and Christian programmes. I wanted to explore God and godliness. What was the character of this presence who'd taken over my life? What did He want from me? Day by day I discovered a God who totally loves us, adores us. A God who is calling us to Himself and who sent His Son to die for us.

As God's love grew within me, I felt that I wanted to embrace and envelop people. I wanted to walk with them through their burdens and their pain. I wanted to help them find answers. But I realised I needed time to adapt to my new life and space to understand what the Lord required of me.

During this time, I was a co-owner of a manufacturing business in Auckland and working daily in the commercial world. I'd bought into the company with a view to building a secure financial future and planned to become the major shareholder and owner when the founding partners retired. With my new Christian understanding, however, I found myself increasingly uncomfortable with the company's systems and practices.



My mother, Kath, in 1975

The feeling that I was working in the wrong place grew and grew, but I didn't know what to do about it. I asked the Lord for guidance. Was I to stay, to protect my investment? Or should I go and do something else, and potentially lose my money?

While I was waiting for an answer, the tension at work was growing. Every day it was more obvious that I needed to go in a different direction. One day at a board meeting I was ready to say, "Look, I don't feel I can carry on any further", even though I was concerned about the legal arrangements. I'd been praying about the matter for some time, and especially the night before, but was still very nervous about bringing it up. Just before I opened my mouth, one of the older directors said that he wanted to speak. Then he announced that he had formulated a proposal that would allow each of the company's owners to look at where we might want to go in the next five years. His plan gave us all an opportunity to opt out if we wanted to. I believe the Lord went before me that

day and opened the door that allowed me to exit the company with an even larger investment than my original contribution! Being presented with a way out in such a timely manner was a direct answer from the Lord and clear confirmation to me that I needed to move on.

Insight:

When you find yourself in a situation that goes against the grain or doesn't sit comfortably with your personal values, pray about it. Listen to God's voice for guidance. The Lord is there to help us through the trials of everyday life and to bring change into our lives in His way, in His time frame and on His terms.

Proverbs 3:6

*In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.*

For the first time in my life, I was leaving a career without having another job to go to. I didn't know what I was going to do or where I was going to go. I needed to let the new pathway unfold, so I decided to take a year's break from the corporate world, to allow the Lord to work in this area of my life. The Lord opened the door to retail sales in a couple of dress shops. It was a far cry from owning and managing a company, but it was stress-free and exactly what I needed to pay my way in the meantime.



Chapter Seven

BILL

While I was still working at my manufacturing company, I went to a meeting that began a new chain of events. I'd heard about the meeting while listening to Radio Rhema and again felt an immense compulsion to attend – in the same way I felt compelled to go to that course in Christchurch where I was born again. It was a Bill Subritzky Training Seminar.

For an entire Saturday, Bill was on stage talking about deliverance and praying for people in the crowd. He worked through a list of situations and events that have a negative effect on our lives and block us from moving forward in Christ. Towards the end of the session, Bill reported that many people in the crowd had been delivered that day. Somebody was delivered of a back problem, another person was set free from anger, a smoker had been delivered of a cigarette addiction, and so the list went on. He finished by saying that a woman had been delivered of a negative spirit – essentially a demon. Instantly I knew that was me. During the meeting I'd noticed that something had lifted off my stomach and lower body. I felt a lightness, like something hidden had left me. It just got up and went away.

Being released of a spirit is a hugely liberating experience. You immediately feel like a hindrance has gone, making it easier to walk more closely with Christ. As well as a physical sense of freedom, there's a feeling of liberation in your mind and spirit. Another layer has peeled off, to reveal the person within – the one the Lord wants us to be.

Insight:

A demon is a spirit without a physical form. It looks for a body to live in. The primary function of demons is to drive, compel and torment.

Demons can be passed down through the family line, which explains why some families keep repeating the same damaging life patterns. This is primarily caused by the failure to honour our mother and father and forgive them (Deuteronomy 27:16). The curses of the previous generations, including demonic power, can enter as a result. Most people need deliverance and counselling to be set free.

Sin, such as prolonged anger and unforgiveness, provides an entry point for demons to attack us. They need a platform to sit on and sin provides that platform. Demons can also enter a body during an outburst of anger or rage. There are many kinds of demons - you can have a demon of anger, a demon of sickness, a demon of rage. Social problems - like lack of money, child suicide and drugs - can also be connected to demons.

We shouldn't blame demons for our problems. Their entry is often a result of our own or our ancestors' actions. As we repent from our own sin and honour and forgive our mother and father, so we can begin to be delivered and set free.

