

"It took a long time for me to realize that my mental illness does not disqualify me from God's leadership call on my life."

Despite their diversity, these stories reveal that all women — no matter how successful — face similar challenges.

"When my journey took my heart through multiple hard spaces, I almost forgot who I was and struggled to understand why I was here," Burris Burns said.

Each chapter of *Leading Ladies* gives insight into the lives of women equipped by God to realize their potential. You'll hear inspirational voices from influencers of all ages, hues, backgrounds, and job descriptions, including:

Gospel Music Recording Sensation **Babbie Mason** · **Jacquelyn Marushka** — First Female V.P. Sony Provident/Owner Maruska Media · "Chewbacca Mom" **Candace Payne** · **Martha Bolton**, Former Staff Writer for Bob Hope · Comedian **Kerri Pomarillo** · **Jane Jenkins Herlong** — Miss South Carolina 1979 | Humorist · Viral CCM Artist **Katy Nichole** · **Nancy Bogart**, Founder of Jordan Essentials · **Kymerlie Joye**, Contestant on *The Voice* Season 15 | Recording Artist · **GiGi Orsillo**—Television and Film Actress · **Monica Schmelter** — General Manager WHTN/CTN Nashville/ Host of Bridges

"These authentic voices share collectively how there are many ways to climb, with God's help, to the top of the mountain," said **Pam Farrel**, bestselling author.

Leading Ladies also features inspiring and thought-provoking quotes from influential women. Each chapter is prefaced with an embellished quote page. Chapters are also coupled with Pause and Reflect questions and Leadership Prayers—all of which will be extended in the upcoming *Leading Ladies: Discovery and Next Steps Journal* set to release in Winter 2024.

In conjunction with the project, **Michaelah Weaver** of [The Keepers Co](https://www.thekeepersco.com) released an original single, "Lead Me On." Download the single for free at www.leadingladies.life.

Leading Ladies will be available May 23, wherever books are sold. The *Leading Ladies Discovery and Next Steps Journal* will release in January 2024. You can hear more from Weigand-Buckley and Burris Burns on the "Coffee Chat: Real Life, Real Influence. No Makeup Required" podcast, available on Apple, Spotify, iHeart, and Google Podcasts.

For more information, visit www.leadingladies.life and follow LEADINGLADIESLIFE on socials.

Bold Vision Books is a traditional publisher of quality books located in Texas. Download the complete press kit at www.leadingladies.life/media.

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AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS

Amber Weigand-Buckley:

AMBER WEIGAND-BUCKLEY is the multi-award-winning, founding editor and art director of *Leading Hearts Magazine* (leadinghearts.com), book cover designer, and marketing consultant. The Springfield, Missouri native navigates bipolar and anxiety disorder while embracing her best life. At its peak, her mental illness almost caused her to take her own life. Amber is a mental health advocate who knows that a diagnosis does not disqualify you from God's leadership call on your life. Amber, whose vision birthed *Leading Ladies: Discover Your God-Grown Strategy for Success*, is energized by helping world-changing women of all hues, backgrounds and walks of life, to find their wings, hone their skills, and take their God-call to the next level.

Lisa Burris Burns:

The diagnosis of an autoimmune disorder initially shattered LISA BURRIS BURNS' ministry dreams as a vocalist and worship leader. Despite this, God opened opportunities for her journey and abilities to expand beyond what she ever anticipated for herself — to acting, stage performance, set design, and writing. As a vocal and performance coach with KC Superstar, a Kansas City-based competition likened to "American Idol," she is passionate about fine-tuning artists' creative expressions.

MEDIA TALKING POINTS: SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- How did the concept and vision of the book come about?
- What was the process for selecting which women and voices to include in the book?
- Are there specific women that you were incredibly excited to collaborate with?
- How did the partnership of co-authoring a book develop?

- How have medical struggles impacted your professional journey?
- Has authoring a book always been a desire of yours?
- What has been your biggest takeaway from the book writing process?
- What element of your personal story are you most excited to share with readers?
- What is your relationship with writing, and how has it impacted your life?
- What is one message that you want every reader to receive through reading this book?
- How long has this project been in progress?
- How has this concept of redefining leadership shown up in your life?
- What audience is this book designed for?
- How do you feel like you and your audience can relate to each other?

