

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

Formation of Two Departments in the US Region - Missions and Ministerial Care

The WIN US Leadership Conference was held in the State of Washington August 3-5, 2016; hosted by WIN Seattle/Tacoma. A Strategic Framework Covenant was drafted by ministers in attendance. The covenant included the US Region's Vision, Mission and S-M-A-R-T Goals for 2017 - 2021. Pastors Ron deVilla and Ramil Carmen from Word Christian Community Church (WCCC), Vancouver BC Canada served as facilitators/consultants for the strategic planning sessions.

The US Board passed a resolution forming two departments, the Missions Department and the Ministerial Care Department.

Dr. Ferdie Melendres was appointed to lead the Missions Department and Pastor Edwin Hernandez to lead the Ministerial Care Department.

The **Missions Department** will put together a program to guide our churches to do outreach and to church plant in major urban cities in the United States. These endeavors can be done either by a single church or a partnership of churches; intentionally creating a base in another city.

The Missions Department will also plan, lead and coordinate missions in other countries in the form of medical missions, youth outreaches, calamity outreaches, educational tours and evangelistic concerts. The Missions Department will coordinate with WIN International Missions on existing or scheduled projects that we can support.

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Pastors Ramil Carmen-WCCC Vancouver BC, Vino Atienza-Seattle/Tacoma, Chito Cordero-LA, Babes Paulate-US Regional Director, Sonny Ona-Hawaii, Ferdie Melendres-NY, Edwin Hernandez-NJ, Ed Miciano-SF, Gordon Apura-SE Houston, Ron de Villa-WCCC Vancouver BC



Formation of . . .

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The Missions Department will seek partnership with established mission agencies or organizations that are effectively ministering to refugees and other projects.

The goal is for our churches and members to be involved in missions or to experience missions.

The **Ministerial Care Department** will look into the physical and spiritual health of the ministers. It will constantly study the benefits for pastors; especially their retirement. They will communicate to the local churches and recommend benefits or retirement schemes for the pastors.

It will develop counseling groups to assist pastors during times of crisis. It will include scheduling of furloughs or study leaves for pastors.

How I Found Healing for My Spiritual Blindness

Following Jesus isn't ultimately a matter of figuring out the right steps and straining my spiritual muscles until I can keep up with his demands. Nor is it about drumming up some extra spiritual powers to try to inoculate myself against hard-heartedness. Rather, discipleship means trusting in the one who can open blind eyes and soften hard hearts. It means trusting the one who went to the cross to do exactly that - the one who goes ahead of us still.

- Wesley Hill, *Christianity Today* 9/23/16

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Fooling Ourselves with Fig Leaves

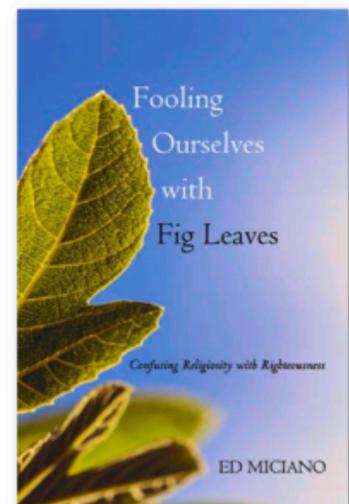
Confusing Religiosity with Righteousness

ED MICIANO

In his letter to the church in Galatia, the Apostle Paul addresses the inefficacy of religious tradition for salvation and reaffirms the completeness of Jesus Christ's redemptive work for our deliverance and righteousness. *Fooling Ourselves with Fig Leaves* is an attempt to take the message of the Galatian epistle and apply it to today's spiritual context. In it, the author takes us through a journey of discovery and insight as he exposes the deceptive nature of religion, and highlights the efficacy of justification by grace through faith.

As a professor and pastor, Miciano writes with a desire to be faithful to the integrity of the ancient text while being mindful of the needs of believers and seekers today. This makes for an engaging read in exploring the age-old pursuit of knowing God and enjoying him forever.

