



Published by

*Trampled Rose*

P.O. Box 50403  
Colorado Springs, CO 80949  
USA  
719.487.7776

P.O. Box 5666  
Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia  
+251912879262  
[www.trampledrose.org](http://www.trampledrose.org)

**There is Greatness in YOU**  
A COLLECTION OF PEARLS OF WISDOM  
FOR YOUR ADVENTURE



For Such a Time as This

Queen Hadassah

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Written by: Rebekah Rae Kiser

Introduction by: Melanie Estrada

Consultation by: Tesfaye Legesse  
Chaltu Feyisa  
Haiminot Kassa  
Lourdes Dominguez Blas  
Penny Kelly  
Robby Dale Nelson  
Al Uhalt

Translated by: Endalew Adam

Appendix: Anonymous  
*On Silver Wings*

Other books by the author:

- Ray L. Davis  
An Unusual Little Pixie
- Stories by the Fire 2020
- Iola Jenkins; a tribute of gratitude

This book is dedicated to Noah and Luke; my two favorites.

## Appendix

### A Wish for You.

One of my mentors is Mary Kay Ash. This is the poem she wished for me, now I am passing her wish to you.

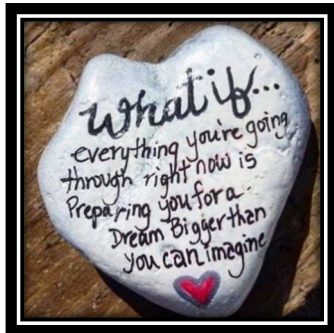
#### On Silver Wings

*I have a premonition that soars on silver wings,  
It is a dream of your accomplishment  
Of many wondrous things,  
I do not know beneath which sky  
Or where you'll challenge fate,  
I only know it will be high,  
I only know it will be GREAT! - Anonymous*



Mary Kay Ash

## My Notes:



### What are pearls?

A pearl is part of the gem group, but a pearl is not a diamond. Pearls are unique in that they are not formed under the ground like other gems.

### How are they made?

Pearls develop from inside an oyster or other mollusks. A mollusk is a marine animal that lives in rivers, seas and oceans all over the world. The oyster has two sides to its shell with a muscle inside. The shell opens and closes but usually the shell remains closed. Sometimes when the oyster opens its shell to get food, a piece of food or a small grain of sand will get stuck inside. This is very painful for the oyster. The oyster fights the pain by secreting nacre, a calcium carbonate substance that surrounds the small particle and hardens over time.

The oyster reacts to the pain of the irritant by covering it with a smooth and beautiful substance. Over time, something beautiful is the result. The smooth and shining pearl can be made by the oyster in many colors and shapes. After many years, what once was painful becomes a beautiful pearl.

### Why are they special?

A pearl is only found naturally in one out of 10,000 oysters. A pearl is like our lives, something painful can become something beautiful depending on what we do with it. Pearls are made out of animal pain which is then changed into something beautiful and valuable.

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**What do I believe?**

**How has my faith changed over time?**

**What do I value the most?**

**How do my personal faith and my values help me to overcome fear and worry?**

## ***The Sixth Pearl of Great Price***

### **The Pearl of Faith**

#### **The most important pearl of all**

Faith is the opposite of fear. Worry does nothing for us. All decisions are based in love or fear. If we are always seeking the acceptance of others, our true self will become invisible. Faith gives you courage to allow your talents to flow freely and inspire others. Faith releases your inhibitions and helps you shine.

Faith helps us jump over our obstacles and gives us a renewed hope each day.

The Rotary Ethics Four-Way Test is a good foundation on which to base all we do and think. These standards, as with other goals, are something we set high. If we aim for the stars we will for sure land on the moon.

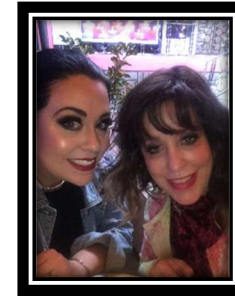


#### **The Rotary Four-Way Test**

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

If you have an action or thought that does not pass this test, STOP!

## **Introduction**



*March 2022*

As the daughter of “Rebekah Kiser,” I’m often asked what it’s like to be her daughter. My answer is, “it’s as wonderful as you can imagine!” Life with “Becky” as a mom has always been an adventure.

