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## ABOUT THE TITLE

**W**elcome to *Don't Miss Your Boat ... Living Your Life With Purpose in the Real World*. To begin, we thought you would enjoy knowing a bit about the origin of our title.

I have always loved boats ... all of them, whether a sleek red kayak or a grand sailing vessel. Offer me a ride and I will not *Miss the Boat*. In fact, I would likely cancel appointments or rearrange a day to make it to the dock on time. Once aboard, I am in my element ... the wind and the water can transform any day from ordinary to extraordinary. Somehow, the best of me emerges when I change into my deck shoes. I truly have a love affair with water and I willingly go wherever the current takes me. Ah, the adventure, surprise, and excitement associated with skimming over open water, whether it is a calm lake or a wave tossed sea. There is a sense of freedom that makes me want to refuse to disembark at the end of the journey!

**'What on earth does this have to do with life purpose?' you might ask.** Think about those individuals that seem to be living their best life ... life that is filled with purpose and passion. They wear their life as comfortably as I do my deck shoes. Like me onboard most any boat, they are most in their element doing what they are doing. They are

living in passionate pursuit of a life that is worthy of abandoning other plans for, one that leads to a feeling of great satisfaction and fulfillment. They find themselves willingly adhering to their chosen life even when it fails to be popular, exciting, and even when it takes them in unexpected directions. Simply put, they would not ‘disembark’ the unique life plan that bears their name ... they refuse to abandon their purpose because it is the place where priorities become clear, relationships grow deeper, and many days are invested in those people and things that matter most.

So, if you have a hard time thinking in terms of what it would be like to discover and live your unique purpose, think of that thing that calls to you like boats call to me. You just may find your best life and your passion in the place, the people and the causes that you feel drawn to. And, just like a sailor who catches the wind in his sail and finds his boat being effortlessly propelled forward, you will find your life being swept forward by a current of excitement and fulfillment that will exceed your wildest imagination.

So hurry to the dock and ... *Don't Miss Your Boat!*



## INTRODUCTION

**I**magine having an opportunity to sit across from the person you admire most. You have millions of questions. The conversation is easy and comfortable, the kind you have in beach chairs as the sun sets. You find yourself wanting to find out the secret to the depth of satisfaction they have with life. What questions would you ask of them? What would you most want to know about this person who seems to embody authenticity, courage, creativity, adventure and clarity? The person you share this conversation with seems to have settled into their own life with a certainty that there is no one they would trade lives with.

You feel great just by being in their presence. You feel more alive than ever. It is as if someone just turned up the volume of your soul. Instead of a whisper, the deepest part of you is calling to you in a way that is clear and audible. Simply put, you find yourself wanting to take the next step into a deeper and more meaningful existence.

If that scenario captures your attention, then this book is for you! In fact, this book will allow you to become intimately acquainted with 35 people who have opened their lives and invited you in. These pages are filled with insightful conversations with some of the most incredible people you will

