Note to my faithful readers–with heartfelt thanks

With a strong desire to promote new talents, I featured one author in my website for the last four years. As time passed by, the highlights extended also to award-winning and international known authors, such as Greg Hurwitz, Regina Doman, William L. Biersach, Karina Fabian, Mary DeMuth, Robina Williams, and CJ West, just to mention a few. I remember the thrill I felt while researching each author and formulating their questions, each time aiming to bring excellent interviews to my readers.

Nonetheless, at times it was hard to measure the success of these interviews without my readers' comments. Other times, the comments were sent directly to the author so I never had the opportunity to read the comments myself.

I want to thank all the authors who accepted my invitation to be featured on my site and were extremely patient while answering my questions. Many authors told me my questions were unique, thought-provoking, and well researched. Those praises motivated me to keep going.

However, all good things must come to an end in order to make room for new challenges and to follow new paths in my life.

"A bend in the road is not the end of the road...unless you fail to make the turn." ~Author Unknown

My writing career is now taking me to look into the past to search for the hidden truth behind the German pain caused by World War II. For the past three years, parallel to my featured author's interview, I have been interviewing Germans about their lives during Nazi Germany. Those stories are very interesting, very personal and also, very painful.

I consider this the biggest project of my writing career. As most of my witnesses are already in their late 80's, I have decided to dedicate more time to the transcriptions, edits, verification of data, and to the writing of these stories. This is very challenging since my German skills are pretty basic. All the interviews were conducted in German, except one, which was conducted in both English and German, as requested by the interviewee.

I am tackling this project with the same dedication and motivation as I undertook my monthly interviews. This project also consists of interviews, but these will be presented in a book format and not as a “featured author.” It is my hope to have a first draft of the manuscript ready by 2013. All is in God's hands.

My motto is "If God leads you to it, He will guide you through it." So far He has been faithful and has provided me with all the necessary people in the right places to assist me in this journey through Nazi Germany to open my eyes and see clearly all the misconceptions regarding World War II.

It is my deepest hope that this book will shed some light to the fact that not all Germans were Nazi and not all Nazis were Germans. Some Germans risked their lives trying to protect Jews, while others even died in concentration camps for their attempts to kill Hitler! Nonetheless, the Jews living in Germany were Germans and many of them fought together with the German Army during World War I. Some half-Jews even served in the German Army during World War II. A thought-provoking and shocking truth!

About two years ago I was the featured author at my site and enjoyed the authors' questions immensely. I decided to do it again and to give them an opportunity to interview me and to promote my two books: The Window to my Soul; My Walk with Jesus (2004 Tate Publishing) and my newest one, El Espejo de mi Alma (2010 WinePress)

I want to conclude by thanking my faithful readers who month after month read my interviews and by doing so, got to know a little more about my featured authors and their work.

If my interviews motivated my readers to purchase the featured author's book, then my mission was accomplished!

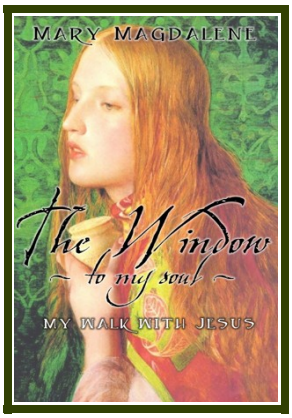
An Interview with Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés

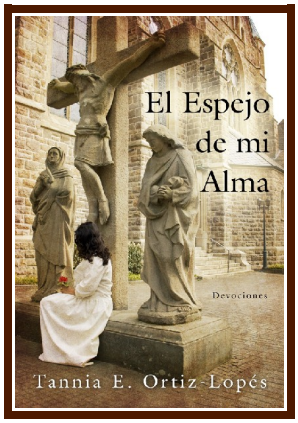
December 2010 Featured Author
at
Time with Tannia

(http://timewithtannia.tripod.com)

By:

Mary DeMuth, Vincent Frankini, David Murdoch, and CJ West





About the Author:

Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés is a published author, book reviewer, poet, song writer, and amateur stock-photographer by profession, a mother by choice, and a wife by the covenant of marriage. She was born in Guayama, Puerto Rico and currently lives in Germany with her husband and two sons. From 1988 until the year 2000 she participated in the following Spanish poetry anthologies published by "El Editor Interamericano" located in Buenos Aires, Argentina*; "Americanto"(1988),"Poetas Hispanoamericanos Contemporaneos" (1989), "Patria Plural"(1990),"América Poética"(1992), and "Expoesía 2000"(1996).* These poems were published under the pen name of Thánatos Lopés.

