



KIM HILL

Single, but not alone!

—compiled by Jackie Georgiou

No stranger to heartbreak, Country singer, Gospel artist, speaker and author, Kim Hill has walked a road with the Lord. She is a single mom of two boys, yet despite her painful divorce several years ago, she is walking in peace and with purpose. A Grammy-nominated and Dove Award-winning singer/songwriter, Kim will be speaking and ministering at the Beauty For Ashes ladies conference this May.

WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE AS A SINGLE MOM?

The feeling that everything is up to me. I can't hand off any parenting duties to anyone. There's more peace in my home now, but I'm completely ex-

hausted raising two young boys on my own. But I feel as though God revealed to me that having my boys at home is a precious and short window of time. I may not have time to read, or date, or do a number of other things in this season, but that's not my focus right now. My boys are my focus.

WHEN DID YOU REALISE YOU HAD PROBLEMS IN YOUR MARRIAGE?

On our honeymoon. I realised my ex-husband had presented himself as one thing while we were dating, but reality was very different. But I'd been foolish and hadn't dated him very long. I got engaged after knowing him only two weeks. I didn't even know how to spell his last name.

YOU MARRIED WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF MEETING, WHY THE RUSH?

I was 28. My younger sister had already gotten married. I'd dated a lot of different people, including one guy I'd seen off and on most of my life. We were

best friends, and one day I sat down and made up a pro and con list of why I should marry him. My parents told me, "Kim, that's not how it works. You don't sit down and reason this out. One day a guy will come along and you'll just know." Then I met my ex-husband. He was a football player, had an MBA from Duke, and said all the right things. But, he rushed us to marry. Looking back, I wonder what I was thinking, getting married so fast.

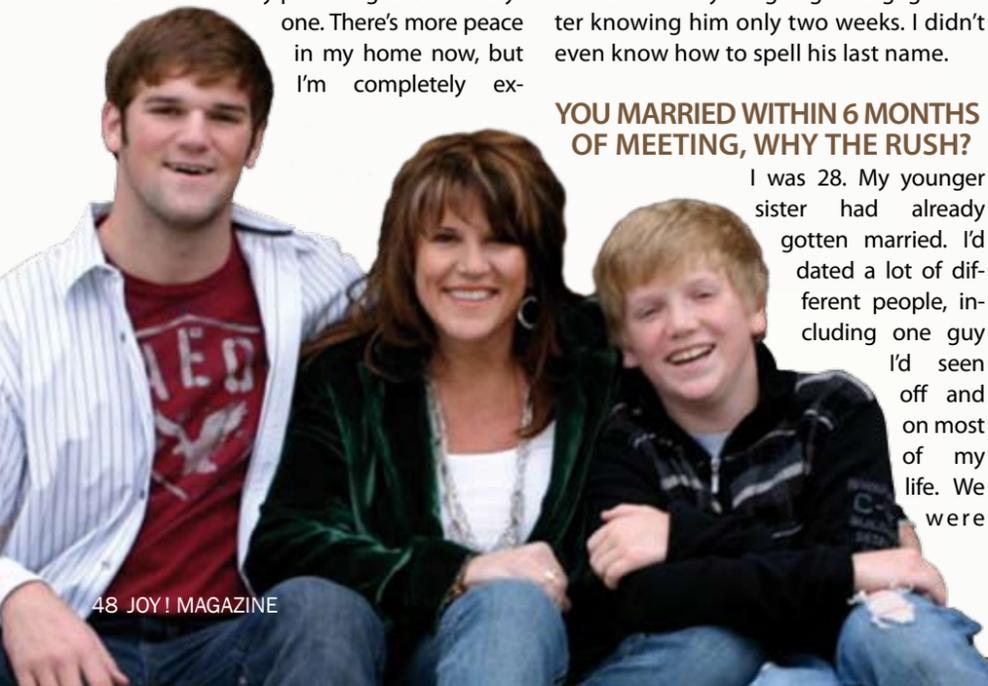
Now I warn single women against rushing into marriage. I don't care how great the guy is or how wonderful your relationship seems. It's not wise to make one of the biggest decisions of your life too fast - or to blow off the warnings of your friends and family.

I warn them about men who are too anxious to get married or who are too vocal about how much they need you very early on in the relationship. Also beware of men who want you to spend all your time with them or who try to alienate you from your friends and family.

DID YOU EVER DOUBT YOUR FAITH DURING YOUR MARRIAGE?

I doubted my concept of what my life would be like and who God is. I'd thought if you're a Christian and love the Lord, then he makes your life great and swoops in to fix any problems. I thought I needed to pray hard enough and do all the right things and

Kim with sons Benjamin (Left) and Graham (Right)



then God would fix my marriage. When nothing worked and God didn't wave his magic wand and make everything better, that's when the bottom fell out for me. I began to question God: "Do I really trust You?" "Do I really believe You're Sovereign?" "Do I really believe You care about me?" I felt hopeless and went through a serious time of depression. I didn't consider divorce an option and I didn't know what else to do.

WHAT WAS THE RESPONSE WHEN YOU DIVORCED?

Church was the most difficult and loneliest place in the world for a while. I felt as though I walked in with a giant 'D' on my chest. Most people didn't know how to respond, so they didn't; they just disappeared. Others were judgmental, threatening that if I led worship one more time they'd leave the church.

Others gossiped, wanting to know his side and my side of the story. Unfortunately, in many churches divorce is seen as the unpardonable sin. I went through

a season where I felt nothing I did would ever matter again. I thought I'd failed in the most important area of my life.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR THOSE GRIEVING A DIVORCE OR BATTLING WITH IT?

Divorce is like a death. It's the death of a marriage. It's a death of what you dreamed of when you walked down the aisle. So

I went through many of the same things her husband went through, but few people thought to reach out to me. So I tell divorced people to go ahead and grieve. And I tell friends and family members not to disappear just because it's awkward and you might not know what to say.

Personally, I was encouraged by people who didn't try to figure out or fix the situation, but who simply said, "I'm sorry." Others

God's Word is what holds me together as a woman and as a mother during my darkest days and now, as a single mom. My sons and I have learned to lean on His Word.

you have to grieve it like a death. What's difficult is that unlike an actual death, when people rally around those left behind, most people grieve a divorce alone. I had a friend at church who died of cancer. I watched everybody rally around her family. While that's great, very few people did that for me. No one brought me food.

were a huge help when they watched my boys so I could get some time to myself.

HOW ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I've learnt there is life after divorce, and that the Lord faithfully cares for me.

For info see www.kimhillmusic.com

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Angela Thomas

Inspirational speaker and author of the bestselling "Do You Think I'm Beautiful?" and "My Single Mom Life" says, "I believe ordinary women become extraordinary in the arms of God. His love has the final say."



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