

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

WIN New York's Boston Mission

by Rev. Ferdie Melendres, Senior Pastor

Early in the morning on August 20, Bro. Michael and I from WIN-NY went to Boston, Massachusetts for a mission trip. It took us three and a half hours to reach the place by car. It was not our first time to visit Boston, in fact we had been exploring this place for several years now, praying that someday God will expand the outreach of Word International Ministries over this area. Boston is said to be the "Athens of America," home to the best universities in the world; Harvard, MIT, BU, etc. Boston is said to be one the oldest cities of the country, and scene of several major events in American history. There are about 350,000 Asians living in the state of Massachusetts, and 12,500 are of Filipino ancestry, working as nurses, businesspersons, educators, students, teachers, consultants, and others. Yet, not so many Filipino churches can be seen in this part of Northeast America.

After a long travel is completed, we reached downtown Boston at 11 a.m. to meet a friend who would be our contact person to start the ministry in the area. In the Bible, we see in Paul's mission that every time he began the ministry, he looked for fellow Jews, and on numerous occasions he preached at the synagogues to proclaim Jesus as the awaited Messiah of Israel (Acts 9:20; 13:5; 13:14; 14:1; 17:1; 17:10; 18:4). Similar to the Boston mission, we started our mission, first with our fellow Filipinos, then with other groups of people. Our goal is to bring the unsaved and nominal Christians to a saving knowledge of Christ, and to train people to proclaim the Gospel for the salvation of many. The meeting was worthwhile, and we believe that this is just the beginning of more fruitful trips, so that those "rocky hills and mountains" of Boston area could be tilled and cultivated, and then sow seeds of God's Word, so that the lasting fruits might be brought as an offering unto the Lord.

On October 5, six brethren from New York went again to the same place to conduct a Bible Study with two families. They were Kenny and Ging, both Filipino-Americans who lived in Boston from more than 15 years, with their only daughter Samantha, and Dexter and kids who have been residents for six years. Sadly, some of the sisters were not able to come on that day. It was a very fruitful meeting indeed, that brought us to talk about salvation in Christ Jesus, repentance, forgiveness, faith, the love of God, and the plan to start a ministry in that area. Sis Tess, who is God's instrument to meet this family said, "Who would ever thought that it is in Boston that we would see each other. Truly, God has a great plan for us." By the way, Sis. Tess and Sis. Ging were schoolmates from Cagayan de Oro, Philippines. In response to this, Bro. Robert said, "There is no accident in God, and there is always a reason for the Lord why we are in our present locations." As we end our conversation, the Lord opened their hearts to accept what we said about the Bible, and to receive Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. We all agreed that we will visit them regularly to conduct a Bible Study, and they promised to invite more friends in the future.

The Boston mission was already in the heart of WIN-NY many years ago, and it was only in the recent months that the Holy Spirit had revived this mission again unto us. We know that there are lots of people out there hurting, and they need healing and comfort. Many of them are scattered, like sheep without a shepherd. I ask that people need to step out in faith and be engaged in this mission as it holds such a great potential to reach souls in the area. We have all that we need in doing God's mission work, whether at home, neighborhood, community, internet or abroad. God is calling those who will leap up in faith. Time is running out and we cannot just sit down, watch tele-novelas, do nothing, and wait for the second coming of Jesus. Remember that there are many precious souls that need our help in Boston, and you can be part of this mission by including us in your prayers, or telling us of relatives, friends, or contact persons who live in Boston that we can visit and share the eternal Gospel of Jesus Christ.





A Great Commitment to the Great Commission

I am a pastor. That means God has entrusted me to lead a church and oversee the care of its members. It is crucial that I know what a church is and what it is designed to do. If I have no clarity on this, then very little else matters with regards to my job.

The rigors of pastoring coupled with the many distractions that come with it often causes us to invest our time and resources in things that don't ultimately matter. Pastors today are busy but not necessarily productive. The truth is, there are a million things we can do, yet there is really only one thing we ought to do—we must commit to the singular task for which we have been called.

