

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

WIN San Diego Celebrates 10 Years

WIN San Diego, California started with a handful of families who were members of WIN Singapore. Pastor Butch Yu, Senior Pastor of WIN Singapore and Regional Director of Asia and Oceania together with Bro. Al Estanislao started a Bible study in San Diego in 2006.

Initially, Pastor Al, Sis. Cristy and their children traveled from Los Angeles to San Diego every week to conduct a Bible study and Worship Service. They finally settled in San Diego June 2012 to be with the church members. Their focus on the Word of God was the sustaining and stabilizing force in the ministry of Pastor Al and Sis. Cristy.

Congratulations WIN San Diego for 10 years of ministry in San Diego!

May God bless and expand the church's efforts to spread the Good News of Christ love and salvation.

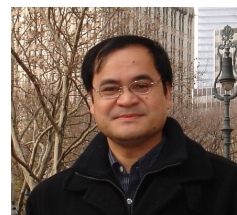


Estanislao family - Nathan, Micah, Pastor Al, Sis. Cristy, Mishal and Mirielle



Church Council with their spouse - Miranda, Renoco, Wijangco, Sambrano, and Verdan

WIN Massachusetts - A Labor With Prayers Celebrating 1st Year Anniversary



Dr. Ferdie Melendres, Senior Pastor,
WIN New York

Nothing can be reached by the power of prayer except those things which lie outside the perfect will of God. When we surrender everything to the will of God, focus on His promises, and obey His commandments with labor of prayers, then, the Holy Spirit begins to pray in us and through us. He guides our prayer, energizes our desires, and motivates our inner self to the best that we can for the Lord. One of the greatest lessons I have learned about ministry is to begin with prayer, because prayer gets us to heaven. A prayer that gets to heaven is the prayer that starts from the heart of God in heaven. Our participation is just to be in the circuit; a total obedience to the perfect will of the Living God.

The Massachusetts mission began with prayers at the Boston Common on October 2008, with twelve members from WIN-NY, sowing the seed of prayers. We prayed and proclaimed the Word of God, claiming that one day, God would cause the seed to grow. We envisioned that a new church of Word International Ministries would be planted in this state. We knew that prayer is essential in missions and church planting, because without it, our witnesses would be less effective and more vulnerable to the enemies. Prayer is God's ordained means to do spiritual warfare, and proclaiming God's word is a sort of spiritual battle. As we witness and begin to proclaim the word of God, we receive the favor and blessings from the Lord, and prayer makes this all possible.



WIN Massachusetts WISL students

Aside from Boston, we also visited other places like Cambridge, Quincy, and Newton. Our goal was to bring the unsaved and nominal Christians to the saving knowledge of Christ, and train people to proclaim the Gospel for the salvation of many. We encouraged each one in NY to not stop, but to continue cultivating those "rocky hills and mountains" of the Massachusetts area and sow the seed of God's Word, so that the lasting fruits might be brought as an offering unto the Lord. We also discovered that the State of Massachusetts is one the least evangelized areas in the entire land of the United State, yet this one is known to be the "Athens of America," home to the best universities in the world, such as Harvard, MIT, BU, etc. Boston is one of the oldest cities of the country, and the scene of several major events in American history. There are about



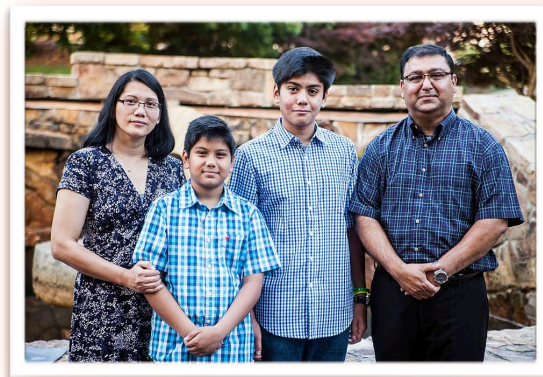
WIN Massachusetts . . .

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350,000 Asians living in the State of Massachusetts, and 12,500 are of Filipino ancestry, working as nurses, business professionals, educators, students, teachers, consultants, and others. Nonetheless, not so many Filipino churches can be found in this part of Northeast America. As the momentum for the mission continues, we begin to see fruits and results after some time.

On October 2013, a small group of Filipino Christians in Salem became known to WIN-NY in an extraordinary way. The group's name called "Filipino Care-Group in Salem" appeared in my computer screen, as I was browsing my laptop one afternoon. I immediately contacted the number on the screen, talked with someone on the other line, introduced myself, and arranged to visit their place. The first meeting with this Filipino Care Group on the night of Halloween in Salem was worthwhile. I found out that the group had been conducting a Saturday Bible Study for several years, having no pastor. Bro. Cesar and Sis. Josie led the Salem group in all of its activities, and later confessed that WIN NY's coming to Salem was God's appointed time. It was a season when they needed encouragement the most, as their spiritual lives were in bad shape at that time. So the mission and visitation went on and the Lord added new members in the group. In February 2014, Word International School of Leadership (WISL) was introduced, and eight members had enrolled in this project to enhance leadership skills and theological understanding. As they continued and new comers came in, they also thought of where to bring these new converts for a Sunday service. So, the group had decided to come up with a new plan; the regular Sunday Service. But who will pastor the church? The first Sunday Service was launched on March 15, 2015, with a few family members at #9 Church Street, Salem, Massachusetts, with Bro. Cesar and Sis. Josie, the church's Coordinators. On the day of the church launching, it was also the church wedding of Bro. Manny and Sis. Mennen, members of this newly born church.

After the church launching, I sought the help of the leadership of WIN-New Jersey to assist Massachusetts for Sunday Service. It was agreed that workers will be sent by WIN NY and WIN NJ every other week to



Sis. Juliet, Danial, Mark, and Pastor Raheel Rizvi

support the Salem church in preaching, Bible Study and pastoral care ministries - Pastors Ferdie, Robert, