

ENDORSEMENTS FOR OUR GREATEST ADVENTURE

Having known both Ray and Nancy Goudie and their exceptional ministry for quite a few years now, this latest book *Our Greatest Adventure* is a must read for any who want to be both challenged and blessed. Nancy writes as she has always lived, demonstrating through the written word how she loves life, her Lord and of course the man God joined her to, and sharing with us how even in the greatest struggle, God proved himself to be totally faithful. This is one of the easiest endorsements of any book that I have ever been privileged to write a few words for.

JOHN PARTINGTON
AOG GB

Ray and Nancy are forerunners/pioneers in the arts. They have broken ground where no one else has and through thick and thin, health and sickness have stayed married to their vision and mandate from the Lord: to produce excellent Kingdom productions and train musicians and performers to partner with Jesus in their craft.

I first met Ray at Faith 91 in the UK when their band, Heartbeat was performing and leading worship. I had always dreamed of becoming a performer and when they spoke about the training programme at ngm my heart leapt.

One of my greatest honours was getting to know Ray very deeply in the last 18 months of his life. I have been so inspired to see someone live out their calling with deep integrity and faith, in the midst of a tragic illness. Never once did I hear Ray doubt that the Lord would heal him. He never gave up, never wavered, never questioned God's goodness and never stopped creating. Ray's influence and love for the artist was beyond inspiring and will sing

throughout eternity. Nancy continues to run with their God given legacy with fervour and it is breathtaking to see.

Ray and Nancy are two of the greatest inspirations in my life, creatively and spiritually, and I am one of those privileged to be able to call them friends.

Our Greatest Adventure will challenge and inspire you as you see a couple in the midst of tremendous adversity go deeper in their pursuit of the Father.

FABIANO ALTAMURA

**Dean and Co-founder of Bethel Conservatory of the Arts,
Redding, CA**

I am so glad that my friend, Nancy Goudie, has written this book. Nancy is a woman of faith, a woman of courage and a woman who is fearless even when life gets tough. Nancy will impart to you her faith and courage as you read the stories in this book. She will teach you that God has bigger plans for your life than you have ever dreamed of.

LILIAN DE FIN

Great Granddaughter of Smith Wigglesworth

I first got to know Ray and Nancy when we were all in our twenties and full of the 'can do' optimism of youth. Many people falter when difficulties come but I have seen them persevere and cheerfully endure in their journey of faith. As a result, they have trained and raised up following generations, inspired and empowered by their example. They have enjoyed at the same time a formidable working partnership and a devoted marriage. This makes the story even more poignant as their lifelong faith and trust in God came under its most intense onslaught. Nancy's honest account will bring comfort, hope and renewed strength to many.

GRAHAM KENDRICK

Songwriter

When we heard about the news of Ray Goudie's battle with cancer our hearts went out to both him and Nancy. We made it our business to read Nancy's daily updates and prayer requests and we here at the prayer room in Sunderland committed to journey with them in prayer. What struck us through it all was the grace, strength, faith and courage of this couple, uncomplaining in the most difficult circumstances.

Throughout it all, we can say is that Nancy is an extraordinary woman the most courageous and faith filled and Ray a trophy of grace. Without a doubt, Nancy's book will both inspire and challenge you by the telling of their journey.

KEN AND LOIS GOTT

**Founders and Directors of House of Prayer Europe and
President/CEO of Hopespring - International Director of
Ministries, Transform our World**

This is a book that needed to be written and needs to be read. It's a journey you never want to personally travel, but describes a destination we all will eventually arrive at. You will be wiser and richer for reading it. It will make you question life, question yourself and even question God.

Having been very close to this particular journey and seeing it raw and up close in all its intensity and sacrifice, it has been very hard to both read the manuscript and share some thoughts with you.

Ray was a much loved brother-in-law, we laughed and joked our way through the decades together. We travelled a lot together when we were in Heartbeat promoting two singles. Ray had vision in abundance and a love and obedience to God, which was hard to compete with.

