

An Interview with Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés

August 2008 Featured Author

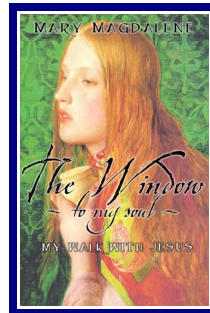
at

Time with Tannia

(<http://timewithtannia.tripod.com>)

By:

Clella Camp, Meredith Gould, Pamela S. Thibodeaux, and Denise Turney.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

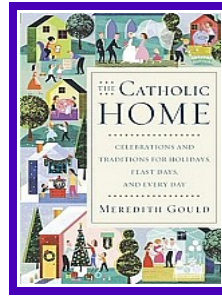
Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés is a book reviewer, interviewer, poet, song writer, and writer by profession, a mother by choice, and a wife by the covenant of marriage. She was born in Guayama, Puerto Rico and currently lives in Germany with her husband and two sons. From 1988 until the year 2000 she participated 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 “*Expoesia 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 2007, the author published her poetry and stories at “*Storytime Tapestry Newsletter*” and “*Wt In Spirit*” Christian Magazine, both located in Canada. Since Summer 2007, the author writes book reviews for www.catholicfiction.net

To contact the author visit her website, “*Time with Tannia*” (<http://timewithtannia.tripod.com/>).

You could also visit her other sites at www.shoutlife.com/tanniaortizlopes, www.myspace.com/tanniaortizlopesmusic, and www.myspace.com/tanniaortizlopes. The author also has a blog at www.amazon.com



Meredith Gould, author of "The Catholic Home: Celebrations and Traditions for Holidays, Feast Days, and Every Day"

Website: www.meredithgould.com

Questions: What inspired you to create your sign-off, "From the distance, yours in Christ"? What does it mean and what do you hope it inspires in those who read it?

My inspiration always comes from above. I wanted to create a meaningful signature. Something that kept the email recipient thinking about me. I thought to myself, what is the best way to say "See you later" and still convey the message, "I am a Christian." The best combination I came up with was my signature, "From the distance, yours in Christ."

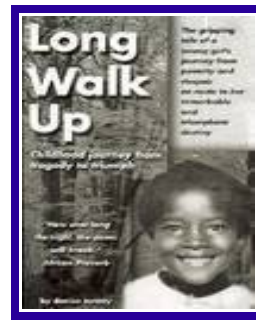
"From the distance," lets you know that I am physically far away because I live in Germany. However, our thoughts and spirits are connected through the universal church headed by Jesus, The Christ.

"Yours in Christ" I am confirming our universal church family relationship and reaffirming to you, "I am your sister in Christ." No matter where in the world we both live, we are close in mind and soul.

I hope the signature inspires others to seek the fisherman who didn't give up on me. The fisherman who caught me with his net and added me to this basket. I want others to meet the Shepherd who guides my life and my steps. The Shepherd who keeps me safe in His loving arms and protects me inside His merciful heart. I want others to come and see, through "The Window To My Soul; My Walk with Jesus," my love for Him. Because only by walking together, with Jesus and me, others will understand my transformation and will better appreciate the unconditional love and eternal compassion of a carpenter's son I

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Meredith Gould, Ph.D., is a Catholic convert from Judaism whose spiritual journey has included many fascinating detours. For decades, her published writing has focused on ways to live faith fully and vibrantly in every day life. Known for what reviewers characterize as her "gentle good humor," Meredith's work invites readers to celebrate all that is true and delightful about Catholic Christianity, along with an enriched appreciation for Judaism's profound influence.



Denise Turney, author of "Long Walk Up"
Website: www.chistell.com

Question: Do you plan to put out a CD, being that you write and perform?

Yes, I am planning to put out a CD; however, not for sale. For this CD project I will be working with my singing teacher and a talented pianist here in Germany. My singing teacher will help me choose the songs that better suit my voice and, in occasions, act as a translator for us. The pianist will help me create the music for some of my poems/songs. I met this pianist during a singing workshop I attended earlier this year. We had a good rapport and felt he was the right person to work with for this CD.

I have written many poems since my adolescent years. Some of them evolved to songs and have been waiting patiently for the right musician to give them rhythm and a voice to be heard by many. The CD will include songs from my personal collections and other famous composers. Since copyrights issues are involved, I chose to do this CD as a gift to my family and as a memorabilia for me.

One day my voice will be silenced and I want to capture this moment of glory for the future. I started my formal voice training at an old age and my voice will be good only for a couple of years. So in my run against the clock, I need to discipline myself to do my voice exercises daily, to read good books about vocalization and singing techniques, to listen to my teacher, and pray God will bless my voice for many years to come.

