

## About the Authors

**LaDonna Gatlin** is the sister of the legendary Gatlin Brothers and a National Speaker Association Hall of Famer. She brings her "family over fame" story to hundreds of thousands of people as an active member of the National Speakers Association and has earned its highest professional designation, the Certified Speaking Professional (CSP). In July of 2005, LaDonna was one of five speakers (and the only woman that year) inducted into the Speakers Hall of Fame (CPAE Council of Peers Award for Excellence), a lifetime award for speaking excellence and professionalism.

LaDonna has spent her entire career empowering people to "sing their own songs" through their words, deeds, and actions. A seasoned professional, LaDonna has shared her message everywhere . . . from corporate powerhouses to the prison cells of death row. She truly speaks from the heart with stories that are the stuff of life, driving home common sense wisdom for everyday living in the process. Her presentations educate, inspire, and entertain and are an unforgettable experience for her audiences.

In addition to her live presentations, LaDonna has also recorded four solo CDs and is a contributing writer to the bestselling book series *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. LaDonna lives in a Dallas suburb with her husband (and best friend!) of thirty-seven years, Tim Johnson. They have two adult children who have blessed them with five grandchildren.

**Mike Marino, PhD**, is a speaker, author, counselor, and media personality with an extensive background in mental healthcare and communications. He hosted a nationally-syndicated call-in radio program for five years and has produced broadcast programming, live events, and written materials for such diverse people as Dr. Laura Schlessinger, PBS-TV's Daniel Amen, MD, and the Reverend Billy Graham. He has also served as corporate vice president at the world renowned Amen Clinics, as president of New Life Ministries where he presided over a nationwide network of over 600 mental health clinicians, and as a senior executive at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. His hands-on, practical experience running psychiatric hospitals and substance abuse recovery centers has laid the groundwork for his life-changing message of genuine hope and healing.