Additional Contributors in Order by Section/Chapter:

- Tracy Hester-Glass—Stop Waiting for Permission

Tracy Hester-Glass, who leads as a life coach, Bible teacher, and author, has a message for you: "Girl, get up and do what God is calling you to do!" As an influencer in the church arena, Tracy experienced her ground zero when she walked through the heartache and shame of divorce and transitioned to single motherhood. She now utilizes her fiery insight to inspire hurting women to step into their God-created purpose.

- Jane Jenkins Herlong—Find What Makes You Sparkle

Jane Jenkins Herlong is a Sirius XM Southern Humorist, award-winning speaker, professional singer, recording artist, and former Miss America Pageant contestant. Jane was recently inducted into the prestigious Speaker Hall of Fame and is the author of five internationally best-selling/award-winning books. Today, she shares her sweet tea wisdom and Southern-fried humor in her most recent *Sweet Tea Secrets from the Deep-Fried South* release.

- Erica Wiggernhorn— Stop Striving for Perfection

As an influencer, award-winning author, and inspirational speaker, Erica wants to challenge you and weary women everywhere to stop striving for an elusive bar of success. Erica has taught in the Arizona State Prison system and writes for Proverbs 31 Ministries and Moody Publishers.

Section Divider: Dawn Scott Damon—A Letter to the Sisters Declaring "I'm a Nobody"

Dawn Damon is an Influencer, Global Communicator, Podcaster, High Performance Mentor & Transformational Coach at [BraveHeartMentor](#). As an award-winning author, her most recent book hit #1 on the Best-Selling Book list.

- Kymberli Joye – Value the Gift You Hold

Kymberli is a vocal artist and worship leader who skyrocketed to public recognition as a contestant on "The Voice." She has been working alongside chart-topping gospel singer JJ Hairston, even earning a Grammy nomination for one of their albums. Kymberli travels across the country as a guest worship leader and is also part of the worship collective, The Huddle Worship.

- Gigi Orsillo—Know Timing is Everything

Actress Gigi Orsillo studied Communications, TV, and Film Studies at Oral Roberts University in her hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she met her husband, Elliott. She served as a host for the Starz network, TBN, and IGN and appeared nationwide in commercial and print ads. Gigi has participated in TV projects and feature films, including the comedies "Family Camp" and "Sleeper Agent."

- Janell Rardon—Live in Courageous Vulnerability

Janell Rardon, MA, is a Board-Certified Life Coach (AACC) encouraging those who have experienced trauma to live and lead authentically. Whether sharing her weekly Heartlift podcast, life coaching, or writing, Janell utilizes her journey through trauma to lead others into healing. Her award-winning book, *Stronger Every Day: 9 Tools for an Emotionally Healthy You* (Revell Books), equips readers with intentional emotional health tools to build better relationships.

Section Divider: Lynne Rienstra— A Letter To the Sisters Who's "Broken Past Disqualifies Me From Ministry"

Lynne has worked with Samaritan's Purse as a Regional Director for Church Engagement since 2013. She has witnessed firsthand the impact that Samaritan's Purse has on pastors and church leaders in 14 different states, as well as their global outreach efforts.

- Monica Schmelter—Let the Golden Rule Guide You

Monica best known as the well-loved host of the Christian Television Network's daily program, "Bridges." The program has been on the air for over 25 years and is broadcast weekly in over 50 million homes across the US. In addition to her work in the media, Monica enjoys speaking, writing books, and spending time with her family.

- Candace Payne: Shut the Should Down

Internationally known as "Chewbacca Mom," Candace Payne became a viral sensation overnight. Her 2016 Facebook Live video holds the record for the most-viewed Facebook Live video in history (174+ million views). She has been featured in 3,000+ media outlets, including "Good Morning America," "The Late Late Show with James Corden," The New York Times, PEOPLE, and Cosmopolitan. Author of *Laugh it Up*, *Defiant Joy*, and *Simple Joys*, she dispels the myth that joy is frivolous or reserved for a few select "happy" people.

- Sioni Rodriguez – Find the Strength in Telling Your Story

As a child, Sioni was sold into human trafficking, but God showed up— and her survivor story is penned in her memoir *Three Times Sold*. Today, she runs Rodriguez Survivor Ministries and serves as a Project Rescue Ambassador, fighting against human trafficking and human rights violations and in Prison Ministry.