Our sister (and sister-in-law) Nancy, has shown incredible strength and courage. We, her family, love her and are so proud of her. She and Ray displayed in the deepest, most challenging and dark days of their lives, the faith that they have shown throughout their ministry. They proved that their faith walk wasn't just for the stage

or the pulpit, but it was for the hospital ward and the sick bed. It was for the toughest of times as well as the best of times. In this book, you the reader will receive the opportunity to eavesdrop into a precious conversation between a follower and her leader, a child and her Father, a worker and her Master and even a wife and her husband.

It will make you cry, laugh and ask why? We live in an age where we want to know everything, but some questions won't be answered this side of eternity. If we knew everything then we would be God and He would be following us. The important point is not the legitimate questions, but the knowledge we have a Father who will wipe away every tear from our eyes and promises us one day there will be no more death, or sorrow, or crying and He will make all things new! Until that day comes, may this amazing book and Ray and Nancy's God, encourage, provoke and challenge you in your own faith walk.

JACK AND SUSAN MCVICAR

Senior Pastors and Co-Founders freedomcentre Preston, UK

It's been a blessing to know Ray and Nancy since the late 70's. The friendship was special, but more – the recognition and admiration of their immense God-given gifting was equally special. My passionate belief in God's healing power doesn't need much igniting, but when I heard that Ray was under a critical health prognosis in Bristol, I knew I had to get to see him and Nancy. I can't heal anyone in my own strength but, whatever the outcome, I knew I had to pray for him. It was a privilege to spend time with them both. Just being with them was amazing; praying with them was wonderful. Their story is inspirational and will bless and inspire you immensely, even more so if you have a battle of a similar nature in your life.

PAUL BENNISON

Itinerant Healing Evangelist

Ray Goudie, truly one of God's 'originals'. From the first time I met him, Ray was delightfully and passionately real. Like me he came from a conservative background. But he was always open to the new thing once he was convinced it was truly from God. His commitment to a God sent vision was courageous and total. All of us who were privileged to be able to call him 'friend' found him a refreshing presence – something that was true right up to the end.

He was a matchless warrior for gospel truth and for the creativity that truth releases in all of us. I think we will all remember his smile that could light up the room. More than that, like most of us, I remember the irresistible passion for fun – his mischievous smile and impish sense of humour. Even now writing this, it puts a smile on my face. He would like that, to think that he was making me laugh after his death.

As Nat King Cole sang, he was "Unforgettable!" It probably goes without saying – I miss him enormously in the now, and I'm looking forward to a fun filled and glorious reunion!

ERIC DELVE

Writer, Teacher, Evangelist

When Ray and Nancy walked into our lives over 35 years ago, their generosity of character, their kindness, their sense of humour, insights into faith and love impacted us deeply. We were changed forever from the moment we met them. So began a wonderful partnership between us that can only be described as a divine intervention.

Nancy's book is a must read, it's painfully raw, heartbreaking, yet full of courage and honest hope. A true-life drama unfolds that touches the depths of the human soul. The story of Ray's last 20 months counteract the fear of uncertainty, giving us a glimpse into the hope of eternity that is to come.

Our Greatest Adventure epitomises the character & essence of two people walking hand in hand through the valley of suffering, still clinging to their heavenly father and the truth of scripture - "I

have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble but take heart ! I have overcome the world" - John 16:33

Ray's legacy of love continues through his amazing wife, Nancy & their precious family, Daniel, Aidan & Leanne and 1000's of lives touched by the ministry of ngm and Ray's whacky personality.

Ray's brilliant musical Luv Esther will continue to echo across future generations for those who are ready to stand up and be counted, ".....and who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this." Esther 4:14

Read, weep and take heart, God can go where we can't.

**DR JOHN LANCASTER MBE
& ROSEMARY LANCASTER MBE**

I owe so much to Ray and Nancy Goudie. Across the years their friendship has been unconditional, self-sacrificing and tangible. So it was that, over the last 20 months of Ray's life, in the face of their own struggle with his cancer, they continued, as ever, to support and encourage me – often via Ray's timely texts and phone calls – as well as to pray for me. I know that Our Greatest Adventure will be a tower of strength, a fount of disarming honesty and a source of inspiration to many.

**STEVE CHALKE MBE
Founder and Leader Oasis Global**

We were privileged to walk with Ray and Nancy through their great trial, to pray for them through the ups and downs of Ray's illness; we were so moved to walk with them. Hope and love shine through this book – it will not fail to encourage you.