On 2004, the author published her first free-style inspirational poetry book, ***The Window To My Soul, My Walk With Jesus,*** with Tate Publishing under the pen name of Mary Magdalene. **In March 2006,** the book was voted **"Best Poetry Book"** by www.christianstoryteller.com The book could be purchased directly from the publisher at www.tatepublishing.com and at all major online stores worldwide.

On 2011, the author releases, ***El Espejo de mi Alma***, the long-awaited Spanish translation of her award winning book, ***The Window to my Soul; My Walk with Jesus***.

Learn more about **Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés,** her works, and read her book reviews at http://timewithtannia.tripod.com/ In addition to writing, the author enjoys the art of photography. Her stock photography portfolio is available at http://www.bigstockphoto.com/search/photographer/Boricua63/
For other non-stock photography items visit her at http://www.zazzle.com/teolpuertorico

Vincent Frankini – editor, Tumblar House

What was the reason you moved to Germany?

In a nutshell, my husband got a teaching job in Germany.

Now for the rest of the story....

Since I met my husband, he mentioned his desire to return to Germany under the right circumstances. During one visit to his parents, he heard of a job opening. He applied for it and got the job. That marked the beginning of our family relocation adventures. When he returned home, we talked about it, discussed the pros and cons of the relocation and discovered the advantages outweighed the disadvantages.

My husband moved to Germany one year ahead of us. In the meantime, my sons learned German with a private tutor to provide them with the basic language skills to make the school transition smoother. During the preparation of our family relocation, my first book, The Window to my Soul; My Walk with Jesus (Tate Publishing) was released.

We have been living in Germany for over six years now, and looking back, I have no regrets. Both of my sons are fully bilingual English-German. As for me, I am currently trilingual: Spanish, English, and German. My German is not perfect like my sons', but it is good enough for my daily live. German is an extremely difficult language to learn but it is also very rich in vocabulary. Besides, in order to fully enjoy Germany, knowledge of the language is a must!

Living in Germany has allowed me to annually attend the world most famous book fair, The Frankfurt Book Fair, and make new contacts to further my writing career.

In addition to writing, I have been blessed with the opportunity of pursuing another childhood dream, singing classical music. It's not as difficult as learning German, but I love the challenge that comes with the knowledge of singing, reading music and language. Besides, what is life without challenges? Just a ticket to boredom! I prefer to be actively learning and aiming high to keep my mind alert and healthy.

Whenever you are in the neighborhood, Vinnie, be sure to stop by so I could show you around. You will love our pastry and our hearty cuisine!

CJ West is the author of 5 thrillers, most recently ***The End of Marking Time*** (www.22wb.com)

I've been interviewed by lots of people, but you stand out for the research and dedication you put into knowing your subjects. What inspired you to take your work as an interviewer so seriously?

First of all, thanks for the compliment. It is good to know my hard work and dedication is valued that highly by excellent authors like yourself. It took me about two months to do the research for your interview, but your words of affirmation confirmed that it was all worth it. I am honored by your words.

Your question is a tough one. I will say, it is a matter of pride and ethics. It all started during my adolescent years. I got my first job at age 16 as an attendant at a fabric store. The night before, I slept over at my grandparents who lived at walking distance from the store. That night, before I went to bed, my grandpa shared with me some work ethics and wisdom to be successful in life. First, always be earlier than your boss. Second, whatever you do, no matter how insignificant the job appears to be, do it well and with pride. My grandpa had very little formal education. He was the janitor of a local bank in our town. I have never seen anybody mop a floor with such pride like him. He also greeted the customers and was kind to the public and his colleagues. He always wore a tie and his clothes were clean and well ironed. My grandpa was very loved at this bank and the day of his retirement they threw a big party for him. My grandpa died many years ago from brain cancer complications, but his words of wisdom are alive inside me.

Those words became the blueprint of my work ethics.

In addition to aiming high, to do my best and with pride, I have always enjoyed doing research. I have an insatiable curiosity that drives me to investigate where others stopped looking and to find answers that others overlooked.

I aim to bring to my readers extraordinary and balanced interviews about the author's public and private life without being intrusive. I want to highlight the author's work and recommend quality books to my readers who are struggling with the decision of whether to take a chance on a newly published author or to continue buying the book of an established author. A well researched and conscientiously prepared interview can make the difference between a purchase and
recommendation of a book or not.

