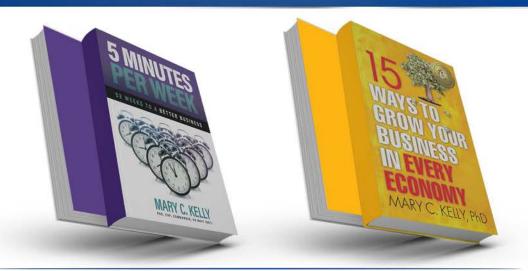
12 Months of Business Growth **RESOURCES**

From Mary Kelly



- STRATEGIC PLANNING
- **TACTICAL ACTION STEPS**
- PRODUCTIVITY TOOLS

WORK THROUGH A 5-MINUTE PLAN EVERY MONTH TO BUILD A BETTER BUSINESS!



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JANUARY

Goals for the month: 4. _____ This month I want to do more of these activities: 1._____ 2. _____ This month I resolve to delegate This month I resolve to outsource This month I am going to streamline this process This month I am going to complete this project This month I am going to resolve this situation I will contact these 3 people for advice: 1._____

I will reach	out to these	3 potential d	ecision-make	rs/clients:
2				
On a scale	of 1 through	5, this month	n was a	
1 Terrible	2 Meh	3 Okay	4 Good	5 Fabulous
What could	d have made	e this month b	oetter?	
2 3 I am gratef 1 2	ful for:			
NOTES:				



5-MINUTE YEAR-IN-REVIEW PLAN

Assessing the past year helps us plan for the future. Now is a great time to finish old business so we can move forward. As we move into a new year, acknowledge past accomplishments as well as challenges.

In 3 words, describe business in the past year,	What 3 people can I thank for helping me last year? 1
·	2
In 3 words, describe my personal life/health in the past year,,	3 What unfinished business is still left from last year?
In 3 words, describe my personal relationships in	
the past year,,,	What was the low point of last year?
Describe 3 things I worried about last year that I don't need to consider this year.	
1	What can I do to avoid that in the future?
3	
What was the best decision I made last year?	
	Who can I work with/ask for help/mentor this next year?
What helped make me successful?	
	What is my top goal for the next year?
What was my biggest accomplishment last year?	
	What three top actions can I take to make that goal a reality?
	1
	2
	3

February

Goals for the month: 4. _____ This month I want to do more of these activities: 1. _____ 2. _____ This month I resolve to delegate This month I resolve to outsource This month I am going to streamline this process This month I am going to complete this project This month I am going to resolve this situation I will contact these 3 people for advice: 1._____

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What could	d have made	e this month b	petter?	
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I am gratef	ful for:			
2				
NOTES:				





Fill in the blanks/complete the sentences on this page to create a high-level business plan you can use right away.

1. The Big Picture/The Executive Summary	4. Almost Famous/Marketing
This identifies what we actually do and for whom.	People need to know about us and our products or services.
We sell/provide	
to people who	Customers learn about us through
to people wilo	ouotomoro tourn ubout uo timougn
2. Making Life Better/Business Operations	Our social media plan includes
	We manage referrals by
In business we generally focus on filling a need, solving a problem, or improving someone's life somehow.	
We are helping	5. Climbing the Mountain/Management
We are increasing	
We are reducing or getting rid of	You cannot do everything by ourselves. Outsource tasks or projects that can be accomplished easily by someone
	else.
3. Profits/Financials	
	I like doing
To be successful in business we have to make a profit.	
Making a profit means revenues are greater than	I'll get help with
expenses.	
I charge	6. Top of the World/Success
To get paid I	
I can also earn money if I	Know when we achieve goals. Celebrate milestones and accomplishments.
	I'll know I'm successful when I have(#)
	customers, or sell(#) products, or make
	\$ income

<u>March</u>

Goals for the month:
1
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1
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I will reach	out to these	3 potential d	ecision-make	rs/clients:
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What could	d have made	e this month b	oetter?	
2				
I am gratef	ful for:			
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NOTES:				





Our mission is what we do, such as "we play baseball."
A vision is "we are going to the World Series."
Leaders need to create a vision that gives people purpose and direction, and coalesces them around a goal bigger than themselves.

Before establishing the vision, we need to know our mission.	What major changes will we see in the future?
What do we actually do?	2 3
	How will these changes affect our purpose?
Who do we serve now?	2. 3.
	What legacy do we want to leave? What do we want to be known for?
Think about the Really Big Picture to create the vision.	
With a clearly understood mission, we can move into creating the vision.	If there were no constraints, what would we do?
Strategic thinking considers the big picture, potental changes, and every possible variable.	
Who will we serve in the future?	What is our vision?
In 5 years?	
In 10 years?	
In 20 years?	

