

COMPLIMENTARY

NASHVILLE

CHRISTIAN FAMILY[®]

Celebrating 6 Years of Good News

**Finding
Balance**

**Zoro
the Drummer**
Helping others soar





THE HEART BEHIND THE DRUM

Photos by
Matthew Fried and
David Di Padova.

WATERING A HEART'S DESIRE

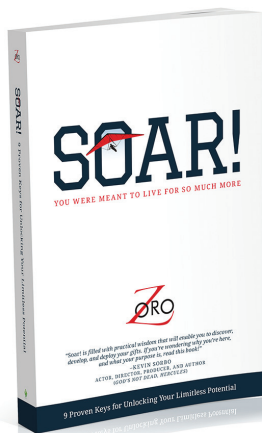
Speaking of people who “water his soul,” Zoro unfolds his story: My greatest early influence was Mom because of everything I saw in her life. Without her and my older sister Patricia, I could not have climbed mountains or soared beyond circumstances. When I received the Lord Jesus as my Savior as an 11-year-old boy at a Baptist summer church camp, God became chief influencer. I vividly remember that encounter with God and the song “Just as I Am” of Billy Graham Crusade fame. Adding Reneé—my wife of 22 years—brought an incredible set of three influential women working with God in my life. I saw my mother’s faith lived out as she stood up against every form of discouragement and disappointment. I saw people trying to take advantage of a Hispanic single mom with seven children. However, she was a high-hopes tough cookie who defended us with her life. We lived in abject poverty, but we were never without hope. Growing up in that fatherless home spawned my heart’s desire to become a great dad.

Marrying Reneé changed the direction of my life. She grew up in a strong Christian home and continually blesses my life. Her faith, prayers, and belief make it possible for me to do what I’m called to do. I’ve had lots of gigs around the

We often wonder how folks get from there to here regardless of where there and here is. World renowned drummer, Zoro, is a prime example—that’s Zoro with a single “r” rather than double “rr” superhero Zorro. The following narrative stems from a most delightful interview with the master drummer himself.

world, but the most important is being father to my kids. I’ve poured time into their lives ever since their birth—maybe more than most working dads because I’ve been self-employed with more flexible scheduling. Among my greatest blessings are 17-year old Jarod and 15-year old Jordan who are thriving in purpose, gifts, and talents. Career is wonderful, but it means nothing if family isn’t happening. I’ve been around successful billionaires with broken and destroyed families, but of higher value than dollars and success is family that loves and believes in God. Ultimately, earthly life will be over, and as a father, the only thing that will matter is whether I taught my family about the Lord. Did I lead, mentor, and love them? Did I love my wife and church? Did God have first place? I don’t want to live with regrets that I didn’t spend more time with my family. I want to live from an eternal perspective with eternal values.

Nowadays, career involves shorter stints. I used to take the red-eye, work all day, take the earliest flight home, and see my family at the airport. I would drive them to school and pick them up to spend time with them. Car time is vital life-sharing time—time to pour into their lives. When they were three-years old, I taught them the importance of principles and reading. I would make simple-to-understand kid sentences: wisdom means to make the right choice; compassion means to feel for others in need. Many simple principles



Zoro's newest book, *Soar*, is available at zoroministries.org, Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.com.



UPCOMING APPEARANCES

October 25: Hear Zoro live on Chris Brown's "True Stewardship" radio show, part of Dave Ramsey's Solutions Network.

Sunday, October 30, 2:00 PM: Zoro book signing, Cool Springs Barnes & Noble, 1701 Mallory Lane, Brentwood, TN

evolved into the teaching principles in my book *Soar* long before it became a book. The principles came from Scripture I taught them to memorize. When they were five and six years old, they could quote long passages for young adults I mentored in our home. Why? I knew that if they learned Scripture while they were little, they could draw on it all their lives. I'm not a perfect person, but nobody can honestly accuse me of not doing my absolute best for my wife and children. I will die knowing that I gave them all I have, holding nothing back. In my life as a father, I've learned to compensate for what I didn't have in my young life. I believe that a person can write great books and win all kinds of awards and even be a great doctor, but if family life is crud, then "success" is pointless. My children are people who "water me." Everybody should bring something to the other person—reciprocity. My kids teach me how God loves me. Just as I love them when they displease me, so does God love me.

People in Nashville watered me, too: Zoro International Ministries (ZIM) began during my full-time teaching at Belmont University. Through mentoring hundreds of young adults, the Lord showed me I was to build up the 18-29 year-old generation that may have fathers but maybe not fathers who could speak in ways their kids could hear. Plus, they liked the music. I poured my heart and soul into those students for nine years, and when we had nine days to move back to Los Angeles, 21 students worked around the clock: they were reciprocating—a bit like the movie *It's a Wonderful Life* when the townspeople came together to support George Bailey. The Lord definitely orchestrated nine years in Nashville through people who helped me know ministry infrastructure. Otherwise, there would be no ZIM, no *Soar*, and no *Big Gig*. That fruitful God-season birthed a new season—maybe to impact people in Hollywood who normally would never go to church or be seen with anyone who looks "churchy." So, having given us life-long friends and ministry vision, God sent us back to CA to another divine appointment.

WATERING A WORLDVIEW

Years ago after seeing my first bullfight in Mexico City, I bought two souvenir hats and tacked them on my wall with other memorabilia. Later, when I was going to a gig, I grabbed one of the hats. Mom began calling me Zoro, using a phrase that she thought described my worldview—always fighting for the underdog. She thought I was like the real Zorro, and the hat highlighted the phrase. So, I started wearing it everywhere. When I went to the studio or on stage, people called me Zoro, and I realized God was renaming me—sort of like the Saul/Paul thing: a new name no one would forget, maybe even a secret agent. God's humor is ironic: the name actually ties my Hispanic heritage through my mom to the hero's fighting for the common person and back to my love of superheroes when I was a kid.

