

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

Two WIN California Churches Celebrate 25 Years in Ministry

WIN Los Angeles, Rev. Chito Cordero, Senior Pastor and **Bridgepoint San Francisco**, Dr. Ed Miciano, Senior Pastor mark 25 years of ministry in the State of California in October 2015. Bridgepoint San Francisco celebrated on October 18 and Los Angeles on October 25.

These pioneering churches started from a Bible Study group in the year 1990 with a handful of committed families who later became the workers of the church. God has blessed these churches through the years with growth as the members labored and ministered to reach out to the Filipino community as well as to other races.

“Let us enter into the ‘new seasons’ with the objective of fulfilling the Great Commission and honoring the One who gives us greater opportunities than we deserve.”

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

25
ANNIVERSARY

*From the Harvest,
For the Harvest*

He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest, ask him to send more workers into his fields." Matthew 9:37-38

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN MINISTRY

BRIDGEPOINT

Bridgepoint San Francisco, October 18, 2015

25
ANNIVERSARY

WORD
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES
LOS ANGELES

Create in me a pure heart and
Renew a Steadfast Spirit within me.
Psalm 51:10

WIN Los Angeles, October 25, 2015



SOUL ANCHOR 2015 “THE MOVEMENT”

by Rev. Mark Briones, District Overseer, Southern California,
National Youth Pastors Director, Youth Pastor for WIN - Los Angeles, California.

Last July 7-11, 2015 close to 300 delegates from the various WIN US churches converge at the Oak Glen Christian Conference Center in Yucaipa, California to attend the WIN US National Youth and Young Adult Camp. Held every three years, young people from WIN Los Angeles, WIN Inland Empire, WIN San Diego, WIN Arizona, WIN Austin, WIN Northeast Houston, WIN Southwest Houston, WIN Southeast Houston, WIN Silicon Valley, Bridgepoint Community Church/WIN SF, WIN Seattle, WIN New York, WIN New Jersey and WIN Massachusetts came in full force. The theme of this 3 day and 4 night camp was “**The Movement**” taken from Romans 8:29-30.

This year we were honored to host the biggest and most successful camp by far! We were so blessed to have a lot of the pastors from our different churches attending the entire duration of the camp together with their youth and young adult leaders.

This national camp was unique as we separated the youth and college/young adult groups. As such we had 2 camps running concurrently to meet the needs of the respective age groups. There were 25 cell groups comprising of middle school, high school and college/young adults. Everyone would gather for praise and worship in the mornings, then break out into their own sessions and workshops. We then would all gather once again at night for the plenary night sessions.

We tapped on our pastors and youth/YA leaders as session and workshop speakers to speak into the lives of our campers. For our last plenary session, we were privileged to have Pastor Babes Paulate, our US National Director as our speaker.

As always, one of the highlights of the camp is the water baptism time. We are pleased to report that close to 30 young people were baptized this year!! Praise the Lord!!

The Lord met us in an amazing way through His Word and the anointed worship from our different worship teams from the various regions! Lives were touched, healed, revived and a new movement was birthed!! All Glory to God!!

Let us continue to invest, guide, mentor, disciple and pray for our young people. They are the future of our respective churches and this nation. What they all experienced last summer is just the beginning of a mighty work the Lord will do in and through their lives.

Thank You to everyone who prayed, supported and helped make this camp a great success!!

To God Be The Glory!!





The Discipline of Community

How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!
(Psalm 133:1)

Loneliness is a real problem. A decades-long study revealed that in the 1980s, twenty percent of Americans admitted to being lonely. The same study was done in the 2010s, but this time, the number went up to forty percent! Imagine that. Twice as many people today feel lonely compared to just less than thirty years ago.

This number is even more staggering when we consider the fact that we are technologically a highly connected generation. Computers, smart phones, air travel, and social media have helped foster human connectivity at a level never seen before in all of human history. Yet in spite of all this, people today continue to mourn the loss of a meaningful sense of community.

Loneliness is not just an imagined problem. Experts have known for years that people who deal with prolonged feelings of loneliness suffer other conditions such as depression, stress, and anxiety. It is also believed to cause physiological disorders such as inflammation, diabetes, heart disease, and premature death.

I've always found it interesting that the first thing God did not like about his own creation was man's state of aloneness. God looked at the man and said, "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Gen. 2:18). The solution to Adam's aloneness was the creation of a "helper who is just right for him." But what about the human race? What is the solution to the loneliness of an entire generation of people? The answer is embodied in the word *community*.

The early believers employed a unique term to describe community—it is the word *koinonia*. From this term we get English words such as commonness and communion. It denotes the idea of sharing something significant in common. Found throughout the pages of the New Testament, *koinonia* described the best of Christian fellowship, love, acceptance, and familial commitment.

Why do you suppose the Bible writers placed a great deal of importance on community? Do we still need it today? The answer is a resounding yes! Let's consider some of the reasons why the church today ought to harness this deep sense of one-anotherness.

