

Aquino. By Mel White. Dallas: Word Publishers, 1989.
Reviewed by K. D. Kragen (2006)

Chapter headings:

1. The Childhood Years (1932-1945).
2. The Adolescent Years (1945-1951).
3. Ninoy, the Journalist and presidential Advisor.
4. Cory, the Student in America (1951-1954).
5. Ninoy, the Senator; Cory, the Housewife (1967-1972).
6. Ninoy and Cory: the Prison Years (23 September 1972-May 1980).
7. Ninoy and Cory: In Exile.
8. Ninoy, the Martyr; Cory, the Widow and Mother (21 August 1983-21 November 1985).
9. Cory: the Presidential Candidate (22 November 1985-20 February 1986).
10. Cory: the Revolutionary (21 February 1986 - 25 February 1986).
11. Cory's First Year as President (1986).
12. Cory's Second Year as President (1987).
13. Cory's Third Year as President (1988).

Corazon Aquino was president of the Philippines from 1986 to 1992. After her husband, Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, was assassinated on the 21 August 1983, Cory was cast from her quiet life into the political arena. Mel White ends his biography with these words: "Whatever her critics say about Cory, they know that there is no one at this moment in the nation's history who could replace her. Before his death, Ninoy warned that no one could clean up the mess that Marcos left in the Philippines. Cory is trying. 'Where I succeed,' she herself has said, 'I will give God all the glory. And where I fail, I know I will have done my best'" (p. 249).

When White wrote his biography, Cory Aquino was still president of the Philippines; today she is not. When White wrote his biography, the final verdict was still out on the presidency of Cory Aquino; it still is. Of course, final verdicts often take years—in some cases the debate is never fully settled. However, White points out one indisputable conclusion: it was Cory's faith in God, in Jesus Christ, which moved her from quiet, reserved homemaker to become the president of her nation. As with her husband, it was faith in Jesus Christ that sustained her. Her faith carried her through the sufferings and hardships of WWII, through the madness of the Ferdinand/Imelda Marcos dictatorship (1972-86), through the dark days of Ninoy's assassination, and into her role as president of the Philippines.

This book is about Christian faith in the life of one woman *who never lost her humble spirit*, whatever the circumstances, whatever victories or trials, whatever successes or failures confronted her.

Though primarily the biography of Corazon Aquino, this book tells the story of both Ninoy and Cory, their families, and their country. With copious notes and a generous bibliography, *Aquino* is considered by many the most important history of the "People Power Revolution" and the woman who inspired it.