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A Newsletter of WIN - USA Ladies

## APARADOR - FREE SHOPPING

*Reve C. Abelarde*

Exactly what it was – a closetful of clothes, shoes, bags, even accessories and toys. Now who wouldn't want to have one. It's not only every girl's dream, but every man's delight as well. I experienced this first hand last October 2013.

WIN - Bacolod had the honor of hosting the 2013 VisMin Conference last October. It was a day event made successful by the attendance of 278 delegates from all over the world. What started out as a regional event became an international WIN Family reunion. Pastors and workers based in the US, Canada, London, Singapore, and all over the Philippines, along with their families arrived in the City of Smiles – Bacolod. Delegates were billeted at the Bacolod Pavillion Hotel, a seafront resort convention center. WIN-Bacolod workers and staff lovingly laid out the best possible welcome and care for all guest as evidenced by the food, food, more food, and free shopping. Yes, FREE Shopping.

Aparador, Spanish word for "closet" is the name of this ministry headed by Sis. Tpie, the gracious wife of WIN-Bacolod's Senior Pastor Edman Locsin. Months earlier Sis. Tpie and Sis. Rosanna Nepomucneo started coordinating with WIN - churches across the globe for an invitation to take part in this ministry of blessing. It is the ministry's goal to show appreciation of the hard work pastors and workers put in the Kingdom by blessing them. Without hesitation, many participated. In no time, several huge boxes started to arrive. It wasn't long before our humble Bacolod Center was beginning to look like a cargo dock. Or on a positive note, I should say, it was beginning to look like Christmas. Oversized boxes from the US, UK and Singapore were loaded with dress shirts and pants, ties, coats, that pastors can really use. Lovely dresses for the wives and ladies. Little clothes and toys for the children. Jeans and trendy tops for the young workers too. Sis Tpie, along with her staff, dug deep, sorted, and created a walk-in closet in one of the hotel's rooms. It was an arduous task that took many days to complete. But a labor of love nonetheless.

As they say, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. First day, first Aparador guests were the local Pastors with their wives. O, to be on the blessing side is truly a taste of what God does to us every day. Guests got to choose items, tried them on and Aparador staff packed the selected items. Guests walked out with their paperbags- Free! Serving these men and women of God and putting smiles on their faces gave us the greater joy. It was heartwarming to watch wives pick clothes for their husbands. There were comic moments when we had special requests for cowboy hats, vests, and the like as men played dress up. We all laughed along with the vision and color challenged shoppers who requested for additional lighting. This "problem" was eventually solved by drawing the drapes, letting the



..... continued on page 5



## **“It is Finished” (Now It’s Your Turn”)**

**Rosemarie Jose**

A dear sister was kind enough to take me to a meeting in Federal Way and bring me back to Tacoma. That’s about 40 miles round trip and she lives in Federal Way. It was an interesting trip. The passenger seat of her car was pushed close to the dashboard and the back rest was leaning forward as well. All throughout the journey I was sitting at the edge of my seat. The good news, I reached my destination safe and sound without my cheek pressed against the windshield.

But that’s how life is. All throughout our lives, we are sitting at the edge of our seat only because we can’t tell the future. Not knowing the future makes us worry and fearful. It may be as simple as watching the Superbowl - Will Lynch make it to the other end? Or, a basketball game? The score is even, a few seconds to go, the team you’re cheering for will take the foul shot (it’s a make or break shot). He aims, throws the ball and the ball goes around the rim of the ring... round, round and round. So you are sitting at the edge of your seat. Or, it can be a nerve wracking wait – will you get the job or not; will your project be funded or not; after so many tests, do I have cancer or not; will I be part of the lay off or not? The unknown puts us at the edge of our seats. However, in light of eternity, our worries and fears are mundane. If I don’t know where I will spend my eternity - that’s a bigger thing to worry about. Thank God – I know where I will spend my eternity - with Jesus Christ. He made sure of that.

Jesus said in John 19:30, “It is finished.” For me this is a concluding statement, as well as an opening statement.

I have 3 questions about this statement, “It is finished.” What is the “it”? Who did Jesus say it to? Why was it necessary for Jesus to declare that “It is finished?”

### **1st Question: What is the “it” in “It is finished.”**

If something was finished, then something was started. What was started? What is the it, in “it is finished.” Because of Adam’s sin, we acquired that sin nature. Sin separates us from Him. God’s plan of salvation was set in motion because of His love

for us. So He had to make a way – His plan was to get us out of darkness and into His marvelous light. It needed an unblemished lamb – that lamb that will take away the sins of the world – a perfect sacrifice and that is Jesus Christ.

Jesus said in John 11:25 – “I am the resurrection and the life.” – He is the miraculous power of life, the giver and restorer of life. He came to pay our debt; to reconcile man with God; He came to purify the Church. He came to glorify the Father through His life and death and resurrection.

