

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

US Pastors Gather for the First USA Region Family Retreat

The US Pastors Family Retreat held in Oxnard, California, June 25 - 28 turned out to be a success! As we yielded ourselves to the movement of the Holy Spirit we experienced a visit, a fresh anointing, new strength, new meaning and great expectations in our future. God is preparing us for a great revival!

Truly the Holy Spirit cannot be programmed, every single day of the retreat He came to us and us to Him in our moments of need and in our vulnerability. As usual, just like in the past ... He came and spoke to us through the sessions, through the devotions, through the worship, through the body ministry and through our time together. It is a fact, that through these years, I have observed that when pastors gather together, the level and quality of worship reaches to a different height. This is in manifestation of what pastors have in their hearts – being the first worshipper and leader of their worshipping community. We had great worship!

I drew the theme, "*Inspire a Spirit of Family*" from our Ignite Covenant, which we signed last August 4, 2011. This means that we will emphasize on relationships within our own family and within the families of our churches. This will mean drawing our families together and drawing our churches together in activities that will bring about "a Spirit of Family." This will mean focusing on our youths and our children or engaging our next generation.

The WIN Texas Convergence, June 5-9 at Denton, Texas was an expression of this theme. The goal of the US Pastors Family Retreat was to bring our pastors and our churches closer together. The Southern California Youth Camp was another expression of it – engaging our next generation.

The Northern California Family Camp last July 17 – 20 at Occidental, California was another realization of this theme.

The Youth Camp in Hawaii and several other activities scheduled in the latter part of 2014 are in pursuit of this theme.

We leave the different expressions to the pastors and their church leaders as we emphasize on relationships through these months until the next year's theme.

~ Rev. Babes Paulate, US Region Director



Reflections on the First US Pastors Retreat

Dr. Ferdie Melendres, Senior Pastor, WIN New York

Last June 25-28, 2014, WIN-USA pastors and their families had a four-day family retreat at Ramada, Oxnard, California. We left all those non-essentials behind and spent precious moments in studying, learning, listening, and experiencing the very presence of the Almighty in our midst. A little more time was spent for active participation in the daily devotion, both individual and community group, sharing and reflecting the marvelous works that God had done in WIN churches for the past years, and the more great things that He will do on the years ahead. I could really concentrate and enjoy the sense of God's peace in my inner most being, especially when God brought us down to His feet as we sang and praised His holy name.

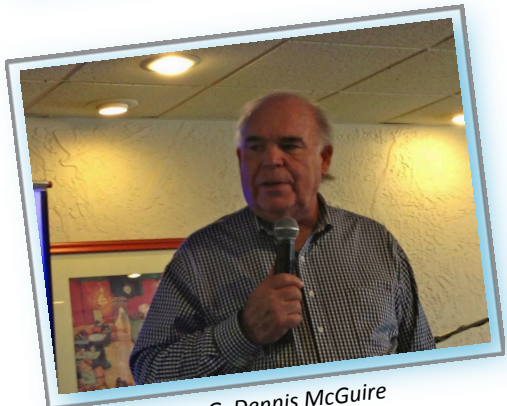


As I reflect in this retreat, the most important thing that I've wanted to draw attention to is the openness to the Holy Spirit. We do understand that a retreat means a lot of preparation, such as teachings, travel, money, food, or something like, attendance for the sake of retreat. But this retreat is something else, for it seeks God, His will and direction beyond our understanding. Leaders and pastors were in unison to search for His will, in our lives and ministries in order to see and be able to walk in a clean and clear path.



Dr. Robert D. Crick

I am very grateful for our speakers in this year's retreat. Robert Crick is great! An 83 year old man, a passionate brother who teach and preach Jesus without fear. I love the way he shared his humble beginning, his experiences in the ministry, and all his achievements with pride not of himself, but of the great things that God has done for himself. Indeed it was not an exhibit of his personal works, but a display of God's grace through the years. We can see that Dr. Crick is a man of wisdom, worthy of giving a second look for our gain and advantage. For this reason, we should be sensitive to take seriously the important points he had outlined. His teaching maintains that we need to master our craft as pastors and leaders, for it is a matter of becoming fully engaged in a task that God assigned for us. He said that he too had ups and downs in life, but I salute this guy because he never thought to take rest, nor plan to retire, but at his age, he has more plans to study and learn from his fellow leaders and mentors. Is it not amazing?