Like most moms, my mom has been telling me stories since I was a baby. I loved snuggling up and hearing her read books with her singsong way of describing magical worlds. I also loved hearing her tell stories of her life as a little girl, imagining how my own mother could have ever been little herself. One of my favorite stories was how, as a young girl, she heard tales of missionaries traveling to faraway lands and she would dream of doing something courageous herself.

It came as no surprise to me when my mom moved to Ethiopia, I was used to her being called to adventurous lands and how she had always known she needed to carry out her life’s purpose. I knew that she had to live the daring and meaningful life she had always dreamed of.

*Greatness In You*, contains many of the life ideas my mom taught me too. I hope you carry them with you in YOUR life journey.

*Melanie Estrada*

## Welcome!

What do ALL leaders have in common?

They have overcome great difficulties.

My family also had difficulties.

My father was born on a farm in Kansas (the middle of America) He was from a rich farming family with more than four thousand square meters of wheat and corn land and hundreds of animals.



*My grandmother and grandfather (Florence and Rae Davis) from my father are on the left side, my great-grandmother and great-grandfather are on the right side of the car. This is their farm in Bird City Kansas on their wedding day.*

My mother was from a poor family. Her father sold vegetables from a wheelbarrow while her mother did the laundry for the village. Although they were poor, my mother always had hope for a bright future.

## Honesty

In all relationships, honesty is what makes them strong. Honesty says volumes about your character and your values. At times it may seem easier to tell a lie than to tell the truth. Sometimes it even seems kinder. However, one lie is all it takes to make others doubt you and break your relationships.

Do not say, “yes” when you mean, “no”.

**Can people trust you with absolutely anything and everything? Can you trust yourself?**

**What characteristics of five people in your group of relationships do you want to adopt for yourself?**

**Which characteristics do you want to avoid?**

**How will you make changes to adopt or avoid the characteristics you feel are important with your relationships?**

## *The Fifth Pearl of Great Price*

### **The Pearl of Family, Friends, and Community**

We are not created to live alone, but sometimes it's hard to live with others.

First we need to evaluate who is around us. We become like the five people we spend the most time with. Take a clean piece of paper and make a circle for everyone you have around you. Include family, friends, teachers, community members, others.

Now go back and put the name or category of each next to their circle. Finally, make a face in each circle that shows how they make you feel when you are with them. Is it a smile or a frown? For those who make you smile, spend more time with them. For those who make you feel bad about yourself, do your best to spend less time with them.

Some tips for relationships:

- Make believe that everyone you meet is wearing a sign that says, "Make me feel important." This is the most important relationship tip.
- Smile. A smile makes you feel better and makes others feel better too.
- Look others in the eye. This conveys that you are confident and trustworthy.
- Speak with a bold voice. Your opinions matter.
- Your handshake is important. Keep a firm but not too firm grip, look others in the eye, make a "joy bond" by being genuinely happy to meet them.
- Hug others with whom you are close. We all need touch to thrive.



*My grandmother  
from my mother, lola Jenkins*



*My parents, Jim and Sue Davis  
on their wedding day.*

My mother and father fell in love and got married. They lived on the farm and enjoyed their life with their two young daughters, Gail and Lea.



*Gail and Lea at age three and age five.*

Only four months after this photo was taken, the worst happened. Both little girls were killed by a driver in front of my mother's eyes. My parents met their difficulty with unmeasurable pain, but they chose to continue their life with the best mindset possible. They asked God to give them more children. I was born one year later on the same date as this tragedy had occurred. Before I was born, my parents gave me to God to do the work of helping others. I always knew I was born with a destiny. It was my responsibility to use my life for the greater good.



At night, I'd dream of the adventures in faraway places. That is my story of why I am here with you. YOU are the fulfillment of the pain of my parents and the result of my dreams.



*Rebekah (Becky) Kiser in Secondary School*

From some of the wisdom I developed working towards my goal of living my destiny, I'd like to share some pearls of great price that will help you through your life adventure.

**All problems are a result of a lack of management in one or more of these four areas:**

- Time
- Emotion
- Money
- Skills

The purpose of this book is to give you a chance to think about your own life. What do you like? What do you need to change? There are places in this workbook for you write about your own life. As you use this book remember that thoughts become actions, actions becomes habits and habits will change your life forever.

**What is the greatest difficulty you have overcome?**

**How will you use this difficulty to help yourself, your family, others, your country and the world?**

## **Sharing money**

One of the greatest pleasures in life is giving. What do you have to share? Remember, money is only one thing of value that you can give away.