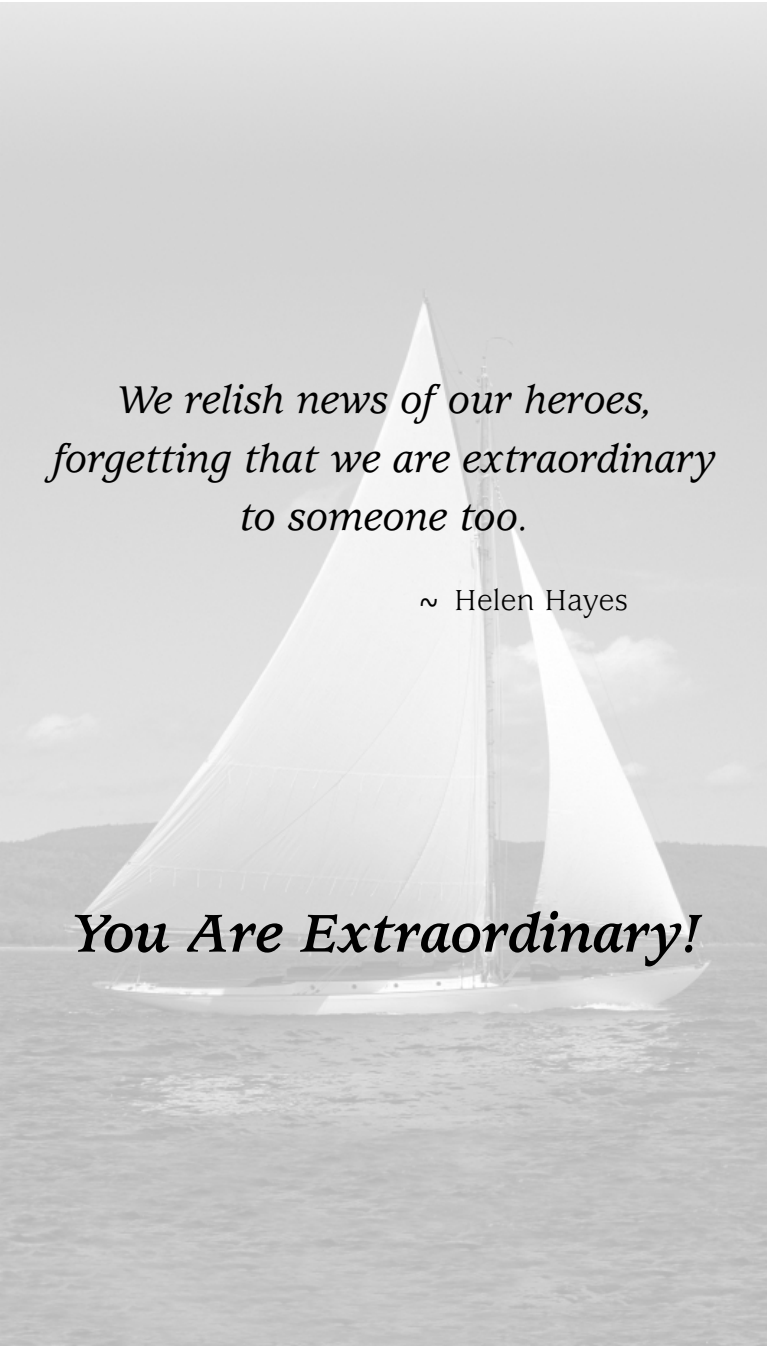


ever encounter. However, they may begin to seem just like you and me. We call their stories a conversation because we don't want you to simply read this book. We want you to then continue the conversation by asking yourself what you can take away from their life journeys that will equip you to live your best life.

These are individuals who have searched for and found their unique life purpose. They have survived through, laughed through, and grieved through some ordinary and some extraordinary life circumstances. And most of all they have come through life with their hope, creativity, sense of authenticity, and the best of themselves fully intact.

It is our sincere hope that you will come away with a renewed commitment to discover and fully live your own unique purpose and passion, and that you will find yourself empowered to live your life with purpose in the real world ... YOUR world!

Let's sail.....



*We relish news of our heroes,  
forgetting that we are extraordinary  
to someone too.*

~ Helen Hayes

***You Are Extraordinary!***





## Please God, Let Me Live



Travis S. Greenlee

**I**t was a little over three years ago. I remember lying in my hospital bed feverishly listening to the rhythm of the pumps as they pushed chemo into my veins. What a strange sensation, I could literally feel the burning poison travel from limb to limb throughout my body. It started with my shoulder, then my chest and then into my stomach. I suddenly sat up and with an uncontrollable surge, vomited and began to cry like never before. In that moment, I realized that my life was out of control and that there was a good chance I wouldn't make it.

Yes, it was a frightening time in my life. I had just been diagnosed with Stage 4 Melanoma and was undergoing my first round of chemo. I realized I was in bad shape as I watched the tears fall from my dad's eyes when he videotaped my struggle. My dad has always been my hero... so strong, and so full of belief.

To see him in a place of utter pain and helplessness was overwhelming. Not knowing what to feel, how to react, or what to expect... I calmly slipped into a place I've never been before. It was surreal.

My mind raced... was I going to die or would I make it? What about my dreams? Would I have the opportunity to raise a family, build a business, and make a difference? I remember gazing out my hospital window to the park below. I watched the families play together, dogs running, children rolling around in the fallen leaves, and living life to it's fullest. I felt sorry for myself. Why, Lord, why me? What have I done to deserve such pain and fear? I'm only 34. I should have my entire life ahead of me. You see, up to that point, I felt invincible, as if I would live forever. I never really gave much thought to the possibility of dying before my parents, my friends, and my family. I acted as if I had all the time in the world to create my dream life. Not that I wasn't doing well. After all, I was successful in many respects. I had a wonderful job as a financial consultant and business advisor, an impressive title on my business card, drove a nice car, and lived in Newport Beach, California. I thought I had it all together. Looking back, I realize how small I had been playing. I had one foot in and one foot out of the door. I was sitting in the stands watching the game rather than stepping up to the plate and swinging the bat myself. I talked about my goals and aspirations, dreamed about them, yet never

really took the steps necessary to allow them to unfold. Deep down, I guess I was afraid. Afraid of failure, and of what people might think of me. Afraid of taking a risk that might not work out. I was even fearful of becoming successful because of the added responsibility it would bring. What crazy thoughts. It was in that defining moment while drifting in and out of consciousness that I committed to designing and creating the life I had always wanted. One filled with love, peace, vitality, security, financial abundance, and unlimited opportunity. I resolved to follow my passion and purpose and make a difference in the lives of those I touched through coaching. Since then, life has never been the same. It's been a miracle and a blessing!