### **2nd Question: Who did Jesus say it to?**

“It is finished.” is only recorded in the book of John and not in the other Gospels. Jesus said it to John. Words of a dying man are important. And this was one of them... John the beloved, who is the closest to Jesus, a trusted friend, so much so that Jesus entrusted His mother to him when he was there at the foot of the cross. John was the beloved apostle who leaned close to Jesus at the Last Supper. John was part of the inner circle of disciples. (*Adventuring through the Life of Christ*, Stedman, Ray.C)

### **3rd Question: Why was it important that Jesus declared that “It is finished.”? (An Opening Statement)**

In John 4:34-38: Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, “there are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for the harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life,

..... continued on Page 8

*Rosemarie is the wife of Rene Jose. She is the US Seeds of Hope (SOH) Coordinator, a member of the National Ladies Advisory Team and a Certified Minister.*



# THE LADIES MINISTRY IS WORTH YOUR TIME AND HEART

*Nickie Paulate*

There is more to Ladies Ministry than socializing, eating out together, and telling stories. A woman is not all fuzzy feelings but she is smart, unselfish and manages her home well. Ladies, do you know how important you are to your church? Proverbs 31 is a tribute to all women and the Bible stresses the role of each church member. 1 Corinthians 12:18-19 states that each member of the church is vital, <sup>18</sup>“But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup>If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts, but one body.”

## Why is the Ladies Ministry worth your time and your heart?

We all come together as women because of our desire to love God, to worship Him, to share His great love to others and to be all He has purposed for us to become.

- 1) We are a diverse group of women; blue jeans vs. formal frilly clothes, cooking/baking/crafting vs. highly active sports loving, homespun vs. a career woman. You all have something to contribute to the Ladies Ministry, to the church and to the community.
- 2) Women face many challenges in life. Most women are so put together that they can easily adapt to circumstances, difficult or not. But there comes a point in life when you need a shoulder to cry on or need the advice of other women and be encouraged.
- 3) Women like to connect in different forms. Who better than other women like you that will understand your life situation, empathize with you, help you reflect and focus on the One who will ultimately be your source of strength and comfort, help you be refreshed and be renewed through the power of the Holy Spirit. And, at the same time we can address our sinful nature – gossiping, manipulation, judging, competing and to overcome that potential.
- 4) We can help women renew or strengthen a deeper commitment to God through the study of the Word and prayer. The goal is to train women to love God’s Word and discover their giftedness. As women are disciplined, they can develop and use their spiritual gifts to minister and mentor other women.
- 5) Encourage women to be godly wives/mothers/ single women to be a blessing to their church and community.

In this way women will feel affirmed and realize their worth in Christ as they look forward to discovering their potential and worth through the eyes of Jesus. Women are extraordinary members of the church and extraordinary in every way because they bear the image of Christ.

**Ladies, let's come together to make a difference in another**



**WIN-LA Ladies come together every week for prayer**



**WIN-LA Deborah's Fire Leaders Retreat**





## WIN - New York Ladies Share from Their Heart

Why the Ladies Ministry is important to them, and how they have been encouraged by joining this ministry.

### Jenny Gadia, WIN-NY Ladies Ministry Coordinator

At 16 years old, I already left my hometown in Mindanao to study in Manila where I met and accepted the Lord. Since then, I have been on my own and became independent in everything. Though I was active in every church that I've been too, I remained emotionally distant despite close fellowship with everyone, especially towards other women. When I joined WIN-NY and became part of the Ladies Ministry, where everyone is so unbelievably warm and welcoming, I began to slowly open my heart and started to experience the joy of being able to truly fellowship without hesitation. With my in-depth relationship with my sisters in Christ, I am privileged to hear their stories and have freedom to tell mine, without fear of being judged as we all cry out with the sad stories and laugh with the good ones. I learned that everyone had been through deep trials and some are struggling with their present battles, when I thought that my situation was already worse. Despite it all, I see them still joyfully serving the Lord, which really strengthens me and encourages me to serve the Lord all the more with gladness and hope amidst hardships. I understand myself better and realize that though we are the most emotional being, we draw our strength from our pain and can still rejoice as we serve the Lord in our families, at work, with our brethren and in the ministry. The Ladies Ministry is really a blessing in the church and empowers us, through the Pastor's guidance and feeding of the Word of God, to equally take part in the ministry and not just as mere spectators and silent followers, as the olden days made them to be. Praise the Lord that through Jesus Christ, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28).



### Ellien Hernal, wife of Rev. Robert Hernal, WIN-NY Associate Pastor

The Ladies Ministry in the church is very important to me personally and to every woman in general. As I understood, Women's Ministry in the church is the continuation of what Jesus Christ had started while He was ministering on earth.

