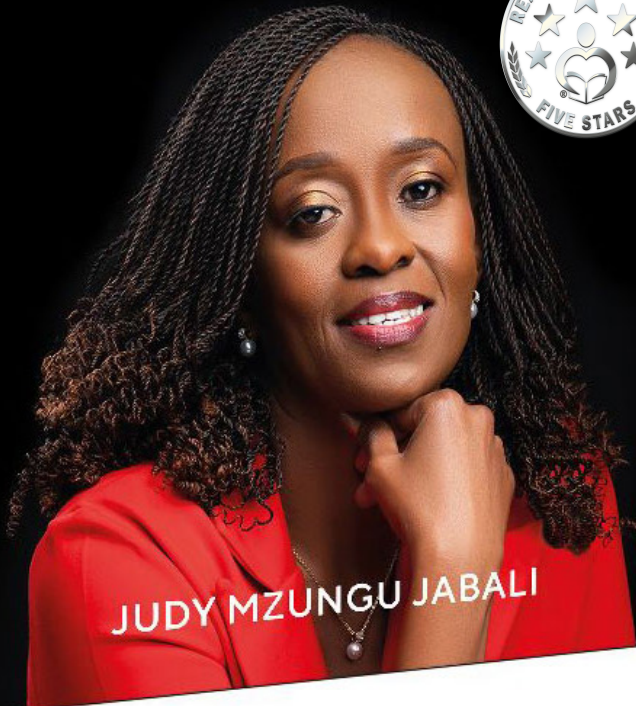


POWER YOUR VISION

Overcome your Past and Rediscover
the Path to Your Purpose



JUDY MZUNGU JABALI


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INTRODUCTION

We all start life with a blank canvas that offers the promise of great potential and a bright future. As we journey through life, we encounter unexpected potholes and bumps littered along the road, and inevitably, our wheels lose alignment. Frustrated by our impeded speed, many of us drown under the sea of frustration and get blindsided by the discomfort of a temporary season. We end up losing sight of the road ahead. Our vision becomes blurred.



Some, unable to contend with the discomfort and anxiety of the dark periods of delay, retreat into an inner world of isolation and depression. Others will successfully mask their inner struggles and gravitate towards seeking external fixes that offer temporary relief, while portraying a well-rehearsed image of what the world would call success.



You see, as promising as the future may be, we will all struggle with the sense of emptiness that accompanies transition periods, regardless of age, status or qualifications. These are the moments when the rug of what is familiar and comfortable is pulled from under our feet; when the script changes midway through the play; when the rhythm of the music suddenly changes.

In these moments, we lose control and cannot quite anticipate our next move. We have lost grip of the past, and cannot quite yet grasp the future.

We have not only lost sight; we have lost balance. It feels like we are staggering, no, stumbling, through life.



And yet, just as in the story of the blind man at Bethsaida in Mark 8:22-25, regaining our vision is not about the quick fix of a touch, but rather, a journeying out of the old, colliding with divinely guided encounters of brand new experiences, having rays of light shining through, and eventually attaining clarity of vision.

Mark 8:22-25

²² They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. ²³ He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" ²⁴ He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." ²⁵ Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.


Many of us become paralysed when it seems like our vision is blurred and surrender to living way below our potential. We get side-tracked and become completely unaware of the possibility of regaining our sight, living out our purpose, and impacting the world with what God has deposited within us.

My greatest desire is that this book will offer hope to everyone who reads it. I am confident, dear reader, that it is possible for you to regain your vision, whatever circumstances you have been through.

By sharing my own life experiences and drawing from the wisdom of the Bible, I endeavour to give insight into the inner and outer journey that we must take in order to regain our vision.

I sincerely believe that no matter where you are in life, or how old you are, you can still regain your vision, find your purpose, and dream again.





I hope and pray that this book will offer you diverse light bulb moments to help you discover the unlimited untapped potential within you that the world is yet to encounter.

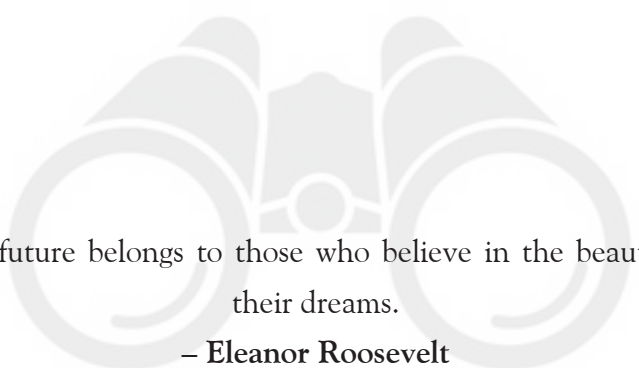
Above all else, I pray that you will find the courage to step out and take your place in every sphere and space that God has called you to.