I want to believe that my interviews have achieved both goals, to help my readers make an informed decision, as well as supporting new talents.

David Murdoch is a Canadian who was raised as a protestant and converted to catholicism as a young adult. He published two books, titled ***"Ana Markovic"*** and ***"The Knowledge of Good and Evil"***. He currently lives in Beijing, China where he works as an ESL teacher.

Have you felt closer to Christ in your writing or in the help you give to others outside of it?

Yes, but this closeness extend beyond my writing. I feel closer to Christ when I praise Him with my voice and mostly while singing Panis Angelicus. Sometimes I could feel Him hugging me while singing. It is very gratifying. This song is my ultimate form of worship.

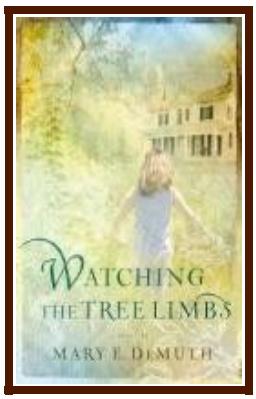
I write for myself since not all my meditations, sacred songs, or reflections are for the public eye. Some are very personal while others are secrets I share only with Jesus.

Before I write a meditation, I pray for guidance and inspiration. Then I allow the Holy Spirit to to take over my mind and my hands to better express the emotions of my soul. The results of these partnership have always been exceptional and gratifying.

After I am done with the writing I decide its fate: public or private. Whenever I choose to publish it is with the hope that others benefit from its message or might be able to identify themselves with my predicaments, hopes, and resolutions.

I want to glorify God with my talents. I want to show to others that Jesus is real. He is waiting for us to come to Him whenever we are ready to fully surrender ourselves into His loving arms and accept the Father's will.

It is very rewarding when someone says to me: "Your book touched me. Thanks for writing it." Words of affirmation validate our work and bring praises to God.



Mary DeMuth is an author, speaker and book mentor who loves to help folks turn trials to triumph. She's the author of ten books and lives with her husband and three children in Texas. Find out more at http://www.marydemuth.com, "Thin Places" is her memoir.

What's your favorite piece of writing (by you)?

This is a question with a double edge. My Spanish professor and mentor once told me that it wasn't right to have a favorite piece of work because it took away the value of the not-so-favorite piece. However, I believe that although each piece or song I write is special and unique in its own way, it is our human tendency to play favorites. Each piece and song I have written represents a stage on my personal, spiritual or professional development, so it is hard to choose just one.

Nevertheless, Three Equals One, stands out from the rest. When I started my spiritual direction under the guidance of Fr. Bill, he once challenged me to see the path ahead of me not with human eyes but through the eyes of Christ. Easier said than done! I struggled with this assignment and prayed for guidance. I have always been very devoted to the Blessed Trinity but also knew how hard it was to understand for fellow Christians, children, and youth. During that time, I was teaching Catholic Catechism to 7th and 8th graders at my local parish. The Lord led me to write this thought-provoking explanation about the Blessed Trinity with easily understandable images.

INTERVIEW COMMENTS:

December 11, 2010 10:29:56 AM EST
Name: Gerard Webster
Email Address: (optional) websterjerry@hotmail.com
Web site URL: (optional)
Where did you hear about this interview on facebook

Comments: What a great interview, Tannia. You've done a great job of promoting wholesome works of fiction. Reading the interview has given me greater insight into your motivations and drive. Very inspirational. Looking forward to your next book--wish I could see it before 2013. My dad was a WWII veteran and fought in Germany--and my son is now a priest serving in Germany. We've had the opportunity to visit twice--once in and around Cologne & once in Regensburg. Beautiful country and very friendly people! God bless you and your work. Blessed Advent & Merry Christmas!

December 10, 2010 10:57:52 PM EST
Name: Colleen
Email Address: (optional) colleen@colleenspiro.com
Web site URL: (optional) http://catholic-prayer-life.com
Where did you hear about this interview Got a message from Tannia!

Comments: Love the interview. Wish you the best on your present project. Thanks for interviewing me a couple of years ago! God bless!

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I want to THANK all the authors who participated in my project, „*Interviewing Tannia*.“ The questions were answered and published in the order they were received.

Once again, THANK YOU!!!! Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés