



TESTING

to

TESTIMONY

But those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
They will run and not grow weary,
They will walk and not be faint.
— ISAIAH 40:31

May God use this book to inspire, give hope,
give strength, and lift up the spirits
of the brokenhearted and lead more people
in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ and allow Him
to be their Personal Lord and Savior.

The TESTING will indeed turn out to be a TESTIMONY!



Born after 7 years of marriage to a second-generation Indian family in the Philippines. He ingested food that caused him to urinate blood. Transfused with blood to extend his life. Endured emotional, physical, and spiritual persecutions and financial lack for a number of years. Drowned several times; held up by armed men; fallen on the street due to hunger and thirst. Rendered homeless and unemployed; helpless due to fire and abandonment. Suffered a heart attack. Operated 8 times. But still holding on and praising God in spite of the testings in his life.

"Lord, I offer you my remaining life. Use it for your purpose and glory!
Let me become a living sacrifice and a testimony of
Your Goodness in my life, Amen!"

Smile and Be Joyful Always
God Bless You All!

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TOLLY R. AMARNANI

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TESTing to TESTimony

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Dedication

I have prayed and decided to write this book, **TESTing to TESTimony**, after I was discharged from the hospital, due to my heart attack and angioplasty, in March 2016.

After being in the intensive care unit for 9 days and one day in the private room, I was just incredibly grateful to our Lord Jesus Christ, for granting me a precious life extension.

I would also like to use this book to dedicate and express my gratitude to my one and only younger sister, *Rani R. Amarnani*, who prayed, cried, begged God for the extension of my life, without considering her own needs. She embraced the inconvenience of not being able to go home and rest, and sleeping on a cold hospital floor, for the nine days I was in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). I am truly grateful to God, for her love, selfless sacrifice, her patience and for the fortitude.

Prayer

May this book be a blessing to many who are struggling in their lives, due to parental abuse both verbally and physically, various physical and mental or emotional ailments, those with financial difficulties, those with conflicts in their love life and/or marital relationship, business and employment challenges, and those who are on the verge of giving up!

May this book be an instrument for the reader to continue to hold on to the words and promises of God, through the Holy Bible, and not to give up!

"This too shall pass!"

May God continue to use me to share His words to others until He comes or calls me home!



To God be all the Glory! Amen!

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Foreword

"It is with great honor to be able to say something about the author of the book, *TESTing to TESTimony*.

A man I respect and love next to God and my parents. A man who sacrificed his life to be able to take care of me like a daughter and more than a sister. A man who despite all the trials he has faced continues to fight and inspire others.

This book will give the reader hope and encouragement to go on and fight. He has faced all the challenges in life but he still rises up daily at 5 o'clock in the morning to give glory to God till 9 o'clock in the evening. His time is only for God and God alone.

To my dear brother whom I admire: You are a modern Job of this time. I'm sure God is very proud to have a faithful servant like you."

Rani R. Amarnani

Sister

"TESTing to TESTimony is the story of a man born in a foreign land who experienced financial adversities, cultural difficulties, language barriers, religious differences, health issues, oppression in the workplace, and family problems. Yet, God in His gracious way used some relatives to bring him to a church. Having studied in a Christian university, he accepted Christ on his second visit to the church that occurred on his 18th birthday. Thus began his walk with the Lord. Today, Brother Tolly is faithfully serving God as a pastor!

I came to know the author through a mutual friend at the BizPro (*Businessmen and Professionals*) Ministry of the New Millennium Evangelical Church. Though our contacts have been infrequent, we remain in touch through social media by sharing our prayer concerns and thanksgiving items. As Ptr. Tolly himself said at the conclusion of his book, **"May God use this book to inspire, give hope, give strength and lead more people in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior."** For this reason, this book is a must-read for people amidst life's multiple and constant struggles."

Mr. Daniel C. Shangkuan

Businessman;

Board Member, The New Millennium Evangelical Church

"I have known Tolly Amarnani for quite some time. One thing I have noticed that was consistent in his life through the years was his love for Jesus Christ.

This was expressed in his desire to worship our Lord Jesus Christ with much passion. He loves to sit in front and raise up his hands in full surrender to the Lord.

He loves to teach and preach God's Word. In our Marketplace Ministry at Gospel Church of Manila, he shares his knowledge of God's Word and experiences to fellow professionals. He frequently preaches in our Satellite Church — *Gospel Church of Manila* District 2 Tondo, Manila.

His faith and love for our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ was tested by various trials and tribulations. He is one who has persevered and never doubted God's unfailing love for him. This is the reason why he wants to share his God-story. In this generation when the love of many are growing cold and could not persevere, ***his story will surely be a source of inspiration.***"

Rev. Greg Ambrose C. Roasa

Senior Pastor

Gospel Church of Manila

“Before I met Ptr. Tolly in person, I’ve already heard so many good testimonies about him. At first I thought, he is a type of person who is full of wisdom and understanding which manifested in his life. Then I learned so many painful stories, unforgettable experiences that he went through in his life when I finally got to meet him. Since then, I started to admire this big guy because of his consistent walk with God. Despite the many struggles, troubles, difficulties and problems that he encountered, he remained faithful with his journey with God.

I hope and pray that this book can be a living testimony and that it can minister to you as well. All of the good principles that you may learn, may you be able to apply for you to overcome all the trials and difficulties in life. May you be able to reach out to others who are also facing serious life challenges. ***I highly recommend that you read through this book for you to be enlightened, encouraged and have a more positive outlook in life.*** God bless you!”