This world needs YOU.



CHAPTER 1





The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of
their dreams.

– Eleanor Roosevelt



CHAPTER 1



A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE

¹The Lord said to Moses, ²“Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites.”

Numbers 13:1 – 2

The earliest memory I have of my childhood is that of growing up in the environs of the government houses on Shikunga Road, in Nairobi’s South B area. We lived here courtesy of my father’s position as the Chief Press Officer of the then Voice of Kenya (VOK), which was the national broadcasting service. My father, Tom Mzungu, was a trailblazing journalist in Kenya. He had basically trained on the job, beginning his journalism career under the former colonial regime, in what was then the *Standard Baraza*. This was the forerunner of the present day newspaper, *The Standard*.

He retired early in my childhood years. This was a delightful advantage for me, as it allowed me to spend great moments with him, learning to read even before I joined school. I recall solving crossword puzzles in the daily newspapers with him, and generally having memorable father-daughter moments. To a large extent, spending time with my father played a pivotal role in helping me to develop a good command of the English language, both spoken and written. It also piqued my budding interest in the world of media.





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I was good at public speaking right through my primary school years, and got an opportunity to participate in the national inter-primary school debate competition during my final year. This event was set to be broadcasted on television. VOK had by then rebranded to the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC), which would air the event.

During this occasion, I got the rare privilege of meeting Catherine Kasavuli, a legendary trailblazing news anchor in Kenya. She was the first female news anchor in Kenya and worked for KBC at the time. She introduced herself as a Nairobi South Primary School alumna, which I proudly represented, and went on to motivate us to work hard and beat our opponents. Needless to say, we emerged the overall winners.

There was something unique about my composition writing throughout my primary and high school years. I naturally leaned towards writing about real life experiences, and developed the ability to vividly describe and articulate the subject matter of my writing. Teachers were delighted with my work and read my compositions in class as the example that other students were to emulate.

Upon completing high school, I wrote my first article which was featured in the *NOW* magazine, a newspaper insert that was published every Sunday in *The Standard*. This was a big deal as *The Standard* newspaper had nationwide readership. I felt a strong pull towards journalism. It was obvious that my father had imparted upon me a seed that begged for expression.



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A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE

In response to the strong, inner compulsion I felt towards journalism, I took the next practical step immediately I completed my high school education. I attempted to join the Kenya Television Network (KTN) and went to their offices upon invitation for a screen-test. KTN was the first privately-owned, free-to-air television network in the country, and the first to break the monopoly of the state-owned television broadcaster, KBC. It would, therefore, be an exciting endeavour to work here. The response I received, however, was that I looked too young on the screen. My hopes were dashed.

I was not ready to give up just yet. Soon afterwards, I sought to be admitted into the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication (KIMC), but failed. Admission and completing one's studies in this college was the only way to get into mainstream journalism, at the time. The inability to gain access into this institution seemed to have slammed the door in my face, along with my dream of becoming a journalist.

There was something about that fleeting moment when I met Catherine Kasavuli, however, that never left my memory. I may not have realised it then, but in retrospect, it definitely struck a chord deep inside me. I made a further attempt to get into the media space in my late twenties. I went for a screen-test as a news anchor at Citizen TV, which was yet another free-to-air television channel in Kenya, but once again, I was not successful. I resigned to the loss of my dream and settled in the media sales department in Citizen TV.

Around the same time, I attended an album launch at Mamlaka Hill Chapel near the University of Nairobi, upon invitation by a family friend, Christine Lucas. Speaking on stage was a female pastor, Rev. Jacqueline Othoro, whose eloquence, confidence and personality stirred me up. The seed within me was watered again. I desired and hoped that I would one day speak like her.






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Years later, in my forties, having served in various positions, I lost my job and hit what looked like a dead end. In that season, I began listening to various sermons for inspiration. For some reason, I was drawn to Priscilla Shirer, an American author, evangelist and media personality. I was also intrigued by Sarah Jakes Roberts, a great speaker and media personality, and the daughter of the renown preacher, T.D. Jakes. I soaked in their messages day after day, in a bid to find strength for my journey. I realised with time, however, that I did not just listen to them; I studied them and absorbed everything they had to say. A new desire took shape and began budding within me. I started visualising myself speaking to people.