It's taken me three years of hard work to rebuild my life. From a health perspective, I'm feeling great! Better than ever. I'm riding my mountain bike, snow skiing, hiking, golfing, and working out on a daily basis and absolutely love it. Last year I fell in love with and married my soul mate Teresa. What a gift! We were fortunate to spend two weeks in Italy last summer, and spent our anniversary in Maui. We've decided that traveling to really awesome places works for us! We designed and built a new home in our dream town of Steamboat Springs, Colorado and enjoy an amazing community of loving friends. Our coaching practice continues to flourish and challenges thousands of people to enjoy more fulfilling lives.



So, how about you? Are you living the life you love? Are you enjoying a life filled with peace, happiness, joy, and abundance? Are you truly excited to be alive? The message of this story is very simple. It's important to realize how delicate and precious life really is. Your life is a gift from God that should be appreciated, nurtured, and cherished. Live each day as if it were your last, take the time to appreciate your many blessing and truly enjoy the moment. As you do, you will discover the miraculous.

Enjoy the ride. I wish you all the joy, happiness, and abundance in the world.

– *Travis S. Greenlee*

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## Being Rich is Worth More than Money



Fred Knight

**H**ad you ever stopped to think that being a parent does not really take much effort? Being a successful parent, however, is a whole different story.

The best advice my father ever gave me was the day he was holding my two month old son Jake on his knee. Jake was the first of my three sons, and this was the first time Dad had seen him. He looked me right in the eye and said,

“Son, it is your job as a father to teach this little guy everything you know by the time he leaves home.”

I questioned him about this statement and he replied, “Teach him how to say thank you, how to change the tire on a car, to be kind to his mother, to use a hammer and saw, and to properly swing a

baseball bat. Teach him how to talk to his adult superiors, to be polite, and to help an old lady cross the street. Take him to church and take him with you to work. Teach him how to build a fire and how to put one out. Read to him every chance you get. Tell him about the stars of the universe and the animals in the fields.”

And on he went until I got his point. “But Dad,” I countered, “That will take a lot of time. With work and all, I wouldn’t have any free time left for myself!” “That’s right. You are going to have to choose from now on what your purpose in life will be and what will take place as your top priority. If you spend all your time earning money, or doing activities by yourself, and ignore being a daily part of your children’s lives as they grow up, you will be poor.”

“Poor?”

“Being fabulously rich does not always mean one has a lot of money. Follow this advice and someday you will understand what I mean.” he said.

And so I took his advice. When my sons were in first grade and went on their first field trips to the fire station, I took time off work and went with them. When they played little league, I never missed a game. When my youngest son pitched the final game of his high school career in the state quarter final playoffs, I was there to congratulate him on his win. Four days later when he and his team lost in the semifinals, I was there to share in

his discouragement. By the time they had graduated from high school, I had used up all my spare time to teach them whatever it was I thought they should know.

As the years rolled by and the boys made the difficult transition into adulthood, I began to understand what my father had meant. We had three young men living with us who respected us, as we had respected them; talked with us as we had talked with them; included us in their activities as we had always included them. The peace of mind and stress free living that goes along with this type of family atmosphere is priceless, not to mention the satisfaction one feels knowing he has raised three well rounded, capable and knowledgeable human beings. No matter what line of work you're in, if you have kids, you 'gotta' be there. Maybe I could have made more money or traveled to far off corners of the earth. But at what price?

When I hear parents complaining about their kids getting into drugs or not wanting to communicate with them anymore, I have no idea how they feel for I never experienced those problems. If you make it your top priority to raise good kids, you will have good kids.

Proverbs 22:6 reads, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it." Notice, it says to train a child in the way he should go, not the way he wants to go. This is of

*Live Your Life With Purpose*



utmost importance! Follow this advice and you will know what it is like to be fabulously rich.

– *Fred Knight*

Dentist and Father of Three

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