

Never have I an interview where I laughed so hard. Conflicting thoughts ensued, which added to the hilarity of it all – traits unbeknownst before, surfacing, as questions pour out – “Was...I? Do I...? Oh my..., Now I get to thinking about things which I haven’t thought of about myself before...” Delightful!

Soda for Chocolates?

By Antonette B. Ang

The laughter shared was truly amazing. A bonding moment between two strangers who haven’t heard of each other before this interview happened. Little do we know who we really are until someone asks the right questions. There is a lot to learn and accept in what and who we truly are – a work in progress – a simile to that of a play, unfolding slowly right before our very eyes, understanding the whys and the what’s only once the outcome is revealed and we’ve had the time to dwell and revel in the rightness of it all.

A compulsive, organized, everything-in-its-place kind of person, **Leilani Panotes King-Sotiangco** knows she can’t be perfect, so she’s learned just to go with the flow, to just enjoy life, the little things – knowing full well that too much can become overwhelming. Never liked noise, heights, and flying, fears already conquered. She loves to make things simple. A person who enjoys walks and going to the mall, so she takes walks in the mall (hey, killing two birds with one stone is an achievement, right?). Very sentimental. Likes to listen to the ‘oldies but goodies’ music of the 70s and 80s. Loves to garden, another stress reliever - transferring the plant from one pot to another, watering them, reflective activity, unperturbed motions.

Growing up in a loving, supportive, and close-knit family, Leilani has so much to be thankful for.

She is aware that everything that she is, and has in life, are all God-given, whatever they may be. She believes that “Challenges will always be there, but they are what make you the strong person that you are, and at the same time, draws you closer to God. That is when you realize that God is up there guiding you and watching over you. Every trial is a

blessing in disguise.” A modified Christian, she believes that her relationship with God is a very strong one. He has been very good to her and her family.

Her strength comes from God, seeking Him first thing in the morning. Always thankful – communicates with Him at all times. An attribute inherited from her prayerful mother. She’s realized that life is beautiful, full of blessings, no room for complaints, and for that she can say that she’s happy with the way her life is going, but still dreams of maybe eventually pursuing a career in the field of medicine. Lord willing hopefully will come to fruition. A lifelong dream which got diverted when introduced to the world of real estate, under the tutelage of her father-in-law, Eddie M. Sotiangco, one of the pioneers in the mortgage business in Los Angeles, California. A career which she ventured into, and is still actively in, since 1992, a year after she migrated to the US.

Currently working as a loan originator for Winprime Lending, she has earned the reputation of providing exceptional financial service to a sphere of loyal, understanding, and supportive clients, whom she is very grateful for. She doesn’t have to worry about intensive marketing but gains her clientele through referrals and word-of-mouth, trust that is not easily earned in that type of business. Her optimism and motivation are God’s gift to her – how she is and what she’s become are all a part of His wonderful plan for her life.

Born 50 years ago, to a duo of business-minded people, helping each other, complimenting each other in every business venture that they undertake. Her father Jesus C. King, a Filipino-Chinese by heritage, and mother, Elnora Panotes, 5th of 6 children to Attorney Wilfredo Panotes Sr (First Governor of Camarines Norte) and Maria Ellaga (Doctor of Education from the same province), were in