

# Boomer Babes with Brilliant Dreams

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boomer  
Babes  
rock!

## Connie Pombo

**INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER AND WRITER**

[www.basketsfullofhope.com](http://www.basketsfullofhope.com)

[www.womensmentoringministries.com](http://www.womensmentoringministries.com)

[www.conniepombo.com](http://www.conniepombo.com)



Connie Pombo is an inspirational speaker and writer who communicates with heartfelt joy and passion. As a graduate of Spokane Bible College with a BA in Biblical Studies, a former missionary to Italy, and pastor's wife, she founded Women's Mentoring Ministries after a diagnosis of breast cancer in 1996. As part of her passionate to-do list, she wrote down 27 things she wanted to do—one of those included writing a book, a spiritual memoir: *Trading Ashes for Roses: From Pain to Passion*. She is a contributing author to eight books, including *Chicken Soup for the Coffee-Lover's Soul* and *Living the Serenity Prayer* (she never starts her day without prayer and coffee!). When not speaking or writing, she enjoys traveling with her husband of 32 years (now that their "boys") are all grown up. Connie and her husband, Mark, live in beautiful Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

**#1. Our Dream-Zine encourages boomer babes to achieve the dreams of our heart ...please share a dream you have achieved in your life and what you learned as a result of that achievement.**

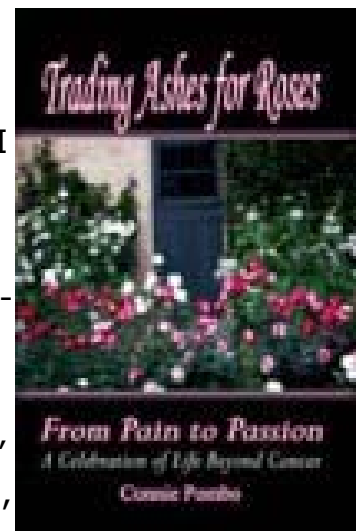
I didn't achieve one dream—I achieved 27! It all started on March 21, 1996 when I received a cancer diagnosis and wrote down 27 things I wanted to do before I died (they were all dreams I wanted to accomplish): write a book, take a photography course, travel back to Italy for ten days by myself, take a cruise, see my sons through safe passage into adulthood, and #27 parachute out of an airplane! All of those dreams have come true—except #27, and I consider rock climbing a close second! It's amazing what we put off until we realize there may not be a tomorrow (which is

the subject of my next book). It may sound crazy, but I have never regretted hearing the words, “you have cancer.” As life-altering as they were, they allowed me to pursue the desires of my heart, to make my dreams become a reality, and to pursue my passions. Not that I want to re-live the events of the past 11 years, I can’t imagine my life without them. One of my favorite verses is found in Psalm 37:4, “Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.” God desires that we delight in Him...putting God first in my life was the beginning of the freedom I experienced in achieving all my dreams!

## **#2. Please share a life lesson that has altered your world significantly.**

When I was a senior at Spokane Bible College, I had to write a life verse next to my picture in the yearbook. I chose, Philippians 4:13 “I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.” I have to admit, I was paying lip service to that verse because I was the “golden girl”—I achieved everything I ever wanted and graduated at the top of my class. It seemed that whatever I touched turned to gold: including marrying the man of my dreams, having two wonderful sons, living six glorious years in Italy, and having a thriving ministry. But how much of that was me and how much of that was God? At some level, I felt that I was in control of my life. That is until I heard the words, “you have cancer,” and I lost total control of my circumstances, my future, and my life. That’s when the “I” in that verse in Phil.

4:13 became so much smaller and “Christ” became so much bigger. God’s Word became powerful. I memorized entire passages of Scripture, and there was no doubt in my mind “who” was in control and it wasn’t me! I speak about that lesson in the *One Year Life Verse Devotional* by Tyndale House—“Passing the Tests.” I had to be knocked off my pedestal, and now the view from the bottom looking up is absolutely glorious!



