

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

Word International Ministries is Now A Member of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE)

Word International Ministries recently became a member of the NAE on February 11, 2014.

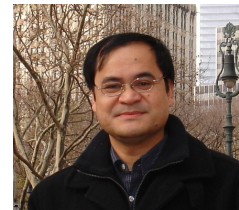
The National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) headquartered in Washington D.C. represents more than 45,000 local churches from 40 different denominations and serves a constituency of millions.

They “serve to make denominations strong and effective, influence society for justice and righteousness, and gather the many voices of evangelicals together to be more effective for Jesus Christ and His cause.” They work in matters of public policy through their Office of Government Relations to represent evangelical concerns to the government and to mobilize evangelicals to engage in the public sphere. Their landmark document “For the Health of the Nation: An Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility” guides the government relations work. They also provide support for evangelicals to minister as chaplains to three branches of the military and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

World Relief is their compassionate service division to provide humanitarian assistance to suffering people throughout the world. This ministry focuses on poverty, disease, hunger, persecution and the effects of war and disasters.

The NAE engages in projects that work to make denominations and ministries strong and effective. One of them is the NAE Code of Ethics for Pastors unanimously adopted by the NAE Board of Directors on March 8, 2012. This is available on their website: <https://www.nae.net/> or directly to the NAE Code of Ethics at http://www.nae.net/images/content/Code_of_Ethics_for_Pastors.pdf

(Excerpts taken from NAE website)



Reverend Ferdie Melendres Successfully Defends His Doctoral Dissertation

Reverend Ferdie Melendres (Senior Pastor of WIN New York) successfully defended his doctoral dissertation entitled “*Leadership Development for an Immigrant Church*.” The doctoral paper has been accepted and rated as “excellent” and given a rubric of 98. By his graduation on May 15, 2014, he will have a new title, Dr. Ferdinand Melendres.

His dissertation will be published and distributed to our churches in the US. The debate on illegal immigration remains a heated debate in our country and the subject of Reverend Ferdie’s paper/book is how to respond to all immigrants.

Congratulations Bro. Ferdie and we are thankful to God for you!

The Importance of Having A Vibrant Youth Ministry in Our Local Churches

Rev. Mark Briones, National Youth Director - USA



The youth ministry is very close to my heart. There is an urgency to connect with our young people and nurture them to grow in their faith through one on one discipleship/mentorship, Bible studies, service opportunities, develop their talents, gifting and worship experiences. The youth ministry is a vital component of the local church. When there is a vision for this ministry, we will have young people who are vibrant, creative and passionate about the Lord Jesus Christ!

We need to help our young people integrate into the larger, intergenerational community of the church. We need to focus on inviting those who are not already part of the church into the deeper narrative of God's plan. The youth members, our children are the future church. We need to reach out to this younger generation or else we will lose them completely. The goal is to help young people follow Christ with all of their life. We are not just trying to reach teens; we are also trying to shape them to look more like Jesus, to fulfill their destiny and their calling on their lives.

The Youth Ministry at WIN Los Angeles is called **Pyros**. This year we will be celebrating our 10th anniversary as a youth ministry. We praise God for His goodness and faithfulness all these years. We have seen our young people grow in the Lord from Middle School, High School, College and finally young adults. They are determined to serve the Lord and impact people around them and disciple the younger believers.

Our youth ministry focuses on 5 main principles:

- Discipleship – Each young person is disciple by an young adult mentor.
- Worship – Worship is a lifestyle and we encourage our youth to use their gifts and talents for God's glory. The youth and young adult members lead praise and worship for Sunday service twice a month.
- Evangelism – Fun nights, we invite unsaved friends and classmates to join us. We also come together for a quarterly fellowship called Crosspoint where friends are invited for a time of games, lively praise and worship and have a guest speaker to speak on relevant topics related to the younger generation.
- Missions – We conduct missions trips to encourage the youth of our WIN churches here in the US. Pyros members also give towards the Seeds of Hope program of WIN. We have been supporting SOH for the past 8 years, sending 3 kids to school.
- Fellowship – We have Bible studies at different locations every Friday and a Young Adult Bible study on Wednesday. Every summer, we have a regional youth and young adult Summer Youth camp. We started with just 35 young members in 2004 and the Lord has been faithful and has added to the number, 90 - 110 young people that attend our Regional Camps every year. Our National Youth and Young Adult Camp held every 3 years, have an attendance of 250 – 300 young people from all over the US. All glory to God alone!!

It may be easy to ignore them but the truth is that young people are desperate for adults to actually show up and invest in their life on a consistent basis. Consistency is big because so much of life today is inconsistent. The typical American dream is fading. Family life is always changing. Teens are being forced to make choices about their future (college and career) at a time when they are just figuring out who they are. Teens need consistency and they need it from the church more than ever.

