



Make your life a Masterpiece

By Jan Ruhe

On March 7, 1976 my life changed forever for the better. I gave birth to my first child, Sarah. When I first held Sarah in my arms the first words I said to her were: *“Sarah, I am going to make your life a masterpiece.”* When Sarah was a baby, I first heard about Network Marketing. It sounded perfect to me. At the time we were house poor, we could not afford vacations or the finer things in life, I had no sales experience and no money for the intro kit. I asked my husband for the money and he said no, I went to my grandmother for the initial investment of \$350 at the time. My goal at the time was simply to be a stay at home mother and to make a little extra money to buy Sarah a white rabbit coat and black patent leather shoes. I joined a skincare Network Marketing company in the 1970’s in Texas. I had no self-esteem and found myself expecting another baby and in a deteriorating marriage. I could not get anyone interested in joining or even buying the product and quit within 6 months, but loved the concept. In 1979, I got invited to a toy party. I went and wanted to join. The company had cut off recruiting and it would be March of 1980 before I could join. When I called the sales rep to join, she informed me that she was quitting and to not call and “bother” her again. I found another sales rep, and joined, she quit right away. From the day I put pen to paper I knew that I had found the perfect job for a stay at home mother. Network Marketing. I was driven and wanted financial independence, Network Marketing was the answer. I rolled up to a woman in California who called me every week for 2 years to encourage and train me. Bonnie Nelson was the best Upline I could have ever had. I appreciated her commitment to helping me understand the business. My husband used to ask me to account for how I spent \$10. I hated that lifestyle of saying, “We can’t afford it” or “It’s not practical”. I wanted the lifestyle, not only for myself but also for my 3 precious little children, Sarah, Clayton and Ashley. He didn’t. Five years into building my Network Marketing business I went through a terrible, sad divorce in which we had a jury trial. I had to convince the jury that I was the parent to have total custody of my children. This was in the mid 1980’s when many men in Texas were getting custody of the children. I built my business while going through this tough time. And, I discovered personal growth and development. There was a library across the street and I began to check out sales books and self help books and outlined them. 300 of them.



One night during some of my toughest times, I had all my products in the back of my little blue station wagon. It was a rainy night and on the way home from my presentation, the back of the station wagon flipped open and all my products scattered out onto the busy street. I pulled over and started crying. I was broke, tired, a single mother and miserable with my life. I couldn't afford to buy more products as I was over 6 figures in debt to the attorneys for the divorce. I got out of the car and as cars sped around me and splashed me with the rainwater, I picked up as many of my products as I could. I took them home and dried them off and placed them on a towel. I remember sobbing into my hands and feeling despair. I was so thin, and had gotten down to weighing less than 100 pounds. I had little hope but I did have dreams. I would not shrink my dreams to match my income, I would increase my income to achieve my dreams. No matter what. I did not have enough money to put the children in day-care nor did I want to, I did not want an 8-5 job, I wanted to be home being a mother. However, life did not deal me that card. I had to be both the mother and father, the parent and the breadwinner. I knew that my success in life was up to me. I had no one but myself to depend on and my children depended on me. I must not get discouraged, but I was. So many of my friends seemed happily married, playing tennis, going along in life not preparing for hard times. I was jealous of their lifestyles and got sick and tired of being sick and tired. I would not be denied the lifestyle that the promise of Network Marketing would bring to me. There were people who criticized my drive and determination in my own company, people were joining my organization and within months, quitting. I started over a zillion times. In 1990 my upline made a tragic decision and took her own life. I had to become "the upline" to my organization. She had taught me and prepared me and I was ready. I navigated through the tough times, I knew they wouldn't last. I got a philosophy; lead me, follow me or get out of my way. It still is my philosophy today. I then set a big goal, a goal to become a millionaire in Network Marketing and to move to the Aspen Valley. I would not marry in to success and I would not tell others how to do it without doing it myself. I was driven to have the true rags to riches story.

Today, I am happily married, all 3 of my children have grown into champion young adults, I made a fortune in Network Marketing, yes millions. I have educated 3 children in college effortlessly, sent Sarah around the world on Semester at Sea, Clayton broke 3 Colorado State Football records, Ashley was a Aspen High School Cheerleader, lettered in 5 sports and was all-conference Colorado soccer star. I have wonderful friends worldwide, fantastic leaders across America and got to stay home with my children. I am enjoying learning to play golf, spending time jetting around the world with my soulmate, my husband, Bill Ruhe, and am living the American dream, on a mountaintop in the Aspen, Colorado valley.



