

**Women of Faith President Mary Graham Interviews
Christian Author and Speaker Robin McGraw**

September 7, 2006

Mary Graham: Robin it's so great to be here with you and it has been the most wonderful privilege for Women of Faith and all of us on the team to have you with us. Not just to have you deliver your message to our audience, but to get to know you personally and there is just something in me that just wants everybody in the Women of Faith audience to know you like we're getting to know you.

Robin McGraw: That is such a huge compliment to me because I have to tell you the privilege is mine to be a part of your group.

Mary: Well, it is really wonderful to have you and the better we know you the more we love you and the more we wonder how we ever got along with out you.

Robin: I can say the same thing.

Mary: You know, I think it's so interesting that at this time in your life, both your children are out of the home, your little boys are gone, and it's a new day. It's a new day for you, you've written your first book, and you're on, I think, your first speaking tour around the nation. How does that feel, what does that feel to you?

Robin: I really truly feel like I'm living a dream right now, but when I think back about my entire life, I guess I could say everything I've ever done has prepared me for this moment right now in time, this phase of my life. The fact that my children are grown, and out of the house, the fact that Phillip and I have been married 30 years. Now that I've written this book, it's like everything before now has prepared me for this right now and it's a real true honor and privilege to be sharing now my life with you.

Mary: And is it are you're enjoying it, you're enjoying the moment?

Robin: You know what, I'm having a ball. But I have to tell you, that's been a real choice of mine for my entire life, but especially since meeting Phillip and since getting married and becoming a mother was to have fun. That's always been my number one choice; my number one priority is if we're going to do this, if we're going to be married, we're going to have fun doing it. And even with my children, I always wanted to make sure whatever they were doing, they were having fun doing it.

Mary: That's great, that's great. That's why you fit on the contagious joy tour. I mean we've had other themes but the contagious joy tour...

Robin: Yes! My life is a true joy. When I'm doing what I know I'm meant to do, and that's be a wife and mother, it is a true joy.

Mary: And you have had a fabulous life, Robin. It just seems like the Lord has blessed you. But you talk in your message and in your book about some of your challenges when you were younger.

Robin: My life was not perfect growing up. In fact, we were very, very poor, and my father was an alcoholic and a gambler, and so 100% of the time growing up I wondered, what little bit of money we did have, was he out gambling it away. And that's truly what my life was growing up, just a life of uncertainty because of my father's alcoholism.

Mary: I love it when you tell those stories on the platform, it's so encouraging to women because people find themselves in their own realities and they think 'I didn't know you would have that kind of struggle'. But, Robin, you are Dr. Phil's wife, and if you decided that you wanted to write a book or you wanted to speak to large groups of people, you would have an opportunity to do that. But what is it in you that decided to write a book with a faith publisher and to go with a tour that was a faith tour.

Robin: You know, my faith has always been very, very important to me. Growing up, in my married life, and who I am as a woman, my faith has always come first. And it was just so natural that if I'm going to step up and speak out to women...of course Women of Faith...it was the perfect answer. And I have to say, I've never, ever done that before in my life. Women of Faith – my appearance with you was the first time I have ever done that. So what a true joy and what a true honor it was for me my very first and only time to be with Women of Faith. And the publisher, they're like family. I knew the minute I sat down with them, that was where I was supposed to be. When I sat down with Thomas Nelson, I knew they were part of my plan.

Mary: How did you actually come to faith?

Robin: You know I was raised, my mother and father, mostly my mother raised us to believe in God. I can remember from very young her saying 'it will be your decision...and only your decision, when you accept Jesus Christ.' And I remember thinking wow, what a responsibility, but at the same time, what an honor. But she would always tell me you'll know when. And I remember asking her one time is someone going to call me, am I going to get something in the mail to tell me it's time. It was the summer I was 9 years old and I went to visit my Grandmother. She lived in a little tiny town in Oklahoma. It was just the most loving and nurturing little church. It was the kind of church you'd have service, everyone would be together then all the women brought casseroles, and we always

stayed after church and share lunch together. I loved everything about it. And it was visiting her and going to church with her. One day, sitting there beside her, like my mother said, I knew it was time. That was when I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal savior. And from that day forward, that has been the foundation of my life.