Pastor Roy Pandile Villareal

Senior Pastor

Gospel Church of Manila, District 2, Tondo, Manila

“Sometimes ***afflictions and sufferings are allowed by God to strengthen a person’s dependence upon Christ***, and the same person boast in his weakness, so that Christ’s power will work through him.”

Mr. Lito Caronan

Businessman;

*Board Member, The New Millennium Evangelical Church
Manila, Philippines*

“While reading through the manuscript I have witnessed how ***the grace of God*** sustained Brother Tolly and ***made him an overcomer*** despite all his troubles and lingering afflictions. Let Brother Tolly encourage you in his first book and with him ***let us continue to remain faithful and testify how great our God is.***”

Mars Joseph B. Lim Jr.

Truth Reader

"The book, *Testing to Testimony*, is an amazing saga of a man's journey through incredible difficulties. Bro. Tolly's dauntless, unwavering attitude resembles that of God's servant, Job.

"Though He slays me, yet I will still trust Him."

Job 13:15

I pray that the readers will long ***to get to know the kind of God that produces such an impact to a suffering soul, especially nowadays when we experience life's harsh realities become harder and seem insurmountable.***

Hats off to the author for weathering tremendous life 'storms' and for painstakingly putting such accounts to print. May people grappling for sense in their troubles be inspired and helped."

Nomee Dizon-Canlas

Publisher, Glad Tidings Publishing, Inc.

Preface

When I was seven years old and in 5th grade here in Manila, I ate some fish balls dipped in vinegar from a street hawker that was selling them outside the gate of our school, Philippine Christian University, and Union Elementary School campus.

I developed typhoid fever which started my near-death experience or ordeal...

I had developed fever initially which later turned out to be typhoid fever....the fever lasted for more than one week.

After being admitted in the hospital, for further evaluation and treatment, the results were something that my parents had to deal with and had their faith tested to its peak.

The diagnosis...my liver suffered a cut during the insertion of the crushed ice cubes in my rectum, hence, *"all the reddish discharge I was urinating was my blood."*

"My blood pressure was dropping fast so was my pulse rate." Panic broke out!

My mother and other relatives cried and became hysterical.

"No! No! No! He cannot die!"

The only option left was to give me blood transfusion, hoping and praying that my body would accept the blood to be given.

Since that was the only option at that time, a request was made to the blood bank of the hospital, and lo and behold, no blood was available, as my blood type is AB+. A rare type, and a difficult one to find.

The Red Cross, and blood banks were being chased to get a bag of blood, as my time was running out..

God was gracious and merciful for answering the prayers of my parents. A miracle happened, they were able to find one bag, and then another one.

They had me on those two bags of blood on both of my hands, and two bottles of intravenous fluids on both of my feet, fighting for my life to survive.

"Prayers! Prayers! Prayers!"

Please!.....hoping my body would accept the blood and I would react to it positively and not urinate or reject the blood.

My father flew immediately in the next available flight from Bacolod City, Philippines, expecting the worst to happen.

Slowly, my body accepted the blood, and the fluids regulated the loss of water and minerals in my body.

After a few days of blood transfusion, as this needs to be observed continuously, to avoid any rejections, I gradually improved and the blood was accepted by my body, and I finally came back to life.

"All glory to God in heaven!"

Chapter 1



My Birth and Early Childhood



My Grandparents moved from India to the Philippines, after World War 1 was over.

My Maternal Grandfather

— established a business in Camarines Norte, Daet, Bicol, Philippines, and passed away due to a heart attack in 1960.

My Paternal Grandfather

— established their business in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Philippines.

My Parents were introduced here in Manila, through what is called a “*marriage matchmaker*”, and as per the Indian traditions, arrangements were then done.

They were married in September 1961, first in the courts of the City of Laguna, and then in the Indian temple in Manila, Philippines.

I was born to my parents, both of Indian origin, in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, after 7 years of their marriage. I was the first male born son to my parents, and it brought them overflowing joy, since they thought that my mother could not conceive anymore.

I was an answer to their prayers, as my father was a devout Catholic and a devotee of Saint Jude of Thaddeus; my mother was a devout Hindu believer. Indians normally are devout Hindu believers, as my maternal grandmother was an extremely strict believer who followed all the traditions that were laid down. She constantly offered different kinds of offerings and vows to the Hindu gods and deity.

I was finally born in June 1968, by a caesarean operation.

I came out, feet first, or what is usually termed "*breech baby*" because my umbilical cord was tied around my neck seven times around.

I finally made it out into this world, "***Praise God!***"

"Thank you, Lord!"—was the shout of everyone in the delivery room, and my father was jumping for joy, that he was finally a father of a healthy baby boy.



My father gave me the name, **Tolly**, as per the Indian tradition, when there is a happy or a joyous occasion such as birthday, anniversary, Christmas and the like, and one gives a fruit basket, or a basket of canned goods, with wine, and food stuff. This is called or known as, **toll**.

So, I became a *toll* to my parents, so they took the word *toll* and added the letter **"y"**, and so it became **Tolly**, since **I was a gift of God to them, after seven (7) long years.**

The name **Tolly** is a Hebrew baby name. In Hebrew Baby Names the meaning of the name **Tolly** is: **Ploughman. Son of Talmai** (*Talmai means abounding in furrows.*)

What is a furrow in anatomy?

Medical definition of **furrow**:

- 1: a marked narrow depression or groove.
- 2: a deep wrinkle.

"I am beginning to understand my name better!"