Fortunately, I do not need to invent the church's identity and mission because Jesus already laid it out for us. Shortly before He returned to His Father in heaven, Jesus gave this charge,

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:18-20, NLT)

When you think about it, Jesus could have left us with any number of instructions. He could have commanded us to build lavish cathedrals, publish numerous bestsellers, erect plush retreat houses, save the whales, purchase prime property, or run for political office. Instead, He leaves us with one directive—make disciples of all nations. Make no mistake about it, making disciples is central to everything we do as a church, without which we probably shouldn't even call ourselves a church at all.

This charge of discipling all nations for Christ—known as the Great Commission—is a truly daunting mission. It's not a small world after all when your job involves making disciples of the world's seven billion people. Our job is a feat of truly biblical proportions. I suspect that Jesus purposely made our task humanly impossible so that we will never rely on ourselves for the results. Instead, we are to trust in Him and His ability to give us all we need to fulfill this great mission.

The Great Commission is characterized by key distinctives which we should never lose sight of. First, it hinges on the authority of Christ (28:18). Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." What a relief! The weight of the church's mission does not rest on my brilliance (or lack thereof) but on the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ. Just like a scrawny traffic cop can stop a truck "in the name of the law," you and I are able to fulfill the Great Commission in the name of Christ.

Second, it centers on the character of Christ. The Great Commission is about making disciples of every nation. We do so by going to where people are, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey the commands of Christ. The New Testament word for *disciple* literally means "a student." As a church, we are in the business of teaching people to be students of Christ in order that they might become like Christ.

Third, it banks on the presence of Christ. Just because Jesus had to return to the Father, it does not mean he leaves us to fend for ourselves. As He reminded the disciples, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." What a comfort to know that as difficult as the mission might be, we are never alone in ministry because the same Christ that sends us to every corner of the world promises to be with us every step of the way.

Finally, our commitment to the Great Commission must be rooted in our deep love for Christ. Hudson Taylor, the famed missionary and founder of the China Inland Missions, would often ask missionary candidates about their motivation for ministry. Most would respond by saying they want to see every person saved, or to keep people from being in the dark regarding the Gospel, or some other noble idea. To this Taylor would respond, "All these motives, however good, will fail you in times of testings, trials, tribulations, and possible death. There is but one motive that will sustain you in trial and testing; namely, the love of Christ." My prayer for each and every one of you is that you may all grow in this love.



WIN New Jersey Welcomes Pastor Edwin Hernandez and family!

by Rev. Armando Zacarias, Senior Pastor

Life is full of challenges. For Edwin Hernandez, the biggest challenge of his life was not graduating from the University of the Philippines; nor was it getting employed in Toyota Motors; it was answering the call of God to become a pastor. It brought him, and later his wife and children, to unfamiliar places and situations. After his initial stint as Senior Pastor of WIN Better Living, he packed his bags and moved his family to Singapore. As Deputy Senior Pastor in WIN SQ, he was instrumental in the discipleship of lay pastors and leaders. He also helped in the development of outreach churches in Asia and Oceania. But God had other plans.

WIN New Jersey had just acquired a church building in the Princeton area and it needed the services of an experienced minister to prepare its people to bring in the harvest. After waiting on the Lord for almost two years, the whole family finally landed in Newark Liberty International Airport on June 17, 2013. A new episode in the Hernandez family story began.

The whole church welcomed them with open hands and joyful hearts. Then suddenly, the church came alive! A flurry of activities ensued: Vacation Bible School, Joint Youth Camp with WIN New York, Family Day, Family Camp, etc. It's as if a spark was lit and the whole congregation was ignited. Even the elderly were revived. New people started to come.

This is the just the beginning. Many more amazing things are expected to follow. For Pastor Edwin, Marita, Kathleen, Koleen and Caleb, a great door of ministry has just opened. They are ready to meet this new challenge because they know that it is God who brought them to the USA. Welcome to your new home and church family!

WIN NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES ITS 12TH ANNIVERSARY

Word Christian Fellowship International (WIN–New Jersey) celebrated their 12th Anniversary last September 15, 2013. Their anniversary theme was **PROCLAIM Christ is King in 2013**. Church members and friends came to celebrate and enjoyed special presentations by the Children's Ministry and the Church choir rendered a special song, which is one of the songs in their upcoming Christmas cantata. Bro. Babes Paulate, US Region Director preached on the anniversary theme and encouraged us to commit to the proclamation of Christ through our lives. After the service, lunch was prepared outside the sprawling 7.8 acre church grounds for all who came to the celebration.