<u>April</u>

Goals for the month:
1
This month I want to do more of these activities:
1
This month I resolve to delegate
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5-MINUTE OPPORTUNITY PLAN

In the middle of fast-paced changes and a fluctuating environment, it is easy to freeze into inactivity. During times of turmoil and disruption is when people need their leaders the most. This is also the time to find opportunities.

Humans do not like change. We prefer security and stability, which is why change, for most people, is difficult. The habenula, that part of our brain which helps us deal	What are my people's immediate needs right now?
with change, doesn't like it. Once we accept the change, we tend to adapt fairly quickly.	If I had plenty of money, resources, and time, what would I do first?
For some people, it is tough to see opportunities when situations are changing, especially if they are changing due to events outside of our control. Great leaders are not only resilient during adversity, they also synthesize information quickly, and then take the right action fast. They are able to see opportunities even in tough situations.	What needs to be invented to solve this problem?
Every challenge brings with it the opportunity to help others, solve problems, and move forward. As leaders, that is why we are here.	What is the craziest possible idea for this situation?
It is helpful to ask questions such as:	What is the craziest impossible idea for this situation?
Where are there unmet needs where we can help?	
Where can I best serve other people?	What needs to be invented or developed for the impossible solution to work?
Where can I best serve my team?	What are the benefits of having this challenge right now?
Where can we best serve our clients, customers, patients, and members?	In a year, what will we say was a great outcome of this situation?

May

Goals for the month:
1
2
3
4.
This month I want to do more of these activities: 1.
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This month I resolve to delegate
This month I resolve to outsource
This month I am going to streamline this process
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Many people don't achieve their full potential because they don't define and work toward goals. When writing a goal, start with "I will" and assign a date for completion.

My Goal! _____ Completion Date: _____

iis are criancriging for everyone, beec	ause everyone has obstacles. What are the obstacles?	What are the solutions?
bstacles	Solutions	
tion Steps		
tion Steps at are 5 actions steps to make this go		
tion Steps at are 5 actions steps to make this go	pal a reality?	
tion Steps at are 5 actions steps to make this go ction	pal a reality? Due Date	√
tion Steps at are 5 actions steps to make this go ction	pal a reality? Due Date	
tion Steps at are 5 actions steps to make this go ction	Due Date	
tion Steps	pal a reality? Due Date	

<u>June</u>

Goals for the month:
1
This month I want to do more of these activities:
1
This month I resolve to delegate
This month I resolve to outsource
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1				
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I am gratef				
2 3				
NOTES:				





Are we communicating with our clients enough? And in

interesting, consistent, and helpful. How often do our

Our methods of communicating with our customers

usually need to include several "touch" points.

Ideally, our communication should be informative,

Every business needs to communicate what they do and who benefits from their products and services. Many businesses practice "spray and pray marketing" or the "shotgun" approach, where they send out promotions without targeting a niche or message. Marketing to "everyone" wastes resources.

Communicating

clients hear from us?

the right ways?

Marketing dollars need to focus on the people who want and can buy our products.

Ideal clients

We all love working with clients who appreciate our products and services. We need to make sure we're targeting our ideal clients with clear focus. That means knowing who they are, what they want/need, where they "live" (literally and figuratively), and how to address their issues.

We love working with:	On a scale of 1-5, where 1 is poor and 5 is fabulous, assign a number to assess how well we are doing to identify where we can improve.
Because they:	Which of these, if we improved, would benefit us and our customers the most? Mark that one.
	Emails Phone calls Newsletters Advertisements
They want/like:	Newsletters Advertisements Flyers Mailers Face-to-face meetings Meals/Entertainment
We find them by:	Video conferencing, such as Zoom or Skype Other
	Prioritize
We keep in touch with them with by:	If you had an extra \$10,000 to spend on marketing, where would you spend it?
Our top clients know we care about them because we:	

<u>July</u>

Goals for the month:
1
2
3
5
This month I want to do more of these activities:
1
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3
This month I resolve to delegate
This month I resolve to outsource
This month I am going to streamline this process
This month I am going to complete this project
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I will contact these 3 people for advice:
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2 3				
NOTES:				
				



5-MINUTE VALUES PLAN

We only get one chance at this life, so let's make the most of it by doing what we were put here to do. Knowing what we're good at, understanding our strengths and challenges, and working steadily toward our goals keeps us from wasting days, weeks, or even years being distracted by things that don't matter. We don't have time to do everything, so we have to focus on what's most important and make choices that support our values.