Dr. G. Dennis McGuire

Dr. G. Dennis McGuire spoke on: Our Journey, Conflict Management, Multiplication Leadership. He gathered the men and asked the questions, "Why Am I Here?" We all know that this man is on a top position of one of the biggest church organizations in America, yet willing to humble his heart for the honor and glory of our God. I pray that the Spirit of the Lord will raise up more leaders who are willing to serve with humility, and with only one goal in the ministry, that is, to glorify our King.

I absolutely agree with the statements of many participants that this year's retreat had made us closer to one another. Our faith is stronger and deeper that brought us to yearn to know Jesus and consciously make a decision to live for Him. The greatest blessing I had from being a part of WIN-USA is the chance I had to deepen my own Christian faith, and learn to value the trust of the true and only Savior Jesus Christ. I have found that this retreat

Inspire a Spirit of Family



Evening Session with Dr. Robert D. Crick

Time for Equipping



Pastors Biboy Abijuela, AZ, Mando Zacarias and Randy Castro, NJ and Neil Lewis, Inland Empire, CA

Time for Fun at the Beach



has deepened my own Christian faith, and have learned to value the trust of the true and only Savior Jesus Christ. I have found that this retreat leaves us coming away with a renewed energy, and appreciation for our important work, without neglecting the value of God's spiritual anointing. For the next few days or weeks, most of us will still be excited to share what we took from our time and camaraderie together. As church leaders, our goals are different but to fulfill the intent of God for His church. You may propose to reach out to more people with the love of Christ that you've experienced, or to empower your workers for the work of the ministries, but don't forget to use your vision to spur the Spirit of God to move in your church. Glory to God and blessings to all brethren in Christ!



Vito Atienza

(from the eyes of one of the youngest participants)

My name is Vito Atienza. I am 10 years old and going into 5th grade. My dad is a pastor and me and my older sister, Amica, are pastor's kids. We are from WIN-Seattle/Tacoma.

Last month, from June 25 to 28, our family went to the WIN Pastor's Family Retreat in Oxnard, California. We took a plane from Seattle to Los Angeles then drove to Oxnard. Lots of other pastor families were there from other cities and states. We stayed at the Ramada Hotel.

In the morning, we all had devotions together. Everyone eats at the same time. Praise and worship always comes before we split-up into different sessions. I was in the Youth Class taught by Bro. Alan Dionson who was also a pastor's kid. He taught us about the risks, the rewards and the response to being a pastor's kid. It was a long session but I still learned a lot.

We went to the Port Hueneme beach. I played in the sand and in the water under very hot weather. I met lots of new people and made new friends that were also pastor's kids like me. I had so much fun.

That's what I did at the WIN Pastor's Family Retreat.

Vito is the son of Bro. Vito and Sis. Maica Atienza,
Senior Pastor, WIN Seattle)

I was refreshed by all the sessions during the Pastors Family Retreat because it was the time that I needed it most. The theme " *Starting Well, Doing Well, Finishing Well,*" always tickled my ears that I should be faithfully doing the Lord's will every day of my life.

The message of Sis. DaRosa McGuire that still remains in my heart is when she said " you have to take care of yourself before church and she also mentioned to always smell good and beautiful for your husband " (LOL).

I am very thankful that I was able to attend this conference. I hope we have this experience again next time.



Pastora Rebecca Walker with Meri Ford

“ONE IN CHRIST”: WIN Texas District Convergence

Ching Mapeso

June 6, 2014 Friday was a regular sunny day at the beginning of “warmer” days of Texas summer and on this day history was unfolding. WIN families from Southwest & Northeast Houston were driving almost 300 miles up north and WIN-Dallas families likewise were travelling 40 miles north to Denton, Texas to converge at Camp Copass for the first ever WIN-TEXAS District Convergence.

Originally conceived in January 2013 and planned by a small group of people at WIN-SW Houston who were commissioned by WIN-TX District Overseer, Ptr. Rex Waga, the plan underwent a number of significant challenges and had to be put on hold in 2013. Indeed, we can make our plans but in the end the Lord determines our steps. All the delegates composed of families from WIN-TX district were expectant and excited to come together as one “Word International Ministries-Texas” family. Prophetically titled *“One In Christ”* the theme of the district convergence was *“I pray that they may be one, just as You and I are one”* from John 17:21.

