

Praying For Success: 
The  Angelo Tony Luongo story 

IN HIS OWN WORDS: THE LIFE OF ANGELO TONY LUONGO

ANGELO TONY LUONGO IS A SINGER/SONGWRITER AND KARAOKE ARTIST LIVING AND WORKING IN TORONTO. HE IS ALSO THE SUBJECT OF THE TOBESCENE DOCUMENTARY "PRAYING FOR SUCCESS." FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANGELO AND HIS MUSIC, AND THE DOCUMENTARY ABOUT HIS LIFE, PLEASE VISIT WWW.PRAYINGFORSUCCESS.CA

I WAS BORN OCTOBER 16, 1960, IN A LITTLE VILLAGE CALLED ALVANO DISTRICT OF THE LITTLE CITY ANDRETTA IN THE PROVINCE OF AVELLINO, ITALY (NEAR NAPOLI/NAPLES). DURING MY FIRST 8 YEARS OF LIFE IN ITALY, WE WERE VERY POOR AND MY FAMILY WORKED ON THE LITTLE LAND WE OWNED TO GET FOOD TO EAT AND ALSO FEED THE FEW ANIMALS WE OWNED. WE LIVED IN A ONE ROOM HOUSE. WE HAD NO RUNNING WATER OR WASHROOMS OR KITCHEN OR LAUNDRY OR PHONES OR ANY OTHER COMMODITY OR CARS OR ANY VEHICLES.

MY FATHER WOULD GO TO WORK IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES TO SEND MONEY TO MY MOTHER AND MY BROTHER AND ME. MY FATHER HAS WORKED SO HARD ALL HIS LIFE TO SUPPORT OUR WHOLE FAMILY. HE IS MY HERO ON EARTH AND GOD AND JESUS ARE MY HEROES IN HEAVEN. HE HAS TAKEN CARE OF MY SICK MOTHER SINCE THEY GOT MARRIED OVER 50 YEARS AGO. SHE HAS CANCER. MY BROTHER IS DEAD AND I'VE BEEN SICK FOR 14 YEARS. MY FATHER IS NOW SICK AND OLD, BUT HE STILL DOES SO MUCH FOR OUR FAMILY. HE IS AN AMAZING MAN.

MY MOTHER HAS ALSO BEEN THROUGH HELL AND BACK IS STILL VERY SICK. SHE IS SO GENEROUS. SHE AND MY FATHER LOVE TO GIVE AND SHARE EVERYTHING THEY GOT. MY MOTHER IS AN ANGEL.

I CAME TO CANADA IN 1968 WITH MY PARENTS AND MY ONLY BROTHER MICHAEL WHO IS NOW DECEASED DUE TO MALIGNANT CANCER IN THE STOMACH. WE ARRIVED IN 1968 TO TORONTO AIRPORT BUT LIVED IN ST. CATHARINES FOR A WHILE, MAYBE TWO YEARS AT THE MOST. WE LIVED THERE BECAUSE MY AUNT ROSA, WHO IS MY MOTHER'S SISTER, HAD DIED AND SO MY GRANDMOTHER CATERINA, WHO CAME TO CANADA BEFORE US, HELPED MY UNCLE RAISE THEIR TWO KIDS AFTER MY AUNT DIED.

AFTER A COUPLE OF YEARS WE MOVED TO TORONTO BECAUSE THERE WASN'T ENOUGH ENOUGH WORK FOR MY DAD IN ST. CATHARINES. WE LIVED IN THE ST. CLAIR AND DUFFERIN AREA IN TORONTO FOR A FEW YEARS. I DID MY SCHOOLING OF GRADES 1 TO 6 AT ST. CLARE CATHOLIC SCHOOL. THEN WE BOUGHT A HOUSE ON NAIRN STREET, NEAR ST. CLAIR AND LANSDOWNE, AND I WENT TO RICHARD W. SCOTT SCHOOL FOR GRADES 7 AND 8.

MY CHILDHOOD WAS GREAT! I GRADUATED FROM BOTH OF THE SCHOOLS I MENTIONED. I PLAYED A LOT OF TEAM SPORTS AT THESE SCHOOLS. I ALSO ALWAYS PLAYED AT HOME WITH MY FRIENDS ON MY STREET. THE GUYS THAT I GREW UP WITH WERE GREAT AND WE WERE REALLY CLOSE TO EACH OTHER AND WE WERE ALL ABOUT THE SAME AGE. WE ALL LOVED TO PLAY BALL HOCKEY OR ICE HOCKEY TOGETHER THE MOST, BUT WE ALSO PLAYED ALMOST ALL OTHER SPORTS TOGETHER.

