

Sisters Working In Purpose!



Celebrating Our Sisters Who Dared to Pursue Their Dream!

Holiday, 2016

Meet Our Sister Working in Purpose: Vonee Williams, Songwriter

Are you talented in the arts or music and have dreams of taking the plunge in the music industry? Do you know what it takes to get started and the costs involved? Are you ready for the time commitment? Then you are at the right place! I am excited by this interview in particular! We are going to actually speak with a songwriter who shares what it's like to be in a creative space and share the struggles of starting in the business. I really believe that many will be able to resonate with our guest today and her harrowing health struggles, working full-time and being a good wife and mother as she proceeds in her purpose.



Vonee Williams and I grew up together in Indianapolis, IN and were members of the same church. She was always pretty energetic and had a unique personality that easily drew people to her. I remember even back then she had a pretty creative imagination. Today, married for almost 30 years, she has three adult children and three grandchildren. Vonee is pursuing her purpose as a songwriter who by the way, has an impressive 180 songs in her catalog. She has been gracious enough to share with our readers her experience pursuing her dream, her purpose and the challenges that come with trying to juggle everything.

For all of you aspiring song-writers out there, Vonee offers some real tips and perspective on the business side

of things and definite things to ponder if you are considering a career as a songwriter.

Me: First of all, thank you for doing this interview. Can you share a little about yourself?

Vonee: Sure. I am born and raised in Indianapolis IN. I'm married with 3 children (girls). They're all adults now; 20, 26 and 28. I also have 3 grandchildren. All girls. I love music. I love writing. I love helping to build someone else up. I have learned in life that it is not always about you and that maybe my purpose is to help build someone else up. I've found in the music industry that a lot of people start where I'm at but when they make it to a certain level they don't look back. They won't reach out and try to help others. It's really difficult for someone who has no contacts or experience in this business. What I'm hoping to do is humble myself. I'm not near where I could be or should be but I'm getting there. I'm happy where I am because I'm still able to do what I love, but I want to be able to reach back to some younger person or someone else who has the desire to write and help them get the information I have and help to keep them inspired.

Me: That's a part of who you are.

Vonee: It's not available out there because people think that now that they've got a name that they are better than (others) or they forget where they come from. That happens a lot and I don't want to be that way.

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Vonee Williams, Songwriter

Me: The thing that really impressed me is a passionate post you wrote on Facebook saying that I'm gonna do this, I don't care what happens. At that time, you were in the hospital after an unexpected heart surgery and you were determined that you were going to write the songs that were in your head. That's when I knew I had to write about you. How has it been for you?

Vonee': It's been a tough road, but fulfilling for me. It's been kind of rough because I didn't find my purpose until late in life. I tried doing a lot of different things, because I always wanted to be an entrepreneur and I always wanted to try to sell thing that I knew people wanted and things that people would pay for and I'm going from one thing to another still working and still raising a family. None of those things panned out or turned out to be what I wanted it to be. It wasn't until five years ago that I sat down on my couch alone and this *thing* came over me. It was like (telling me) pick up a pen and some paper and write the poem that you used to write when you were a kid. I started writing and thought how fun it would be. When I tell you that I went online and started searching for stuff and looking up how to make poems into music and then into songs it just hit me and from that point on it's been amazing for me but also difficult.

Me: That's the thing that captured my attention about your story is your clear passion. What I've found is that people are not going to get "it", people who don't share your passion or they don't have one, they just will not get it. For people who have a passion for their purpose, they cannot function (without working on their purpose). For me, I'm not okay when I'm not doing what I feel like God has for me to do. Your passion came across so strongly, but I just knew exactly what you were feeling.