Ed Miciano is the founding pastor of Bridgepoint Community Church in the San Francisco Bay Area. Ed has served as Assistant Professor of Biblical Theology at Patten University. He currently lectures on systematic and practical theology at the S.U.M. Bible College and Theological Seminary in Oakland, California. He is the author of *The Ministry of Coaching* and *The Faith Factor*.



ISBN: 978-1-4982-3334-7 | 172 pp. | \$22 | paper

"Ed Miciano's *Fooling Ourselves with Fig Leaves* is an enjoyable journey through Paul's epistle to the Galatians. Using insightful analysis, humor, stories from his own ethnic culture, and examples readers are familiar with, Miciano calls us away from the religiosity we too often get trapped in, either by intention or the inertia of our own spiritual lives."
—ABRAHAM RUELAS, Dean of Campus Programs, Professor of Communication & Psychology, Patten University

"This book uncovers religiosity as a human activity that hinders people from really knowing God. The author confronts the problem biblically and theologically. Since the beginning of history, religion has been used by good reputed individuals as a palliative device to assimilate the consequences of sin. This book shows the solution to the problem."
—MIGUEL ALVAREZ, Professor of Theology and Mission, Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA

"*Fooling Ourselves with Fig Leaves* takes you on a journey and reveals Bible truth as it is written unfolding in today's context. The spirit of religiosity is nothing new . . . God's children need to be able to spiritually discern what is true and real Christianity. Reading the accounts in the New Testament will alert you and cause you to spot people that carry and propagate this spirit of religiosity."
—PETER KAIRUZ, Chief Executive Officer, CRN-Asia, Philippines

"The study of the book of Galatians from the pastoral eyes of Ed Miciano brings contemporary sensibility to one of Paul's key doctrinal letters on Christian freedom and grace. *Fooling Ourselves with Fig Leaves* is clever, insightful, and inspirational reading for clergy, laity, and students of the Bible. I nodded and smiled throughout Dr. Miciano's appraisal of the Epistle to the Galatians."
—ELOY H. NOLIVOS, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology, Oral Roberts University

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Worship - Outreach - Relationship - Discipleship

Summer Activities Around the US Region

MEMORIAL PARADE SUNDAY



MAY 29 SUNDAY @ WCFI GROUNDS

WIN New Jersey grounds, a staging area for the participants of the Annual Memorial Day parade

Soul Anchor 2016, #The Uprising SA16
July 8 - 11, 2016



WIN San Francisco (Bridgepoint) Concert in early August at San Francisco's Union Square situated in the middle of the downtown shopping area



WIN New York Street Evangelism



Summer Activities

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WIN Los Angeles Ladies Retreat



WIN Silicon Valley Outreach at the Adobo Festival, handing out Bibles and tracts



WISE
Christian Academy
 A ministry of
WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

1ST GRADUATION EXERCISE
 Coral Creek Golf Course
 91-1111 Geiger Rd.
 Ewa Beach, Hawaii

June 12, 2016
 10:00 am

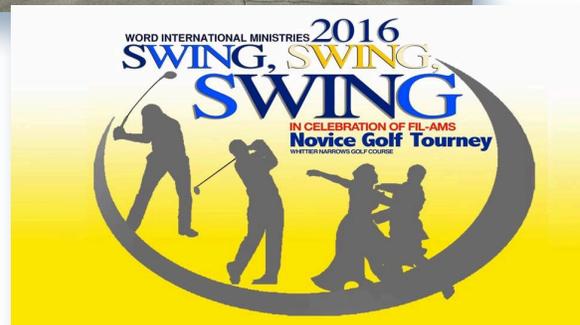
Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

CLASS OF 2016



WIN Los Angeles Novice Golf Tournament to raise funds for missions



The Mission Continues

Christians in every generation have stories that are unique and distinctly their own. We have heard stories of believers in the early period of Christianity being fed to lions and many were beheaded for not renouncing their faith. On the other hand, thousands of them had obeyed the voice of the Lord by spreading the Gospel to different places climbed hills and mountains, traversed seas and oceans, faced wild beasts and animals, confronted opposition, experienced sickness, suffered thirst and hunger, but they remained faithful and victorious in the midst of such adversities. How about you and your church, what is your unique narrative that needs to be told.