WHEN I WAS 14 I STARTED TO WORK AT MY FIRST JOB IN A SUPERMARKET. DURING THE YEAR WHILE I WAS GOING TO SECONDARY SCHOOL I WORKED ABOUT 30 HOURS A WEEK. BUT THE TWO SUMMERS WHILE I WAS OFF FROM DOING GRADES 7 AND 8 I WORKED ABOUT 80 HOURS A WEEK. I DON'T THINK I HAD A DAY OFF ALL SUMMER. AND I WORKED LONG HOURS TOO.

THEN I WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL AT OAKWOOD COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE FOR FOUR YEARS AND I GRADUATED AFTER GRADE 12. THERE I PLAYED SOCCER AND HOCKEY ON THE SCHOOL TEAMS. THESE WERE TWO OF MY STRONGEST SPORTS THAT I WAS ABLE TO PLAY. AT THE SAME TIME I WAS ALSO WORKING AT JARVIS ST. SUNOCO PUMPING GAS THERE. I NO LONGER WORKED IN THE GROCERY STORE.

I WAS ALSO DATING A WONDERFUL GIRL FROM OAKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL FROM A REAL WONDERFUL FAMILY FOR A FEW YEARS. WE LATER BROKE UP AND THAT REALLY HURT ME BAD EMOTIONALLY. BECAUSE WHEN I LOVE A LADY I REALLY LOVE A LADY. PEOPLE WHO KNOW ME, ALL KNOW THAT ABOUT ME.

LATER I STOPPED WORKING AT THE GAS STATION AND STARTED WORKING IN A TORONTO HOSPITAL WASHING POTS AND PANS BECAUSE THEY PAID ME BETTER WAGE. THERE I MET MY FUTURE WIFE WHO IS NOW MY EX-WIFE. WE WERE MARRIED FOR ABOUT 11 YEARS AND WE WERE BLESSED BY GOD WITH TWO VERY WONDERFUL CHILDREN IN EVERY WAY: A PRECIOUS BOY AND A PRECIOUS GIRL, WHO ARE NOW YOUNG ADULTS.

BOTH OF MY KIDS WENT TO ALL THE SAME SCHOOLS ALL THEIR SCHOOL YEARS. THAT'S WHY THEY ARE VERY CLOSE. THEY BOTH HAVE GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND ARE GOING TO UNIVERSITY. THEY ARE BOTH TALENTED IN SPORTS AND ALSO IN THE ARTS, SUCH AS ACTING OR SINGING AND DANCING OR PLAYING MUSIC AS A JOB. THEY HAVE LIVED WITH THEIR MOTHER ALL THOSE YEARS AND SHE HAS DONE A GREAT JOB RAISING THEM. I WANT TO HELP HER AND THE KIDS WHEN I CAN. I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO BECAUSE I'VE BEEN VERY ILL DURING THE LAST 13 YEARS. MY KIDS AND I ARE VERY CLOSE NOW AND SO I'M VERY HAPPY.

FOR THE TEN YEARS WHILE I WAS MARRIED, I WORKED AS A HOUSE PAINTER. I STARTED AS AN APPRENTICE AT THE BEGINNING AND I OWE A LOT TO MY COUSIN PETER MIELE WHO TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING ABOUT PAINTING BECAUSE HE'S A GREAT PAINTER. I WORKED FOR A COMPANY FOR ABOUT 8 YEARS WITH PETER MIELE PAINTING WITH A GREAT ITALIAN UNIONIZED COMPANY.

FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS OF MY PAINTING CAREER I STARTED MY OWN COMPANY CALLED ANGELO PAINTING. I WAS DOING PRETTY GOOD. I STARTED MY OWN COMPANY BECAUSE I WAS HAVING A MAJOR PROBLEM WITH MY LEFT LEG DUE TO AN INJURY THAT I

HAD WHEN I WAS A VERY YOUNG BOY. I COULD HARDLY WALK BEFORE I STARTED WORKING FOR MYSELF. IT WAS HARD TO WORK FOR SOMEONE ELSE WHEN YOU HAVE TO PRODUCE AND CAN'T WALK. SO I STARTED WORKING FOR MYSELF BECAUSE OF MY LEG.

