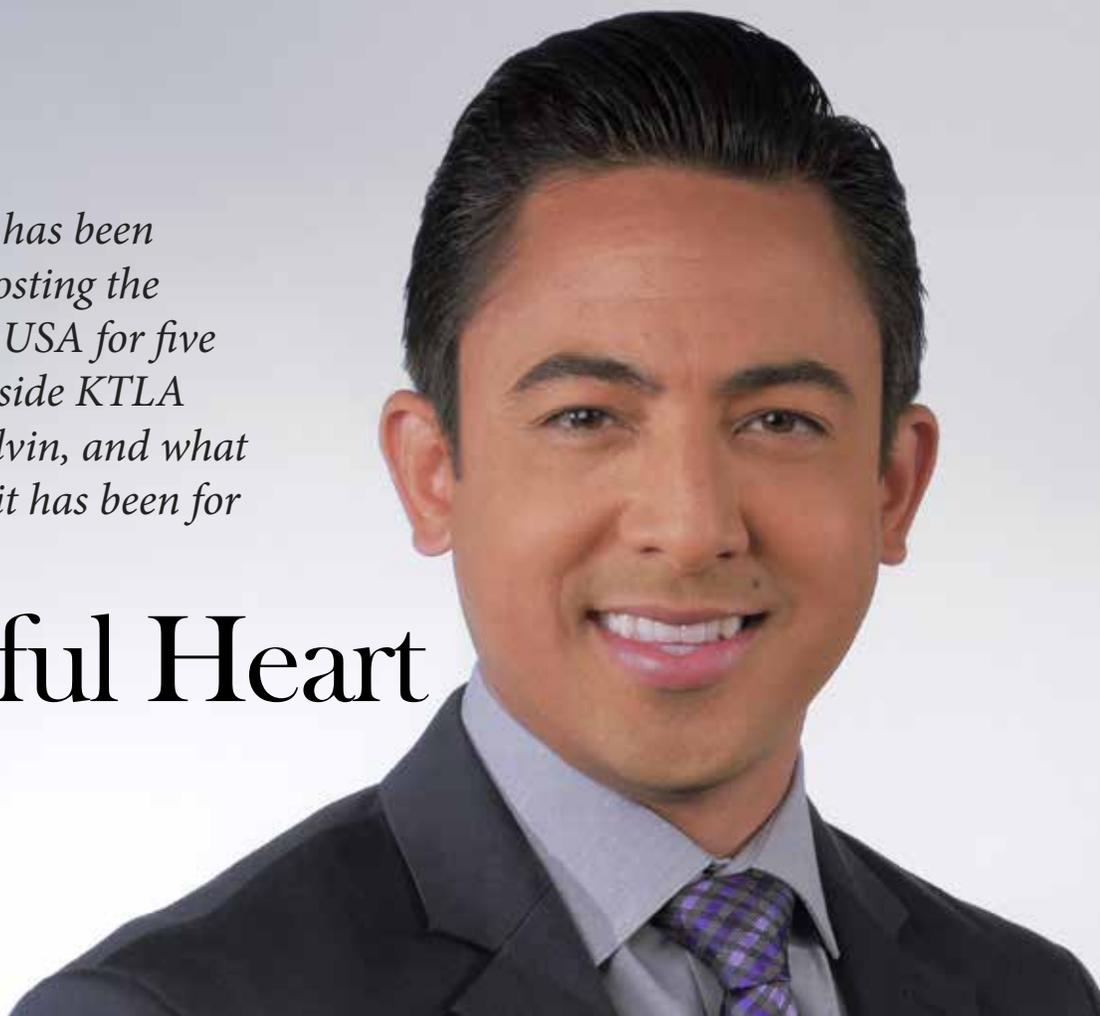


Tony Cabrera has been successfully co-hosting the Miss Philippines USA for five years now, alongside KTLA anchor, Cher Calvin, and what an achievement it has been for both of them.