Remember the Youth are our future and they need the partnership of the older generation to bridge the gap! We need everyone to be involved with our young people.

My challenge to you is Will You Partner With Them?



WIN-NEW YORK CELEBRATES ITS 7TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

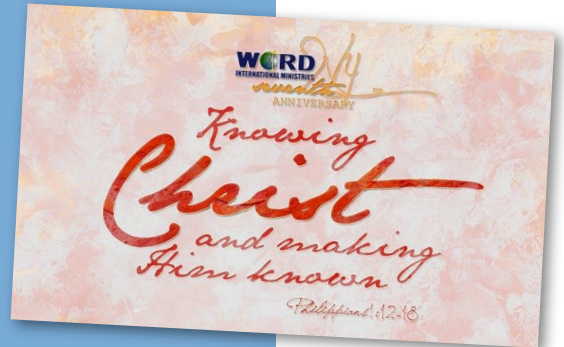
Dr. Ferdie Melendres

The 7th year anniversary celebration of WIN-NY on March 9, 2014 at the Big Apple was a time for celebration, challenge, and reminiscing. Those who came for the first time from other states like New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts heard the story of this church that began in 2007 with small group of five bringing more souls unto the Lord until it expanded to a community of more than a hundred believers. **“Knowing Christ and Making Him Known”** is this year’s anniversary theme taken from Phil. 1:18. In his inspirational message, Rev. Emerito (Babes) Paulate, US Regional Director said, “It is extremely necessary that we know Christ first, so that we can make Him known in the right and biblical way in this dark but bustling city of New York.”

For seven years, WIN-NY has served many locals and immigrants in this area that are in need of spiritual, emotional and physical healing, especially those who are suffering from depression and spiritual stagnation. The church even helped people with their financial needs. Through the years, this small community in the very heart of Manhattan has grown into a vibrant and dynamic people of worship and faith that attract many who seek to find spiritual grounding. This year’s celebration is a landmark of a new beginning, reminding the church that indeed, we have the responsibility to make the Lord Jesus known in such a great city like New York. We move forward with the intent of knowing Him first on a personal level, but in a new and living way. Now that the foundation has been securely placed, the goal is to make Jesus known in other states of the New England area, where the life of Jesus of Nazareth is still to be told and to continue the story by living and telling others about Him.

In his opening statement, Rev. Paulate together with his wife, Sis. Nickie, commended the whole church for their continued support in all projects and causes of Word International Ministries, and the immediate response for helping the victims of the disastrous Haiyan typhoon in the Philippines, November 2013.

The second part of the anniversary was the special number presentation of all iCare groups. Some groups rendered a dance number, a drama in connection with their situation in the city, a musical, and presentations from the young adults, youth and children. Special numbers were also rendered by the Connecticut and Massachusetts groups as well. Another highlight of this anniversary is the Batch 8 graduation of the LLDP (Lay Leaders Development Program) students that had finished their six-month long training as part of the church’s Discipleship Program. A certificate of completion was conferred to each graduate. As the pastors and leaders of the church sat side by side with the youth and children, this young generation gave the church hope not just for the future of WIN-NY, but also of WIN as a whole.



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The Discipline of Study

In 1977, the worst airline disaster in commercial aviation history occurred when a Pan-Am 747 collided with a KLM 747 on the runway of a Canary Island airport. During the investigation, it was discovered that a major cause of the accident was a breakdown in communication. Since then, several changes have been made in aviation policies, one of which is the establishment of English as the official language of communication between the cockpit and the tower.

This unfortunate tragedy demonstrates the importance of good communication to foster proper understanding. In much the same way, establishing a clear line of communication with God is essential to understanding His will and obeying His commands. In times past, God communicated with His people in various ways. Today, the primary way God speaks to us is through His Word, wonderfully inscripturated in the Holy Bible. This means that if we are to know what God wants us to know, it is important for us to be committed to the discipline of studying Scripture.

The Apostle Paul most certainly agreed with this contention as seen in his letter to Timothy, his young apprentice:

But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.
(2 Timothy 3:14-17)

According to Paul, there are at least four reasons for studying Scripture:

1. To know the truth (v. 14). Truth is the foundation for everything. Without it nothing else makes sense. Furthermore, truth cannot be self-determined because it renders it nothing more than mere personal preference. Most people have heard the phrase, “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” Many don’t realize that these words were spoken by Jesus. Even worse, they don’t know that what Jesus really said was, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. . . And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” You cannot know the truth until you first learn to study the Word of Christ.

2. To find salvation (v. 15). The concepts of human depravity and the reality of evil are amazingly universal. What puzzles people is the answer to the question, “How then shall we be saved.” While many offer their own answers to this question, Jesus said that salvation is a result of truly knowing God. Knowing God is not simply a matter of being informed about Him, rather, it means having a personal, loving relationship with Him. This relationship is only possible through the redemptive work of Christ as revealed in God’s Word.