When we enter into deep and full repentance from all sins, possibly with fasting, then demons will often leave of their own accord. They cannot deal with our repentance because it deprives them of their platform. Among other things, it is the work of the Holy Spirit to help set us free.

Matthew 8:28-32

Two Demon-Possessed Men Healed

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"

Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

As soon as I arrived home from the meeting, I wrote to Bill saying that I believed it was me who had been delivered of a spirit that day. I felt a new and exciting freedom. I told him about the lightness I was feeling and the hope I had for the future. I thanked him for what he had done for me in that meeting. I was so very grateful.

On Monday morning, while I was sitting at my desk with a cup of coffee, my mobile phone rang. I answered and this gruff voice said, “Bill Subritzky here”. I almost stood to attention and saluted – his voice is very commanding and can have that effect on you!

“I’ve got your letter here and I wanted to talk to you about it,” he said. Bill proceeded to talk to me about my deliverance experience and a number of other matters. Our conversation went on for some time, ending with him promising to send me some reading material.

As we said our farewells, I felt compelled to say, “If there’s anything I can do for your ministry, please let me know”. I had no intention of saying that, it just blurted out. Bill declined my offer graciously and the call ended.

For the rest of the day and a few days after, I dwelt on that call. I waited for the reading materials, but they didn’t arrive. I decided to follow up with a call to his offices. Surprisingly, Bill answered the phone, even though I’d rung the general office number. I’ve heard since that this never happens. It was another example of how the Lord was working in my life.

Bill apologised for the delay and promised to put the materials in the post that day. Before we said goodbye, I again felt compelled to say, “If there’s anything I can do to help, please let me know”. Bill paused, and then said, “I’ll talk to my sons, Paul and John – they run Promise Keepers”. Promise Keepers is an organisation closely associated with Dove Ministries which focuses on ministry to men.

After I received the reading material, I wrote to Bill again, thanking him. The same day he received my letter he called me, asking me to meet with the Promise Keepers team. I was offered some volunteer work involving telephone checking of addresses and following up returned mail.

I did my phone calls in the evening, sometimes in my office at work and sometimes at home. I can remember thinking on one occasion, when I was alone in the office one cold and stormy night, “Why am I doing this? There are so many other things that I could be doing instead of phoning people at night!” But somehow I knew I was in the right place, doing the right thing. I kept at it.

A little while later, after I’d left my company and was working in retail, Promise Keepers offered me part-time work as a paid employee. Before the year was out, that work turned into a full-time job.

The Lord had a plan for me and everything was falling into place. There was meaningful work for me in the Christian world. Now I could fulfil my desire to work in God’s kingdom and help people.



Working for Promise Keepers in 2010

Chapter Eight
WORKING FOR THE LORD

When I started working with the Promise Keepers team, their office was located on the Tropicana premises in Hillsborough, the same site as the Subritzky home and Dove Ministries offices. It was a beautiful property with substantial planting and landscaping that had been developed over the years. I would often see Pat, Bill's wife, walking along the paths during the day and she would come into the offices and we would spend a few moments chatting together.

Working at this place, surrounded by people who cared about God, was very special. I felt the Lord had brought me here to develop my relationship with Him. I had a place to be and people who cared. I had meaningful work to do, where my skills and experience could be well utilised. And I was cushioned from the world by a peaceful environment.

God's agenda for me manifested in many ways during my time at Promise Keepers. I know my experience and abilities contributed to the smooth running of the organisation, but I believe that I received far more than I ever gave.

As I look back, one of God's most significant adjustments was to change my view of men. I worked daily with Paul and John Subritzky and came to understand what godly men are like. When I thought about the relationships with the men in my life, I realised that I hadn't had a lot of experience with good men.

In Paul and John I saw men who had to face all sorts of challenges every day. Sometimes things didn't go right, but their focus was always on finding a way through and never giving up. I can recall a situation where a staff member was not quite achieving the desired results. Both Paul and John recognised the problem and focused their energy, not on finding fault with the person, but on looking at alternative methods and arrangements to create a better solution. Because they believe in a God of power and action, they stepped forward in prayer and faith and trusted Him for the outcome. This was such a revelation for me. By their actions and consistency over those years, Paul and John earned my full respect and trust.

I am often reminded that God has a sense of humour. Promise Keepers is a men's ministry and, because of my past life, I had issues with men. By planting me in a godly men's world, the Lord knew exactly how to sort me out!