Vonee': That is so true, because you are the only one that feels that passion and that thing that is just for you so it's kind of hard for other people to see that and feel that but I have been writing since that moment. I have not put down my pen or my paper and I've written 180 songs to this day and they are all to music. Everything is registered. I just started learning what I needed to do to make this official. I researched what I needed to do to make sure that nobody steals my work. I went on my own little mission, as far as writing things that flowed for me. It's like a life's story; there are about 20 songs that can remind me of the moment when I was feeling one way and another moment when I was feeling another way. After a while it became that everything I looked at

turned into a song; commercials, television, people on the street and at the store all became inspiration for my songs. I started getting ideas and the words would just come so I knew that it had to be a gift; it had to be a blessing. I loved it (writing) so much. I would wake up and that would be all I wanted to do. At that point, I figured that this must be my purpose.

Me: Now that you found your purpose, what has been a major challenge?

Vonee': So I've been married 28 years but 30 years together and when I first started this thing, I thought my husband was number 1 fan, the result was think he felt I was putting everything and he just understood. mentioned, things that if what your really can't someone



going to be my unfortunately, the opposite. I threatened by it. my time and into my writing didn't Again, like you it's one of those you don't know purpose is, you understand else's you only

know what works for you. I think he's still working through things although he is more accepting now because he knows that I refuse to give way like I've always done. I would put things aside and say, "Well for the sake of somebody else, I will just keep doing what I'm doing," or out of concern about someone else's feelings, I just wouldn't do it. I'm now at that point in life where life is short and I don't want to continue on knowing that there were some things I wanted to do in life that I couldn't because I was worried about someone else's feelings or what they think So I went for it and I'm loving every moment of it.

Me: OMG, You don't realize how inspiring that is and I think the number of people you will be able to impact by saying what you just said. There are many people; women in particular who are facing the same challenges. There are also many who feel that God has a purpose for them and they are really struggling but they know they are supposed to be doing something; but they still struggle. What are your thoughts?

Vonee': I'm still struggling too, I love this. I know how to do this now and I wake up and this is all I want to do. So while I feel great about what I'm doing, I still feel like

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I'm not completely fulfilled because I have the desire to give back and in a sense I don't know how. I can express stuff through my music and I'm thinking that maybe that can be it, but it feels as if there's got to be something more; there's got to be something else. I'm still kind of struggling with that.

Me: The music may be the foundation, but there's something even bigger than that?

Vonee: Yes, that's what I'm thinking. I'm thinking my music is one thing and it can help. You know growing up, you may have thought I was outspoken because I'm crazy but as I grow older, I'm not super sociable. I don't do the whole stage thing, speaking in public thing really well. I prefer not to so. I do my music. It feels like I'm speaking. It's the voice I've always wanted to have speaking to people so now my voice is wrapped up in my songs.



Me: Wow, but I think that may be how God uses people. You may be the perfect vessel for him because people who don't want to be in the spotlight and in fact are uncomfortable is who it seems he tend to use. There are many who are now famous who fit that example. I'm thinking like Tyler Perry; he knew he was supposed to be doing it, but his focus was not to get super famous, he just wanted to tell a story. What I found is a lot of people who are quite successful, who are working in their purpose actually are somewhat naturally uncomfortable in it. However, because of who they are it becomes natural for them. And just hearing you say that, resonates with me. Additionally, the other thing I get

from people is the intention from which one is operating. It really has to be pure to be successful.

One thing I heard you say is you want to be able to give back and you are still trying to figure out how. Can you talk a little more about that?

Vonee: Well, I've always kind of looked at famous people and know there are only a handful who really actually give back. I'm not saying that I want to be famous because when I actually first started this thing, it was something personal, something for me. It was something that I can say I can accomplish this and check the box. It grew into something so much more and there's still something in me. I've always had a thing for me for charity with things with kids. I've always wanted to do something for the Riley Children's Hospital (in Indianapolis). I've always felt like I really don't have anything to give. I don't have a lot of money so what good would it be? My little quarters or dollars wouldn't help. I want to do something big to give back. Then it (my goal) became older people; like people in senior homes and things like that. Those are my passion in terms of charities. I wanted to figure out what I can do to make something happen so I can give something that is worthwhile. I know a lot of people think you don't have to give a whole lot, it's the thought that count if it's in your heart; a little bit can measure up to a lot. Then I started thinking I wanted to give bigger. Then suddenly, I started having heart issues which made me ask if this is my purpose now to speak on what's happening to me with the heart foundation. I'm just kind of all over the place right now. If I can speak and say something to somebody that is going through the same thing to let them know that they are not alone in this. What happened to me is God's doing because I have no family history of what's going on with me. Doctors are still puzzled in how these things keep coming about in my body so I know it's not about something to just sit back and say I'll be okay. There's a story. There's something in this. I'm not a boisterous person so determining what it is or how I can give back with something that really counts is the challenge. I just know that I want God to get the glory out of what I do and I'm still asking Him for direction.