NEAR THE TENTH YEAR OF PAINTING MY MARRIAGE WAS GOING BAD. I'M NOT BLAMING MYSELF OR MY EX-WIFE BUT WE JUST COULDN'T LIVE TOGETHER ANYMORE. WE DRIFTED VERY FAR APART. BUT I NEVER WANTED TO LEAVE BECAUSE I'M A FAMILY MAN AND NEVER WANTED TO LEAVE MY CHILDREN. AND I BELIEVED THAT MARRIAGE WAS FOR LIFE BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT MY PARENTS BELIEVE AND HER PARENTS BELIEVE. PLUS MY PHYSICAL HEALTH WASN'T THAT GOOD BECAUSE THE PAINT FUMES WERE REALLY GETTING TO MY HEAD, BODY AND BRAIN. I'D COME HOME SO TIRED AND ALSO SO STONED ON THE FUMES EVERYDAY. I'D WORK ALMOST 7 DAYS A WEEK AT TIMES AND VERY LONG HOURS. PLUS SOMETIMES THE WEATHER CONDITIONS WERE BAD FOR WORK. AND ALSO WORKING ON HIGH LADDERS A LOT MADE MY LIFE VERY STRESSFUL BECAUSE I'M VERY AFRAID OF HEIGHTS. BUT I'D GO UP THE HIGH LADDER ANYWAY BECAUSE I HAD TO. IT WAS PART OF THE JOB.

I LOVED PAINTING VERY MUCH. IT PAYS VERY WELL WHEN YOU KNOW THE JOB WELL. BUT IT'S VERY TOXIC AS WELL BECAUSE OF THE CHEMICALS USED. ALSO A LOT OF DUST IS INVOLVED BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO SAND A LOT. BUT I STILL LOVE PAINTING.

MY MARRIAGE WAS AT AN END WHEN MY BROTHER MICHAEL DIED IN 1991. HE WAS 7 YEARS OLDER THAN ME. THE COMBINATION OF ALL THESE THINGS CAUSED MY ILLNESS, CALLED MANIC DEPRESSION: 1) MY BROTHER'S DEATH, 2) MY POOR HEALTH AND COMING HOME TIRED AND STONED EVERY DAY, 3) COMING HOME TO A BAD, BAD MARRIAGE, ARGUING BADLY EVERYDAY. WE WERE BOTH AT FAULT. BUT SOME THINGS I WON'T MENTION BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO HURT MY EX-WIFE. I WILL ALWAYS LOVE HER AS A SPECIAL PERSON IN MY LIFE AND A GREAT MOTHER TO OUR TWO WONDERFUL CHILDREN.

I WROTE FOUR SONGS FOR MY EX-WIFE TO SHOW HER THAT I LOVED HER AND WILL ALWAYS LOVE HER. I WROTE AND RECORDED THREE VERSIONS OF THE SONG "AMORE MIO", A SLOW VERSION, DISCO VERSION AND A DANCE VERSION. I RECORDED THOSE SONGS AND MANY OTHERS WITH NICK E. CUSHING, MY SAVIOUR OF ALL MY ENTERTAINMENT AND MY REAL GOOD FRIEND. AND ALSO ALDO ERDIC MY OTHER SAVIOUR AND GREAT FRIEND. AND MY FIRST SONG, "IT'S RAINING IN MY HEART AND SOUL FOR YOU", WAS RECORDED WITH MY FRIEND AND MUSICIAN GEORGE MATTIOLI.

I GOT VERY SICK AT THIS POINT IN 1991 AND ENDED UP IN THE HOSPITAL. I SPENT ABOUT TEN YEARS IN AND OUT OF PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS AND HAVE BEEN OUT SINCE 1999 BECAUSE MY GREAT DOCTOR DR. PARIKH HAS FOUND THE RIGHT MEDICATION AND I AM NOW VERY STABLE IN MY MOODS. I'VE BEEN ON MEDICATION FOR 14 YEARS. I ALSO HAVE DIABETES AND TAKE MEDICATION FOR THAT CONDITION. I ALSO TAKE A PILL FOR BLOOD PRESSURE PROBLEMS AND SOME MEDICATION FOR ANXIETY OR LACK OF SLEEP. I SPENT ABOUT 10 YEARS JUST SLEEPING 24 HOURS A DAY. BUT SINCE LEAVING THE HOSPITAL I'VE HAD A LOT MORE ENERGY.