When WIN–New Jersey started ministry in Central New Jersey, their only desire was to make Jesus Christ known as the Lord and Savior of the world. "For we believe that He alone can heal our broken hearts and calm our troubled souls and when this life is over, bring us to His eternal presence"

After many years, by the grace of God, the church was able to purchase the property in Hopewell, New Jersey – the fruit of the efforts of the church members.

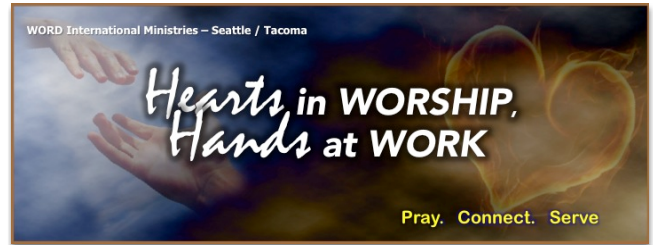


"Hearts in Worship, Hands at Work"

14th Anniversary Theme of WIN-Seattle/Tacoma

WIN-Seattle/Tacoma celebrated their anniversary on the last week of October. This celebration of God's favor and faithfulness usually involves a collection of activities that both count the previous year's gains and prepare the leaders and workers for the coming church year.

This year, WIN-Seattle/Tacoma started the celebration by going on a retreat. October 18-19, 2013, the Workers and Leaders went to Lakeview Christian Retreat Center in Auburn, WA for their retreat entitled "**Unplugged**". The lakeside venue was ideal for reconnecting and recharging. Their prayer times were guided by "The Circle Maker – *Praying Circles Around Your Biggest Dreams and Greatest Fears*", a video curriculum by Mark Batterson, Lead Pastor of National Community Church in Washington, D.C. They spent the last few moments of the retreat interceding for the church and its upcoming activities, praying for one another, and anointing with oil.



On Friday, October 25, all the Workers gathered at the church Center for "**Workers Appreciation Night**". Pastor Vito, Sis. Maica and their children: Amica (14 yrs. old) and Vito (9 yrs. old) hosted the night and showed their appreciation for all the hard work and sacrifice that the workers of WIN-Seattle/Tacoma have displayed so excellently to serve the Lord in the past year. Food, gifts, games and special numbers were Pastor Vito & Sis. Maica's way of saying "Thank you, we appreciate you!" to all the workers of the church.

On Sunday, October 27, 2013, the celebration culminated in a **Sunday Worship Service** where about 150 people gathered to praise and thank the Lord for His unfailing love and faithfulness to WIN-Seattle/Tacoma. Their 14th anniversary theme is "**Hearts in Worship, Hands at Work** (Pray. Connect. Serve)". Sis. Maica Atienza led the Praise and Worship team and special numbers were handled by the singing group "The Hanson Brothers" (A Christian singing group that ministers to churches and nursing facilities in the Puget Sound area). It was indeed special!

Pastor Dondi Castillo, associate pastor, introduced and presented a slideshow of the "Year in Review" in photos. Pastor Babes Paulate, WIN-USA Regional Director was there to pray for the Pastor, Council and Leadership Community of the local church. Pastor Vito Atienza preached the Word and gave an altar call where about a dozen people received Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The Choir sang "The Mission" as they closed out the celebration. The anniversary lunch treat was served and the celebration continued into the early afternoon – hearing more special presentations by The Youth Ministry and again The Hanson Brothers.



On this 14th year of WIN-Seattle/Tacoma, they are indeed dreaming big and praying through while they operate on the theme: "Hearts in Worship, Hands at Work". Congratulations and God bless WIN-Seattle/Tacoma!

Regional Director - Emerito Paulate
National Youth Director - Mark Briones
US Education Director - Dr. Ed Miciano

Deputy Director - Alberto Cordero
National Music Director - Priam Guiuan

WORD
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES
USA Regional Office

Washington Address:
7101 58th Street Ct W
University Place, 98467 USA
Tel. No: (253) 564-8053

California Address:
1162 Concord Street
Glendale, CA 91202 USA
Tel. No.: (818) 241-9673, (818) 653-6956

Email Address: wordusoffice@aol.com ~ **Website:** wordinternationalusa.org