1. We need community to experience God's family

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. (Ephesians 2:19)

2. We need community to be spiritually encouraged

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

3. We need community to be accountable to others

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:1-2)

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The **WORD** on the **STREET**



Stick The Landing!

For those of us that preach on a regular basis, we know that the first five minutes of your sermon are crucial. The "Introduction" to the sermon, where you read your Text and state your Big Idea, lays the foundation upon which the flow and structure of the rest of the sermon will be based. If we illustrate the sermon as an airplane flight, the Introduction is like your "take-off".

As important as the "take-off" is to a flight, the "landing" of the plane is of critical importance too! "Landing" a sermon gets you to your intended destination and completes the plan and purpose of your sermon.

Has this happened to you?: *you spent too much time and energy on the Introduction and the Body of your sermon, only to "wing it" in the end, or let the sermon close by itself, or call in the musicians and let the singing drown out the lack of an appropriate closing – now, that's what we call a "crash landing"!*

Here are 3 common mistakes I have committed that may be considered "**crash landings**" and a statement or two on how to avoid them:

1. **Summarize, do not repeat the whole sermon!**

In our desire to be very clear about the points of our sermon, we summarize near the closing. This is actually a good practice. The problem is when our summary repeats, rephrases, reflects upon and re-exposes the main points, sub-points and sub-sub-points of the whole sermon! Your audience ends up listening to two sermons – the one you delivered and the commentary on the sermon you just delivered! Your 30-minute sermon stretches to an hour simply because you were not able to "*stick the landing*"!

After a brief summary, use the closing to challenge listeners towards action, giving smart applications and ample time for reflection. The landing time should never be as long as the flight itself!

2. **Just as there is ONE beginning, there should be ONE closing.**

"*In conclusion...*" is a phrase you should only say once during your sermon. After delivering the body of your sermon, there's a thought or two (sometimes more!) that you remember and want to incorporate that into your sermon. No problem... except that you're already closing! What happens is that you "close" as many times as some thoughts come to your mind!

"*In closing...*" or "*Let me end with this...*" or "*Finally...*" are all terms I've used. And some of them I've used several times in one sermon! A good sermon outline that is a result of ample preparation/reflection is the only cure for this. Good preparation allows one to sift through the myriad of thoughts and reflections upon the passage. Good sermons contain the thoughts that have been distilled through meditation – *that means sifting through some good ones in order to pick and present the best ones!*

How would you feel if your pilot announces that the plane is landing... *every few minutes?!*

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Rev. Vino B. Atienza,
Senior Pastor, WIN Seattle/Tacoma





Give a Gift of CHRISTMAS

JOY to children this December
by sponsoring a Seeds of Hope
School in the Philippines.

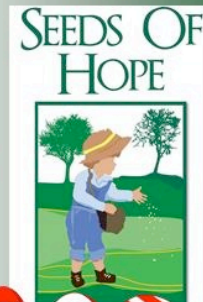
These children come from low income
families and rarely get to experience a
Christmas celebration like we do.

Let's bring a smile to these
children's faces this Christmas
season.



JOIN us this year AND be a part of this joyous
and memorable Christmas as the children eagerly
await this year's

Pamaskong Handog ni Jesus!



Contact your local SOH Coordinator

The Discipline of Community . . .

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4. We need community to experience Christ's unique presence

For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:20)

5. We need community to tap into the power of prayer

“I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. (Matthew 18:19)

6. We need community to strengthen our witness

I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. (John 17:21)

7. We need community to meet the needs of others

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. (1 Peter 4:10)

As we serve Christ in churches here and around the world, may the Lord, by His Spirit, bind us all together in true fellowship and allow each of us to experience the depth of Christian community.

Stick the Landing! . . .

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3. **A Conclusion that has nothing to do with the Introduction!**

Ideally, the conclusion sums up and appropriately closes the sermon after giving a smart and challenging action/reflection point. Sadly, this is not always the case. Some sermons end with closing remarks, illustrations and action points that have **nothing to do** with the text's big idea. It's like getting on a Seattle to Portland flight and landing in Cleveland, Ohio! Now, there may be nothing wrong with Cleveland, OH – *but that was not where I intended to go!*

A good sermon has "no loose ends" and "air tight arguments", no loopholes. The issue is resolved, the problem has a solution, the dilemma has resolution, the confusion clarified or the question answered – in short, the plane has landed at its intended destination!

I'm sure you have your own list of closing mistakes. I'm just glad that the grace of God allows me to learn from mine enough to encourage others not to commit the same. So when it comes to delivering a well-prepared sermon, make sure to **stick the landing!**

"As important as it is for a message to be heartfelt and genuine, that of course isn't enough. Your message must also be more than just a message. It must have value. It must deliver on the promise it offers to its audience. It must have the potential to change other people's lives. That's my goal every time I write a book or prepare to speak to an audience."

***John Maxwell,
Everyone Communicates, Few Connect***

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