In a world like we have, how do we continue the energy of the spirit of mission and the Great Commission? How do we understand the fast paced world and embrace life with awareness that it has something to do with the plan of God, and that every believer has a role to perform, making our lives worth living? I believe that in order to achieve such a great task, it must all begin with the church leadership. Church leaders should not only be concerned with the conversion of new souls, but also to prepare them to become mature, useful and productive believers in Christ.

Supporting the idea of missions is critical because it is God's desire to establish new churches and bring new people to Christ through the work of missions. When we think of missions, we often think of working in a foreign land. While such works are considered important, missions is something that can be done in our own place. For this reason, WIN USA will continue to do outreach and to church plant in major cities in America as a united body, in order to obey our specific assignment in a newly adopted homeland, and fulfill the last command of Christ to His disciples. We are aiming to plant at least five new churches by 2020 in major cities in the United States.

We always think of financial needs when missions is being talk about. But, there is much more to it than finances. Let us not forget that praying earnestly for



missions and missionaries can accomplish the work of God. Pray for God's intervention and guidance as the men and women of God are doing their task. Without the prayers of the churches, the missions team cannot do the works God called them to do. Paul wrote to the Philippians that it was the Lord who took care of them (Phil. 1:3-6), yet God used people in Philippi to be the partners for their provisions. Paul knew that God would give his missions team everything everything they need, with or without the help of the church in Philippi. Nevertheless, because of the abundant gifts of the brethren, Paul said that God would put the fruit of his own ministry to the account of the church in Philippi.

So, our task is to begin from what we have because more people need to hear the Gospel of Christ in our surroundings. Since *"God is not willing that any should perish."* (2 Peter 3:9), those who already know the Gospel should share it with the lost and unsaved. God could chose any means to propagate the story of Jesus of Nazareth, yet, He chose the believers; redeemed people like you and me to be the channel of truth and salvation in this fallen world. When Jesus was on earth, He looked up at the multitude one day, and saw a great harvest of souls. He knew that many people are ready to hear and receive the Gospel. Indeed, the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few (Matt. 9:38). It means that believers in our time should go and do the mission of Christ because it is a season of harvest. Jesus also said that we should pray that the laborers would step up to the task and accept the challenge to carry out the Gospel of salvation.

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We may be in a Babylon-like culture, but we are citizens of the City of God, "a city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Heb. 11:10). For that reason we needn't freak out, but rather press on in our Eden-old task: to image the Creator by ordering a chaotic world, keeping the light alive amidst a formidable darkness.

Brett McCracken, Fearless Faith in a Time of Forgetting, Christianity Today, 8/30/16

The Mission Continues

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The last words of Jesus before He ascended to heaven is recorded in the Bible; to go into all the world with the Gospel, teaching the hearers and baptizing the believers (Matt. 28: 19-20). He emphasized that in our going to make sure that the purpose will be accomplished. But **“who will go and who will preach?”** Paul asked the Christians in Rome. Obviously, all churches have the responsibility to support missions and missionaries, especially those who are going “into the world” with the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ. God wants each one of us to be more involved by committing ourselves to missions.

If you say you are not called to be a missionary, you can still help the goal of missions by supporting missions in your local church. This support can come in the way of

prayer, finances, or time and labor for the work of the ministry.

May the Lord bless our burden form mission all the days of our lives.



Dr. Ferdie Melendres, Senior Pastor,
WIN New York

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*A season full of happiness. A memory full of smiles.
A celebration that's full of love.*

This can only be possible because of you. Every amount you donate makes a difference.

As the yuletide season draws near,
let's continue to fill these children's lives with overflowing passion and generosity.

MALIGAYANG PASKO and may your life be full of joy, too!



Join us and be a part of this joyous and memorable Christmas as the children eagerly awaits this year's

PAMASKONG HANDOG NI JESUS!

Contact your local SOH coordinator.

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rosemariej57@yahoo.com



CENTER FOR SOWING
SEEDS OF HOPE



Would You Like to Sponsor ME?