## **#3. What can you do now, as a boomer babe, you would never have done, or never could do, when you were younger?**

As a boomer babe, I think there is nothing we can’t achieve—by God’s grace—as long as we listen to his voice and allow him to direct our steps. When we do that, we’re unstoppable. Confidence in God’s ability to direct us is the key. I almost didn’t graduate from college because I was afraid to speak in public. I never took Speech 101 and ended up in a homiletics class (for preacher boys!). Speaking in public is the number one fear of most people and now it’s my passion. It’s hard to get me to be “quiet.” But I also

believe God has to give us a message first and mine came after a cancer diagnosis. After facing my own mortality at age 40, nothing seemed too difficult, and I could hear God's voice more clearly. I also love the fact that I don't have to make decisions on the spot. In fact, if it's NOW it's NO! A lot of opportunities—great ones—have passed me by, but I didn't sense God's timing in it, so I said, "No!" In my 20's, I would have said, "Yes!" But maturity and confidence in God's ability to direct me has allowed me to make wise decisions in his timing!

#### **#4. When you look at the boomer generation in general, what are you most proud of in the way of our accomplishments?**

I think boomer women rock! We are the "movers, the shakers, and the candlestick makers"...we just make it happen. We have a vision and we go after it. We are hard working and unstoppable. If someone tells me I can't do something, then I'm determined to find out how to do it. It's interesting, my son who is an entrepreneurial major will look at a situation or problem and if he doesn't know how to do it, he'll say, "I don't know." Those words just don't exist in my vocabulary. If I don't know, I'll find the answer. If I have to stay up all night, read a computer manual, take apart the computer and put it back together again, then I'll do it. But that's what we as boomer women do...we find a way. I fear for the next generation and wonder just how they will fare in the workplace. I have so many "how-to" manuals in my office, I could start a library. We can accomplish whatever we set out to do (and I don't know what else to call it but "guts").

#### **#5. If you could give other boomer babes only ONE piece of important advice, what would it be and why?**

My advice to boomer women is simple: "Be careful when you put off the enjoyment of life until the time is right. Before you know it, the right time can change into a lost opportunity." I wish I had a hundred dollars for every time I heard the words, "I'll do that when I retire!" Those words are banned in our family. Why do we think we are guaranteed tomorrow? Why do we put off the enjoyment of life for some other day? Do you realize that there's not one place on this earth that I would like to travel to...because I've already done it! There are a few places I would like to go back to because they were so absolutely gorgeous, but I have them engraved in my mind anytime I need to take a mini-vacation. One of the greatest experiences of my life was traveling alone for ten days in Italy all by myself (I don't suggest that for women unless you know the language!), but I went with my husband's blessing and it was the greatest experience of my life. God delights in giving us the desires of our heart...we just need to ask! Don't live with regrets; that's not living—that's existing!

#### **Upcoming Events:**

January 12, 2008 - Barnes & Noble Book Signing, Lancaster, PA from 12-2 PM. Connie will be signing *The One Year Life Verse Devotional* by Tyndale House Publishers.

January 16-30, 2008: Book Signing Tour in Northern California for Living the Serenity Prayer, Chicken Soup for the Coffee Lover's Soul, A Cup of Comfort for Mothers, and One Year Life Verse Devotional by Tyndale House.

February 22-23, 2008 - Media Mennonite Church, Women's Retreat, Media, PA (held at the Eden Resort in Lancaster, PA). [www.mmchurch.org](http://www.mmchurch.org).

April 12, 2008 - Women's Brunch, Hope Church, Oakdale, MN - "Intimacy with God" (tentative)

May 2-4, 2008 - Presenter for Weekend of Hope, Stowe, Vermont  
[www.stowehope.org](http://www.stowehope.org) "Writing to Heal" and "Writing to Publish."

May 13, 2008 - KZSB Radio 1290 AM Live Tuesdays from 11 AM - Noon PST. Dr. Brill will be interviewing Connie live.

June 7, 2008 - Keynote Speaker for Celebrate Life Day Brunch (National Cancer Survivor's Day), Ossining, NY. For more information visit: [www.supportconnection.org](http://www.supportconnection.org).