

THE DREAM THAT WOULDN'T DIE

By Mark E. Bowser

One of my favorite authors and speakers is the late Dr. Norman Vincent Peale. In his fabulous book *Power of the Plus Factor*, he tells a story about a little girl who seemingly had no future. Dorothy Brown was a little black girl born out of wedlock. Unable to afford the expenses of a child, Dorothy's mother placed her in an orphanage. What pain that must have been for both of them.

When Dorothy was five years old, she was taken to the hospital to have her tonsils removed. Most children her age would have been terrified by her surroundings. Not Dorothy. She was fascinated at this new world of medicine. On that day, a dream began to form in Dorothy's heart, mind, and spirit. She was going to be a doctor when she grew up. What an impossible dream for a child with no future. Or was it?

One day, Dorothy began to realize she was different from the other children in the orphanage. They all had visitors. No one ever came to see Dorothy. She asked the orphanage superintendent why no one ever came to visit her. Being a very kind man, he mentioned this to some of his friends at church. Shortly after that, the Coffeen family began visiting Dorothy. Dorothy enjoyed the visits. She told the Coffeens that she was going to become a doctor someday. The Coffeens were so kind. They never laughed or scolded Dorothy. Even though they knew Dorothy's chances of becoming a doctor were next to none, they listened intently to this little girl's dream.

Finally, the day came when Dorothy had to go to work. She was only fourteen years old but as the custom in those days, orphans were expected to go to work. Dorothy became a maid and earned \$14 a week. After two years, Dorothy had saved \$500 so she decided to enter school. When the school asked her for her home address, Dorothy had to admit she didn't have one. After hearing her story, the principle knew he must do anything he could to help out this young girl. The principle found a couple that took Dorothy in as a boarder. When Dorothy ran out of money to pay her rent, the couple let her stay anyway. It is amazing how people will be thrilled to help you when you have a purpose to your life.

After graduating from high school, Dorothy wanted to go to college. Now, she had another problem. How would she pay the tuition costs? She went back to being a maid. She figured it would take her 11 years to earn enough money for college.

Dorothy's dream was still alive. More people flocked to help her reach for the stars. One of her employers told her about a scholarship that a small Methodist college was offering. Dorothy applied for it and won. Now she was in college studying as much science as she could get a hold of. Finally, the day came when she had the honor and accomplishment of receiving her diploma.

Shortly after this victory, Dorothy had to take on the next challenge to reaching her dream. How to pay for medical school. This was wartime. The United States had entered WWII. There was a shortage of manpower so the army was looking for women with experience in science. Dorothy was the woman for the army. She saved some money and then started medical school. When that money ran out, friends helped her with her quest of becoming a doctor. And the day came when it wasn't just Dorothy Brown, it was Dr. Dorothy Brown.

So, where are you in life today? What is your dream? Do you have obstacles before you? Are you thinking about quitting? **KEEP YOUR DREAM ALIVE!** There are people who want to help you. You must persist until you find them. You must tear down walls if you are to reach the castle of your dream. You have what it takes. **GO MAKE IT HAPPEN!** Who knows, you might be the next Dr. Dorothy Brown.