The parents of these kids want their children to learn and grow in God's love.

Mark James Agulto



Marc James is the youngest son in the family. His father doesn't have a job. His mother is a vendor and her income is not enough for their daily needs. His siblings go to a public school near their house. They live in a squatter's area in Molo, Iloilo City. Even though they have a daycare center near their house, they want Marc to study at Wink because they heard so many positive feedbacks about the learning center. They said that the teaching in WINK is more focused on the academic and spiritual. However, with his mother's monthly income they can't be sure if they can afford to enroll Marc at WINK.

Adielyn Claire Daquis



Adielyn's family lives in a squatter area in Rizal Estanzuela, Iloilo City. Their house, located near a fishing port, is built of light materials. Their environment is not healthy for the children. Her Father is a sikad driver with no fixed income and is not enough for their daily needs. Her mother is a housewife. Sometimes they only have two meals a day. Now that Adielyn is 3 years old. They want her to start school at WINK. However, with her father's income they cannot afford to do so. They said that the classes in WINK is more focused on the academic and spiritual.

Lexan Israel Gardonia



Lexan is the 2nd child of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Gardonia. His father as the head of the family is a part time jeepney driver with no fixed income. His mother as a preschool teacher is getting only the allowance of 3,500 monthly. Their daughter, Alexandra was a former student of WINK. Alexandra performed very well academically and spiritually. Lexan was a former SOH (SY 2015) beneficiary as well. Their monthly income can't afford to enroll Lexan at WINK as a paying student.

Center for Seeds of Hope (CSOH) is a Non-Profit corporation



Why I Am Not Afraid To Die

Being in a long-term pastorate means that I will inevitably have my fair share of officiating funerals and memorial services. It's probably the least favorite of my ministry assignments, besides preparing the church's annual budget. As I write this article, our church just lost one of its most beloved members. She was a mighty woman of faith, a prayer warrior, and a spiritual mother to many of us. During her one-year bout with cancer, she and I had many opportunities to talk about death and dying. These conversations helped me realize that we pastors have a tremendous opportunity to help people cope with the ultimate issues and questions of life . . . and death.

A woman once visited her friend who had a terminal disease. She asked, "Stacey, what's it like waking up everyday knowing that your are dying?" Stacey quickly responded, "First tell me this. What's it like waking up everyday pretending you are not?" For some reason, people who are aware of their impending death seem to gain an unusual sense of wisdom. And Stacey is correct in her assertion that we are all dying. It affirms the biblical contention that "each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment" (Heb. 9:27).

The idea of death brings comfort to some and terror to others. We often fear what we do not know or understand, and I imagine that those who fear death fail to understand what it really is. To help us and our parishioners understand the nature of death, let's briefly explore what the Bible says about it.

1. Death is a consequence of sin. In the Garden, God warned the man, "If you eat of its fruit, you are sure to die" (Gen. 2:17). Centuries later, Paul reminds us that "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). So the real issue is not how to deal with death, but how to deal with sin.
2. Death is more about separation than cessation. We tend to think of death as the end of something, but the Bible presents it more as a separation of things. King Solomon defined death this way, "For then the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it" (Ecc. 12:7). So although the body is left to decompose, the human spirit continues to live, albeit separated from the body.
3. Death is subject to the Lordship of Christ. Death is powerful, but more powerful is Christ's ability to overcome it. Paul declared, "For sin is the string that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:51ff). If sin is the real problem, then Jesus is the real solution.

One morning in 1888, Alfred Nobel picked up the newspaper only to read the announcement of his death. In reality, it was his brother who died but the editor mistaken thought it was the more famous brother who passed away. More surprisingly is how Alfred's death was announced. The paper declared that the "Dynamite King" had died. You see, Alfred Nobel was the inventor of dynamite and was famous because of it. Alfred, however, decided that this is not how he wished to be remembered when his death would actually come. He did not want to forever be remembered as the inventor of something that kills and destroys. So at that point, he decided to put up an annual endowment for people who make outstanding contributions in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology, literature, economics, and peace. As a result we have today the famous Nobel Prizes, perhaps the most famous of which is the Nobel Peace Prize.

