

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

From Visayas to Mindanao

Babes Paulate, Regional Director USA

My trip last March formally closed our rehabilitation projects in Leyte and also discussed the allocation of remaining funds and the management of future funds with the Philippine leadership.

VISAYAS

The buildings under construction were finally finished in February 2016. These buildings are located in Palompon, Sta. Rosa and Mahanlod destroyed by Typhoon Yolanda.

They now serve as places of worship, community centers, training centers, prayer retreat centers and refugee centers during calamities. They have been built to a standard that can withstand typhoon strength winds.

With the completion of Visayas projects, excess US Calamity/Benevolence funds will now be shifted to Mindanao church projects.



WIN Mahanlod dedication - Pastors Nurse Cirujales, Philippine Regional Director with Jason Velez, Edman Locsin and Art Ona



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From Visayas to . . .

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MINDANAO

Funds will be allocated to Typhoon Sendong affected areas of Cagayan De Oro, Iligan and Bukidnon. A meeting convened with the WIN Mindanao pastors coming from Cagayan De Oro, Bukidnon, Iligan and Davao to discuss the availability of funds to support the pending and proposed projects of the churches in the region.

- The unfinished building in Kitaotao, Bukidnon has been prioritized to be completed as soon as possible. The Mindanao churches are alternating to send their members to complete the construction.
- Malaybalay, Bukidnon has purchased a property and will present plans for a church/school complex.
- We also funded the repairs of the vehicle of the WIN Mindanao District to facilitate travels and visits around Mindanao. The vehicle will bring members of WIN CDO to Kitaotao when it is their turn to help complete the construction of the church building.
- Abuno, Iligan (a refugee relocation community) was also visited by District Overseer Noni Lim to assess their needs.
- There was also a review of SOH supported schools in Toril, Davao and Malaybalay, Bukidnon. The pastors were reminded the purpose of SOH funds they received from the US churches is to penetrate their communities and to show growth in the process. The National and Mindanao leadership will evaluate growth for continuation of support.

You and your churches have been part in strengthening our presence in Mindanao and Visayas. May His message of salvation spread like wildfire in these places.



LADIES RETREAT



This is a CALL to hungry hearts - a gathering where the Holy Spirit is invited and allowed to move among us in power.

A TIME set aside from our busy schedules where God fans the flame of passion for His Word, worship, and prayer.

This is a PLACE where we come together as a company of women.

This is a MOMENT in time where we ask Go to cause us to burn with passion for Jesus.

What: WIN-LA Ladies Retreat

When: April 22 - 24, 2016

Where: Murrieta Hot Springs Christian Conference Center
39405 Murrieta Hot Springs Rd,
Murrieta, California 92563

Fee: \$185



CHURCH PLANT: WIN CHINO

Since their move from Northern California to Southern California, it has been the desire of Bro. Jess and Sis. Carol Tuanqui to be used by God to plant a new WIN church in the Chino community; where they reside. They continued to seek guidance from God through prayer, conducted an evangelistic gathering, distributed church invitations and tried to start a Bible study group.

However, five years later, God answered their prayer. The seed that was planted broke ground over a year after Sis. Carol passed away January 16, 2015.

In January 2016, with the help and encouragement of Pastor Chito, and Sis. Tess, Pastor Mark, Pastor Lyndon and other brethren from WIN LA, 5 families agreed to help start a new church. Since then they have been meeting together for worship, Bible study, prayer and fellowship. They started their first Sunday Worship Service on March 6 at the auditorium of the Community Building in Chino, California. Service hours are from 10:30 am to 12 pm.

WIN Chino needs people to partner with them in launching this new church in the following areas:

1. PRAYER REQUEST

- More volunteers to help launch the church
- Open doors for evangelism and discipleship
- Resources/equipment/items needed to start a church; projector, laptop computer, musical instruments, public address system, communion materials, direction signage, children's church supplies, etc.

2. PROMOTION

Help in promoting this new church. If you have friends and relatives near the Chino area, please let them know about WIN Chino or invite them to join the Bible Study group and Sunday worship service.

3. PROVISION for the resources needed.

Sunday service venue (\$165 every Sunday for 3 hours), church liability insurance, and other things needed to a start up church.



If God is touching you to support us in this area, please contact Bro. Jesus for more information at:

Word International Ministries Chino
c/o Pastor Jess Tuanqui
14672 Marist Lane, Chino, CA 91710

BRIDGEPOINT (WIN SF) VISIT WISE CAINTA

Ana Miciano, wife of Dr. Ed Miciano, Pastor of WIN Bridgepoint (SF) together with her family from San Francisco; sisters, Betsy Branzuela and her son, Micah, Papoose Gambucci and the Miciano kids, Rebekah and Jake scheduled a visit to WISE Cainta's ***Pamaskong Handog ni Jesus*** celebration while they were in Manila to be with her father and stepmother for the holidays last December 2015.