Insight:

So often, we believe we know what we need and want. How often have we heard the expression "If only I could do such and such, then everything would be fine"? But only God knows what we really need. I certainly never expected to take a major cut in pay and end up working for a Christian men's organisation! But God knew that I needed to be exposed to men who were faithful, honest and godly. During my time at Promise Keepers, working with Paul and John and other good men, my opinion of men changed. I began to see in these men what God desires in the character of a man and how God calls men to be in His Kingdom.

Initially, however, I wasn't totally sure I was in the right place. I'd never worked in a Christian organisation before, especially one that was all about men. I had been praying about it and one glorious February afternoon, as I was walking between the offices through the orchard, I felt that Jesus was walking beside me, looking at me and saying, "This is the right place for you". To me it was confirmation that I was on the right track, and from that moment forward I had no doubts.

It was during this time that I also completely released the negative feelings I had about my father and forgave him for all that had happened in my life.

I had previously forgiven him in my heart on a number of occasions and had also asked his forgiveness before he died. But that was before I was a Christian. I felt differently about it now, as I chose to place Christ first in my life. In relation to what Jesus did on the cross, no amount of my pain and hurt could ever be as bad.

Jesus followed God's plan. He chose to be obedient and to allow all love and life to be taken from Him. I felt that I could push all my hurt, sorrow, regret and

rejection into the wounds that Jesus had – into the bloodied and broken skin, caused by the lashes that He took on His body – and that made it possible for me to be released.

Jesus paved the way for true reconciliation with my father, even though his physical body had long been buried. I found a new relationship with him. I discovered a father who was fun, loving and caring. This good father had existed all along, but had been buried beneath his struggles and my burdens. It was such a joy to recognise in myself the qualities that I had from him – courage, strength of character, a sense of humour, leadership and integrity. My father was reborn to me and I felt that I had a proper father at last.



My father, Colin

Chapter Nine

A TIME OF GROWTH AND CONTEMPLATION

My business days with Promise Keepers were spent surrounded by other Christians. An elderly friend of mine from my church, who wasn't in great health, offered me a lovely house across the road from his place. I was able to keep a neighbourly eye on him and having a house to myself gave me the right environment for spiritual learning and growth. I could spend time at home with the Lord and work during the week in a Christian ministry.

Hours would slip by while I was engaged in prayer and contemplation. When I did go out, it was to various churches and Christian programmes. For three years, the Lord took me out of the regular world and immersed me in situations where I could spend time with Him, learn about Him and be alone with Him.

Insight:

Jesus' ministry was three years long - from age 30 to 33. In that three years He went around Israel preaching, healing the sick, casting out demons and bringing salvation. He brought people to freedom, even when they were living under the rule of tyrannical kings and struggling with their own personal issues.

My three years living alone were a journey deeper into myself. I let go of some demons. I found spiritual healing and freedom. I saw wonderful testimonies during my work, at meetings and when attending church. I felt the Lord had His hand upon me and I was reminded time and again of how much He loves us.

Not only does the Lord want us to be whole and healed from the past, He also wants to prepare us for the future.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

I am often reminded of a situation that occurred at this time, when it was just Jesus and me. I needed to purchase a new bed. I believed it was unlikely that I would marry again. I had committed my life to God – my present and my future, my finances and my femininity. I bought a king-size bed and it cost more than I would normally have paid. I felt that it was all about my relationship with Jesus and He deserved the best! It was my own private acknowledgement that He, and not I, was Lord of my life – even in this area.

I didn't know it at the time, but my three years of prayer, healing, forgiveness, resolution and witnessing the transformation of others were preparing me for more than I could ever have thought possible!

Chapter Ten
DEEPER AND DEEPER

As my commitment to the Lord deepened, I wanted to offer myself fully to God. And as a practising Anglican, I believed the highest calling was that of a priest. So I visited the Bishop and discussed with him the possibility of ordination. I was accepted into the discernment process and I went through the interviews and tests, but I wasn't accepted for ordination. The rejection left me hurt and confused, but not for long – the Lord had another plan.

In my work at Promise Keepers, I became involved with Charisma Christian Ministries and worked closely with the Reverend Brian France. Part of the work of Charisma is to support Bill at his healing and evangelistic meetings.

Insight:

With the range of ministries based on the Tropicana estate, I felt that the Lord had placed me into a wonderful, multi-faceted family. First I worked with Promise Keepers and then with Charisma and Dove Ministries, which helped me to grow spiritually, assisted by a group of supportive, like-minded people.

