

## **Heartsill Wilson**

Like you, I love a good story. Maybe that's why I'm so excited to share with you something that literally happened in the few weeks before this book went to print.

The inspiring poem I found on the back side of that little piece of paper in my mom's purse actually never included an author's name. It was, in truth, simply a beautiful poem from an unknown voice—waiting patiently for me to rediscover it many years later.

As part of my research for this book, I learned that the original man who penned that poem was named Heartsill Wilson. And while I was able to uncover a few facts about him, his life remained a mystery to me. I was even beginning to contemplate if I needed to remove his poem from the book because I didn't have proper permission to use it.

I suppose I should have paid closer attention to Lesson 24, however, and expect the unexpected. Through the generosity of a Georgian artist named Darla Dixon, I was put in touch with Heartsill's granddaughter, Linda Dykstra.

Through Linda's embracing kindness, I was suddenly welcomed into the world of this man whose words had daily guided my own mother's life. I learned from Linda that the poem I found was written in 1954 and was originally titled, "A Salesman's Prayer," but—because it quickly spread through the world inspiring millions in over one hundred languages—it was appropriately retitled "A New Day."

My deepest thanks to Linda, her sister—Heather Schwarz, and their mother, Sandra Distel for so graciously sharing so much with me about their father and grandfather. How spectacularly beautiful it is that a small piece of paper found by a young boy can—over thirty years later—bring two families and their mutual message of hope together.



Dr. W. Heartsill Wilson

1920-1994

Born in Marshall, Texas, Heartsill Wilson began his professional career as a used car salesman after serving in World War II. His talents led him to Michigan where he moved through the ranks at Chrysler Corporation, ultimately becoming an executive with Plymouth.

Heartsill's true passion and calling, however, was motivational speaking and he eventually left the automotive industry and spent the next thirty years of his life as a public speaker—where he touched, moved and inspired people around the globe.

It is an honor to share the story and message of Heartsill, a man whose life was grounded in his values, virtues, ethics and integrity. His life embodied the belief that there is value to be discovered in every day!