The school children dressed in their finest outfits gave a presentation of Christmas songs and memorized Bible verses. After the presentation, the San Francisco team came with gift bags filled with books, pens, toys, and all kinds of presents donated by church members from San Francisco. "I cannot even begin to describe how excited they were to receive these gifts" says Ana.

The children were also treated to Jollibee meal boxes donated by US churches. Ana further relates, "We were so moved to see the children eating only some of the food and keeping the rest in order to take them home and share with their families. I was warned ahead of time to not be offended if the children did not consume all their food for this very reason. Seeing this kind of behavior was very humbling to us considering how we in America can be so wasteful with our food. Even the teenagers in our team were so amazed and touched to see such a kind gesture from the students.

Meeting all the children was very life-changing. If only it was possible, we wanted to take them all back with us to the United States. We encourage our church members to really think about Seeds of Hope and to keep this ministry in prayer. We were impressed to see what this ministry had done for the forty-three children and we would like to see more people support this work. By visiting the school, we were able to see for ourselves how Seeds of Hope uses the \$45 quarterly support given for each child. It is impressive to see how such a humble amount can go a long way in giving these children a future that they would not have without our help. All in all, our experience gave us a glimpse of what the ministry does and what it can continue to do for many others.

Our whole experience at Word International School East - Cainta was nothing short of amazing. We came to be a blessing to these children, but as it turned out, the children were the ones who truly blessed us. We will never forget this experience for as long as we live, and I hope that out of this we will be able to visit our other schools throughout the Philippines in the coming years. We are committed to partnering with Seeds of Hope to do bigger and greater things for our children and the future of our church and country.





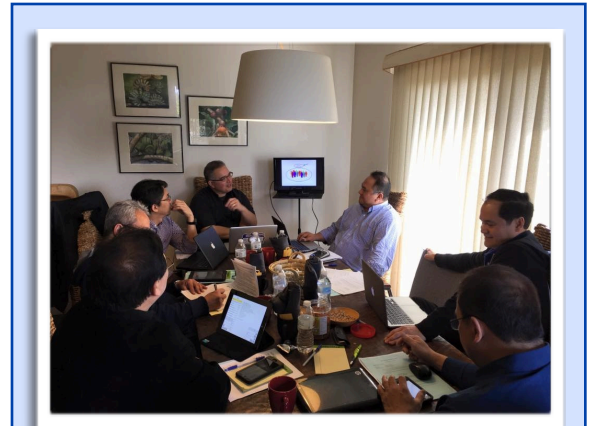
A Commitment to Educate God’s People

The Education Board of WIN–USA met in San Francisco last March 10-11, 2016. Present in the meeting were Pastor Chito Cordero (WIN-Los Angeles), Pastor Vino Atienza (WIN-Seattle), Pastor Ferdie Melendres (WIN-New York), Pastor Edwin Hernandez (WIN-New Jersey), Pastor Sonny Ona (WIN-Hawaii), Pastor Vic Lopez (WIN-Silicon Valley), Pastor Ron de Villa (WIN-Vancouver), and myself. Aside from serving as one of the teachers in our training program, Pastor Ron also came as an education consultant, which proved to be an immense blessing given his expertise in the field.

The purpose of the meeting was simple. We convened in order to design a comprehensive model and program for educating the members and leaders of WIN–USA. This goal seemed at once both simple and lofty. The work, however, would be found in the details. So in order to establish as baseline that would give us a realistic picture of where we are starting, we began the meeting by having each pastor share how they are going about educating their current members and leaders. This discussion revealed some key insights:

- Every one of our churches is taking the task of education and spiritual formation very seriously
- Each church and region faces a variety of challenges that are unique to every ministry setting
- Everyone recognized the need for a more unified model for discipling our members
- Everyone agreed that a higher level of training is needed for those who are currently leading ministries or those who wish to pursue vocational ministry

At day’s end, I presented a paper entitled, *From the Harvest, for the Harvest: A Strategy for Developing Leaders for Local Churches and Beyond*. It is my contention that discipleship and leadership development begins long before a person darkens the halls of our churches. Winning the lost, or evangelism, is the first educational task. We must teach people about the good news of Christ’s Gospel. Once a person makes a commitment to Christ, the church must then be able to educate him or her through Christian maturity, ministry, and mission. During the meeting, we were able to set aside some time to discuss our thoughts on the paper and brainstorm on how its principles may be applied to the various churches and regions in the United States.