Psalm 68:6

*God places the lonely in families;
He sets the prisoners free and gives them joy,*

Chapter Eleven
A WORD FROM GOD

As a member of the Charisma team, I attended a Bill Subritzky Crusade at a conference in Sabah, Malaysia. There were about 20 of us and it was our job to help Bill by ministering at his meetings in the evening and conducting training seminars during the day.

Bill's wife Pat had passed away only a few months before, so we were all concerned for Bill. He was determined to continue the ministry and having the Charisma team there to support him was a great blessing and help at that time.

There were 3,500 people at the conference – Anglican priests, Christians associated with the church and people exploring their relationship with God. Bill was the only speaker for the three nights of the conference and every word he spoke was translated into Chinese. The first two nights were hugely successful and on the final night he preached about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. After a quiet time, he then asked for the Holy Spirit to come upon each person.

When the Holy Spirit comes, people respond in different ways. Some laugh. Some cry. Others scream and call out. And some speak in tongues. You could just sense the powerful presence of God. The Holy Spirit was there with us and it was an exciting moment.

Bill then asked for the Holy Spirit to speak to each one of us. There was silence while we all listened for the voice of the Holy Spirit within ourselves. I was sitting in the second row, right on the aisle, looking up at Bill. In that silence, as I was listening for the voice of God and looking up at Bill Subritzky, a single word came into my head – “marriage”. I was shocked and shaken.

Thinking I'd received a message that was actually intended for someone else, I looked behind me. There was a lovely young man in a wheelchair who we'd met earlier in the day. I didn't think it was for him. And so I looked in front of me – that person was the Bishop of Malaysia, who was already married. It clearly wasn't a message for him! Then I looked up at Bill and inwardly asked the Holy Spirit to speak again. Once more I heard the word “marriage”. I was overwhelmed.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit – 1 Corinthians 12

Brothers and sisters, I want you to know about the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.



The conference in Sabah, Malaysia

This happened on the last night of the Malaysia conference. The next morning Bill flew back to New Zealand and I joined some of the Charisma team for a few days at a resort. As a result of my Holy Spirit encounter, I was confused and sensitive. One morning, while we were praying together, I burst into tears. I didn't feel that I could speak about what had happened, but I did say to my team mates that I was experiencing something that could be very significant for me. While comforting me, one of the women gave me a prophetic word. She said she saw me standing on a diving board, above a swimming pool. The words that came with her vision were "go for it".

As Christians, we are comfortable with receiving and giving prophetic words. We believe that it is a communication from the Lord, but we also acknowledge that it comes via human beings who may not always be correct. The best practice with a prophetic announcement is to put it on the shelf and wait. Something may or may not transpire. If it does, then that is confirmation that it probably was a word from God.

So I tucked my friend's prophetic words away. When we came back to New Zealand I didn't speak to anyone about it, nor did I do anything about it. But after a while I could see the Holy Spirit was working. There was a change in the atmosphere between Bill and me. He was speaking to me more and singled me out in social situations. I began to see the Lord's hand moving.

Chapter Twelve
A PROPOSAL

During the blossoming of my romance with Bill, I was reminded of how God works in our lives without us doing anything. As women in the world we're very good at manoeuvring and manipulating, planning and plotting, organising and orchestrating. My background has always been in managing things, so I was used to being a woman in charge. But this time, by doing nothing, the world began opening before me.

I didn't know it at the time, but behind the scenes Bill's daughters had been urging him to remarry. Bill had even been joking with his staff that he might look on TradeMe for a wife! He was finding life lonely and difficult, particularly when travelling and checking into motels alone. His daughters went a step further when they started saying, "Why don't you marry Kaylene?" Although we had never met, it seemed they had heard of me and thought that Bill and I would be a good match. I soon had an opportunity to meet Janne, Bill's eldest daughter, who I found to be very like Bill – down to earth, clever and kind. She was totally committed to her father and his welfare.

Conscious of Bill's attention, I kept thinking there must be other women known to him who might be a better match. However Bill Subritzky is a man of action and when he knows what he wants, he goes for it. When he made his intentions clear, I discovered that he was quite the romantic, courting me with dinners, flowers and long conversations. I could see that he was enjoying himself. He was positively boyish. This was a different relationship for me and one that was led by the Holy Spirit in both our lives.

When Bill proposed to me I accepted, firmly believing that it was confirmation of all the indications I had received along the way.