By 3:00 pm the organizers were already at work posting room assignments, setting-up the Fellowship Hall, preparing the registration and welcoming the delegates as one after another the families arrived and came into the Tally Retreat Center where all the activities were held and the hotel style rooms were booked. Sound equipment arrived in a U-haul all the way from Houston and the musicians went about setting up their instruments and the sound system, manned by Bro. Rocky Apura. At 7:30 pm, Ptr. Rex Waga opened up with prayer and welcomed all the families and delegates from the 3 local churches. (WIN Austin and WIN Southeast Houston were not able to join because family members were graduating that weekend). There was much rejoicing ‘in the tent of the righteous’ as the WIN-TX worship team lead by worship leaders from WIN - Southwest and Northeast Houston praised the Lord for the opening night. As we sang songs of worship, the anointing of the Holy Spirit was evident and God’s people bowed down to worship



before His Great and Awesome Presence. The four (4) sessions in the convergence program were sequenced according to the acronym **WORD** and were chosen to be consistent with the theme of the convergence. Hence, *Session 1* was aptly titled *“One in Christ in Worship”*. Ptr. Butch Mapeso, associate pastor of WIN-NE, was the first speaker and he reminded the people to “love God with all your heart, and all your soul and all your mind and all your strength and to love your neighbor as yourself.” He brought his message to a close with the song, “One In Christ” composed for the occasion by Sis. Ching Mapeso.

Day 2 – June 7, Saturday. Ptr. Willy Alvarez, WIN-SW associate pastor, shared the Word for the morning devotion, exhorting everyone to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. It was a timely and necessary reminder because there were 3 sessions that needed to be covered that day! *Session 2* – *“One in Christ in Outreach”* with Ptr. Rex Waga, senior pastor of WIN-NE Houston stressed the importance of reaching out not only to the lost but also to hurting brothers and sisters in Christ, which can only be done when Jesus is real in us and in our relationship with one another. He ended the session by demonstrating that we need to walk in humility, reconciliation and love among our brothers and sisters in Christ so that we can reach out to the lost. After the 2nd session, there were 4 breakout groups: One in Christ Men’s with Ptr. Babes Paulate, One in Christ Women’s with Sis. Nickie Paulate, One in Christ Youth with Bro. James Borlongan and One in Christ Kids with Sis. Susan Borlongan.



All throughout the duration of the convergence the Kids Ministry headed by Sis. Susan Borlongan and assisted by Sis. Beth Silguera with some youth from the 3 churches had their own sessions, which included Bible stories and lessons on forgiveness, obedience, thankfulness and unselfishness, while also enjoying short movies, playing games and expressing their artistry in crafts.

After lunch came *Session 3 – “One In Christ In Relationship”* with Ptr. Rene Divina, senior pastor of WIN-SW Houston. For this session, a video “The Abilene Paradox” was shown highlighting the message that thrust, fellowship, communication and accountability in our relationship are factors that all reciprocally affect the result in any social organization.

Pastor Babes Paulate was the speaker for *Session 4 – “One in Christ in Discipleship”* and expounded that the thrust of the vision and mission of Word int’l Ministries is not just to make converts but to make disciples, and that we have to remain steadfast and be resolute in discipling our future leaders who are developing among the children and the youth.

The most awaited part was the Church Family/Fun Night. All the youth, not-quite-youth and beyond-youth joined in the games and had fun. The Kids Ministry gave a wonderful song and dance presentation, which they practiced during their sessions. The night before, everyone was divided into 4 groups according to the color of their name tags and each group picked the Scripture that they were to dramatize for the fun night. It was a hilarious night of humorous plots, outrageous characters, unthinkable costumes and what-not props. Ptr. Babes, Sis. Nickie and Ptr. Rex were given the difficult task as judges and

awards were given to Ptr. Rene Divina as best actor for his role as Buddha, Joanna Apura as best actress and the Blue Team for best drama on discipleship with a twist.

Day 3 – June 8, Sunday. On the last day, the Fellowship Hall started to fill up with people wearing blue t-shirts. What a beautiful sight it was to see unity not only in color but in the way God’s people were greeting and hugging each other with barriers removed because of the fun shared by everyone the night before.

WIN- Houston Southwest led by Ptr. Rene Divina (with Sis. Tess Alvarez mostly working behind the scene) did a great job organizing the event.