We can find in the Bible that the first evangelist after His resurrection was a woman (John 20:17-18). As we look back during ancient times, women were considered second-class citizens in society. At first, I had a hard time accepting that kind of perspective towards women. Having a curious mind, I kept on digging for the truth through reading my Bible and found out a bunch of reasons: 1. The original sin was instigated by a woman (Genesis 3:6). 2. The promised son through Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 16:1-5), and so on and so forth. Knowing the root of the barrier and the works of Jesus through women gives me an assurance that we can be a big help to the ministry and to our husbands as well. Having a community of women in the church helps me to cope a lot with my present situation as a Dialysis patient. Hearing their own personal challenges in life, praying with one another, comforting one another makes me feel I am not alone. It encourages me more to do my part in the Kingdom of God despite the fact that I am in the middle of physical affliction. "No retreat, no turning back but moving forward!"

The excitement to see each other and the joy of serving God is always there. I am so blessed to be a part of the Ladies Ministry and thank God for the WIN-NY community. Amen! May our Almighty God continue to shower women with more wisdom from above for His glory alone.





**Jal Labilles**, wife of Michael Raval, WIN-NY Deacon

The Ladies Ministry has helped me streamline what it really means to be "empowered." Before coming to NY I was a secretary general (college sector) of Gabriela in the Philippines, a women's rights activist group. Together with other members, we fought for equal opportunities in the workplace and other relevant issues. I thought an 'independent woman' wore power suits and held executive positions. Bearing this perspective, I came to NY where I was consumed with capitalism of the female image - scantily clothed women flashed on

digital posters around Times Square. It was a struggle to keep up with the unattainable image of thigh gaps, big hair and brand name accessories. Then I was introduced to the church and eventually the Ladies Ministry. It was a like a breath of fresh air to meet women who although had their own fair share of troubles, were very much secure of their place in life. At first, my old self was challenging the ideas of 'submission', 'long suffering' and others. I said to myself, "Why did I travel across the globe to a place of liberal ideas just to be marginalized again?" But with more in depth study of the Bible, I have learned what Women Empowerment truly means as the Bible defines it. Knowing what submission (not to be confused with abuse) means and actually committing it to practice is a difficult endeavor especially when you are bombarded with world-views on a daily basis. The Ladies Ministry of WIN NY has encouraged me to stay true to what the Lord expects of me and knowing that I could reach out to any of my 'sisters' for guidance and support has been a blessing.

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**Tess Palma**, iCare Goup Leader

It has now been 24 years since my journey with God started in WIN – Bacolod in 1990.

I first got involved with the Young Adults Ministry and eventually joined the Ladies Ministry. Being in this ministry had been a great help for me as a young wife. I became aware of the complexities of life as these ladies would share their problems and joys as a wife, mom, daughter-in-law and career-woman. But the realities of life came when I had to face my own greatest challenge which almost tore me apart and my marriage. In those trying times, what sustained me was my relationship with God and the care, love and prayers of my Ladies group.



Later we moved to Cagayan de Oro and built our family, raised our kids and our business. I was active in our Ladies Ministry both in and out of the church. My experience in the Ladies Ministry had a great impact in me as a person and in my spiritual life. Because of this experience wherever God places me I always look forward to being part of the Ladies Ministry.

Today I'm in WIN-NY still active and vibrant in the service of the Lord. As I look back to those years, I thank God for His love and strength because I was able to withstand those trials in life. I praise God that I'm still married for 23 year with same man and have three wonderful and challenging kids. Glory to God. God bless us women!

*The Lord uses brokenness to cultivate eternal fruit within us, and our weakness is the stage on which divine strength is showcased. This is why He came.*

*~ Laura Story*

## APARADOR - FREE SHOPPING

*Continued from Page 1*

sunlight in. Yet, the crowd and the sun's rays didn't help the tiny airconditioning unit cooling the packed room. It made shopping a little like a sauna experience on peak hours - to the optimist, a double treat! Young adults and their fashion sense were always refreshing. They came in droves, buzzing and energizing the little room. But young and old alike, tired or not, after leaving Aparador – they somehow smiled. And we smiled bigger.

At end of the conference, the local workers and staff had the chance to shop. In Sis Tpie's heart, this was the true essence of hospitality.

Giving the guest the first choice. After everyone had shopped, there was still plenty of clothes left in boxes we sent them out to our unfortunate brothers and sisters who were affected by Typhoon Yolanda just weeks after the conference. I believe that every piece of clothing that was sown into this ministry had become a ball of blessing that just started to roll.