Many others need YOU! The elderly, children, your family, your community, the homeless, and even animals. Keep your eyes and your heart open for ways to practice kindness and generosity. Helping others really is the key to happiness.

## **Tips for a better today and tomorrow.**

- Aim as high as you dare for your future but don't expect to be there today. Everything of value takes patience.
- Pay attention to your money.
- Be willing to work.
- Save first.
- Make a budget.
- Know the difference between needs and wants.
- Don't spend more money than you have.
- Use your systems (your set ways of doing things) to make good habits.
- Believe in yourself. Rich or poor, the choice is yours.

**How hard are you willing to work?**

**Who do you know that you would like to team up with?**

**How will you measure your success?**



- Use your creativity. Everything you need is at your hand.
- Team up with others who have the same hard work ethic.

### **Spending money**

Make a budget. A budget is a plan for how to use your money.

1. Write down how much money you have in one month. Be sure to include any additional money you can earn.
2. Now write down every expense you plan for the month. You may need to practice for one month to make sure you include everything.

Now subtract (2) from (1). This total is the amount you have to do with what you choose.

That's all there is to a budget. Now you need to stick to your plan. If your total remaining is less than you want, you need to either earn more or spend less.

### **Saving money**

- Save first. You are valuable. Pay yourself first.
- Choose your goal.
- Determine your needs. Determine your wants.
- Write down your dreams. Writing helps your mind believe in possibilities. You can also draw a picture. Make sure to keep it where you can see it every day.

### ***Pearls of Great Price***



**What are some disturbing things that have entered your life?**

**Are you ready to let these disturbing things become something beautiful?**

## *The First Pearl of Great Price*

### **The Pearl of Self Love**

#### **Self-Love: Who will love you more than you?**

##### **Positive Mindset:**

These are some strategies to help you start and keep a positive mindset. You can go through anything with the right attitude.

Remove yourself from negative thinkers and talkers. If you are with someone who makes you feel bad about yourself, you need to move away.

- Check with yourself. How does each family member, school staff, community member and friend make you feel?
- Do you use negative words to talk to yourself?
- Teach people how to treat you.
- Remember, life does not look like this forever. Before you know it, things will look different.
- Guard your energy. Be intentional. Give out good energy and expect to receive good energy back. Ask yourself if what you are doing is taking you away from or leading you to your goal.
- Build your confidence. Trying something difficult makes you braver. You will fall but the secret is to get back up quickly.
- Use your voice. No one can clearly know what is inside of you if you don't share the truth boldly. Leaders must learn to be good public speakers. Look others in the eye when you talk. Shake hands with a firm hold and use your real smile. This will help you motivate others.

## *The Forth Pearl of Great Price*

### **The Pearl of Financial Freedom**

Poverty is the result of a mindset. Abundance is the absence of lack.

##### **Envision Prosperity**

What is enough for you?

First check your heart to see if you find greed. It is more dangerous than the most dangerous snake and has the ability to destroy your happiness and your life. If you find greed you must fight it by giving something that you love away.

There will always be someone who has more than you, and someone who has less. The secret is what you do with what you have. Discipline your mind to keep your focus on what you have, not on what you do not have. Gratitude is the solution.

##### **Earning money.**

- Open your eyes for opportunities to make more money.
- Start looking around. A good moneymaker gives people something they want or need. Write down every idea that comes to your mind to earn more money.
- Ask others what top three things they need done around their homes that they don't have the time or desire to do. Ask them for ideas about three tasks they would pay someone else to complete.

## 5. Internet, social media and telephone/text use.

Technology is both good and bad. It can help us stay in contact with others and learn new things, but it can also steal our time.

Some dangers of technology are:

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Low self-esteem
- Sleep deprivation
- Jealousy
- Sadness
- Loneliness

You must make your own decision about the balance of good and bad.

**What system that builds good habits do you already use?**

**What area needs improvement in order to help you reach your dreams?**

**What system will you add to help you develop in one of these areas?**

- Connect with others who want to live positively. We were not meant to live alone.
- Write it out. Use paper and pen to write your feelings, worries and happiness. You can even burn it when you are finished so no one else will see it.
- Do something nice for someone who least expects it.

## Health

- Talk to a teacher or health care extension worker if you have questions about reproductive health. They are there for you. The choices you make now will affect your life forever.
- Be careful not to burn charcoal in a closed house. It can cause poisoning. Be sure to keep some window or door open.
- Wash your hands often. It will help prevent the spread of disease.
- Brush your teeth. Good dental health helps your whole body. Chewing sticks are as helpful as modern toothbrushes.
- Be consistent in keeping yourself and your clothing clean. You only get one chance to make a good first impression. Other people will respect you to the degree you respect yourself.