Each session was preceded by praise and worship led by each WIN TX church: Josef Alvarez, Lara Reyes & Becca Matillano, Jed Mapeso, Ron Apura, WIN-Dallas worship team and WIN-NE Houston worship teams.

For the Sunday Service, Rev. Emerito Paulate gave a moving convergence message from John 17: 21-23, which captured and perfectly flowed in unity of spirit with the song given by the Lord for that momentous occasion. Ptr. Butch Mapeso invited everyone to come forward and join together to make it their prayer as they sang the song:

*“One in Christ.
May we all be one in Christ.
As the Father is in Jesus, Jesus in the Father;
May we be one in Christ that all the world will know;
So all the world will know and believe
Jesus Christ!”*

Reaching Families

WIN Northern California Family Camp

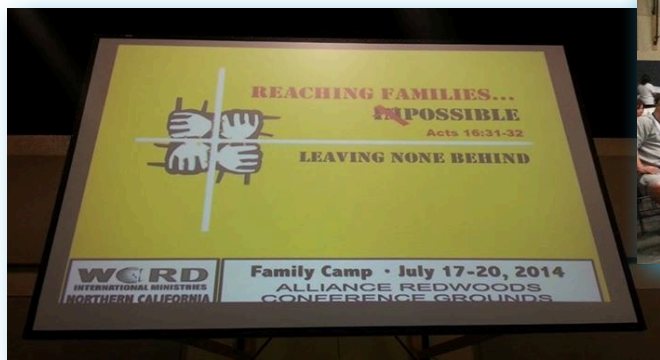
WIN San Francisco (Bridgepoint) and WIN Silicon Valley came together for the first convergence of WIN churches in Northern California. The family camp was held July 17 - 20 at the Alliance Redwoods Conference Grounds, Occidental, California.

Surrounded by majestic, centuries old redwoods, the campers enjoyed times of fellowship through relationship building activities. Members of both churches were mixed in groups where each one shared their creative skills and reflections during times of devotions.

The speakers spoke on reaching out to families as well as to those outside the church walls. Dr. Ed Miciano spoke on Reaching Within, Rev. Mark Briones spoke to the youth and young adults and Reaching Out to the Next Generation, Rev. Babes Paulate on Reaching Out to Your Household, Sis. Nickie Paulate on Reaching Out to 21st Century Women. Dr. Ed and Ana Miciano together with Rev. Vic and Sis. Melissa Lopez conducted a discussion panel for couples.

The family camp was concluded with a Sunday Worship Service with a message on Reaching Out to a Global Family by Rev. Babes Paulate. At the end of the service, Rev. Vic Lopez passed on the torch to WIN San Francisco, as coordinators of the next Northern California Regional Family Camp.

Psalm 133:1 ~ How wonderful it is, how pleasant, when brothers live in harmony. (MSG)



Relentless

1ST COR. 15:58

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lords, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

From July 3rd to July 6th, youth and young adults from all over Southern California and Arizona gathered at Oak Glen Christian Conference Center for this year’s Soul Anchor with the theme “Relentless,” conceived from I Corinthians 15:58. First timers and old timers alike were filled with expectation of what God had in store the next few days.

On the first day, campers were broken up in cell groups according to age and school level, with each cell group named after popular games and apps. It was special to see everyone from different denominations and churches connecting and working together, which shone through when they were challenged to change up and ‘Christianize’ the lyrics of certain Disney songs tailored to the camp theme.

Each day was teeming with enlightening sessions and workshops, fun activities and significant moments. During water baptism, nine people publicly committed their lives to Christ with their fellow campers witnessing their act of faith and cheering them on amidst songs of worship. There was an array of vibrant, inspiring workshops specifically for the youth and young adults, ranging from missions to sexual purity, given by a number of youth and church ministry leaders. Different camp session speakers tackled the camp theme, sharing their hearts and God’s Word and encouraging those in attendance to press on, stand up for what they believe in, and be relentless believers in God’s kingdom. One unforgettable and exciting happening was when it poured rain and hail and the earth quaked within two days at the campsite; God indeed made His presence felt and despite the natural occurrences around us, He is sovereign and in control.

The last night culminated the camp in such a powerful way. God’s presence and moving was so thick, from the praise and worship to the session to the altar call. There was a sense of release and freedom throughout. Tears flowed, hands were raised and prayers were uttered in unison as the campers surrendered their lives and opened up their hearts to the Spirit’s leading.

