

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

US Pastors Gather for the Annual Pastors Conference

US pastors from California, New Jersey, New York, Texas and Washington converged at the WIN San Francisco - Bridgepoint Community Church at Pacifica, California for the Annual Pastors Conference from August 5 to 8, 2015. The theme of this year's conference is *"Instill Compassion for the Lost."*

We were privileged again this year to have Dr. Robert D. Crick as guest speaker. He spoke on Ministry and Family - A Journey With A Shared Paralleling Process. This session dealt with the paralleling developmental stages of ministry and Marriage/Family. Dr. Crick spoke from his heart to our hearts and we are grateful for his commitment through the years to partner as well as minister to us.



Our speakers taught us from their rich experience experiences which stretch around a quarter of a century. Dr. Ed Miciano spoke about the challenge of leadership development on *Mentoring Leaders in A Changing World*. Rev. Mando Zacarias' session, *Discipling A Small Church* discussed the skills a disciple of Christ needs to learn in order to speak forth the Word of God effectively and the qualities a disciple needs to develop to show forth the love of God. Rev.Vino Atienza shared about the ministry of sharing God's Word to the congregation every Sunday, the primary function of a pastor in *Preaching that Connect and Transform*. Rev. Chito Cordero session was about *The Marks of A Missional Church*.



Mando Zacarias

Ed Miciano

Babes Paulate

Dr. Robert Crick

US Pastors . . .

Continued from Page 1

Our conference coordinators did a GREAT job of organizing and making this year's conference a success. Thank you Sis. Rosemarie Jose, US Regional Office and Bro. Ryan Alon, Events Coordinator - WIN San Francisco (Bridgepoint). You made this Pastors Conference a memorable one!

Our gratitude to Dr. Ed and Ana Miciano, who mobilized the church members to provide the meals and transportation. Their gracious hospitality has given us many fond memories of San Francisco to treasure.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Each day started with devotions to encourage and start another day of sessions. Our devotionals were delivered by Dr. Ferdie Melendres on Thursday, Rev. Edwin Hernandez on Friday and Rev. Gordon Apura on Saturday who brought full circle the conference theme to *"Instill Compassion for the Lost."*



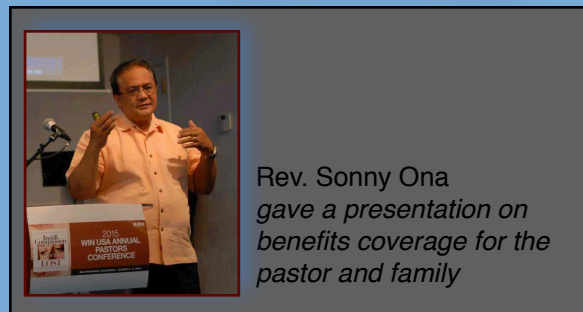
Dr. Ferdie Melendres
Signs of a Growing Church



Rev. Edwin Hernandez
Like Sheep Without A Shepherd



Rev. Gordon Apura
Counting The Cost of Compassion



Rev. Sonny Ona
gave a presentation on benefits coverage for the pastor and family

"Every disciple is to be an agent of the kingdom of God, and every disciple is to carry the mission of God into every sphere of life. We are all missionaries sent into a non-Christian culture."

- Alan Hirsch



Heart Transplant

And I will give you a new heart... (Ezekiel 36:26)

The first time I visited the United States, I came as a tourist. I traveled the country knowing full well that I was only here for a short time and that the Philippines was still my home. My second trip, however, was a different story. This time, I left the Philippines to make the United States my home. In order to make such a significant transition, I had to prepare myself in many ways. For instance, I read as much as I could about the U.S., including its history, its customs, and its culture. If I was to live as a resident of America, I had to condition my mind and heart to behave as Americans do.

Something similar takes place once we realize that we are destined to be future residents of God's kingdom. Although our upbringing is quite worldly, we need to prepare our hearts for the heavenly. But what does it mean to prepare our heart? Perhaps a basic understanding of the biblical notion of the heart is in order.