It's important to understand what we value. What's important to me? Examples might include: family, friends, dating, dog, cat, faith, career, money, sports, music, travel, or hobbies. My top 5 priorities are:	What is my life's purpose? Try to answer "I am here to"
2	What obstacles do I need to overcome or be aware of?
Many people are good at many things. What are you BEST at?	2. 3.
What am I naturally good at doing? (If this question is difficult, ask friends what they see.) I. 2. 3.	What blogs, books, articles, periodicals, help guide and motivate me?
5 5	
What are my top personality characteristics? These are different from skills. These are adjectives friends would use to describe you—e.g. inquisitive, generous, energetic, friendly, passionate, kind, etc.	Who are my trusted advisors? Who can I call or for help and advice?
2	What habits/behaviors can I try to eliminate in order to be more likeable?
What can I do to improve my skills? Education, a degree, an internship, mentoring, coaching, job training? I	
2	To be accountable for changing these behaviors I can: 1 2 3

<u>August</u>

Goals for the month:
1
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1
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This month I resolve to outsource
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1 2				
3				
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5-MINUTE SALES PLAN

Everyone in every organization is in sales. Every time you represent yourself or your organization, you are conveying value. Sales is helping people find solutions to their needs.

Most sales specialists agree that the most effective sales transactions are those where both parties feel like they are better off.

Great sales people know to:

1. Research the customer's needs.

Know their business, their industry, their competition, and their core issues.

2. Focus on the customer.

Ask clarifying, specific, and smart questions.

3. Suggest the right solutions for the customer's needs.

What do I or my products do to solve my customer's problem?

One of the best pieces of advice I ever got was from my dad at a trade show. I had a couple willing to buy a full case of items when they really only wanted half. My dad said, "Never sell what they don't want."

Almost everyone else is going to try to upsell. When you give people exactly what they want, they remember that. No one likes being oversold.

4. Acknowledge the challenges and provide options.

Hopefully, you are the solution, but sometimes you may not be. In that case, know your competition well enough to know when they are a better fit for your customer. Refer your customer to the right source and facilitate the introduction. Again—they will remember.

5. See the issue from the customer's perspective.

Be relatable, empathetic, and genuine. No one likes to be sold to, but people like buying. Put yourself in their shoes. How would I feel if I had this issue?

6. Agree to work together.

The best transactions are viewed as partnerships.
"I am excited to be your partner as we move forward with

7. Follow up.

The sales process does not end once the transaction is completed. Stay in touch!

September

Goals for the month: 1._____ 4. _____ This month I want to do more of these activities: 1. _____ 2. _____ This month I resolve to delegate This month I resolve to outsource This month I am going to streamline this process This month I am going to complete this project This month I am going to resolve this situation I will contact these 3 people for advice: 1._____

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I am gratef	ul for:			
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NOTES:				

We believe that everyone can be an even better leader, manager, and mentor. Just like a professional athlete, having coach or advisor helps us all become better. We can talk through ideas, brainstorm, and discuss the best ways to solve problems.

The coach or advisor provides helpful feedback, acts as a sounding board, and gives directive guidance when appropriate. To help others, we provide this checklist we find effective when thinking about establishing a coaching program.

When pairing a coach with a leader, we ask:

- O What would be a good result or outcome?
- O How will we measure success?
- O Is the coach a good personality fit for this leader?
- O Is there mutual respect between the advisor and the organization?
- O Does the executive coach or advisor understand the business and the business model?
- O Is there an understanding of that organization's desired result?
- O What kind of confidentiality is involved?

During the first meeting between the coach and leader:

- Identify the purpose of the coaching
- O Identify the frequency and the means of communication
- O Be clear on the tools used to measure and acheive results
- Share commonalities that create trust
- Address uncertainties
- Reiterate the vision, mission, and goals

Throughout the process:

- Maintain frequent communication, even if it is short phone calls, texts, or emails
- Set and revise the agenda for long-term results
- Have honest dialogues
- Identify behaviors that may need altering with positive action steps
- O Continuously assess current issues and business challenges

For me to work with a coach or executive advisor I need:

Someone who is	
will push me to	
and helps me to work through	

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October

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2				
I am gratef	ul for:			
NOTES:				



5-MINUTE PRODUCTIVITY PLAN

Most people are not as productive as they could be because they waste time, do jobs inefficiently, or procrastinate on projects so that they fall behind and feel overwhelmed. Being productive means maximizing scarce resources, accomplishing what we want to accomplish, and spending time doing what we value.