Chapter Thirteen
WEDDING DAY

On the morning of our wedding day in 2012, Bill and I had a further confirmation that our marriage was right. I'd arranged for his hairdresser, who was not a Christian, to help with his wedding grooming. She had worked with Pat's hairdresser, who also looked after Pat's friend Beth. As she was doing his hair on the day of our wedding, our hairdresser friend commented to Bill that Beth had recalled a remark that Pat often made, "If anything happens to me, Bill should marry Kaylene". Even then, Pat was thinking ahead on Bill's behalf and had a replacement in mind.

After we had been married for some time, Beth and another friend told Bill that Pat had indeed said that he should marry me – a final confirmation that we were on God's path.

Bill and I were married at St Phillip's Church, St Heliers, on Saturday 18th February 2012. The Reverend Brian Jenkins officiated, supported by the Reverend Michael Berry and my long-standing friend The Venerable Carole Graham. My son Sam gave me away and I had my friends Margaret and Mary-Anne as bridesmaids. Bill's sons, Paul and John, were best man and groomsman.

The Charisma worship team sang for us. God was watching.

It was a very special day.

Insight:

Before God we lurch in different directions, confused and lost. With God we walk in the right path. We seek Him for answers, we listen for His voice and we step out with the confidence of knowing we're doing the right thing in His will.



Bill and me on our wedding day

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Chapter Fourteen
MARRIED LIFE AND MINISTRY

I didn't know quite what it would be like being married to Bill, but I was determined to do my very best and be the most supportive wife that I could be.

I believed the Lord placed me in this marriage to help and encourage Bill, and to ensure his work with the ministry could continue. Our marriage received the blessing of friends and associates in the Christian world, and we had many words and messages of encouragement and support.

I quickly realised that much of Bill's time over the past few years had been spent caring for his late wife Pat. Even today, few people know how devoted he was to her and how much of his time, energy and focus was on ensuring that she was properly cared for. During the day their housekeeper was able to look out for Pat, but from early afternoon onwards, she was in the house alone and Bill was always concerned for her. Not long after we had become a couple, an incident occurred that showed me how Bill's own health had been neglected. So I made it my business to arrange appointments for his health to be checked out by a variety of professionals.

Bill also needed to have fun! The responsibilities of his business involvement and ministry life were many, and I wanted to help lighten the load. I found he responded to this very well and during the early months of our marriage he became a more fun-loving person than I had originally anticipated. As with all things Bill-related, when he did something, he did it 100%. We had a wonderful first year of marriage together.

Bill also involved me in the ministry from the beginning and encouraged me to speak at his meetings, to pray for the sick and to assist him. I found it exciting to watch people gather and I shared in the anticipation – a Bill Subritzky meeting is always enthralling.

It has been a great privilege to see so many people come to Bill after a meeting and tell their story. It could be about how they, their brother, sister or spouse had been healed at a meeting in Whanganui, Dunedin or the Far North. It might have been 30 years ago, six months ago or two weeks ago. I heard many testimonies of people who had suffered from asthma, arthritis or hearing loss. Some had been told they would not live because of a heart condition, a brain tumour or cancer. And here they were standing before us, healed by the grace of God at a Bill Subritzky meeting. It was a great encouragement for my own faith.

As Bill and I grew together in ministry, so we grew together in our relationship. My ministry calling began to express itself as people sought us out for prayer. Although it was Bill's prayers in particular they wanted, I was able to pray too and impart the love of Jesus into their lives.

Bill encouraged me to begin my own meetings for women. I recall my shaking knees and sweaty palms as I held my first meeting for women on a Saturday morning late in 2012. It was wonderful to have him encouraging and inspiring me to become a leader.

Bill was keen for us to visit Israel, so in 2012 we embarked on an adventure to discover many places that I had read about in the Bible. It was a humbling experience to walk along the tracks that Jesus had passed along and see where He spent His life in Nazareth, Jerusalem and Canaan. A highlight for both of us was a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee. We had the boat all to ourselves. As we looked at the beauty of our surroundings and listened to the hymn Amazing Grace, we both felt the overwhelming presence of Jesus.

Our marriage has strengthened over the years and it's truly a joy to spend my life with Bill. So many of our shared experiences have been full of colour and love. The dreams that I had when I was young have become real and the wonderful things that I felt would happen in my life have actually happened.

There have also been situations that have been challenging, however we've faced these together, calling upon the Lord to give us guidance, direction and confirmation of our decisions.

The times when Bill and I are the closest are when we are called to put all our trust and faith in God. We know that all we have and believe we can do must fall away in light of the One who comes to bring hope – the only hope that is real and lasting. When we are weak, then we are strong in Christ. (2 Corinthians 12:8-10). Why? Because God's power is made perfect in our weakness. As long as we have power of our own, we don't need much from God. But when we lay ourselves bare, then we need all that God has for us .