In the Old and New Testaments, the word *heart* is used hundreds of times, yet not once does it refer to the muscular organ in our body that pumps blood through our veins. In the Old Testament, the word translated heart is *leb*, and it primarily refers to the affective center of our being, including the capacity for moral preference. Likewise, the New Testament word *kardia* (from which we get the English *cardio*) is used figuratively as the most comprehensive term for our authentic person. In other words, the heart is, in essence, the person.

Being the center of our personhood, the heart has three functions. The first is thinking, an act of the mind. It's no wonder the Bible says, *For as he thinks in his heart, so is he* (Proverbs 23:7). Notice that the Bible does not designate thinking to the brain but to the heart. The second function is feeling, an act of the emotions. I'm reminded of the two disciples who met Christ after the resurrection when they said, *Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?* (Luke 24:32). Here they are clearly using heart with reference to an emotional experience. And the third function is deciding, an act of the will. Mark the evangelist said of Christ, *He looked around them angrily and was deeply saddened by their hard hearts* (Mark 3:5). In this case, the hardening of the heart refers to the people's willful refusal to obey the things of God. Because the heart refers to the core of our person, it makes sense that God judges us not by our outside appearance but by looking at our hearts (1 Samuel 16:7).

There is a problem, however, with the human heart. The prophet Jeremiah reminded us, *The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked* (Jeremiah 17:9). All people are sinners, therefore the hearts of people are sinful. It then stands to reason that the great need of the heart is transformation. The late Christian philosopher, Dallas Willard, put it this way,

A carefully cultivated heart will, assisted by the grace of God, foresee, forestall, or transform most of the painful situations before which others stand like helpless children saying, "Why?"...Accordingly, the greatest need you and I have—the greatest need of collective humanity—is renovation of our heart. That spiritual place within which outlook, choices, and actions come has been formed by a world away from God. Now it must be transformed.

Simply put, the heart must undergo a change, the kind that can only take place when we allow God to perform a spiritual heart transplant in us. In order to experience this supernatural transformation we must 1) de-clutter our heart to make room for a new one, 2) surrender our heart to the Great Physician who alone is able to perform this miraculous work, and 3) embrace our new heart by living our new life in Christ for His eternal glory.

In his epic autobiography, *The Confessions*, Augustine described his dramatic heart transplant when he wrote,

... Continued on Page 7

Memorial Day Observance at WIN New Jersey

by Rev. Edwin Hernandez, Senior Pastor, WIN New Jersey (WCFI)

One of the blessings of the church building here in Hopewell is its historical significance to the community. The building has been standing here for close to 50 years now. Previously owned by the American Legion, association of war veterans, the property is an annual staging ground for the Hopewell Memorial Day Parade. This parade is one of the oldest on-going Memorial Day Parade in New Jersey. This just confirms the stories of the people in the community who tell us that the 8-acre property has played host to parades and carnivals in the past. For the church this is important. The vision God has given us is that in the next 20 years, we will see ourselves as a “diverse church reaching the nearby community and beyond with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.” Below is the excerpt of the speech I made before the parade got under way.

“We welcome all the Memorial Day parade participants. We gather today to honor and remember those who died while serving in the country's armed forces. Like all of us, they had dreams and desires which they gave up in order to serve this country. We enjoy today the fruit of their service and it is but fitting to remember through events such as this the sacrifice they have sown in the past.”



Mens Ministry posing with the Emergency Response personnel

For many years now, this property has been a staging ground for the Memorial Day parade. The place is already an iconic part of the parade. You see the church acquired this place from the American Legion in 2010. Since then we inherited this privilege of opening these grounds as a staging area for the participants of the Memorial Day parade. We remember during our first Memorial Day weekend here, we were quite alarmed when we noticed not only one but a dozen of firetrucks and emergency response vehicles entering the premises. We thought there was big fire!