Aparador was simple and low key – most was made up of new and used clothing and articles shared by our beloved brothers and sisters abroad. It is abundant and free. You can choose things you really need as well as get things you like. This is Kingdom living on earth, but with our finite limitations. I believe that if we remain faithful in maintaining this culture of blessing, we will move on from glory to glory. There will come a day when every WIN pastor, wife, worker and staff will enter Aparador – filled with brand new and beautiful things. But for now, we will continue to celebrate the day's small beginnings.



I usually make Lumpiang Shanghai with this same recipe but as a twist I use wonton wrappers to make it look more oriental. My son who is now 6 told me one day after preparing it: "Nanay, you really are the best! No wait.. you are better than the best!" My heart melted, maybe yours will too.

Jal Labiles  
WIN - New York

**Ingredients:**  
2 lbs ground pork  
1 medium carrot, shredded  
1 medium onion, grated  
Wonton wrappers  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1 egg  
1 cup vegetable oil  
Optional: sweet and chili dipping sauce

**Procedure:**  
1. In a large bowl combine all ingredients except the oil. Optional: Use a food processor to shred the onion and carrots.

**Empanaditas (Fried Dumplings)**

2. Put a teaspoon of this mixture in the middle of the wonton wrapper. Dip your finger in water then smear it on the edges of the wrapper to only one side of the circle. Fold the other side to close then using a fork flute the edges to seal the mixture in. Heat the oil of a shallow frying pan.

3. Fry the dumplings on a pan, carefully turning them over when it is golden brown.

Serving size: You will yield about 50 empanaditas.

# ICE BREAKERS

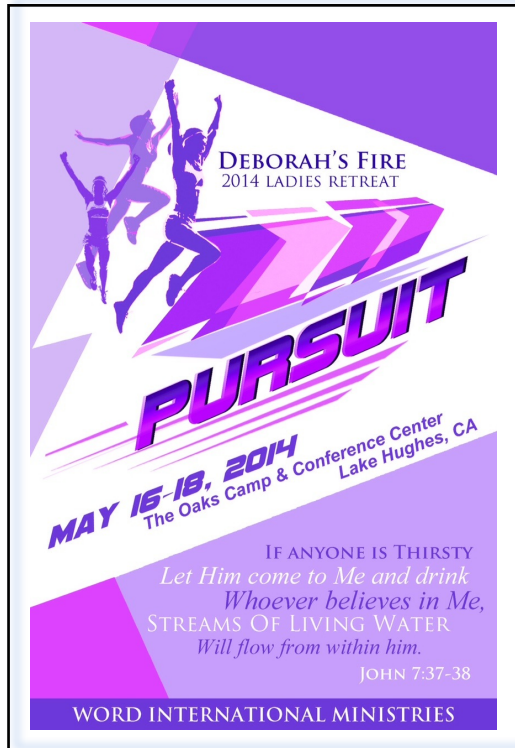


## GUESS WHO BINGO!

Go around the room and ask each person if they have ever done or can do any of the items in the boxes. If they say, "YES," ask them to initial the item in the box. No repeat initials unless there are less than 10 people in the room playing the game. **Shout BINGO!** When you've completed a row, column, or a diagonal in 10 minutes. If there is no winner, continue to play for another 10 minutes. **The one with most boxes initialed WINS!**

can sing	plays the piano	loves sushi	sings in the shower	broke a leg
changed a diaper	loves junk food	had mumps	watches soap operas	is an only child
never rode a horse	puts nail polish	FREE	has memorized a Bible verse	loves to cook
moved houses two or more times	born outside the country	plays the guitar	teaches children	likes classical music
loves to bake	has been to Hawaii	wears eyeglasses	slept in church	drives a car





## NATIONAL LADIES ADVISORY TEAM

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## Its is Finished .....

[Continued from Page 2](#)

that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: One sows and another reaps. I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labors.”

Jesus sowed - doing the Father's will: preaching, teaching, forgiving, healing, feeding, saving people, performing miracle after miracle. Jesus knew who He is, where He came from, where He was going. It didn't matter whether He was humiliated, ridiculed, mocked, beaten, tortured and nailed. Jesus was obedient until the very end.

But the work must not stop there. We are to be obedient and share the good news: the good news of eternal life, the good news of peace and joy and grace and mercy and forgiveness. The other part of the good news is, though the work is finished, the results and effectiveness is forever. Those who put their trust in Jesus, who gave their lives to Jesus, like you and I, we are living in the continuous finished work of Christ. That's why we should not be afraid to share the Gospel, because you will always have good results. The resurrection power is efficacious now and forever!

When Jesus said, "It is finished." - for you and me, He is saying, "This is where you begin." We are called to the continuum of sharing the Good News.

People's hearts are crying out, longing to have peace in their lives, hope to cling to, assurance to hold on to. Let's help them get off the edge of their seats. Let's give them some Good News.