Section Divider: Karen Porter— A Letter to the Sisters who "Don't Look Like a Leader"

Karen is an international speaker, a successful businesswoman, and the award-winning author of seven books. She is a professional coach of both writers and speakers.

- Jennifer Miller— Build on the Legacy Behind You

Founder of JSM Diversity and multiple non-profit endeavors, Jennifer Miller, is a South Florida native, a lifelong diversity and inclusion educator, and social justice advocate. She is educated in Political Science and Global Studies and has over a decade of experience leading diversity dialogues and helping human resource departments become more equitable and inclusive.

- Martha Bolton—Get Out There

Emmy-nominated writer, author, and playwright Martha Bolton sums up the secret to success with one phrase: "Just let God use every gift you have." Her work as a staff writer has extended to many comedy greats, including the legendary Bob Hope. In 2021 she collaborated with Linda Hope to write the award-winning, top-selling book *Dear Bob...Bob Hope's Wartime Correspondence with the GIs of WWII*.

- Deborah Maxey—Don't Be Afraid of Small Beginnings

Deborah Maxey's is a psychotherapist, fine artist, and author. Her first novel, *The Endling*, includes artists and the art community. Having grown up with the teachings of Native American customs, Deborah's has had a lifelong love of that culture. She is "home" in the Appalachian Mountains and finds inspiration from the Appalachian people, their traditions, values, and way of life.

Section Divider: Bella Wellborn— A Letter To the Sisters of "Half-Hearted Commitment"

Bella Wellborn grew up as a missionary kid, serving beside her parents, Michelle and Jonathan and siblings Alexis and Joshua in El Salvador and Argentina. She continues to be an avid worship leader, and speaker. She plays piano and guitar and travels with her mother leading worship with Kings Castle and Club Castillo Ministries. Bella has ministered in over 20 countries around the world. While continuing ministry in Argentina, she takes online classes at Southwestern Assemblies of God University (Waxahachie, Texas).

- Rosalind Li—Keep Love in Focus

Rosalind Li, General Manager of Dela Chambre Hotel in Metro Manila, Philippines, is more than a businesswoman. Her heart, to be the hands and feet of Christ, shapes everything she does. She realizes a significant part of her purpose in leading her team is to share God's love. Her faith is at the forefront of how she conducts business—from staff member training, coaching, and directing the company's daily operations.

- Nancy Bogart—Focus on the Essentials

Nancy Bogart is the founder and owner of Jordan Essentials, a multi-million-dollar corporation. Jordan Essential's skin care products have even been featured on national media such as the Today Show and Woman's Day Magazine. Nancy's heart, to lead

from a place of faith and humility, has evolved into a community-oriented company that people are drawn to be a part of.

- Kerri Pomarolli—Refuse to Be the Mean Girl

As a former recurring character on soaps ("Port Charles," "Young and the Restless,") and in movies, Kerri Pomarolli attracted industry big hitters but God had other plans for her in stand-up comedy. Kerri has become one of Hollywood's biggest Christian Spokespersons and recently voted one of LA's Most Inspiring People by LA Voyage Magazine. She has worked with household-names such as Jay Leno, Jim Carey, Carol Channing and Jerry Lewis. Kerri's latest two books, *Confessions of a Proverbs 32 Woman*, and *Devotions for the Proverbs 32 Woman* are Amazon bestsellers.

Section Divider: Mabel Ninan—A Letter to the Sisters Who Feel "All Alone in This"

Mabel Ninan (mabelninan.com) is an award-winning writer and author of Far from Home as well as podcast host of Far from Home with Mabel Ninan, which focuses on immigrant faith stories, and perspective on discusses issues that addresses the hurdles integration and inclusion of immigrants in the faith community.

- Tonquise "TQ" Evans —In Memory: Be Determined to Make a Lasting Difference by sister Nia Williams

As head of Chief Diversity Officer for the People Operations arm of Mediavine, a Florida-based marketing agency for content creators, TQ's mission influenced a company culture of kindness and diversity, both internally and externally. TQ's spirit shaped her life as an entrepreneur and designer of Prende pants, a birth doula, a devoted wife, and a mother to four kids. This chapter is written in memory of her legacy by sister Nia Williams. Nia is an early childhood specialist in Atlanta and a social media content creator.