. . . . Continued on Page 7

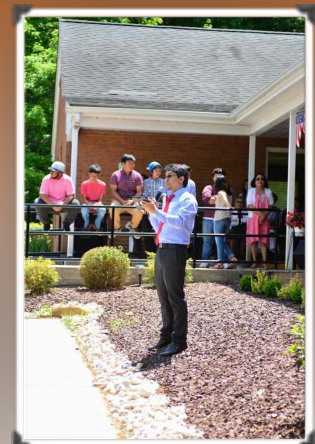
One of the volunteers sang with our youth



Pastor Edwin talking with the fire chiefs



Selfies at WCFI



Pastor Edwin delivers a speech before the parade got underway

Photos by Pastor Kiko Sanchez

Philippine Independence Day 2015 in New York City

by Dr. Ferdie Melendres, Senior Pastor, WIN New York

On the 7th of June, Sunday, the Filipinos in the State of New York gathered together to celebrate the Philippines' 117th Independence Day. It was a day of festivities, featuring a street fair and cultural observances stretching from the 38th to 23rd Streets of Madison Avenue of New York City, from 11:00 am-5:00 pm. The yearly festivity is said to be the largest Independence Day parade celebration outside the Philippines. This year's theme is *"Triumphs of the Filipino: Pride of the Philippines."* It reminds us to celebrate our capability to persevere over hardships and life's difficulties. The consular office of the Philippines in New York and the nonprofit organization called Philippine Independence Day Council Inc. (PIDCI) host the celebration every year. The purpose is to create awareness of the country's arts and culture, rekindling the Filipino-American roots and heritage. It was also created to generate funds for humanitarian projects not only in the Philippines but in the United States as well.

In recent years, the celebration of Philippine Independence in New York had gained awareness among the present generations of Filipino immigrants. It became widely celebrated in this city and is now a major event amongst many Fil-Am every year, "attracting over 100,000 New Yorkers and tourists," the news said. From May-July, many countries from around the globe, like Israel, Mexico, Puerto Rico among others also celebrate their country's independence in the streets of New York city. Similar to ours, thousands of revelers wave their flags while dancing to their local music in celebration of their heritage. And honestly speaking, ours is one of the best.

It was on June 2012 when WIN-NY first joined this yearly event, only to discover that more than 200 Filipino groups, secular and religious, profit and nonprofit, were participating in this event. These groups came not only from New York but also from New Jersey, Connecticut, Texas, Massachusetts, Maryland, and as far as California. Our first experience was indeed a great one, walking and praising God with music in the streets, lifting up our banner bearing the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. This event became an opportunity to share our faith, give Christians tracks, and evangelize the people to introduce Christ in their lives. WIN members use this day to bring friends and love ones first to the parade and then at the church. Since then, it became a yearly activity for WIN-NY. Aside from evangelism, we were able to encourage other Christian churches to join this event with the purpose of uniting in the spirit and evangelizing the world.

PIDCI brings artists and movie stars from the Philippines annually to entertain the Fil-Am and OFWs, as they were riding the many festive floats. They came not just to celebrate and also to make the event even more memorable by their performances at the end of the parade. On this year's celebration, New York Senator Charles Schumer joined the parade shouting *"mabuhay"* in the streets of New York. This day also showcased the best authentic Filipino cuisine, customs, and products that draw the attention of thousands of people in this northeastern part of the region.

Indeed, this year's independence celebration was really the most successful and wonderful one we ever had.



WIN New York join the Philippine Independence Day celebrations.

Simple Ways To Be Missional

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



For the past several years now, the buzz word for many churches and para-church organizations has been the term "**missional**". Webinar speakers, eBooks and experts have been "*unpacking*" and "*imparting*" words upon us that sound new and complicated. This leaves ordinary pastors like me in the difficult position of trying to inform my congregation about the latest stuff while encouraging them to "*incarnate*" the gospel of Jesus in everyday conversation!

So as not to complicate things, I shared with a few of our members some SIMPLE WAYS that they can be LIVING OUT the Message of Jesus in everyday life at Home and at Work. Here's the list for all of you. You will discover – it's nothing complicated and nothing really new! ***The difference lies in the person doing it!*** Whether he/she has a REIMAGINED Purpose based on a REIMAGINED Identity which is built upon an UNCHANGING Jesus! (My sermon's title was "Reimagining Church"). Browse through it and start making your own list.

