

INSPIRING STORIES

# H OPE

*A collection of inspiring stories of  
hope from women just like you!*

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## A LIFE WORTH LIVING

*And the last shall come first*

DIANE CORDAIRE

**A**t the age of 28 years I went to a Dale Carnegie course and had to stand up in front of a group of doctors, lawyers and professional people and give an account of who I was. When I stood up I said, “My name is Diane Core – I live at Yagoona and I’m a detailer.” I was so embarrassed at what came out of my mouth and realised that I wasn’t living my true life – I was living a life that my husband had dealt me.

So, the next day I picked up a newspaper, looked in the positions vacant column and saw a position for a photographer. I said to my husband, “I’m going for this.”

He said, “Don’t be so stupid, you’re not a photographer, you need to go to university for that.”

I said, “I’m going to go anyway.”

I picked up a camera at the interview, I’d never picked up a camera in my life and the guy interviewing me said, “You’re not a photographer.”

I said, “Teach me, I’ve got other skills.”

He looked at me and he said, “Okay I will.”

For three months he brought in models and actors. He sat

them down and I learnt how to be a photographer. He had a mobile studio that he was trying to get going that toured shopping centres recruiting models and actors for an agency. He couldn't get this concept working but I could, that was my skill. I was very good with people and could get them signed up and in the studio very fast.

I was looking at how much money this guy was making and I said, "I've got to start my own business."

So, I left and went and started to try and put together a mobile studio and find an agent and modelling agency. No one would believe in me because I didn't have a name for myself – they weren't prepared to put their name to the studio. When I was just about at the end of not being able to do anything or get it together, the guy who trained me as a photographer rang me up and said, "What are you doing?"

I said, "I'm going into opposition with you."

He said, "You can't do that the place isn't big enough for the two of us."

I said, "I'm going to have to do it anyway."

He obviously slept on it that night and worked out he was not going to succeed if I got up and running. He rang me up and said, "I'm going to have to bow out of this because it will be too hard for the two of us."

I said, "What are you doing with your mobile studio and your agency?"

He said, "I'll just let them go."

I said, "I'll take them off your hands."

Within the first week of being in business I made \$16,000

and for six consecutive years I built that business to \$600-\$800,000 per year.

The second week of the business my husband joined me because he could see it was going to be a success. The trouble is that the business was full of beautiful women and there was such a thing as a casting couch. For the same six consecutive years I fought this man to stop photographing the women naked. On the sixth year, I lost that business and the fight and my husband and the lifestyle that the money given me.

I swapped my car for a four wheel drive - put my two daughters, aged eight and nine in the car and headed out to the desert to find out what the truth was about life. I was always taught that having a husband and a business and a house was the ultimate goal.

I didn't go looking for a church, because I'd never been into a church, I went looking for the truth and that's where I met God. I said to Him, "I'm not coming up your track unless you show yourself to me, because I've been lied to, sat on, spat on and I'm not prepared to give my life again unless you can show me who you are."

He spoke to me audibly from heaven - I fell to my knees and He sounded like He describes Himself. His voice sounded like running water, and in that water there was love, authority, strength, peace and all the other traits of God. I said, "What do you want me to do? I'm in I'll give you 100% of my life."

He showed me a vision and the vision was a property and on the property were lots of settlements.

I said, "Okay, let's go do it." He then dropped me into a

church and I met the Christian culture. I said, “I don’t want to be a Christian, they look like they sit in the pews and do nothing.”

He said, “You don’t have to be like that.”

I said to God, “Let’s go and do it.” So, I learnt about faith. I put an ad in the paper for a property. I got this one phone call out of all of Australia and it was this guy who owned a motel complex up at The Entrance in New South Wales.

He said to me, “I’ve got a place if you want it. It is \$650 a week and \$4,000 bond.”

So, I said, “Okay.”

Then I put that bill into God’s hands and I proceeded to pack up my house. I had already taken homeless people into the home I was living in.

Two days before we were supposed to go the guy who owned the complex said, “Come on I need the money.” So I went to the church I had been placed into and had a meeting with the elders and they said,

“We’re not giving you the money,” and they informed me they wouldn’t use me anyway.

God said, “Whatever you do don’t criticise.” I didn’t.