In the meantime, I created a page at:
myspace.com (<http://www.myspace.com/tanniaortizlopesmusic>) to market some of my first songs. These songs were performed live by my stepfather's band in Puerto Rico. They were professionally done and they sound great. The musical arrangements were done by my youngest brother, who back then was still studying music at Puerto Rico's best public music school, "El Conservatorio de Musica de Puerto Rico" (<http://www.cmpr.edu>).

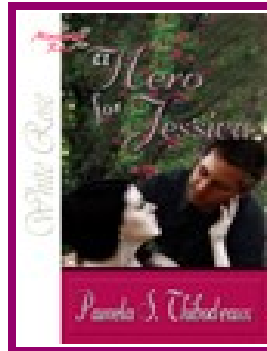
From an early age my brother showed signs of his musical talents. I gave him my poems/songs for him to play with them and to develop confidence on his God's given talent. We even did a song together; he wrote the music and sent it to me to write the lyrics. He was amazed at how well I captured the hidden message of the melody. Unfortunately, when I sent him the final product, I didn't keep a copy of the demo (sigh).

My brother is currently working as a music teacher and as a school rock band's director at "La Escuela Libre de Musica" in the city of Humacao, Puerto Rico. This is a high school for aspiring musicians and singers. Those interested can visit my brother's page at visit <http://www.myspace.com/racielmusic>

My trust in God keeps me going. I know that at His time, the right people will come to my site and I will walk secure that new path in life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Denise Turney is an avid book lover. Her passion for writing and engaging story reaches back to her childhood. She is a mother who makes her home on the East Coast in the United States. She would love for you to visit her online at: <http://www.chistell.com>



Pamela S Thibodeaux, author of "A Hero for Jessica"

Website: <http://www.pamelathibodeaux.com>

Question: I just opened a file containing another interview and although I LOVE doing them, I sometimes get tired of trying to come up with fresh answers to the same old questions.

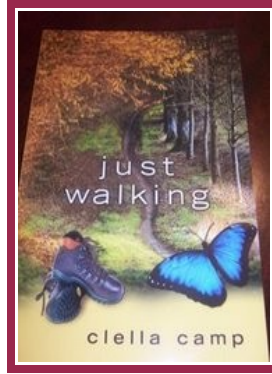
So my question to you is this: What is your least favorite interview query? Most favorite? Why?

This is a tough one. I am new in the business and have not done many interviews. However, based on my short experience, one of the most difficult queries is: "Tell us about yourself," because I want to tell so much but am limited to only one paragraph to summarize my long-life journey. (double sigh). I have three versions of my bio in my computer since one-size doesn't fit all (wink). The "Complete Version" is over five pages long. The "Compact Version" is about three pages long. The "Short Version" is about a paragraph. When answering this query I need to focus on the most important aspects of my trajectory and convey them in a way that creates curiosity on the reader.

My most favorite query is about my conversion and my book, "*The Window To My Soul; My Walk With Jesus.*" I love to tell readers about my spiritual awakening and how Jesus continues to work within me. I was a prodigal daughter and only He knows all the twists and turns I put Him through with my foolish behavior. Luckily for me, He never gave up and decided to give me an ultimatum. Saying YES to that last curtain call has been one of the best decisions of my entire life! No regrets! Only blessings!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Award-winning author, **Pamela S. Thibodeaux** is the Co-Founder/President & Treasurer of Bayou Writers Group in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Multi-published in romantic fiction as well as creative non-fiction, her writing has been tagged as, "Inspirational with an Edge!" and reviewed as "steamier and grittier than the typical Christian novel without decreasing the message."



Clella Camp author of "**Just Walking**"

Website: www.clellascorner.blogspot.com

Question: What is the best piece of advice you might give to a beginning author?

Learn from rejection letters. Don't take criticism personal and learn from other more seasoned writers' suggestions. Find your niche and make your work stand out from the rest.

It took me many years to find my voice and to polish my style. All this discovering and discerning period came with its blessings, misfortunes, challenges, and victories. I am still learning. I guess once you decide to become a writer, you are in for a never-ending learning experience.

I still struggle with the language, since English is my second language and I have forgotten some basic rules of my native language, Spanish. But I am always thirsty for knowledge and my drive for self-improvement keeps me pushing myself harder and harder until I reach my ultimate goal, perfection.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Clella Camp is a retired secondary English teacher, married fifty-two years, two children, four beautiful grandchildren and God has blessed her with good health. She praises Him for all He has given her in this life.

Her gift/devotion book *Just Walking* published by AMG publishers is available for on-line purchase and at many of your local bookstores.

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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