

INTRODUCTION:

THE POWER OF A TESTIMONY

Back in 2011, I signed a deal for my first official solo CD, “Made It Out Alive.” This was a joint venture in which my husband, Angelo and I would act as the record label and partner with another team for the marketing and promotion album. It seemed like a great idea and a timely opportunity to share my story through song. I had been working up the confidence for many years to sing on my own, and even more importantly, I was preparing to share my personal testimony. By that time, I had done numerous “Angelo and Veronica” albums with my husband, and he felt strongly that it was time for me to begin stepping into my own ministry. This is something God told him back in 2001, but did not come to fruition for over a decade later.

We were very excited to ink this deal after waiting so many years. However, after we signed, much to our to chagrin, what we thought would be a great opportunity turned out to be a blistering disappointment. This experience became a painful battle of truth and lies, undelivered promises and broken dreams. The album called “Made It Out Alive” seemingly would not make it out alive!

In the beginning, we were told we would meet as record label and marketing/promotion team 2-3 times a week in order to do things right. This never once happened which gave us some indication there was never any intention to do things right. This business partnership turned into a one-sided relationship and the occasional meeting became frustrating, and even hostile. We felt, as we have many times before, not like a priority and at the bottom of the totem pole.

Things were not unfolding the way we were told, and the

way our contract read was confusing and exasperating. It's not that we didn't receive any marketing and promotion at all, but what we received was minimal compared to the terms of our agreement. All in all, what we thought was a dream opportunity turned into a nightmare.

We finally decided to contact an attorney. After a year of searching, we finally found a lawyer who was willing to help us. His prognosis was that the agreement was null and void due to breach of contract. Wow, that was a day when truth set us free! Since there were so many aspects of the agreement unfulfilled, the attorney concluded that in the eyes of the law the contract had dissolved itself. He then proceeded in informing the other party of this, but in return we only received rebuttals and even more deception. Finally, after about a year, we nearly gave up the fight but continued to trust God for vindication and the rights of our music and publishing restored back to us. I remember continuing to pray and declare, "Made It Out Alive' belongs to the Lord!"

When the attorney from out of state could no longer help us, Angelo reached out to another attorney who told him that we needed a litigator. His advice was for my husband to do the job! He told Angelo that he had the facts and evidence and the ability to do the job himself. God was telling us to do it ourselves. This has become a reoccurring theme with the Lord telling us to do things ourselves. So Angelo reached out to the publishing company again for the advance we were supposed to receive on the day of the album release. The publishing company told him again that they had already paid us the advance. Angelo then provided the paperwork that we, in fact, never received the 2nd half of the advance on the day of the album release. A few days later, much to our surprise, they wrote back and admitted their fault! The publishing company admitted that we did not receive the advance and that we had received no royalties for the album sales. They stated they never received a

license for the album so they had no knowledge the album had even been released. The reason a license is issued at the time of an album release is to allow all proceeds from the album sales to be dispersed between all parties. In other words, it allows everyone to get paid! Due to the breaches, they offered back *all* our publishing of the songs and license of “Made It Out Alive.” The only stipulation was we would have to forfeit the remainder of the advance.

Well, in the music industry, this is something basically unheard of! It is nearly unheard of to get back your songs and publishing. The most lucrative part of the music industry is publishing and people will do anything to get their hands on it, and people who take advantage of artists know it. We had exchanged our music and songs for marketing and promotion we never received! Unfortunately, that former marketing/promotion team, *still* continues to collect our royalties for “Made It Out Alive” album, even with our legal license and ownership. The message in these songs we were trying to get out were seemingly buried alive. The truth that would make people free was held hostage. It seemed like my testimony was snuffed out.

A person’s testimony aligned with the testimony of the faithfulness of Christ is one of most the most powerful spiritual weapons in the universe. Nothing is able to defeat the enemy like a personal testimony. All forces of darkness are overcome by testifying of Jesus. Satan will make war with those who have the testimony of Jesus Christ. The power of a testimony overcomes the devil. The power of a testimony gives people hope. The power of a testimony sets people free. The power of a testimony gets people saved! So through this book I continue my mission for life and ongoing fight in sharing my testimony.

My desire is that through my story, you will also discover and receive the revelation of the power of the Word of God that transformed my life forever. I pray you too will receive the same

truth that led to the freedom I thought I might never have. I am compelled to share with you my story of how I made it out alive.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony (Revelation 12:11, NKJV).

DAY 1

THE VOICE OF FEAR

*I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord
(Psalm 118:17, KJV).*

I was born in the Bronx, NY. Technically, I was born in Manhattan at Mount Sinai Hospital, but we lived in an apartment in the Bronx. We lived at 1889 Sedgwick Avenue until we moved to New Jersey when I was five years old. We lived near Cedar Avenue and the Major Deegan Expressway. On the other side of Cedar Avenue, located between the Major Deegan and the Harlem River, next to Roberto Clemente State Park was a nearby train station called, Morris Heights Metro-North Station.

I never remember riding on this particular train, but I do remember it being terribly close to our apartment building. I still remember as a young child in the crib, hearing the sounds of the train as it approached. I would have recurring dreams, as the train became louder and louder, that it would come through my room obliterating everything in sight, including me! Still recalling these nightmares, I can now see that it was a spirit of fear and terror trying to invade my life at a young and tender age. This experience brought about an evil foreboding in my life. Foreboding is defined as, *Fearful apprehension; a feeling that something bad will happen; a feeling of evil to come; a sense of impending evil or misfortune or disaster.*

This spirit of fear and foreboding would mark my life for a long time. These nightmares were merely the foreshadowing of the death, doom and destruction that the enemy would try to bring upon me later in life. This evil would manifest as anxiety, fear, depression and even suicidal thoughts. These thoughts evolved into a fight for my life; a fight I could only win using not carnal, but spiritual weapons.

I do realize that there are people who foresee danger or disaster might be coming in order to pray or intercede in advance. That's not what I am referring to here. I am talking about a constant

negative feeling that something bad is going to happen, and living in constant dread of it. This is not a normal or healthy way to live life. I believe living a life of fear or impending doom is like not living at all.

As I search the Word of God, it's clear that this is not the way God wants us to live. The Proverbs 31 woman *"laughs without fear of the future"* (Proverbs 31:25, NLT). I have determined that I want to be that woman who lives with no fear and anticipates great things from God. I have traded in my pessimistic worldly view for God's optimistic Word. Now, I realize that those nightmares were the enemy's plan for my life: death, destruction, and complete annihilation.

The enemy wants us to live on edge with our nerves wracked and in constant anxiety. I refuse to live my life this way anymore and am determined to live my life with no fear. God does not want us to live in fear! God can give us the ability to walk through the most hellish situations, yet not be afraid. The Bible says, *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil..."* (Psalm 23:4, NKJV). Refuse to let the enemy dictate the way you live your life or dictate the outcome of your life. Do not listen to the voice of fear! God's plan for your life is not for death and destruction, and not just for you to survive but to live and thrive.

Father God, I thank you that you sent your son, Jesus, that I may have life, the most abundant and full life that is possible on this earth. You have set life and death before me and I choose life over the devil's plan for death and destruction. I declare right now that I will not listen to the voice of fear! Even if I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. This is a new chapter in my life and a start of new things. Thank you for giving me a new mind to overcome thoughts of evil, and to expect great things from a great God! I will live, not die, and declare the works of the Lord. The devil's plan to take my life has been thwarted in Jesus name!

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