A recent highlight of my life in ministry was the crusade that Bill and I attended in Labasa, Fiji, mid-2014. The crusade was held over three nights in a huge sports stadium and on the first two nights it was difficult for Bill to draw the

large crowds forward that he had previously had at crusades in Fiji. However on the last night, the stands were full and Bill's message and preaching was powerful and convincing. His daughter Maria accompanied us on the trip and it was such a pleasure for us to have her beautiful and sensitive spirit with us in Labasa. She carries a strong anointing from her mother, and also from her father, and she prayed before the meeting for the fire to come down. As she was speaking, there was a wonderful presence of the Holy Spirit all around. During the altar call, when Bill summoned those who were ready to give their lives to Christ or to re-dedicate their lives, a trickle started to come from the stands to the large area in front of the podium. Then suddenly, there was a huge presence of the Holy Spirit – the fire had fallen! People began surging forward – a crowd of hundreds flowed from the stands to the front like a roll of living carpet. It was a most humbling experience; one that had Bill and me in tears as we stood and watched these precious ones coming towards us to put their lives right with the living God.

As our life and ministry continues to unfold, even in the midst of challenges and attacks, we recognise that it would be impossible to be together as husband and wife if it were not for the power, direction and protection of the Holy Spirit.

Bill often says that we have a fantastic marriage – and he is right!



Bill and me.

Insight

When Jesus spoke to His disciples when He reappeared to them after His death, He told them to wait until the Holy Spirit came. The Holy Spirit brings supernatural power - power beyond our human abilities - and it is this power that gives us the ability to move forward in the Christian life.

It is this power that allows us to forgive each other in the day-to-day issues of life, to not hold grudges against one another and to love each other as Paul calls us to do (1 Corinthians 13). With our different experiences, backgrounds and views, it is easy to overlook or forget the other person, or to be insensitive or short tempered. But as we call upon the Holy Spirit and place each other first, so in His power and strength we grow and develop as Christians. As we keep our eyes on Him, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2), so too do we grow closer to each other.

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Chapter Fifteen
MY SON SAM

I will be eternally grateful to my son Sam, my only child, for helping me make the God connection. When everything was crumbling around me and I felt there wasn't very much in my life to be happy about, I began to thank the Lord for Sam. He was the only thing in my life that I felt I could be grateful for. I often wonder, if not for Sam what might have happened to me? I believe that through Sam, God saved my life. God was shifting many things into place long before that moment when I thanked Him for Sam, but Sam was the catalyst that made things happen.

Sam is not a Christian and I continue to pray for his salvation. I know there are many other people praying for Sam too and sharing my belief that he will come to Christ. Only God knows the plans He has for Sam. I want to be a part of Sam's world and I'm vitally interested in his life. I'm also grateful that I am no longer alone in this. Bill is very supportive of me in my relationship with Sam and treats him as his own son.

Insight:

As Christians, we are called to be the hands and feet of God on this earth. In this respect, we need to stay in touch with the world, in all its shapes and forms. Setting ourselves apart doesn't help to achieve God's aims. We need to be in the world but not of it.

John 3:17

For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

Romans 15:7

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Sam's early life was tumultuous and my marriage to his father was fraught with problems. For some years my husband didn't have a conventional job, so when Sam was about a year old he became a 'house husband' and I returned to full-time work. Over the next few years he became increasingly abusive to Sam.

I didn't realise this until just a few years ago. Sam suffered a great deal while he was under the care of his father, as well as during the relationship with his stepfather when I later remarried.

When Sam and I moved to Auckland during his early teenage years, it was a fresh start that I felt would be a positive move for him. But I found that working in a high-powered job in Auckland and settling us into a new place took all my focus and energy. The time and attention I needed to devote to Sam didn't happen and he began to find his own way in the world, much as I had.

Insight:

I had no real knowledge of Jesus at this time. I battled on in my life making my own decisions, usually with disastrous results. Negative patterns kept repeating. I was stuck in a vicious cycle. It was not until much later, as a Christian, that I understood the effect of generational curses. In Jesus, we have the authority and the power to pray against the ties that bind us back to the ills and curses of the generations that have gone before. We can pray about those things that materialise in our lives as sickness and disease, or emotional conditions such as sexual sin and addictions.