I rang the guy and said, “I can’t get the money so I can’t come.”

He said, “I’ve been relying on you for two months for you to come and I have the place ready for you.”

I said, “I’m sorry, but the money didn’t turn up.”

I stood under the heavens that night and looked towards God and said, “I’ve got no idea why you didn’t come through there,

but I love you and I trust you and I'll just leave it at that."

The next morning I got a phone call from the guy who owned the motel complex and he said, "How would you like the place for \$10 a week and forget the bond."

I rang the truck driver and said, "It's on again."

We rolled up there, with my furniture. I unpacked it. I had this motel complex and I stood there and said to the Lord, "Who do you want in this place?" Suddenly all these men started knocking on my door. Over 14 months, I had 70 men come through the place called 'New Beginnings' – they were the most rebellious men on planet earth. But very shortly into this I was seeing that each and every one of them was a reflection of me and how I had my heart set for God but my soul needed the healing. I saw it as a mirror and each man I looked at I asked God, "What part of me needs to be healed from this man?"

When I would get it that man would move on and the next man would come.

Fourteen months later God said, "That is a very good seed and I'm going to put it back to the earth now."

New Beginnings was packed up and the men found new locations. God sent a truck to me but hadn't told me where I was going. All my friends knew that I didn't know where I was going, except the truck driver. As we were passing furniture to one another to the truck, they would say, "Do you know yet?"

I said, "No, not yet." Until the last piece of furniture went into the truck and the door was shutting and this woman walked up to my verandah. She said, "It's me you're coming with me."

My girls burst out crying and said, "No, we're not going

with her.”

I explained, “We’ve got no choice, were going.”

She spun around and spoke to the truck driver and gave the address and off we went (as the door was closing).

God did that to me two or three times more, until He gave me a house on a river. During that ‘New Beginnings’ process all my cameras had been stolen and I was only left with a broken camera. A woman rang me up and stated, “You used to photograph models didn’t you?”

I answered, “Yes.”

She said, “I’ve got two girls who need photographing.”

I photographed those girls with a broken camera and I said to God, “If you’re going to bring me more people to photograph I need a decent camera.” The next day a friend of mine walked through the door and brought me a brand new camera.

I built those two models into 180 actors and an acting agency called Cordaires and 320 promotional staff nation wide within seven years.

I had moved to the Northern Beaches in Sydney lived in a \$1500 a week house, had offices at Fox Studios and was living the high life again for the second time. Also I had been connected inside the church – I’d become a deacon.

One day, a guy said he would like to buy my promotional agency. He offered \$560,000. I said to him, “Yes.” And we proceeded to the sale. On sign off day he rang me and said he wasn’t signing off.

He informed me he’d just taken my \$1.3 million dollars worth of contracts behind my back and stolen the lot.

That was my cash flow whilst I was building the acting agency. It takes 10 years to build a good acting agency. I had to make an executive decision and once again I was out of business.

This time it hit harder because the church that was supposed to support me through this turned its back on me, because I didn't have the image or the standing that they liked anymore. Being an Acting agent gives you reputation, image, standing in society and the church liked that.

As I was going down for the second time, I was handed 600 names and addresses and phone numbers of Christians in the media. I said to God, "What would you like me to do with that?"

He said, "Connect them so they can communicate, so they can operate together." Hence Fuel Media was born.

In the meantime I had to go through the absolute torment of why God would do this to me again and why a church would turn its back on me.

God told me that my reputation and my image was wrapped up in the business and every day when I walked into my business I used to pray for my business but basically I was bowing down to my idol.

He said, "What's the point of gaining the whole world if you lose your soul?" So He stripped me once again.

My biggest thing through all that was – how do I love the church as Christ loves the church?

He said to me, "Don't hate the people, don't hate the building, know that the devil runs right through the place." With that I was able to forgive.

This next time I said in my heart that I wasn't going to get involved in business like I had been in the past. I did what I do best; I found actors and put them into television. I've put 40,000 actors into television over 23 years and auditioned thousands of young aspiring people.

So I continued along that line while I was building Fuel Media. But in the back of my mind the whole time, I wanted to do something with this property the Lord had shown me originally in a vision. Then one day a mate of mine, who had just bought 15,000 acres of land down the bottom of Australia on the Great Australian Bight said to me, "Would you like 2,000 acres to do your vision?"