One theme resounded throughout the entire experience: God’s love is relentless, and as His children, we have a calling to fulfill His work with a relentless heart. Each camper took hold of something relevant and special as they went down the mountain, and they were never the same again. ~ Rizza Aldaba



Camp was definitely different this year. It was as if God wanted to show Himself strong on those mountains that he sent an earthquake, hail, and rain all in one weekend. It was incredible to worship alongside young people in pursuit of God’s presence and witness hearts and eyes be opened, bondages broken, and a spiritual fire rekindled in these young people. Like they say, “great things come when to those who wait” but I also believe the greatness of God will be revealed when you persevere. There is victory promised on the other side of the mountain and I’m excited to see what God has started in each and every one of us placed into action in our home towns!”

~ Micah Estanislao, WIN SD



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Why Visit Israel?

Dr. Ferdie Melendres, Senior Pastor, WIN New York



The modern state of Israel occupies about 8,000 square miles, in comparison to 55,500 sq. miles in the state of New York, 164,000 sq. miles of California, and 120,000 sq. miles of the Philippines. We can see that Israel is insignificant on the world map, but so prominent on newspaper and television. That's why pilgrims visiting this tiny state are sometimes amazed at how small the country is, but having such a large history. The ultimate answer lies in its spiritual, historical, and literary heritage.

When I first visited Israel on October 1999-Feast of Tabernacles, my regret was, "Why didn't I visit Israel years ago?" Later, when I settled and lived in Jerusalem until 2006, I often heard the same question from first time visitors. So, if you haven't visited the Holy Land yet, it's about time to come and see the land of the Lord. While the border is still open, come and let us go into the house of the Lord, for time will come that no one can enter the land, "for Jerusalem will be surrounded by the armies." Many people today think that all the events in the Bible had happened back in the past centuries. They failed to perceive that we are still living in biblical days. If this excites you, now is your chance to fulfill and experience the ancient prophecies in your own life! On October 9-15, 2014, at the Feast of Tabernacle, the 2nd WIN Holy Land Educational Pilgrimage will be held.

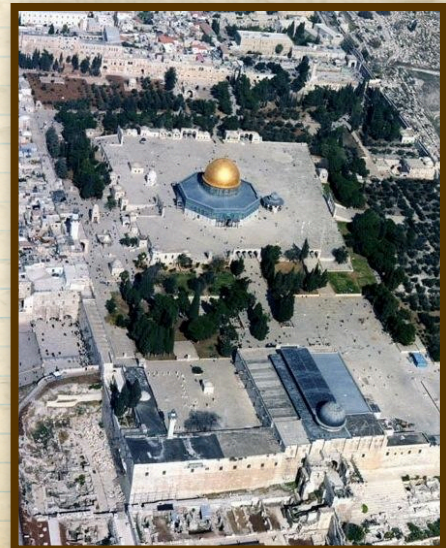
During my ministerial assignment in Israel few years ago, I traveled in various places and saw many archaeological finds from Dan to Beersheva. I spent many days in the places where the Lord Jesus Christ walked, healed the sick and preached the word. Those years remain among the highlights of my life and journey, where I met people from around the world, and saw places I only read about in the holy book. Today you can see those steps of the Lord and much more when you visit Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Galilee, Jericho, Nazareth and more. When I first saw the Hezekiah's tunnel which was built by the Israelites during the Assyrian invasion in 8th century B. C. on the hill of Mount Zion, it was indeed heartbreaking (2 Kings 20). From this experience, I can now fully perceive what the Lord meant when He talked metaphorically about the life in God's kingdom saying, "narrow is the gate that leads to life."

Scholars agreed that the discovery of the ancient biblical text called Dead Sea Scrolls in 1948 had revolutionized the

understanding of Judaism and its 'offshoot sect' Christianity in the Second Temple Period (2TP). The subsequent discoveries of more antiquated texts in various places of Israel and its surrounding have enlarged the perceptions about the accuracy of both Old and New Testament, particularly on the Bible that we are reading. Before the six-day war in 1967, the Old City of Jerusalem was being controlled by Jordanian armies, and the Jews were not allowed there. Jerusalem was a divided city. But after the war, this all changed. The city became united under the sovereign rule of Israel. This liberation has exploded new learning and discoveries of up-to-date ideas, particularly in the field of biblical archaeology. The Bible texts and its biblical characters like David, Solomon, Hezekiah, Jeremiah and much more had been confirmed historically by these finds and relics from the land. These artifacts shed light to a new and more accurate interpretation of biblical texts, which we enjoy in our time.