10 Easy Ways for CONTACT without CONTAMINATION at Home:

1. Stay outside longer in the front yard or driveway while watering your yard or washing your car.
2. Walk your dog around the same route & time in your neighborhood.
3. Attend and participate in homeowner's meetings / join neighborhood watches / host or attend block parties.
4. Grow a garden and give out some extras to the neighbors.
5. Create a block/street email and phone contact list for emergencies.
6. Start a walking/running/cycling group in your neighborhood.
7. Volunteer to coach (or assist) a local kids' sports team.
8. Have a front yard lemonade or ice cream party or backyard barbecue in the summer.
9. Patronize local businesses (coffee shops, nail salons, restaurants, stores, markets, shops, mechanics).
10. Serve the elderly and the children in your block.

10 Easy Ways for CONTACT without CONTAMINATION at Work:

1. Instead of eating lunch alone, intentionally eat with other co-workers and learn their story.
2. Bring extra snacks to the office for sharing with others.
3. Find others that live/work near you and create a car pool.
4. Make a list of your co-workers birthdays and find a way to bless everyone on their birthday.
5. Offer to cover for a co-worker who needs time off for something.
6. Ask someone who others typically ignore if you can grab them a soda/ coffee while you're out.
7. Go out of your way to talk to your janitors, cleaning people and office messengers who most people overlook.
8. Take the lead in organizing others to help co-workers in need.
9. Invite coworkers to your homes / accept invitations from coworkers to their events.
10. Get to know the names of your coworkers and also the family members of your co-workers.

(Both lists adapted from Josh Reeves articles in "*Simple Ways to be Missional*" eBook, MyVerge network publication)

Memorial Day Observance . . .

Continued from Page 5

You have been coming here every year but I don't think we have formally introduced ourselves yet. Well, this place is a church and we call ourselves Word Christian Fellowship International. I am Pastor Edwin Hernandez, the Senior Pastor of the church. Together with me is the Founding Pastor, Pastor Mando Zacarias and the Assistant Pastor and the one who is overseeing and coordinating all the preparations today, Pastor Randy Castro. And all of these beautiful people providing the entertainment, serving hotdogs and directing traffic are the members of the church.

This place where we all are this day has a lot of history. People we meet in the community have stories to tell how this place have hosted memorable events like these. Some of them were childhood memories of having bar-b-cue and families coming together in the wide open space of this property. We would like this kind of history to continue. We hope to serve you by opening this place for other events such as this one today, especially events that seek to uplift the heart and spirit of the community not only of Hopewell but other nearby towns as well.

So thank you very much for bearing with us as we did the best we can to make your stay here worthwhile. We salute the families of those who have lost loved ones in the service of the country. Again, we are Word Christian Fellowship and we hope to extend the blessing of fellowship with all of you and you are all welcome to visit us."



Kids enjoying the trucks

Heart Transplant . . .

Continued from Page 3

I was weeping in the most bitter contrition of my heart, when I heard the voice of children from a neighboring house chanting, "take up and read; take up and read." I could not remember ever having heard the like, so checking the torrent of my tears, I arose, interpreting it to be no other than a command from God to open the book and read the first chapter I should find. Eagerly then I returned to the place where I had laid the volume of the apostle. I seized, opened, and in silence read that section on which my eyes first fell: "Not in revelry and drunkenness, not in licentiousness and lewdness, not in strife and envy; but put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." No further would I read, nor did I need to. For instantly at the end of this sentence, it seemed as if a light of serenity infused into my heart and all the darkness of doubt vanished away.

My prayer is that you too will experience this life-changing transformation as you surrender your heart to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

WIN USA Church Events 2015

Northern California

San Francisco: Oct 18 - 25th Anniversary

Southern California

Los Angeles: Oct 25 - 25th Anniversary

New Jersey: Sept 13 - 14th anniversary

Texas: **NE Houston:** Nov 1 - 7th Anniversary

Washington

Seattle/Tacoma: Oct 25 - 16th Anniversary

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