In my own life I could see my father's addictive behaviour repeating. Then, as Sam grew older and tried to make his way, I saw those same patterns in him

too. I know that a relationship with Jesus would change Sam's life, but we each have to make our own mistakes and learn along the way.

Exodus 20:5

For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me.

I admire and respect Sam for the way he is looking at his life and coming to terms with who he is as a person. Very sensitive, highly intelligent, creative and artistic, Sam has forgiven his father for the things that happened to him and is moving forward in his own life using his unique abilities and skills.

Sam and I always have fun together. We are able to talk about a lot of issues in our own lives and in the world. We have a similar sense of humour and it's great when we can share a laugh – no-one else really gets our jokes, but we do! Sam has spent many years away, but he is never happier than when he comes home for a visit and discovers a full fridge. I can recall, on so many occasions, stocking up the fridge with all his favourites and then saying goodbye to him a few weeks later with an empty fridge and both of us a few kilos heavier. Although we each have a very different world view, we know the love we have for each other is real.

It's Sam's love for me that has allowed him to accept my new situation. Being absorbed into a large family of Christians led by an evangelist has not been easy for Sam. But when Bill and I were married, he walked me down the aisle. It was so very special to have him give me away. He also made an incredibly moving speech at the reception – the very best that a mother could ask for. He began with a joke about how happy he was to play the role of 'father of the bride', especially because it came without the usual honour of having to pay for the wedding. At this stage, he turned to Bill and thanked him for picking up the tab! He spoke about all that I had been as a mother and what it meant to him to have me. I was



Sam and me on my wedding day

very touched by the thoughtful way he had planned and presented a moving speech in front of so many people.

I'm glad to say that Sam was right to trust my judgement about marrying Bill. It was only when he could see the normality in my relationship with Bill that he realised his mother was going to be just fine. I think the penny dropped one morning while we were all in the kitchen getting breakfast. He and Bill were chatting away – talking about ordinary things – and I could see him regarding Bill as a person, not a preacher. Both of them were making an effort to find common ground, and they were doing it for me.

Insight:

Sam's decision to trust me, in spite of what had happened in the past, was his way of honouring me. He's seeing me now in a new light. No longer am I flailing around in the darkness; I'm confident and happy. Sam knows now that if he asks my opinion about something, he's going to get a more sensible answer than ever before. As I let go of Sam, and allow him to make his own decisions, I see a more mature and grounded person emerging.

Exodus 20:12

Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

You may not have children and you may not have been married. Or perhaps you have been married and are no longer. Maybe separation or death has taken your spouse or your children. Maybe your commitments and circumstances have not allowed for the sharing of your life intimately with another. Perhaps being alone is your greatest challenge and it might be that each day is a burden of sadness and regret as you face the prospect of your future.

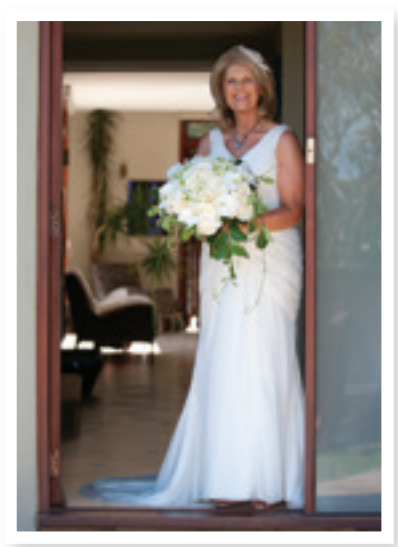
I believed that I would be alone for the remainder of my life. Before the Lord spoke to me about marriage, I felt that my past would not be attractive to a Christian man and I had resigned myself to being on my own. But I found the Lord can redeem even this area, and although Bill and I were of an age that made offspring highly unlikely, He has instead graced us with spiritual offspring. When we were in Israel, He spoke to Bill about the many spiritual children we would birth together in the ministry.

Challenges and difficulties in our lives are never easy and I have found that it is only through the Lord that we can be redeemed and become victorious over our burdens.

Chapter Sixteen
THE DREAM IS REAL

I could say that my life is perfect. Like the princess in the story book, I might say that my loved ones, friends and Christian acquaintances all lived happily ever after.

But our lives are never perfect, never complete – not until we face the Lord at the day of judgement when He will call us to account for all we have done and not done in our time on earth. If we have been faithful and true, then, and only then, we will walk with Him in paradise, we will eat with Him at the table and sit upon the banks of peace in the eternal city. Until then, we will suffer and struggle. Not all things will be as we might choose and not all things will end up as we might desire.