Me: I believe that nothing is coincidence. I believe that just being able to talk right now, you are going to have such a big impact. The thing is that I have met so many people who when you look at them from the outside everything is together. They have all of these credentials

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and titles but they are really struggling on the inside. They're saying the same thing you are. They believe that there is something that they should be doing, unsure of what it is, unsure of themselves with low confidence.

You convey such authenticity and sincerity that you have come across very strongly. I'm almost getting goosebumps from the passion from which you speak. You are going to impact a lot of people. God is going to do some really great things in your life. Before your surgery and when you were recuperating in the hospital you posted on your Facebook page that you were going to still write your songs no matter what happens. That's says a lot about who you are. Your determination was so inspiring.

You stated that you found your purpose later in life and that you were trying a lot of different things. Can you talk about what happened up until when you actually started? What did it look like when you finally said, I don't care if I'm 80, I'm going to do what God has for me to do.

Vonee': Well because I married early, I put down my pen and paper back in school, got married, had kids and pretty much basically I just felt like I've been living for them. It wasn't until after my children were grown that I started to realize that I could no longer use them as an excuse as to why I'm not doing what I want to do and I didn't have the money to do it. It wasn't until I sat down with the house completely quiet. The kids were gone, the husband was gone and I just sat down and it was like now what? I reviewed my life and I saw that there were things I stopped doing; so I don't this anymore, I don't bother doing that anymore. I gave up this website so now what? So I just sat there and then I hear this voice say pick up that pen and paper again. From there it was like this must be a gift that was inside. I just started writing and writing and here comes song after song. Then after that things just started to come out. I found out that on my Dad's side of the family there are artists, writers, singers and musicians down the line people that I really didn't know because I hadn't grown up with them so I reach out to those people. The whole thing just ballooned and I was like okay and I loved it and am still loving it. I'm like okay, this just might be what I'm supposed to do. I realize yes, I've been living to make sure that everyone else is okay. I've been living to make sure that everyone else was feeling good. They got what they needed but what about me? "What about you?" I

told myself. I have not done anything for myself. While it is satisfying for me to be there for my family and do those things, it's like I forgot all about me.

Me: Was there ever a moment that you were afraid that it was never going to happen?

Vonee': Yes. When I sat down that day it was like, there has got to be something more. Surely this can't be it and I'm just 42 and I was feeling like life was over. I've not done anything that matters other than family stuff and it's like I just felt empty. Even after doing all of that. I still felt empty because I didn't have anything that was for me.

Me: There is a quote from Henry Miller on advice that he received "I think someday you're going to be a great writer..." "But first you'll have to suffer a bit...." The thought is that you have to go through pain to gain in a creative field, do you feel like there's any truth to that?

Get Vonee's response to my question as well as her tips on getting started in the industry in Part 2 of our interview.

Part 2 Will Be Continued on January 2, 2017

Nanette Kirk, Interviewer

For more information about Vonee' or how you can take advantage of her music and experience you can contact her via sound cloud at [www.soundcloud.com/songsbyVonee'](http://www.soundcloud.com/songsbyVonee) or her website www.songsbyVonee.com.

Or support her in her dream via her Crowdwise fundraising effort at (<https://www.crowdrise.com/whose-got-a-song/fundraiser/Vonee-williams>).

Are you operating in your purpose and want to share your story? We want to hear from you! Contact us at customerservice@netkient.com with Sisters In Purpose on the subject line and tell us about your story. Gentlemen, we don't want to leave you out, if you have a story to share, please do the same.

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