On the economic side after the 1967 war, the nation of Israel opened the land to business and made it more productive. They began to cultivate the soil to grow various types of crops that feed the entire nation, and provide exports to many parts of the world. Even the barren and desert land on

The Dome of the Rock was the actual site of the most holy place of the Temple of Solomon, but now a place of worship to the Muslim people.



the southern part of Negev is amazing. It brings about a very pleasant look because the land became covered with an abundance of beautiful flowers, plants and trees and other agricultural products. As the Bible says, "The Lord will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord." (Isaiah 51:3). It is said that farming and agricultural production in Israel, which is an industrialized country, accounts for 2 to 3 percent of their GNP. The agricultural sector of Israel is characterized by an intensive production system, said to be one of the most advanced and innovative technology in the world. Their goals are to provide high quality healthy food, to overcome hunger and poverty to its populace, at the same time, to preserve the agriculture and its development layout.

As a student of the Bible, I still believe that the existence of the nation of Israel is a sign that the God who revealed Himself to Abraham and Moses is still watching out for the well-being not only of the children of Israel but the whole humanity as well. The restoration of the Jewish people to the Holy Land is a clear indication that the message of God in the Bible is always faithful and can be trusted. "For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land" (Ezek. 36:24). People may have different views and interpretations on what is happening in the modern world today, particularly in the conflict between the Arab world and the state of Israel. But one thing is sure, a visit to Israel will enable you to grasp and pray accurately and intelligently about the issues in the Middle East. We know that the land of Israel is the epicenter

of the conflict, and this hostility was as ancient as the time of the patriarchs. Nevertheless, no matter what happens in the future, the people and the land will always be the "apple of God's eye" (Zech 2:8).

Lastly, let me give you my personal notion on why you should visit Israel. First, as you read your Bible, every page, sentence, word and letter will be made even more alive and real to you. As you share the message of Jesus to others, you will be able to teach the Bible with more accuracy and confidence. Second, you can hear testimonies from the local residents and tourists alike on how the Lord works miraculously among His peoples, Jews and Gentiles, today. Third, a trip to Israel will increase your passion on prayer, and in the higher level of commitment to the Lord's ministry. Both Israel and Christianity had been persecuted for thousands of years, yet they continue to live, and move, and have their being in God; and you are part of this peculiar group of people. Israel is an example not only of how to face hard life and survive in the midst of great troubles and sufferings, but also of how to thrive against all odds. Fourth and last, Israel is a great place for vacation. As you spend your money on vacation, you are not only enjoying the beauty of the land, but also blessing the nation with the promise. The Lord said to Abraham, "I will bless those who bless you" (Gen. 12:3). It shows that as we bless the land of the Lord, He will bless us in return because that is His eternal promise to all the families of the earth. May the Lord grant the desire of your heart to visit the Holy Land.

עיר דוד
مدينة داوود
City of David

Dr. Baruch Kvasnica explains on how Herod led construction of the wall during the first century.

The "Southern Wall" where the ruins of ancient structure of the Temple were unearthed, paved street with evidence of the destruction of Jerusalem on 70 AD.



New Dogs With Old Tricks

Pastor Ed, have you heard of this new false teaching?" It's a question I get all the time.

It seems like every couple of years a new spokesperson emerges with a false Gospel or erroneous teaching. To many listeners, these teachings come across as new and fascinating, but in reality, they are often rehashed heresies that raise their ugly heads at opportune times throughout the course of church history. The teachings are not necessarily new, only the messengers are—new dogs with old tricks, if you will.