Although Alfred Nobel could not do anything about his inevitable death, he understood that he could do something about the way he lived, and subsequently, how he will be remembered. As a pastor, it is not only my responsibility to help people overcome their fear of death, but also to teach people how to live in honor of the sacrifice of Christ thereby bringing him glory in all we say and do. As one T-shirt aptly puts it, "Live your life in such a way that your pastor won't have to lie about you at your funeral."

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



QUICK to LISTEN

Many communicators, especially pastors, look at themselves as skilled conversationalists simply because of the number of people they need to talk to on a regular work week. Add to that the preaching times they skillfully prepare for as they present inspiration and instruction for dozens, hundreds or maybe even thousands of congregants every Sunday. And over that, add the blogs, tweets, comments and vlogs they post! While these might count as excellent teaching or preaching moments – we need to differentiate those from “personal communication” opportunities because they lack an essential aspect of interpersonal communication – **LISTENING!**

James wrote “*My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry*” (James 1:19)

Good ministers must be good listeners!

There are times to teach, times to preach and times to just listen. Real ministry happens when Christians pay attention to the needs and experiences of those around them. Good ministers must be good listeners! Missional moments arise from opportunities we perceive while “giving an ear” (*pun intended*) to people’s aspirations, frustrations and triumphs.

Usually, as “experts” It’s about what we want to tell them... what advise we have for them... what we feel they need... what program, training, equipping we can provide for them... or simply, what God is telling them through us! It’s as if we are the “haves” and they are the “have nots”. If we are not careful, pride may come in and we ask “*what can I give you?*” instead of interacting in humility and asking “*what can I learn about you?*”

Cultural engagement is a dialogue, a conversation that needs to happen between persons or between people groups or between cultures. A faithful missionary will share the critical importance of listening to the culture before and as you engage with it. Know where they are, discover what makes them tick, what are their current beliefs and values, who are their icons, what are their issues.... *what can I learn from them?*

A faithful missionary will share the critical importance of listening to the culture before and as you engage with it.

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



Where Did . . .

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Consider the following people groups: Muslims, Women, Poor, Homeless, Minorities, LGBT, Children, Refugees, Ex-prisoners, Persons with Disabilities, and other marginalized and under-represented groups... Now instead of thinking of what to say to them - and how to say it in a way that is politically correct – **consider FIRST, trying to LISTEN to them!** What are their shared experiences? What do they believe? What makes them happy, sad or worried? What's their worldview? How do they define success? etc... Can you perceive the difference it will make in your conversation? Can you see the impact it will have on your ministry? Are you able to discern the valuable contribution that listening will give to your mission?

"He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him."

Proverbs 18:13

Here are some Tips for Leaders regarding Better Listening:

1. Yearn to Understand before being Understood.

Mike Myatt: *"Don't be fooled into thinking being heard is more important than hearing. The first rule in communication is to seek understanding before seeking to be understood."* Listening is absolutely the greatest way to show others you love them and care for them. Most people feel appreciated when their leaders take the time to simply listen to them.

2. Listen first, Talk later.

Many leaders have developed the bad habit of talking first. That's because many leaders wrongly think that people expect us to solve their problems. This may be true and maybe we can, but we definitely can't solve it without first listening and listening well!

3. Get Rid of the Bad Habit of Interrupting.

Many leaders interrupt the moment they perceive they have a solution. These same leaders discover that they spoke too soon - finding out later that their input was off target and off point. This is embarrassing and often adds to the tension and frustration. Let them talk... listen and resist the temptation to interrupt!

"Want to become a better leader? Stop talking and start listening. Being a leader should not be viewed as a license to increase the volume of rhetoric. Rather astute leaders know there is far more to be gained by surrendering the floor than by dominating it." (Mike Myatt)

**Do not let what you
cannot do interfere with
what you can do.**

John Wooten
former UCLA basketball coach
*(taken from John Maxwell,
Your Road Map to Success)*

WORD

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