Take Control What are my top three outstanding projects right now? My life would be better if these projects were finished: 1	Nice Ways To Stop Interruptions I'm on deadline. Can we please catch up later? Thanks for stopping by. Good talking with you. What works for me is: 1
Do I need help to get these done? O Yes O No Do I want help to get these done? O Yes O No If I had help, would they get done faster? O Yes O No	Do What We Do Best
Who can I ask for help?	We tend to gravitate toward those jobs that we like or are good at. ASK: Am I the best person to do this? Can someonelse do it better or at a lower opportunity cost? If yes, consider outsourcing, or trade tasks with someone else.
SDS To be more effective at the important things, stop doing the things that don't matter. (SDS = Stop Doing Stupid)	I can outsource or trade: 1 2.
What are three things I do on a daily basis that take up time that I do not need to do?	3.
1	5-Minute Jobs
2	What can I get done today that will take less than 5 minutes? Return a call, walk the dog, do some pushups, send a card, pos on social media, clear the desk, empty the trash, etc.
Time Vampires We all have people, events, and the unexpected crisis that take up our time. Sometimes other people impose their timelines into our lives and they waste our time, throwing us off schedule or not completing their part of a project that impact us.	Quick tasks that will decrease my stress and increase my productivity: 1
Identify who or what waste our time:	

November

Goals for the month: 4. _____ This month I want to do more of these activities: 1. _____ 2. _____ This month I resolve to delegate This month I resolve to outsource This month I am going to streamline this process This month I am going to complete this project This month I am going to resolve this situation I will contact these 3 people for advice: 1._____

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What could	d have mad	e this month b	oetter?	
2				
I am gratef	ful for:			
2				
NOTES:				



5-MINUTE GRATITUDE PLAN

We know that people who reflect on gratitude are happier, feel valued, and experience fewer health issues. How can we live a more grateful life?

People who give to others, those who "pay it forward" show a greater neural sensitivity in the medial prefrontal cortex, the part of the brain associated with learning and decision making.

- use positive emotional words
- use the word "we" more than "I"

- use the word we more than i
Day
Date
On a scale of 1-10, today was
3 things that went well for me today.
1
2
What did I accomplish today?
1
2
3
What could have made today better?
1
2
3.

ive people I appreciated today.
worried about this today
didn't need to worry about



December

Goals for the month: 4. _____ This month I want to do more of these activities: 1. _____ 2. _____ This month I resolve to delegate This month I resolve to outsource This month I am going to streamline this process This month I am going to complete this project This month I am going to resolve this situation I will contact these 3 people for advice: 1._____

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2				
I am gratef	ul for:			
1				
2 3				
NOTES:				



5-MINUTE FOLLOW-UP PLAN

We need to stay in touch with people we currently do business with, those we've done business with in the past, and those we hope to do business with in the future. If you've ever come home from a networking event or conference with a pile of business cards and then done nothing with them, this may help.

Important keys to effective follow-up

- Whatever outreach you decide to do, remember that most people need several touch points before they think seriously about working with you.
- When you follow up, make sure the correspondence is about them—not you!
- Show a genuine interest in being helpful.

Great ways to follow up

Follow up with people you want to stay in touch with by:

- **1. Mailing a handwritten note** (and include your business card).
- **2. Sending a note using a service** like SendOutCards.
- **3. Forwarding an article or video** that may be of business interest to them.
- **4. Ordering a business-oriented book** they may appreciate, and letting them know to expect a package in the mail.
- **5. Connecting with them on LinkedIn or other social platforms.** Include a brief but friendly note that reminds them of something you discussed when you met.

- **6. Asking them if you can add them to your outreach initiative list or CRM.** (It's important to ask permission for this, as automatically adding people to your mailing list is considered spam.)
- **7. Finding someone you both know, and starting an online conversation** with the three of you.
- 8. Discovering common interests, and sending a message highlighting that commonality:

"Sam, I think we were in Minnesota at the same time—you were at U of M, while I was at 3M!"

- **9. Callin**g to say it was nice to meet them. (Yes—actually using the phone!)
- 10. Sending a short video.
- **11. Sending a short voice memo** attached to an email with a followup to your conversation.
- **12. Sending a link for helpful resource material**, and then following up with a note asking if they were able to access the materials.
- **13. Offering a short discovery conversation or consultation** to offer a taste of your work or services.
- **14. Inviting them for coffee** to get to know each other's work further.
- 15. Initiating a video conference virtual "coffee" or happy hour to catchup.

17



5-MINUTE PLAN-OF-THE-DAY PLAN

DAY:	DATE:		
Today's Focus	Appointments/Schedule		
	6:00a		
	7:00-		
Reminders	8:00a		
1	9:00a		
2	10:00a		
3	 11:00a		
Errands	12:00p		
1			
2			
	3:00p		
Notes	4:00p		
	7:00p		
	8:00p		



WEEK STARTING:		
WEEK STANTING.		

✓	Action Plan	Time in Minutes	Due Date	Priority