## Fitness

- Exercise and movement are a proven way to improve your mood. When you feel depressed, music and dance will release serotonin in your brain to make you feel better.
- One half hour of fast walking each day will keep you fit.
- Make a fitness goal with a friend. It's more fun together.  
**Know your gifts.**

**I am:**

(Check all that apply):

- Organized \_\_\_\_\_
- Disciplined \_\_\_\_\_
- Creative \_\_\_\_\_
- Courageous \_\_\_\_\_
- Loyal \_\_\_\_\_
- A Leader \_\_\_\_\_
- A Communicator \_\_\_\_\_
- Giving \_\_\_\_\_
- Faithful \_\_\_\_\_
- Kind \_\_\_\_\_
- Energetic \_\_\_\_\_
- Competent \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

It's a promising idea to look at this list every morning to remind yourself how great you really are. Start each day with the choice of having a happy and helpful attitude.

c. After you make your bed in the morning, check your list to remind yourself what three things are most important. Imagine that in the daytime you are your own secretary following the orders given to you by your boss last night.

d. If you find yourself doing something that is not on your list, STOP! Go back to your list and keep your focus.

e. Review your list each Saturday to ensure you completed what needed to be done. Write yourself a fresh list and be ready, with a gentle smile, for Monday morning. Among other things, Sunday is your day to rest and refresh yourself.

#### **4. Study Habits**

a. Create (or find) a place where you feel comfortable to study. Consistency is the key.

b. Keep track of deadlines and assignments in your exercise book list. Check your list regularly.

c. Don't cram for exams. It will only make you tired and confused. Prepare faithfully and peacefully.

d. Organize a study group. Helping others also helps you.

e. Review your notes as quickly as possible after class. This will help your brain remember.

f. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

### *Third Pearl of Great Price*

#### **The Pearl of Good Systems**

##### **Systems that build good habits.**

A system is a set of principles or procedures according to which something is done. It can be considered an organized plan. If you follow set systems that you choose, you reduce the debate with yourself about what you should or should not do for many things.

Systems build habits, habits change thoughts, thoughts change mindsets, mindsets change your life.

**1. Make your bed first thing each morning.** Make your bed with the intention of having a productive day. You will start the day with your first success.

**2. Wake up early.** Most successful people begin their day early with energy and a positive thoughts. This gives you more time to set your mood for the day and more time to get things done. You will sleep better when you go to bed early and wake up early. Early rising will put you in a better mood, give you better concentration and more energy.

**3. Make a list.** Keep a separate exercise book (notebook) just for the purpose of writing down everything you need to do. This will free your mind to do other things.

a. Keep a running list of all you need to do or remember.

b. Every evening when you finish your day, look at your exercise book and prioritize the three most important things to do the next day. You are the boss at night telling yourself what job you need to do the next day.

**What gifts are uniquely mine that I will you use to be of service to myself, my family, my community and the world?**

**Where do I need to improve?**  
(You know where the areas are.)

**What work am I willing to do to change myself to be the best version of me?**

**Am I courageous enough to change myself?**



## *Second Pearl of Great Price*

### **The Pearl of Love of Hard Work**

There are no shortcuts to your dreams. Work will take you where wishing won't.

Doing the bare minimum will never set you apart from others. It will murder your desire to be great.

#### **Eleven reasons to work hard:**

1. Hard work brings challenges that will make you stronger.
2. Hard work will earn you a good reputation as a reliable person. This reputation will follow you the rest of your life.
3. Hard work will make you valuable to others.
4. Hard work will bring you more opportunities. Hard work draws attention. If others see you as lazy, your opportunities will be less.
5. Hard work will make you a good example of your family, your school, your village and your country.
6. Hard work helps you build true self-confidence. Success builds upon success.
7. Hard work will increase your motivation to do more. As your success grows, your motivation to do more will increase.
8. Hard work builds character, discipline and focus.
9. Hard work leads to financial success. When you earn your money, you will be careful and wise about how to spend it.

11. Hard work is not necessarily manual labor. It is completed work in every respect.

11. Hard work blesses others. Hard workers are worth their weight in gold.

12. Hard work will help you achieve your dreams.

#### **What are your reasons to work hard?**

**Who do you know that is a good example of the value of hard work?**