3. To be transformed (v. 16). That which has the power to save must also have the power to transform. The conversion experience is only the beginning of our faith journey. The step of faith must be followed by the walk of faith. In this journey we experience the life-changing power of the Gospel as God, through the Word and the Spirit, makes us more and more like Jesus each day. As Paul put it, the Word of God is able to “teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives” and it “corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”

4. To do God’s will (v. 17). A disciple of Christ lives for the will of God. But we first must know what the will of God is. Very often we live in confusion as we ask ourselves, “What is God’s will for me?” This is not the best way to frame the question as it puts too much focus on the self. Instead we should simply ask, “What is God’s will?” Once we know what it is, then we simply need to align our lives to the answer. The will of God, or as Paul puts it—the *good work* of God, can only be discovered when we take time to listen, read, and study the Word of God.

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WIN New York Celebrates

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As we look back over the past seven years of ministry in New York and beyond, we remember the things that concern our struggles and successes, triumphs and failures. We remember that relationships, both with God and men, are not without pain and wounds. Our 7th year celebration made us weep with joy and gladness, filling us with honor to know that we are all working rather than fighting, building rather than tearing down, and moving forward rather than sliding backward. This anniversary can only be ascribed to God's grace and power in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, Who sustains and makes all things possible. For this, we are forever grateful!

The Discipline of Study

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God has given us His Word as a gift. This means that God is always speaking to us. The problem is, we are not always listening. Making a commitment to the discipline of study helps assure that our ears and our hearts are tuned to the Word and the will of God.

Pastoral Selectees of WIN-Hawaii Pass Exam

Rev. Sonny Ona, Senior Pastor, WIN-Hawaii reports that the pastoral selectees who took the Certified Ministers Examination all passed with excellent marks on April 6, 2014.

Congratulations!

**Melendres Esporas
Susan Chey
Frank Rafanan
Elena Farinas
Nolie Mercado
Stan Mull**

WIN USA Church Events

Northern California

WIN-Silicon Valley

May 18: 19th Anniversary
*"Maturing and Growing through
Community"*

WIN-San Francisco (Bridgepoint)

July 17-20: Family Retreat

Southern California

May 16-18: Ladies Retreat

July 3-6: Soul Anchor Youth/YA Camp

August 2: WISL Class*

October 25: WISL Class*

*Tentative and will be confirmed once speakers are available.

Hawaii

July 23-26: Youth Camp, Bellows AFB

Texas

June 6-8: WIN-TX Convergence

June 20-21: WIN-Austin Family Camp

August 5-8 TX District Youth Camp

WIN-SW TEXAS

Rene Divina, Senior Pastor

Celebrated their 11 Year Anniversary
on April 20.

WIN - US REGION

National Pastors Retreat

June 25 - 28

Oxnard, California

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

~ Romans 15: 5 - 6

Benevolence Update

Sis. Leonora (Kleng) Dumindin, School Administrator
Word International School - Pasig

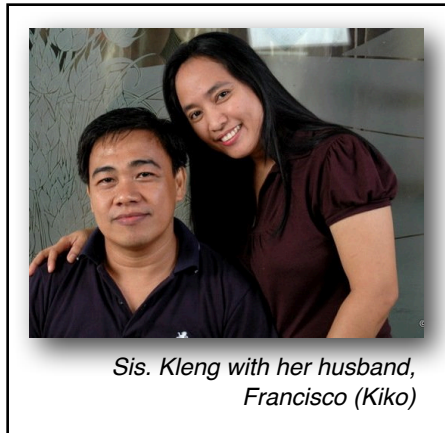
In January 2014 after several visits from three doctors and several biopsies, Sis. Kleng was found positive for cancer. Her doctor scheduled her for surgery on March 31. She is very thankful to God for the success of the surgery, as well as, the financial assistance she received to be able to go through her procedure.

After a month she was diagnosed with Stage 2a, Grade 1 cancer. She was scheduled to undergo six to eight sessions of chemotherapy but chose to do alternative medicine instead.

Please pray for her continuous healing and good health.

We are grateful to those of you who sent financial assistance for Sis. Kleng's surgery.

God bless you as you bless others!



*Sis. Kleng with her husband,
Francisco (Kiko)*

DEBORAH'S FIRE
2014 LADIES RETREAT

PURSUIT

MAY 15-18, 2014
The Oaks Camp & Conference Center
Lake Hughes, CA

IF ANYONE IS THIRSTY
Let Him come to Me and drink
Whoever believes in Me,
STREAMS OF LIVING WATER
Will flow from within him.
JOHN 7:37-38

WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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INSPIRE
A SPIRIT OF FAMILY

WIN USA Pastors' Family Retreat
Oxnard, California • June 25-28, 2014