**LYNDON BOWRING & CELIA BOWRING
CARE Executive Chairman CARE Prayer Coordinator**

Nancy retells the journey of faith with her beloved husband Ray. This is a story of faith and confident trust in God. It was faith all the way, even when their confidence was shaken. We witnessed them trust God and never once relenting on the faithfulness of God. It inspires our faith.

KOFI BANFUL

Senior Pastor of Praise Christian Centre, London

& JAYNE BANFUL

Associate Pastor Praise Christian Centre, London

Ray was the ultimate friend - so full of compassion, brilliant humour and penetrating insight. He enriched my life in a hundred ways. I always felt better for being with him, more hopeful, more joyful and closer to God. I miss him so deeply but I am thankful every day for his influence on my life: the laughter, the tears, the encouragement, the passionate dedication to superb artistry, the burning love for Christ and his Kingdom. Together, Ray and Nancy have inspired me - and thousands of others - with their immense courage and moving honesty about their journey, over so many years. They are true pioneers of faith and I believe that this painful and beautiful story of their last months together has the touch of divine authority.

MURRAY WATTS

Writer and Director, co-founder of Riding Lights Theatre Company, Screenwriter of The Miracle Maker and Director of The Wayfarer Trust

FOREWORD

BY ROB PARSONS OBE

This is a love story: a love story between a man and a woman, a man and his music, and perhaps above all, between a man and his God.

I have known Ray and Nancy for many years, and every time I met Ray, he was the same: charismatic, cheeky, smiling, and with an infectious energy. He looked, at times, as if the boy had never really grown up and was somehow trapped in a man's body. And yet he also had an incredible spirituality, deep love for God, and intrinsic belief in a Jesus who not only spoke today but also acted.

It's hard to believe that this man who was used by God to touch the lives of thousands, who seemed to have a double anointing of gifts in so many areas, and to whom so many looked to as a friend and mentor, is gone.

In this book, Ray's wife, Nancy, takes us through the journey of his illness – a journey beginning with a few short words, "Nancy, I'm so sorry, but I need to go to hospital." I felt at times as if I was in the car with them racing towards A&E or waiting anxiously for the next test result. Nancy allows us to see inside her heart and mind, sharing the roller coaster ride of good then bad news. We feel her pain and perplexity as she grapples with her belief that her husband will be well, yet declaring time and time again her belief in the love of God – whatever happened.

Quite recently, I spoke at an event during which the chairperson invited all those who had been healed to come to the front and give testimony to the goodness and faithfulness of God. As people went forward and shared their story, I could not help but think of some still sitting in their seats – perhaps those whose prayers had not been answered with a yes, who were still in pain, or had even lost those most dear to them. I wondered whether some of them,

even through their grief and disappointment, might also have given eloquent witness to the love of their heavenly father.

I found reading parts of this book profoundly moving as Nancy shared her unshakeable faith that God would heal Ray – even going so far as to allowing a church leader to go the funeral home to pray that her husband's body be raised to life. She puts it like this: "During our 36 years of working together we had seen hundreds of people healed of various illnesses.....so surely God would heal Ray?" And yet, although their prayers were not answered in the way they wanted, Nancy had the equally unshakeable belief in the fact that her and Ray's lives were in God's hands. She says: "How do you cope with the hard things you face at times in life? Only through holding on to the hand of God and trusting him for the way ahead.....His presence is with you; his love is over you, and his favour is on you even through the darkest valley."

Of course, this is a book in which Nancy shares her grief, but it is also a thankful and, in so many ways, truly triumphant book. She says: "I said to the Lord...that morning that if our lives had to finish there and then there would be much rejoicing at what God had done. We were two people who said to the Lord over and over again: "We will do what you want us to do, we will go where you want us to go, and we will say what you want us to say."