Because of my Network Marketing income I paid off all the debt all by myself, and I paid cash for our lot before building our dream home filling it with treasures that we have discovered from all over the world. I am invited to speak all over the world now, just telling my story and encouraging others to keep after their goals. It's not about the money, it's what the financial independence has brought to our lives. My organization has sold in excess of \$100 million in products and have helped millions of children.

I promoted more leaders in my company in the 1990's than anyone else in the company and became the top Diamond distributor. My leaders are phenomenal women. I have become an established author, speaker and trainer in this industry that gave me the possibility of going for greatness. All of my old friends are divorced and are working 8-5 now. Most of the critics are long since gone. I have learned to bless and release those who don't want Network Marketing or my leadership, I just simply don't have the lifetime or the energy to beg people to join me in the greatest industry on earth. I continue to just sort through the public to reach those who do want what I have to offer. Because of people like my mentors Tom Hopkins, Jim Rohn and my friend John Fogg, that I have had the courage to go for my dreams. I hope you will find a mentor, a coach, dream big, never give up, start over every day, read, feed your mind, readers are leaders and leaders are readers. Go to work on yourself. You can be greater than you think you can. You can role model success that breaks all barriers of what your grandparent's or parents could have ever achieved. The greatest books haven't been written, the greatest pictures have not been painted, the greatest music has not been composed and the greatest successline in Network Marketing has not been built.

I love this industry of Network Marketing more than I can put into words. My life has been so blessed in so many ways because of the trials and triumphs. The greatest opportunity in the world is to plant a seed that someday will grow up into a giant shade tree that will give shade to those you will never know. It's easier to follow a pioneer than to be a pioneer. I know. Because of Network Marketing Bill and I have friends all over the world, we have gotten to soar over Africa in a private jet to go on Safari after Safari. And even to the private Bahati Game ranch on a private safari, swimming under waterfalls with all of my wonderful Network Marketing friends on that side of the world. I took my daughters on a mother/daughter safari to Kenya where I took a trunk of educational toys to the children at the Masi Mara and had to choke back the tears that they were so happy to receive them.

My favorite memory was when Bill and I stayed at a country house in South Africa, the staff put a table and chair set at the top of a mountain and at sunset had a private dinner for Bill and I overlooking the vastness of Africa, I was overwhelmed and so many emotions poured out. I missed my grandmother who passed away years ago who never got to see what her original investment brought to her granddaughter. The next day, we took the fabulous first class Rovos Rail from Pretoria, South Africa, through the winelands, across the Karoo into CapeTown, where we went to the Cape of Good Hope



before boarding a plane to fly up to Knysna right on the Indian Ocean. We left Africa and jetted to the Bahamas to stop over on our way to Hawaii. 3 beautiful beaches in 6 weeks. For my 50th birthday we cruised in the Bahamas where I was a speaker for the Network Marketing industry aboard ship. Following that trip I went on to Toronto to help another successline to triple and on to Paris, where my daughter Sarah got engaged, and took the train to Lake Geneva to stay at a spa for a week rejuvenating my soul before jetting to Amsterdam and on to Africa again to meet my husband. We jetted on to Zimbabwe and went cruising on the Chobe River with the hippos and spent the day on safari at Chobe Elephant Park in Botswana.

Life is so spectacular now. The struggle of getting my Network Marketing business going, learning how to not give up, to stay focused on helping others to succeed, learning to listen, to love life, to go for greatness was all worth it. I cannot imagine what my life would have been like if there had not been Network Marketing. When you ardently desire to succeed and you are willing to become the student forever, work daily to achieve your dreams, they must ultimately come to pass. I have a gratitude attitude for this industry and want everyone to know that if it was doable for me, it's doable for you. It's simply a matter of choice. There are reasons why people succeed and only excuses why they don't. And by the way, I sold that little blue station wagon and today drive a Porsche in the summer and a Liberty jeep in the winter. And there are now over 1,000 books in my own library. And best of all, friends all over the world. There really is nothing quite like a view at the top. Never give up, know that I believe in you.

With love from the top of the Rocky Mountains,
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