Mary: You knew.

Robin: I knew. I knew.

Mary: So you had a mother of faith, and a grandmother of faith, and you wanted to be a wife and mother of faith.

Robin: Exactly. And I wanted to live as a wife and mother of faith, since that day.

Mary: You talk so much about choices. And you've lived a life of choice. I think Dr. Phil just leads the charge in helping all of us understand that we don't have to be a victim, and that's very much your message.

Robin: Yes, a lot of times I say I lead with the fact that I'm 52. And people here in Hollywood say 'I can't believe you talk about your age'. But to me, that's a huge positive to have reached the age that I am because my mother died very young. So every year that I am here on this earth is a plus. But because of my age, I've made a lot of choices and a lot of decisions in my life that have brought me to this point and I think it's important to share that with other women.

Mary: I think it's important that you tell people you're 52 because otherwise I think people would look at you and think 'Well, my goodness, Phil McGraw is married to a teenager;.'

Robin: That's a huge compliment! I have to tell you one time someone said 'oh you're their mother' and I say of course I'm their mother! We've been married 30 years and it is a compliment, but only because I feel younger than I am. I'll just say right now, no, I've never had cosmetic surgery, I've never had a facelift, and I have not done anything! This is a result of me taking care of myself. I'm really proud to be the age I am.

Mary: What's the best choice you've ever made?

Robin: The best choice I've ever made was to live my passion. As far back as I can remember, I always wanted to be a wife and mother. I made the choice to live that decision. I'm very proud of myself for doing that because it's allowed me to be very passionate about who I am and what I'm doing. I've never doubted for a moment that I was put on this earth to be Phillip's wife and I'm supposed to be Jay and Jordan's mother. And I live that every day with a real peace in my heart knowing that I'm doing what I was put on this earth to do.

Mary: No regrets?

Robin: No regrets.

Mary: What a great gift God has given you.

Robin: Thank you.

Mary: You know Robin, you are just the epitome of someone who loves your husband, you adore your children, you are a devoted friend, and you're willing to just get up every morning and go give your life away to millions, literally. Could you explain why you would consider it so important to put yourself first and take care of yourself?

Robin: A lot of people tell me, when they say 'I put myself first, it can seem kind of selfish' because I'm a mother and I'm a wife and I have a lot of responsibilities. I think it's very selfish if you don't. By not doing what you need to do to take care of yourself, you're limiting what you have to give to your children and your husband and the world. Phillip has always said we are like bank accounts, and if all we ever do is make withdrawals of time and emotion and energy for everyone else and we never put anything back, we will end up emotionally bankrupt. And I think that is very selfish. And I always say to women if you love your children, and I know you do, take care of their mother – take care of yourself first. So you can wake up every day and be really proud of what you've done for yourself. It's very empowering I think.

Mary: That's great, yeah, you know, it's like the Bible says, "Love your neighbor as yourself." It doesn't say love your neighbor instead of yourself.

Robin: Exactly, you're absolutely right. Love your children, love your husband, and love your neighbor like you would yourself.

Mary: And just before we go, what's your favorite verse?

Robin: My favorite verse is Romans 12:9-11. It's been my favorite for years and years, as long as I can remember. But it's very important I think now because of who I am and how far I've come in my life. "Love must be sincere; hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brother's love; honor another above yourself. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor serving the Lord." It's a perfect example of who I am, what I believe and how I live my life.

Mary: And I would have to say, that is how I experience you and that is how we have experienced you on the team of Women of Faith.

Robin: Oh, thank you for saying that.

Mary: Thank you for sharing your life with us.

Robin: Thank you.