A Thankful Heart

By Antonette B. Ang



From being a news producer/fill-in reporter in Toledo, Ohio right after college (his first on-air job), to becoming the Anchor/Reporter for the Disney-owned and operated station in Fresno, California, ABC30 Action News, the way hasn't been smooth for this dashing young man. His journey consisted of working as a full-time reporter in Tucson, Arizona, internships with Dateline NBC and ABC News in Los Angeles, and as a correspondent for the syndicated entertainment news show, "On the Red Carpet," based in the Los Angeles area, where he covered the day's top entertainment news stories, interviewing big name celebrities. But, in order for him to become a news anchor, he had to go back to a smaller market, which led him to Santa Barbara, for two years, as a morning news anchor at KCOY-12 and FOX-11.

Half-Filipino, half-White by heritage, one of five children (with whom he has a very tight relation), to a Filipino father who hails from the province of Ilocos Sur, and an American mother from California, Tony graduated from the same High School which

his parents had attended, and met in, in San Jose, Northern California. His voice, his major asset, always commented on by people since Junior High, helped him set his sight for a career in Journalism, as a television news anchor.

He moved down to Los Angeles after High School, attended the University of Southern California where he studied Broadcast Journalism. Getting into the program at USC was such a challenge, leaving him feeling that all odds were against him, perseverance won in the end. Listening to the advice given by friends and family, "It's worth trying if you really want something," only proved that things that seem impossible are possible. "Surrounding yourself with people who encourage you, combined with passion, will help you achieve your goal." Trying doesn't hurt. "If you didn't make it the first time, you're allowed a second or however much time you need to defeat and overcome whatever obstacles may come your way."

I just had to hear his voice, and see him in action, so I tuned into the station where he anchor and all I can say is, WOW! He definitely is where he is supposed to be, doing what he is destined to do. Delivering news and information to the masses;

doing it in an intelligent and entertaining way. How he relays his questions, as he does interviews leave you wanting, waiting to hear more about the story being told, whatever it may be. Riveting, gripping, immersing. His voice in itself is mesmerizing enough. Although Tony feels that he is where he needs to be right now, he's also learned that "You never know where you'll end up in this industry..."

Given the innate talent that he has, and the passion and dedication that he possesses, success is imminent for this gifted person. Combined with his faith in God, he deserves all the blessings that come his way. Always putting God first in his life, guided by this question which keeps him grounded and focused, "What Would Jesus Do?" His reliance on God for strength every day, always thankful for all the blessings bestowed him, for the guidance, keeps him strong in his faith.

"As far as motivation, I wake up and go to work every day for my wife, daughter, and the family we are building." The career he's chosen to tread must be hard, but for Tony, being a dad is the hardest job he's ever had. The best part of his day is when he gets home from work and sees his two-year-old daughters' smiling face. He is aware that jobs come and go, but loved ones are always there beside you, so he knows where his priority lies. At the same time, of course, he wants the best for his family, which drives him to work hard.

Expecting their second child, Tony has a lot more to look forward to, and to work harder for. Family is number one for him. He is happiest when with them.

Sometimes, people just don't understand that, which peeves him the most. Life is not always about our career. He believes in the "Work hard/Play hard" philosophy. Being on the sidelines is not for him, career wise or with family, he wants to play an active role.

Stress is just another word for this down-to-earth person. He tries not to take things too seriously. For Tony, "Life is crazy enough, laughter is key." Getting away is always a good thing, and whenever given the opportunity, he loves to dress down, put on a hat, and not have to worry about shaving (something to behold, a different sight from his usual clean-cut look)! A welcome respite from this busyness we call life.

"Never say never. Always follow your gut, which allows you to sit right with your decision, and not look back with regret." Wise words learned from one of his mentors, which he, in turn, wishes to impart to anyone who's in the process of building a career, and a life in this very competitive and challenging world.

Communicating with this young man is quite inspiring. What a privilege it is to write even just a snippet of his story, a small chapter in his life. His strong faith in God is something not a lot of people in the media are willing to broadcast. A very admirable character, reflective of what is in his heart. I wish him all the best, and may God continue to bless him a hundredfold, and use his position in the media-world a testament of God's unending and unfailing love and grace for all. More power to you, **TONY CABRERA!!!**