Pastors Ron de Villa, Ferdie Melendres, Ed Miciano, Sonny, Ona, Vino Atienza, Chito Cordero, Edwin Hernandez and Vic Lopez



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



REMEDY For IRRELEVANCE

I have said this numerous times in a sermon: *“The biggest threat to the Church and to our Gospel is NOT that the world thinks God doesn’t exist. The biggest threat is that the world thinks that God DOESN’T MATTER! Because, if God doesn’t matter, then what we do for God or for God’s Kingdom also doesn’t matter!*

Unfortunately, pastor-preachers inadvertently help to grow this threat by preaching and teaching sermons and topics that are less and less relevant to people’s everyday life!

Tom Nelson stated this problem correctly: *“In the church, we often spend the majority of our time teaching people how to live the minority of their lives.”*...Indeed, the biggest enemy is not relativism nor secularism nor pluralism – it’s ***irrelevance!***

This threat is actually the by-product of an equally damaging threat: ***the division between sacred and secular.*** This is an ongoing struggle for preachers that dates as far back as Luther! So many people divide life into the “sacred”- the spiritual stuff, the stuff that matters to God - and the “secular” - all the other, non-spiritual stuff that seemingly don't matter in light of eternity. By this worldview, most of life will be secular! How much time do we spend reading the Word, praying, preaching the gospel, and so forth? The vast majority of our time is spent working in the office, walking the dog, driving the car, reading at the park, exercising with our spouse, eating a taco, or online shopping... This is the stuff of everyday life! But, sometimes our preaching - good, solid, well done preaching that is Christ-centered, Bible-based, and theologically sound, can totally ignore the bulk of human existence! This is a sure formula for irrelevance!

Our ministry involves the proclamation of God’s Word to a world that neither understands nor accepts their need for that message. The best ministry practices for pastor-preachers involve, not only the proclamation of a life-giving message, but engaging that culture with the gospel message and making it a goal to change people’s hearts and minds!

To do this, pastor-preachers must struggle to encourage their community to do two things (borrowing from *Todd Engstrom’s definition of Missional Communities*) :

1) Demonstrate the Gospel Tangibly, and 2) Declare the Gospel Creatively.

This is simply meeting the real and felt needs of people around you by listening to and understanding their stories. This opens up gospel-conversations that are specific to the time and place where people are – then CONNECT with them. ***It’s all about connecting with people then connecting people’s needs to the message of Jesus Christ!*** These vital connections are the remedy for irrelevance.



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

A Commitment . . .

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On the second day, Pastor Ron de Villa presented the discipleship model and program currently in place among the churches in British Columbia, Canada. His background as a local church pastor and a college professor has been instrumental in developing a coherent discipleship program for the churches in Western Canada, one that is both thoroughly biblical and academically sound. Again, Pastor Ron assured the U.S. pastors that he is committed to help us develop an educational program for the United States. We all expressed our gratitude to him for his faithfulness and willingness to serve our region.

Finally, Dr. Ferdie Melendres updated us on the plan to establish a formal training institute for WIN-USA. By God's grace, the application for this institute has been approved by the State of New York, while the application for its non-profit status is currently pending with the Internal Revenue Service. We are confident that the approval will come very soon.

One advantage of using New York as a base is that extension classes can be conducted in other states without having to register in each of those states. Furthermore, Pastor Ferdie is in the process of developing the curriculum for the programs that will be offered by the training institute, beginning with an Associate of Arts degree. A bachelor and masters program will subsequently follow in due time. During the discussion on this matter, Pastor Ron suggested that we should choose a name for the school would not limit our recruitment of students only to members of Word International Ministries.

Before calling the meeting to an end, the following assignments were given:

- I will flesh out the details of the strategy proposed in my paper.
- Pastor Ferdie will work out the institutional and program details for the training institute that has been approved by the state of New York.
- Pastor Ron committed to continue mentoring the WIN-USA Education Board as we develop a comprehensive education program for the region.
- All pastors are asked to come up with their ideas on what core values will serve as the foundation for this comprehensive program.
- A Skype-meeting will be held in April to follow-up on all assignments given during the meeting.

I am so encouraged to know that the leaders of our organization are very committed to the educational growth and spiritual development of each member of our local communities.

Please continue to pray for us as we further the work of Christ through training and education.

God bless you all.

"When people go through life depending on themselves, they never really know God - He will reveal Himself to a heart that is honest and transparent, and not to one that's full of pride and arrogance. It is in our brokenness and helplessness that we discover who the Lord is" - Charles Stanley

WORD
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

USA Regional Office

[Washington Address](#)

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

Email Address: wordusoffice@aol.com

Website: wordinternationalusa.org