My wedding day

The Christian walk is one of being called ever onward, to higher and newer challenges. Just as we get comfortable in a particular situation or circumstance, so the Lord calls us to pull up our roots and move on to something else. As we repent and reveal ourselves fully to God and commit our lives to Him, we can be sure of His hand upon us to steer us and guide us as He unfolds His plan for our lives.

I have found this to be true in my own life. I could never ever have imagined that I would become a Christian and that I would be married to one of the world's great evangelists. I could not have dreamed about working in ministry with my husband and establishing my own ministry. I would not have thought that I would see the power of God so evident in my own life and in the lives of those with whom I walk.

But now I see so strongly, day by day, the great things that I visualised when I was young. Wonderful things, things that were indescribable, things that

would happen to me and colour my life and my world in ways that I could not explain or communicate. I did not know the form of these, but I just knew they would happen. As my days unfold, I am continually surrounded by the joy of the Lord and with His great and wonderful presence. His Spirit calls me ever on – dancing over the moonbeams and tripping along the flower-filled pathways, spilling over in love and joy and peace and blessing.

Proverbs 16:3

Commit your actions to the LORD and your plans will succeed.

Nehemiah 8:10b

Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

John 10:10b

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Are you ready?

If you would like to find the plan that God has for your life, then I encourage you to declare the following prayer and believe it with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.

Insight:

There's no need to put off receiving God's gift of salvation. You don't need to clean yourself up first or start behaving better before you can become a follower of Jesus. You can take the first step right now.

Open your heart to God, ask Him into your life and receive Him.

He's ready to receive you.

The Salvation Prayer

*Lord Jesus, I believe You are truly the Son of God.
I confess that I have sinned against You
in thought, word and deed.
Please forgive all my wrongdoing and
let me live in relationship with You from now on.
I receive You as my personal Saviour,
accepting the work You accomplished once and
for all on the cross on my behalf.
Thank You for saving me.
Help me to live a life that is pleasing to You.
Amen*

If you have prayed the salvation prayer and have given your heart to the Lord, I encourage you to contact a local Spirit-led church and begin to attend regularly.

Start to pray to God about your life and read your Bible daily. Get alongside another Christian believer who can help you on your Christian journey.

You will begin to come into a deeper understanding of God and His plan for your life.

A PRAYER FOR WOMEN

Women often ask me to pray for them and their situations and I'm aware that it is usually their families and loved ones who they want prayer for.

The prayer that follows is one that you can use yourself.

Pray it daily and speak it out aloud in love and faith over your life and the lives of your loved ones. It is for protection and safety in the days to come.

Dear Heavenly Father

Thank You for loving me.

In the name of Jesus, I ask You now to bless and protect my family, giving healing, wisdom and guidance at all times to those whom I love.

In particular, I ask for Your protection against the attacks of the enemy on my marriage, my children and myself.

I humble myself before Your throne of grace and come under the shadow of Your wings.

I rejoice that You are my Heavenly Father, that You love me and that You cradle me and my loved ones in Your bosom.

Thank You Father for Your joy, peace and love, which You bestow on me even at the times when I fail.

I know Your mercy and grace will help me overcome my trials and tribulations.

I am believing for every one of my family, including my husband and myself, to receive the crown of righteousness on that last day.

Thank You Father, I praise Your name, I will love You and serve You forever.

It is my prayer that you have found something in my book that has encouraged you. Please pass it on to someone else who may need a touch from God or a blessing along their journey.

Also check out the Dove Ministries website at doveministries.com and search for other sites where you can find good gospel teaching to help you understand and learn more about the Bible.

I pray that your Christian walk will be filled with wonderful blessings and divine appointments, and that you experience an ever growing and ever deepening love for God.

Kaylene



How Kaylene's story can help and encourage you

In *God Has a Plan*, Kaylene Subritzky recounts her personal journey to Christianity. From her earliest days growing up with an alcoholic father to her marriage in 2012 to evangelist Bill Subritzky, Kaylene describes the sometimes painful process of seeing things the way they really are, then following God's clear signposts towards the ultimate goal of being born again through the Holy Spirit. Her story is touching, humorous, honest and sprinkled with gospel-driven insights that will help you to appreciate and understand the power of Jesus Christ and the glory of God.

Read inspiring insights that will help you improve your life.

Discover Bible teachings that help you to overcome problems.

Gain an understanding of how to become a Christian.

Have hope for a more meaningful future for you and the people you love - God loves you, whatever your circumstances.

Realise that it is never too late to find God and His plan for your life.