- Katy Nichole—Live in Impossible Possibilities

In January 2022, worship leader and songwriter Katy Nichole Litwiller released her debut single becoming an overnight social media sensation. Katy's song "In Jesus' Name" (God of Possible) catapulted to number one on Billboard's Hot Christian Songs chart, breaking a 19-year record for a female artist's debut song and receiving an American Music Award nomination. Soon after, her follow-up single, "God is in this Story" with Big Daddy Weave, reached number one on the Hot Christian Songs chart.

- Maureen Charles – Let Your Past Be His Platform

Maureen is a United States Air Force veteran, mother, grandmother, and lifelong Canton, Ohio native. But she is not a convicted felon – not anymore. The Ohio State Parole Board noted that her heart to serve the least of these in her community and her advocate for others as "changing an entire generation."

Section Divider : Andrea Tomassi—Letter to the Sisters who have been "Torn Down in Purpose"

- **Andrea "Andi" J. Tomassi** is an award-winning co-author of the Live Bold devotional and host of the "Unforsaken" podcast. Andi travels and shares the message that no hurt is wasted. She encourages women to rise above their circumstances with integrity and grace.

- **Linda Goldfarb— Desire to Go Deeper**

Linda Goldfarb's vocal prowess has pleased domestic and international audiences for more than two and a half decades as a speaker, radio personality, performer, audiobook narrator, podcaster, and board-certified Christian Life coach. Her award-winning LINKED® Quick Guide to Personalities series speaks volumes to the readers, benefiting them in all aspects of relationships.

- **Cherie Denna—Let Grit Move You To Greater Things**

Cherie, a ministry leader, author, and writing coach, encourages women to utilize the hard things in life to fuel their faith. Breaking free from a life of organized crime, outlaw biker culture, and sexual addiction, Cherie Denna experienced a radical rebranding of the soul. Her discovery of true belonging in Christ fuels her passion. She encourages and inspires the outcast, forgotten, and rejected, to embrace peace as God's chosen and beloved.

- **Jacquelyn Marushka – Be the Light that Ignites Others**

With over 30 years experience in brand development and public relations, Jacquelyn guides and coaches clients to advance their careers and dreams. Marushka Media is the first Latina-owned PR and Branding agency in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1995 she became the youngest vice president of Public Relations and Communications in the Sony Music Entertainment system, responsible for 40+ recording artists across five record labels.

Section Divider #7 Dr. Vicki Harris— Letter of Encouragement to the Daughters of the Father—The Most High God

Dr. Vicki Harris desires to help as many people as possible as they grow professionally and spiritually in fulfilling their God-given purpose. She is the Chief People and Culture Officer as well as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Our Daily Bread Ministries (www.odb.org). She has been married for 34 years and is a mother of three adult children.

- Veronica Clay—Tap Into Your Resting Space

Award-winning spoken word artist and small business owner Veronica Clay has packed a lifetime of living and learning into her young adult life. At seventeen, this Kansas City native published her first book, *Mile Marker 17*, and hasn't stopped writing since. She is also a TEDx speaker, published poet, and public speaker. She started Veronica Clay LLC in 2021 to further build God's kingdom and empower others, awarding her first scholarship to a college student in 2022.

- Lisa McIntire— Nurture a Team that Can Survive Without You

Once told she would not live to her 50th birthday, Lisa McIntire is a successful businesswoman and blogger. Lisa started as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), bringing solutions to the business world. In 2016, Lisa transitioned to serving as the Executive Director of a non-profit—offering hope and building healthy families in her community. As a blogger at The Last Birthday (thelastbirthday.com), Lisa shares her journey and heart to help women live, love, and lead well.

- Babbie Mason—You Be YOU

Gospel Music Hall of Fame inductee Babbie Mason is an award-winning singer, songwriter, author, talk show host, and adjunct professor of songwriting at [Pointe University](#) and [Lee University](#). Babbie has a passion for ministry, with roots tracing back through five generations of pastors. She wants you also to discover the beautiful leader He's created, who is authentically, unashamedly, 100 percent YOU!

Leadership Prayer—Linda Evans Shepherd

Linda Evans Shepherd (lindashepherd.com) is a best selling prayer author and founder of the Advanced Writers And Speakers Association (awsa.com) and publisher of the multi-award-winning Leading Hearts magazine (leadinghearts.com) as well as Arise Daily edevotionals (arisedaily.com). ###