The Christian church has been hounded by false teachers from the earliest years of its inception. In the first century, the Apostle Peter was alarmed by the number of false teachers who were beginning to penetrate the persecuted and scattered church. These teachers were exploiting the people's hunger for truth as well as their willingness to welcome those who come in the name of the Lord. Left unabated, these "theological dogs" would cause unthinkable damage to the people of God and the cause of the church. Peter, therefore, had to step in by warning the flock about the dangers of such false teachers. In his second epistle he wrote,

But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed. (2 Peter 2:1-3, NLT)

According to Peter, there are a few things we need to keep in mind about false teachers:

1. *False teachers are nothing new.* They were around in the early times of Israel's history and they will continue to hound God's people until the final day. This means that we always need to be vigilant and prepare ourselves to confront false teachers and their false doctrines. But, we can only do so as disciplined students of Christ and His Word.
2. *False teachers are clever.* People fall for their schemes because they know exactly what people will fall for. They use fancy words, make enticing promises, and employ manipulative methods to reel unsuspecting victims. To combat the works of the false teacher, we ought to be grounded on God's truth, as well as, be even more clever than they are.
3. *False teachers have a butchered theology.* Heresy, for the most part, paints an inaccurate picture of God and His nature. Within the first four hundred years since the birth of New Testament Christianity, about half a dozen major Christological heresies plagued the church. These heresies continue to linger today, simply taking the form of newer and more sophisticated garb. The more we learn about the false doctrines of the past, the better able we will be in combatting modern heresies.
4. *False teachers are enemies of truth.* False teachers have no reverence for the truth. They will either change it or alter it just enough to fool an unsuspecting audience. Sometimes false teaching has enough truth in it to make it sound credible, yet the small amount of falsehood is enough to poison the entire stew. Remember, a half-truth is no truth at all.
5. *False teachers are greedy.* At their core, false teachers do what they do for personal gain. They have no love for God nor are they committed to the cause of Christ. They use the Gospel to enrich themselves and prop up their already-inflated egos. A true servant of God is humble, selfless, and fully surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
6. *False teachers face a frightful future.* Their end is one of judgment and destruction. False teachers are not to be believed nor followed because their path is one that leads to eternal separation from Jesus, who alone is the way, the truth, and the life.



WIN SEATTLE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2014

My Ruminations on VBS

Rosemarie Ortiz Jose

GET INVOLVED!

In my 30 years of being a Christian and in ministry (here and in Manila), this is the first time I helped out in VBS. Thank God I don't have a job. Since I received the Lord in May 1985 I was always involved in different ministries but never in Children's Ministry, specifically VBS. This time, I volunteered to be part of the kitchen crew at the Critter's Café. It was no light duty; tiring but rewarding though. I think that the kitchen crew is a bunch of cool mamas. We were relentless in cooking, serving and cleaning. I am blessed to be part of this kitchen crew! But these musings is not about the kitchen crew but the importance of getting involved. From August 11 to 15 the children were soaked in God's Word in fun, funny and creative ways. Their five senses were infused with Bible truths through food crafts, experiments, music, games and field trips. God's love and assurance were instilled in their hearts and minds with stories, skits, video and songs. Proverbs 22:6 (The Message) says "Teach a child to choose the right path, and when he is older, he will remain upon it."

VBS is one of the most important activities of our Children's Ministry. Every church should organize a VBS. It is a good discipleship tool. Our youth were incredible – to give of their time and talent to care for our "VBSchoolers" is something to be proud of. Many of them were products of VBS, now they are involved in ministry and teaching the younger kids. How wonderful is that! The older youth were quick to extend help. They have grown! It teaches them responsibility and to be respectful. VBS is not only for the children and youth. It is also to reach out to the parents. Because of VBS we have parents who came to know the Lord or their relationship with the Lord has become deeper. So for the next VBS, take part in it. VBS is no easy task, but we have a warrior in Sis. Maica Atienza. Thanks to Sis. Maica and Pastor Vito, Amica and Vito for persevering in organizing VBSs. And many made sacrifices to assure the success of this year's VBS.

On a bigger scale, all ministries are important. These are not mere activities for the sake of filling up our calendars. These are portals to spiritual growth. Whatever ministry activity we have, whether it is VBS, retreat, camp or fund raising projects; join in. These are opportunities to serve God, bless other people, and grow in your faith. Whether you contribute cash, donate food, teach, cook, drive, decorate, etc., you invest in a person's life. **Get involved!** Jesus invested in you and me and got involved in our lives. What a blessing!



WIN New Jersey's VBS 2014

Agency D3: Discover, Decide, Defend

Excitement sizzled at WIN-NJ as schools closed for summer vacation. The church's first summer kick-off event was carefully planned and prepared by the Children's Ministry, under the guidance of Edgar & Sonia Guce and with Richard and Mirvi Cayabyab as this year's event directors. The Promotion's Team, headed by Marita Hernandez, began announcing the event as early as March of this year. Volunteers kept enlisting and the children began a countdown as the three-day Vacation Bible School (VBS 2014), July 9-11, 2014, approached.