I said, "That sounds like a pretty good gift to me."

He said, "Let's call it a tithe and I nominate you as the church."

I went down onto the property and did a reconisance and came back with the word, "This is hidden treasure."

So, I started putting together the paper work that was needed to build Eden – that's the name that has been given to the place that has been put in my heart.

As I was connecting all the Christians together I noticed there was an element missing through the whole process. I could see that it wasn't supernatural enough, it was the coming together of people and putting them together but it wasn't supernatural enough for me. So I said to God, "I've got to give it all up because I can't see your hand making a difference in the media."

So at this stage I gave up my harbour apartment, my car, my furniture my \$300 an hour income and I gave away Fuel Media.

I bought myself a tent and I had no car, so I said to the Lord, “If you want me on this property down the bottom of Australia you’re going to have to get me there.” So I went and pitched my tent in the backyard of my girlfriend’s place for two weeks. Now this wasn’t any ordinary tent, this was a four bedroom tent because I had so many clothes that I needed special rooms for them!

Then I received a call from someone saying they had a brand new campervan they wanted relocated down the bottom of Australia for \$1 a day and that’s about what I had in my pocket per day. I got to the bottom of Australia and someone else gave me a car and dropped me and my daughter and our dog, out on the Great Australian Bight, with no one around for at least 40 km and said, “There you go see you later.”

The first night my daughter and I had a fight, so we moved tents, not too far away, but just enough to give us distance. She drove the car down to visit me in my tent and got it bogged. So, off we went and proceeded to walk to find someone. Eight kilometres later we found three men having a reunion and down the bottom of Australia they have got priorities – drink beer first, eat fish second, pull women out of bogs third. So we ate, drank and then they came and pulled us out of the bog.

My daughter said, “Those men are coming back for us.”

I said, “No, No, they won’t.”

We proceeded to hop in the car and go and get supplies at a little place called Penong. By the time we were coming back it was dark and out where we were you just need to recognise a blade of grass because there’s no such thing as streets. As we

were coming down the road I thought I saw headlights coming towards to us. I said to my daughter, “This isn’t it, there can’t be anybody out here.” So I turned around and went back to the main road.

She said, “No, no, this is it.” We went back down again – the light had gone. I turned down the next track to get to the tents and there were two lots of headlights coming towards us.

My daughter said, “This is a scene out of Wolf Creek, don’t stop.”

I did and it was them. They had come looking for us and they had fallen down a wombat hole with their four-wheel drive and one of them had to walk the same eight kilometres to get his mate to pull him out.

We stayed the night and I packed up the tents the next day. I went and saw my mate who had given me the 2,000 acres and I said, “Unless you get me a house I’m out of here.”

He got me a beach shack and my daughter went back to Sydney – it was all a bit too much. So, now I’m out on the Great Australian Bight all by myself. It is so big and so vast, and God is so enormous when you see him without any distractions.

During that time God detoxed me from communication, commercialism and technology. I had to stand on a sand dune if I wanted to make a phone call.

One day, as I was looking at the car thinking this wasn’t going to make it much longer, I said to God, “I really need a four wheel drive out here.” This little man came meandering over the sand dunes in his four wheel drive. It was only him and me out there, no-one else and he rolled into my door and said,

“I’ve caught some fish do you want some?”

It turns out that men down the bottom of Australia don’t just give you the shirt off their back - he gave me the car off his back.

Eight months passed and the investors that I had didn’t come through for the building of the property. So, I got a phone call from a mate of mine in Sydney and he said, “God has prepared a room for you back here.”

I said, “I’m not quite sure if I want to come back.”

The next morning I knew I had to go and I knew I would get much more done with the property finding new investors back in Sydney. So I left.

Back in Sydney I proceeded to complete the document of Eden – ‘Where Life and Sustainability Meets Community’. Then it was time for this man to sign over the piece of land. I had found investors and they said the land needed to be in my name.