I'VE BEEN SINGING KARAOKE FOR 4 OR 5 YEARS AND HAVE BECOME QUITE GOOD AT IT. I LOVE TO SING ELVIS PRESLEY SONGS. BECAUSE OF HIS MUSIC I'VE GOTTEN A LOT OF

EXPOSURE TO SELL MY SONGS THAT I'VE WRITTEN, SENT BY GOD WHOM I PRAISE EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY THAT I'M AWAKE. I AM NOTHING WITHOUT GOD, MY WONDERFUL PARENTS, MY GOOD FRIENDS NICK E. CUSHING AND ALDO ERDIC AND OTHERS HELPING ME, AND ALL OF THE GREAT HEALTHCARE WE HAVE IN THIS GREAT CITY OF TORONTO AND PROVINCE OF ONTARIO. AND I'M ALSO NOTHING WITHOUT MY TWO WONDERFUL CHILDREN.

I'VE WRITTEN ABOUT 40 SONGS AND HAVE RECORDED WITH NICK E. CUSHING, ALDO ERDIC, ESMA ERDIC, ALINA ISAC, GEORGE MATTIOLI AND HELEN BRODBECK. I'VE DONE SOME VIDEOS WITH SOME OF THESE SAME GREAT PEOPLE. NICK AND ALDO HAVE HELPED ME PUT OUT MY FIRST 13 SONG CD CALLED *YOU'RE BREAKING MY HEART*, WHICH CAN BE BOUGHT THROUGH WWW.TOBESCENE.COM.

I LOVE TO SING KARAOKE SO MUCH I COULD SING 7 DAYS A WEEK, ESPECIALLY SINGING ELVIS PRESLEY SONGS WHICH I'M BEST AT. I ALSO LOVE TO SING IN ITALIAN, MY NATIVE LANGUAGE FOR WHICH I'VE VERY PROUD OF MY ROOTS. I CAN ALSO SING A FEW SPANISH SONGS, A FEW PORTUGUESE SONGS AND MAYBE A FEW FRENCH SONGS. I'VE STUDIED FRENCH IN SCHOOL FOR ABOUT TEN YEARS.

DURING MY YEARS OF DOING KARAOKE, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SCARY THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED IN MY LIFE. THERE WERE SIX MURDER ATTEMPTS AGAINST MY LIFE AROUND KARAOKE BARS BECAUSE OF JEALOUSY. JUST LIKE HOW PEOPLE WERE JEALOUS OF JESUS CHRIST AND ELVIS PRESLEY. BECAUSE OF THESE MURDER ATTEMPTS MY BODY, HEAD AND BRAIN ARE IN CONSTANT PAIN. BECAUSE OF MY INJURIES AND PAIN IT HAS HINDERED MY TOTAL ABILITY TO SING AND ENTERTAIN EVEN BETTER THAN I DO NOW AND FUNCTION IN EVERYDAY LIFE BETTER THAN I COULD.

I AM VERY POOR RIGHT NOW AS WELL AND DON'T HAVE ANYTHING OF MATERIAL VALUE BUT DO HAVE MAJOR FINANCIAL DEBTS. BUT THIS GREAT GOVERNMENT HELPS ME A LOT, AS DO MY PARENTS, KIDS AND SOME FRIENDS HELP ME TO MAKE IT THROUGH EVERY MONTH. ALSO HOUSELINK HAS HELPED ME WITH CHEAP HOUSING OVER THE LAST 14 YEARS THAT I'VE BEEN ILL. ALL I HAVE ARE MY CDs AND VIDEOS AND MOVIES TO SELL WHICH I HOPE WILL HAPPEN SOON WITH THE GREAT HELP OF TWO GREAT GUYS NICK E. CUSHING AND ALDO ERDIC AND OTHERS. IF I MAKE MONEY I WANT TO HELP AS MANY PEOPLE AS I CAN, STARTING FROM MY FAMILY, NICK, ALDO AND THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR FRIENDS.

I WANT TO MAKE IT TO THE TOP SO I CAN HELP THE BOTTOM SO WE CAN ALL TRY TO BE IN THE MIDDLE.

I'M SORRY IF I LEFT ANYTHING OUT. TUNE IN NEXT TIME FOR MORE OF MY LIFE AND BELIEFS AND IDEAS AND MUSIC PROJECTS AND OTHER PROJECTS GOD WANTS ME TO DO.