Everyone was thrilled as the first day finally arrived. Pastor Edwin Hernandez and Pastor Randy Castro dressed up as Field Agents welcomed the children and their parents. All volunteers were in their position to welcome the children. Every child came prepared with bags packed with their lunch and swimsuits. In line with the theme, everything was "top secret" and was kept as a surprise for the participants. The journey began as the children went through mock-up-but seemingly-real security and identification checkpoints before they were formally given the title "Special Agents".

Agency D3: "Discover, Decide, Defend" was the theme. The biblical reference was found in 1Peter 3:15 (KJV): "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear". Every child was given the opportunity to investigate at Agency D3. They were trained to collect and log evidence concerning the life of Jesus. They were guided to examine eyewitness reports and physical proof from Biblical

accounts. The strategy was for the kids to learn to defend who Jesus really was after uncovering the truth about Him. Each day began and ended with a Worship Rally headed by Sonia Guce. The rest of the morning activities were the Bible Study Sessions supervised by Edgar Guce; Crafts Rotation led by Olga Oriendo; Missions Rotation monitored by Joan Mondragon; and Music Rotation instructed by Sonia Guce. Snacks and Lunch breaks were overseen by Tess Sarra with the afternoon outdoor water play headed by Bong Sarra. It was worth mentioning the blessing of having the Youth as volunteers too. This was their chance to bond, mentor and lead the children.

The Décor Team, headed by Richard Cayabyab, made sure that the children will be in awe with each part of the program. The team painstakingly refurbished the church to feel and look like the Agency D3 Headquarters (for the Opening/Closing Worship Rally), a Communications Hub (for the Music Rotation), an Evidence Vault (for the Bible Study Sessions), a Laboratory (for Crafts Rotation), a Map Room (for Missions Rotation), a Break Room (for Snacks/ Lunch), and an Outdoor Recreation Area (for the afternoon water play). Recyclable materials were used for cost efficiency and love for the kids and the gift of creativity for design inspiration. Richard said, "Half of the challenge is how to make our Agency look real, the other half is how to make it last for 3 days." These three days were filled with joy, fun and excitement! Every child, volunteer and leader came together, kept watch of each other, learned responsibility and cared for each other with the love of Christ. The Holy Spirit manifested throughout the event. "What's next year's VBS going to be?" was how one child summed up his experience. There was a total of thirty-eight participants and forty volunteers in this year's VBS. WINNJ's Children's Ministry looked forward to expanding the invitation to the Hopewell community next year as a practical way of testifying about God's love not only to the children but to their families as well ~ Rev. Edwin Hernandez, Pastor, WCFI New Jersey (WIN NJ)



Relentless

1ST COR. 15:58



"Soul Anchor: "Relentless" marks my third year attending camp, and this year is particularly special for me because it was my first time being a cell leader. Before camp had even started, I had my doubts regarding my capabilities, but God reminded me that even though I have my weaknesses, His love is big and mighty enough that I have nothing to worry about. It may not have been my first time, but camp never fails to bless me in bountiful ways. From the people to the workshop and the sessions, I was reminded that God's grace and love are always overflowing in my life. Life may throw me plenty of curveballs along the way, but if I am relentless in and for God, then nothing can ever stand in my way."

~ Charis Abejuela, WIN – AZ

"Camp is something all of our youth look forward to every year, and as much as we love seeing our friends, I believe our youth (including me) can honestly say that this year is unlike any year before. Our fire is burning brighter than ever! God revealed to us through nature (earthquake, hail, storms) that He is in control and He is worthy of all praise. To be able to witness this generation answer the call to be "relentless" was truly a blessing. It says in James 1:12, "blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."

~ Donnel Sembrano, WIN – SD

"This camp was special to me because it was my first time being a cell leader and I had different responsibilities to take care of. I was also part of the band, and it's always a blessing to play during camp. I'm ready for what God will do next year."

~ Ashley Briones, WIN - LA

WORD

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A Taste of the Feast of Tabernacles
2014 WIN-HOLY LAND EDUCATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand. (John 7:2)

October 9-15

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