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From Tragedy to Triumph, and the Road In Between

When a tour bus crashed into Upland firefighter Tom Barilla's truck while on a routine call, the aftermath rocked the Inland Empire community. The event's effect on the Barilla family was even more profound – their world was turned upside down.

Leading up to March 15, 2005 Dora Barilla had enjoyed a perfect life: a great job, a handsome firefighter husband, two beautiful daughters, and a house in the suburbs. In *A New Day: A true story of healing, faith, and miracles* Dora confronts her new reality as husband, Tom Barilla, struggles to recover from a traumatic brain injury that nearly killed him.

In painstaking detail, Dora recounts the days sitting by Tom's bedside as he lay in a coma, the numerous surgeries he endured, the endless hours of rehabilitation, and weeks of nasty litigation that pitted the family of firefighters and the city against the California Highway Patrol and the tour bus company that crashed into Tom's fire engine.

Dora tells the story of her struggle to maintain optimism for her family and friends as well as keep her own sanity. Ultimately, with faith and understanding, Dora is able to accept the challenges of her new world, and embrace a New Day.

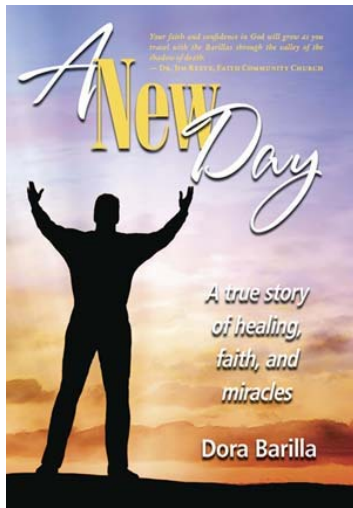
“Since before, but especially after 9/11, firefighters have become iconic American heroes. Their bravery, camaraderie, and self-sacrifice are legendary in movies, books, and in reality.” said Dr. Kenneth Jordan, President of Jordan Neuro Services. “In her eloquent and touching book, Dora Barilla recounts first hand another kind of courage, which she and Tom dug deep to find as Tom struggled to survive and to recover from his near-fatal traumatic brain injury ... *A New Day* is a beautiful testimony to their courage and faith and is an inspiration to all.”

Author Dora Barilla (DrPH, MPH, CHES) is a native of Southern California and has a life-long interest in improving the health of her community. Her publications and articles have focused on health reform through innovative and community based approaches to health improvement and convey her deep appreciation for the power of faith in the healing process.

Dora has a B.S. in Sports Medicine from Pepperdine University and a DrPH in Public Health from Loma Linda University, where she is currently a faculty member in the Health Policy and Management Department. She is the founder of the Southern California Health Summit and continues to raise awareness regarding the importance of fiscally responsible health reform. She is also the executive director and founder of a not-for-profit organization, Partners for Better Health.

“Tom and Dora’s word of testimony demonstrates the kind of faith, hope and love that will inspire, challenge and motivate you to ‘keep on keepin’ on’ no matter what life may bring your way.” said Dr. Jim Reeve of Faith Community Church. “The Barilla’s personal journey is no neatly packaged feel good movie of the week which quickly wraps up with a happy ending. Like real life, it is full of ups and downs. But their persistent faith and indomitable spirit turn some of our favorite slogans into reality – setbacks are turned into comebacks; tests become testimonies; and messes are transformed into a message.”

A New Day is published by Stephens Press, a division of Stephens Media LLC which is also the parent company of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. The book releases September 2009. To book an interview, event, or signing contact the publisher at (702) 387-5260.



A New Day: A true story of healing, faith, and miracles

Dora Barilla

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