As I reflect back to my younger years, it occurs to me that I was always picked for various leadership positions throughout my primary and high school years. After joining the International Christian Centre (ICC) along Mombasa Road, Rev. Philip Kitoto, then the lead pastor at the church, picked me to hold fort at the youth church while Rev. Tony Kiama, the youth pastor was away. That was a defining moment for me. My path into spiritual growth and service was being charted.

Sometime later, I joined House of Grace Church, along Lang'ata Road. Bishop David Muriithi, the founder and senior pastor, invited me to serve as a minister in the youth ministry, and consequently, to join the leadership team.

There was something within me that kept thrusting me into the limelight. In hindsight, I interpret these encounters as flickers that seemed to point me towards what would ultimately unfold as my life's purpose.

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A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE

On the Good Friday of 2019, I was accorded a rare opportunity by the worship leader of House of Grace Church, Pastor Hez Mahehu. I was requested to lead the service during a Worship Experience. That day, as I stood on the stage to speak, every video I had watched during my wilderness season came alive. The people who knew me were surprised by my ability to speak, and a few of them said as much after that service. They were introduced to a side of me that they had never envisioned.

A seed had begun to sprout. The dream that I had lost was coming alive again.

God sets your calling, identity and purpose in your spirit. He then divinely orchestrates moments when your physical reality leads you to certain places where your mind grasps the vision of who you were meant to be. The Bible says in Jeremiah 1:5, *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew[a] you, before you were born I set you apart...”* This scripture confirms that your calling and identity were set by God long before your birth, and that fulfilling this mandate is the reason why you are on earth. Since the portrait of who you were meant to be is hidden within your spirit, your inner compass will keep leading you into places that trigger your mind to visualise this reality, and bring into manifestation the person you were meant to be.

In line with the scriptures in Numbers 13:1-2, at the onset of this chapter, God, just as He did in the case of the Israelites, will ‘send’ you to explore your version of Canaan, that is, your calling and purpose. He will have prepared you for the places you are about to ‘inhabit’, through spurts of life moments that will strike a chord in your spirit. As it was in my journey, these moments will leave an indelible mark in your mind. God has a way of leading you to places that open you up to see the path He has laid out for you. He will use each encounter to cause your mind to begin processing and visualising possibility.





POWER YOUR VISION


Your physical reality, however, will not always align with what God has deposited in your spirit, or what the mind has been granted the enormous task of processing. Sometimes, you will be blinded by your present circumstances. You will find it difficult to trace the footprints of your life so as to join the dots on your journey.

You see, before something can come into manifestation, your spirit must be able to 'catch' it. The depth of conviction that comes from the revelation in your spirit will determine your motivation, dedication, and inspiration to see the fulfilment of what you have 'seen'.

I will be honest with you. I did not recognise the significance of my gifts and abilities, as well as the chance occurrences, at the time they were unfolding. I only pieced everything together in hindsight. While I experienced spurts of moments that stirred something within, my prevailing circumstances at the time did not suggest the possibility of what I had 'seen' in my imagination. The relevance in the patterns of my life's journey were not obvious to me then.

I believe that the sooner one can catch the rhythm of his or her life patterns, the better the chance he or she will have to begin walking the journey of purpose. And with guidance, that journey can be made easier.

Allow me, therefore, to guide you as you take an inward journey and make sense of every path that God has led you through. I invite you to think about your lineage and the gifts you have been endowed with. Look back at your upbringing and consider every gift and ability in your childhood, your teenage


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A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE

years and your adult life. I invite you to think about the personalities that intrigue you and stir up something within you. Take time to write down every part of your story, and every chance meeting that left or deposited something within you. Let your mind explore the land that the Lord is giving you.

Powering your vision begins with taking an introspective journey, and allowing yourself to see the beauty of the landscape that you have travelled this far.



TIME TO REFLECT

1. What unique gifts do you have that you can trace back to your maternal or paternal lineage?

2. What were your favourite subjects in your early learning years?
What extra-curricular activities did you enjoy?

3. What gifts and abilities did you exhibit in your childhood, and later as a teenager or young adult?

4. Who do you feel drawn to or who inspires you, and why?