There is no doubt that Ray was a remarkable man, but how can you tell the real nature of a Christian leader? Can you do that by assessing how 'successful' their public ministry is? I think not. Of course – only God knows the heart. But I do believe there is something that indicates the true nature of a man or woman, and it is what those closest to that person believe about them. If we look at Ray with this in mind, we have a life filled with love towards and from Nancy and his children. I mentioned that this book is, in some ways, a love story and it is: a story of a couple married for over forty years. Nancy calls those years, "An adventure ... we loved being with one another.....we were a team." And there is a profoundly moving moment in the book where she relates the last conversation Ray had with their son Aidan. Aidan describes Ray

as, "My best friend." He'd been about to go to ngm (the place that symbolised in bricks and mortar Ray's life of faith, love of the arts and commitment to young performers) and spent a few minutes beforehand with his dad. As he was leaving, Ray said, "Have a good day. Love you, son!"

I thank God for Ray Goudie, for Nancy, and for the work they have established in ngm. Ray was a truly remarkable man. On the programme for his funeral and celebration of his life, Nancy wrote some words sent to her by friends shortly after his death: "He was always a pioneer, and he has gone ahead again!"

Enjoy the book. Of course cry, of course agonise with Nancy and those who loved Ray dearly over a loss felt deeply, but also take time to thank, rejoice, and even to laugh at some of the stories Nancy tells.

Ray would have wanted that.

ROB PARSONS OBE

Founder and chairman of Care for the Family

FOREWORD

BY PAUL MANWARING

RAY,

We never met and our relationship only lasted for 40 days but somehow we became friends. I almost feel like an imposter writing this when there are myriads of friends and followers of Ray who owe him so much more than I; people who knew him for many years and had been with him in many great scenarios. He was larger than life to so many and somehow his largeness found me for a brief few weeks. My wife had followed his journey for longer than I had. She was often telling me of his battle via the wonder of social media. She was praying for him long before I woke up one day and was prompted to contact him. She and countless others were asking for a miracle which I joined for a mere 40 days.

That day I woke to news of some fresh challenges that Ray was facing and so I contacted him and simply said that I was praying for him. A simple Facebook message which would be the first of many. Immediately I realized that I was part of a God set up. Ray sent back a message that he had woken that day asking God for someone to make contact with him and it appears that I was that man. I shared with Ray a prophetic word that I had been given about seeing people healed of cancer in the last days of their lives. He responded that he was happy to be a guinea pig and be the first. And so was I. Of course, that prophecy requires that I am in the last days of peoples' lives ready to see them turned into the first days of walking in miraculous healing.

I told Sue of my contact and that I was going to call (FaceTime) him at lunchtime during a break in a school where I was teaching. Of course she planned to join me. As it happened we were holding the school in one of the smaller rooms on the Bethel campus. When it got to 1pm, the time we had agreed to talk, we went to see if the sanctuary was being used. To our delight it was not and

so we made a video call from there. Together we talked to Ray and we began to pray. We walked around the room, which has seen so many miracles. I will never forget how full of hope Ray was that day and so were we; I am sure that we left the sanctuary the more blessed that day.

As soon as I had made contact, it seemed that many people I knew told me that they knew Ray too. Messages were sent to me to keep praying. And so that is how I made a late entrance into Ray's life. A man who, I was quickly to find out, was able to be funny in the midst of crisis, incredibly thankful when most would have stopped, encouraging when he needed it more than those he gave it to and most of all an absolute lover of Jesus in every way.

Our messages were humorous, faith filled and honest; he didn't once question the hope that I wanted to release to him. It was fertile ground indeed. Ray taught me that I must always have the impossible in front of me, always! It is not an option, it is the very nature of our faith, we live by faith. Yesterday's miracle is no good for the one who needs one today.

He taught me not to hold back, reinforced what I knew that it is impossible to give false hope and together we celebrated each little victory of his last 40 days.

I have a simple point in a message, which I preach often and now I always refer to my friendship with Ray. It is simply this: Abraham is the father of faith, he didn't find the city that he was looking for otherwise he would perhaps have been the father of finding cities! Ray didn't find what he was looking for either but he 'fathered' me for those days in faith. Jesus is going to be looking for faith when he returns. I have no doubt that Ray is cheering us all on to finish what he began and in a way I feel accountable to him and his legacy.

We will not be judged on results as much as we will be measured by our willingness to live by faith, to stand in front of the impossible and declare what we believe yet cannot see. Ray lived there, by faith, not by past successes.

