

**IMMIGRANT LIVING:
101 AND BEYOND**



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

Rewriting your own story

"A useless life is an early death."

— Goethe

years, that is essentially what they did — consumed resources and took up space. Not by intelligence but by sheer size and numbers, they had dominion over all other species for millions of years, until one day, as scientists try to explain their extinction, a rogue asteroid about seven miles long, possibly got unhinged off its orbit in the asteroid belt, hit the earth with such impact, setting off a series of volcanic eruptions that covered the atmosphere with ash far above the stratosphere, so that sunlight could not penetrate through the haze for years, killing off the plant life, upsetting and destroying the food chain balance and effectively starving and wiping the dinosaurs off the face of the earth 65 million years ago. Here is earth's tabula rasa story—starting on a clean slate, a new lease on life. When the reptiles died, mammals, of which we are classified under, began their ascent. Human beings with purpose came to be.

Yet each man's purpose is nebulous and not always obvious. Purpose does not come as clear as the light of day. We have to seek it out. Either by choice or circumstance, some exceptional ones find their purpose early enough and proceed to fulfill it. But the great majority of people on the bell curve don't have the nose to sense their true north. Most of us of the garden variety meander about our lives trying different things until we finally stumble upon it by trial and error. The annals of history are rife with

such stories. St. Paul, almost single handedly nourished the beginnings of the early Christian church through his numerous travels. But he didn't start out that way. He was just as passionate about persecuting Christians before he was tapped from above to do a complete conversion.

Edwin Hubble, the great astronomer who lived in the nineteen twenties and for whom the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) is named for his outstanding achievements in expanding our view of the universe, tried different things before finding out what he was meant to do. In college, he played championship basketball and even tried boxing. After fighting in World War I, he studied law, tried lawyering for a year and obviously didn't like it. Something must have happened because he went back to college to study astronomy and finally found his footing and his purpose in life. That's what most of us do. We try different lives until we find the one that matches heaven's purpose. Just don't run out of time. No one wants to leave with unfinished business.

If our stations in life allow us the luxury of choice, then more than likely, we will be meandering too and trying different things before coming on board to the ship that will likely bring us to the port of our purpose.

Try reading all or portions of Rick Warren's *"The Purpose Driven Life"* written a few years back. Warren is the pastor of

Saddleback Church in Orange County, California. His book continues to be received widely for its clear, well-structured and succinct explanation of what living with purpose means. True, its skewed towards his ministry but there are valuable truths about purpose and meaning to be gleaned by both the secular and spiritual, particularly in the early parts of the book.

We don't really have to wait for something dramatic, traumatic or tragic to happen to get us on track to finding that purpose. But do go to the right source. Nix the harebrained ideas coming from most of the media about what that purpose might be. When it comes to things that matter, most of the mainstream media has proven itself to be unworthy of trust. It pushes its own agenda of power that comes from profit.

Tune out of the external world and go deep within. If you pray hard enough and long enough and live in the silence for a little while, chances are, you'll find it. You can then begin rewriting your own story on a new document page.

Nota Bene: My views are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of AJPI. I encourage you to read my book, "The Complete Success Guide for the Immigrant Life: How to Survive, How to Thrive, How to be Fully Alive." If you have very little time to read, browse through "The Immigrant's Little Quote Book for Success." Your local public library might have these books available or you can request your librarian to purchase copies. These are also available at amazon.com or immigrantsuccess.com. Past articles are on the Internet at www.asianjournal.com. To ask questions, send feedback and requests, e-mail monnettemaglaya@sbcglobal.net or monette.maglaya@asianjournalinc.com..

Why I 'hate' Kris

From PAGE B1

to Kris read a letter to her mom. Here are the first and concluding parts:

Dear Mom,
I hope and pray that when you're reading this you're okay. Or at the very least, that you're not suffering and still coping with your chemotherapy.

We didn't want to add to your burden by showing you how torn up we all were when we found out about your cancer. When Viel told me that it wasn't good, and that you had cancer, I felt the world came crashing down, and all the weight was centered on my heart and my stomach. How could there be life without you?

I cried uncontrollably. I threw up so much, wanting to purge myself of the worst possible news.

Memories came rushing back, and I wanted to share them with you now, just so you'd know how much being your baby has meant to me...

During baby James' birthday, when you said your thank you message, it was the only time I ever saw your tears fall during this whole ordeal. It was such a short message, but I know it came from your heart.

Just like you told me, everybody has to undergo suffering in order to become closer to Jesus.

But, not everybody gets blessed by millions of people praying for them. Pinky was worried about you breaking down, but I told her that I felt it was your heart overflowing with gratitude for all the love, caring, support and compassion that you've been given.

But those people who don't know you intimately like your daughter does. If you're already that special to them, maybe when they get a glimpse of how special you are to me, they'll understand just how much God must have thought of me, to give me a Mom like you...

...When people ask me what is the most important thing that I've learned from you, it is to have faith in God, because He loves us, and He will shelter us, and take care of us. In surrendering to His will, that is when we get stronger...

...I wouldn't have my faith now, had I not seen it in you. Did I ever say thank you, Mom, for praying that 5th Rosary for the day, every time James has an important game?

Thank you, Mom. As you listen to the CD, it becomes harder and harder to tell which are more touching, the songs or Kris' emotion-laden narrations. And when finally you

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Showbitz!

From PAGE B1



Yul Servo

the third time for Yul to win the Best Actor in the annual film festival—he first won for his role in *Batang Westside* in 2001 and the other for the film *Naglalayag*.

Yul's other film, *Brutus*, also an entry at the festival, won for Best Asian Film, further proving his status as independent cinema's darling.

Naturally, Yul is ecstatic with the wins as he tells Philippine Entertainment Portal, *Paano ba naman co-nominee ko si Nick Nolte ng US Hollywood, para sa entry ng US na Off the Black! Astig, 'di ba? Talunin ko ba naman si Nick Nolte? Ayokong ilagay sa ulo ko, pero kahit ano pa ang sabihin ng iba, the fact na nakalaban ko ang isang Nick*

Nolte sa isang acting competition, ibang klaseng achievement na 'yun sa akin."

Oyo Boy Sotto re-launches career with new TV show

Oyo Boy Sotto, who has not been as active in the TV scene as he used to be is excited for his new TV show *Midnight DJ* for the newly revamped TV5 channel. He is also hopeful that he will be part of major TV shows for the *Kapamilya* network by next year. In the meantime, he plans to continue his college studies and would most likely enroll in the University of the Philippines to take up a course in Associate in Arts.

Oyo Boy's parents, TV host/comedian Vic Sotto and actress Dina Bonnevie, are proud of this latest development in his life.



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