Because I grew up as an underdog, I know what people need to hear. Most are broken and battered and feel like they can't make it and that life has no



purpose. I'm a voice that says, "No, you're not that; God sees you as an incredible person with lots of potential." The heart of my ministry is to lift people up. Since every day can be another discouraging day, I try to use my platform to impact people for God. Sometimes it's thousands of people at

an event. Sometimes it's one-on-one in LA or Uganda where I stop and pray with a total stranger. Other times it's teaching people what it takes to fulfill God's purpose for their lives, to understand that God offers structure and a plan. I developed the *Soar* curriculum long before writing the book. Teaching it in my home for years helped refine its principles of lifting up people who think they have no talent or gift or purpose. *Soar* has principles—not steps—because people never finish surrendering or discovering or strategizing or impacting. God's principles are circular, emphasize earning respect through excellence, require humility before Him, and bring blessing to others.

WATERING A WORLD

Memorizing words when I was little brought me comfort and direction. Occasionally, God brought encouraging males into my life, but, of course, they never lived with me. Since they weren't my father and since I'm a serious reader, I clung to the power of words and positive phrases in the Bible. Those words changed my life, becoming an inspirational, motivational tool. The "sayings" hung on my walls, representing life. Because I understood the power of words, I actually started praying, "Lord, give me words that will inspire and empower others. Flow through me with the power of words." He started downloading words and phrases into me which have now become "Sharable Quotes" on my Website and Facebook and quotations in my books. Words are what I have to give; they're important to God; otherwise, He wouldn't have given us His Word, the Bible.

One message for every audience, even a segment of the *Nashville Christian Family* who may have never heard of Zoro, is that God puts each of us on earth for specific reasons. Ask Him, "Why have You created me? Show me what that is for this season of my life." Make that your heart's cry. He knows you; He likes you.

— Sheila Moss, teacher, speaker, and author of *Living to Matter: Mothers, Singles, and the Weary and Broken*, leads a 9:45 AM Sunday Bible study at Forest Hills Baptist Church. Come!

9 Proven Keys for Unlocking Your Limitless Potential

SOAR!

YOU WERE MEANT TO LIVE FOR SO MUCH MORE



"Zoro reminds us of the potential for greatness that lies inside each of us and shows you step-by-step what it actually takes to achieve excellence in all areas of your life."

—**Kathie Lee Gifford** *Cohost of NBC's Today Show*



"Zoro has a tremendous passion for ministry and sharing the gospel. When we had him as a guest on our program, I immediately connected with his desire to communicate God's truths in a real and down to earth way."

—**Joyce Meyer** *Christian Author and Speaker*



"Zoro's heart, discipline and passion are what propelled him to greatness. ... His music and life lessons are about using your God-given talents to the maximum."

—**Lenny Kravitz** *Singer-Songwriter, Record Producer, Actor & Arranger*



"Zoro's latest book is what millions in today's ever-changing world are asking for."

—**Michael W. Smith** *Grammy Award-Winning Recording Artist*

Soar! has skyrocketed to the top of the Christian book charts in many categories!



BOOK SIGNING WITH ZORO

Pick up a copy of *Soar!* and meet the world-renowned drummer, author, and inspirational speaker at his only Nashville appearance!

Sunday, October 30th at 2:00 P.M.

Cool Springs Barnes & Noble
1701 Mallory Lane
Brentwood TN 37027
(615) 377-9979

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& NOBLE**

WHY: To be inspired, ignited, and equipped with the tools needed to reach your full potential and live out God's dream for your life!

**ONE
NIGHT
ONLY!**



"Soar! is filled with practical wisdom that will enable you to discover, develop, and deploy your gifts. If you're wondering why you're here, and what your purpose is, read this book!"

—**Kevin Sorbo**, Actor, Director, Producer and Author (*God's Not Dead*, *Hercules*)

When you think of your life, what are your biggest dreams?

Winning an Academy Award? Discovering a cure for cancer? Flying a fighter jet? Winning an Olympic gold medal? Ultimately doing something significant, meaningful, and lasting?

Your dreams are far more than wishful thinking. As world-renowned musician, master storyteller, and motivational speaker Zoro shows, your dreams are a very special gift from God, designed to help you soar!

In this powerful book, Zoro shares nine vital life principles that will help you unlock your limitless potential and guide you into a life of impact, intention, and adventure regardless of your age or what you've accomplished so far. This book will provide the master keys to accomplishment. Are you ready to be launched into the true success that awaits you?

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www.EmergePublishing.com



World-renowned drummer Zoro has toured and recorded with music legends such as Lenny Kravitz, Bobby Brown, New Edition, and Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. He is also a critically acclaimed author, life coach, ordained minister, and founder of Zoro International Ministries who speaks to audiences worldwide on the topics of personal excellence and life purpose. zoroministries.org and zorothedrummer.com.

SUBSCRIBE AND SOAR!

Soar with Zoro's latest words of wisdom and inspiration, subscribe to his blog at zoroministries.org/blog and his YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/zorothedrummer

Sign up for a **FREE** chapter of *SOAR!*
9 Proven Keys for Unlocking Your Limitless Potential
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Soar with Zoro: Practical Wisdom for Life

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