Whatever your assignment in life, make sure that it includes those that require faith. One exchange between Ray and me was about Lazarus and how helpful it would have been if he had written a book. Well, Ray will know the full story by now, but while we wait, let's live by faith and not by sight.

With a grateful heart. Cheers my friend!

PAUL MANWARING

Senior Leadership Team - Bethel, Redding, CA

APRIL 2015

"Nancy I'm so sorry but I need to go to hospital. I'm in severe pain and I can't cope any longer!" It was around 11pm and we were both in bed getting ready to sleep when suddenly Ray's words pierced the silence. Ray had been ill since November 2014 and we had prayed for him so many times, but still the pain continued. The doctors continued to tell us that it was severe wind pains, but these wind pains rarely ceased and even though we prayed long and hard Ray was still suffering. I could see pain etched all over his face and so I got up, dressed and helped Ray to get into our car and drove him the twenty minutes or so into the centre of Bristol. Trying hard not to allow the confusion and fear to overcome me, I cried out inwardly to God for Ray. "What is going on Lord? We've prayed so many times. Please heal my man! Lord let us get this sorted once and for all."

When we arrived at the city centre hospital, we couldn't find a parking place and so after trying unsuccessfully to park in a number of nearby car parks, I finally pulled into the A&E drop off point knowing that I only had 15 minutes of permitted time before I needed to move the car. As we entered the deserted building somehow we got lost in the many corridors and could not find the right department. But even when we got lost, God was with us.

We just happened to come across an ambulance crew who were taking someone into A&E. We asked them how to get to that department and they told us to follow them. They took us straight into A&E without going through reception. Despite not having been registered, Ray was quickly admitted into a bed and some blood tests were taken. I then left Ray to park our car on some side street before returning to be at his side. When I came back I followed the signs for A&E and realised where we had gone wrong and how we had got lost. This time I saw the reception and only then realised that there was a huge queue waiting to be seen. Because we had got lost we had by-passed the queue and were

seen by the medical staff hours before we would have been. We were so grateful. Ray was in terrible pain and the waiting would not have been good for him.

The results of the tests they had taken began to come back and each one was clear. They were ready to let Ray go home thinking again that it was severe wind pains, when the results of a blood test came back. The results suggested that there was something seriously wrong. It was then that they saw he was jaundiced in his eyes. Something was perhaps wrong with his liver! Ray always wore yellow glasses. It was his trademark. But these yellow glasses hid the fact that the white of his eyes were yellow. He was then admitted into a hospital ward to await further tests in the morning. I didn't want to leave him, but obviously I couldn't stay! My heart was full as I left my beloved husband in the hospital. So many questions filled my mind - What was going on? What was wrong with Ray? How were we going to get through this? Ray was no longer at my side; instead he was being treated in a hospital bed for severe pain whilst awaiting another CT scan in the morning.

The streets outside the hospital were dark, lonely and very scary to a woman walking on her own. It was in the early hours of the morning and fear filled my heart in more ways than one. I called my teenage son Aidan, and he spoke with me on the phone as I walked up the hill from the hospital and tried to find the car that I had abandoned earlier. As I drove home, I was crying out to God with tears pouring down my face, "Lord, what is going on? What is wrong with Ray? Lord please heal him! Bring him home soon! Oh God, we need you more than ever!" I never at that point realised that we were on the brink of the greatest adventure we would ever experience.

During our 36 years of working together, we had seen thousands of people's lives transformed as they turned to God and became Christians, but we had also seen hundreds of people healed of various illnesses. We had seen people in wheelchairs get up and walk. We had seen blind eyes opened. We had seen leprosy completely healed in a moment. We had seen so many miracles so surely God would heal Ray? When I got home I found it difficult to

sleep, my mind was too full and so I continued to cry out to the Lord to heal Ray. Unknown to me, it would be the first of many difficult nights that we would experience as we walked with the Lord through the valley of the shadow of death.

The next morning, I arrived at the hospital to discover that Ray had been diagnosed as having a tumour either in his duodenum or his pancreas. They didn't know if it was cancerous or not, but they were 95% sure it would be. The strange thing was that we had been praying for a dear friend of ours who had been diagnosed as having pancreatic cancer and here we were discovering that unbelievably Ray could have the same illness!