The guy down the bottom of Australia couldn’t part with the land - he had a condition in his heart and it wasn’t a pure gift in my sight and I couldn’t put a place called Eden on a piece of land that wasn’t freely given, so I gave it back to him. Giving that back was like, all my dreams had gone, I was empty. I had to leave all my clothes down there at the bottom of Australia. Now we’ve got farmers wearing Armani, foxes and minks rounding up the sheep!

Now I am back in Sydney with no land, the vision seemed to have died and God had me sit in a room for three months and talk to no-one. Some days I wouldn’t come out of my room for two

and three days - I was missing with God. This was the closest communion I had ever had with the Lord. No distractions, no visions to chase, no image to be had and no friends talking to me. It was beautiful, it was holy!

Then, all of a sudden I started writing a book. Within four weeks that book came out of me called *Journey into the Centre of the Heart*. Then I got a phone call from an Acting agent who is casting some of the best shows and movies in Sydney and she said to me, “Can you fill my agency full of actors?”

I said, “Yes, I could do that.”

I said to God, “Who do you want there?”

He said, “My people.”

I made three phone calls and 70 Spirit-filled believers in Christ stood up and walked through my door. It was like seeing an army come together. Each and every one of them was briefed and told what their mission was in Christ and we released 70 believers into the marketplace over four weeks. This is what I call supernatural. This is what I tried to do for 23 years of being in the media to make the difference and God did it without my help. I just became the door keeper.

I said to Him, “It’s better than being the mat. You’ve given me a promotion.”

Without me even trying, I’ve had people interviewing me, people asking me to tell the story, and I’ve had new investors turn up for Eden. Let me explain Eden to you. Eden will be the modern day Noah’s Ark. It will house people – it will have a media centre there. It will have technology, with the latest and greatest and we’ll produce food. Once we’ve got the prototype

together we will re-produce Eden all over the world. It will be set up as debenture members - that is the people own it for the people. When the time comes and the Lord separates the goats from the sheep, we will have food for the ones that He has chosen.

Through this process of overcoming my soul, I believe I've come to the place where it is no longer I who lives; it is Christ who lives in me. I feel like He blesses Himself in me and I turn up for the day to be His helpmate. That's what I was always hedging for with my walk with Christ - to be His bride.

When I look back over all the achievements, all the goals, all the visions, all the different lifestyles, I would say it was worth the walk and it was worth the experience and it was worth the knowledge and the wisdom. The strength that has been built in me I get shocked at. I open my mouth and I see a sword come out. I can stand with the best of them and communicate with the best of them. The men who are around me at the moment are probably the best in the land and I have gained respect from these men because of what Christ has done for me.

Another reflection on the whole walk is the image of the talents, the giftings, but that's not who you are. We need to find who we are within His body. It's just recently that He's shown me that I've never fitted into any church system, any organisation, because I open my mouth and out comes truth and not everybody wants to hear the truth, so sometimes I get kicked out on my ear.

God said to me, recently, "You're my free radical, running around in the body. You can go to the head, to the eye, to the

mouth, to the ear, to the heart, to the hand, to the foot and nothing boxes you in. You just flow freely through the body and your job is to touch upon cancers within the body and undo those cancers.” That’s our true image, that’s the truth of who we are. We need to be looking beyond our job, beyond our talents, beyond our lifestyles to find out who we are in His body.

He will complete His visions within the life that He’s given me because they’re no longer my visions they’re His – they were always His. When my soul was in charge I took the visions and ran with them. That’s why I was annihilated. Nowadays I don’t run with anything. I watch Him manifest them through me. It’s much easier – I have my feet up most of the time. I stay in the rest, the peace, the love and the thankfulness of being able to serve Him here on earth as it is in heaven. He’s opened the doors through His blood, to many opportunities that will be a fun, exciting rest of my life here on earth. I still get visits from the ‘little man’ who meandered over the sand dunes and gave me his car and the friends that He has given me nowadays are second to none.

I don’t worry about what I am going to wear or eat – it’s all being taken care of before I wake up. I just say to Him each day, “What are we up to today? Give me wisdom and understanding from your throne of grace.”

Faith is the substance of things hoped for. Everything in this story has the faith, hope and substance. No matter how hard it gets, you keep going, but make sure you are following the God who gave you the hope, not the substance.

You may have noticed that I changed my name along the way to Cordaire, because I dare to do anything!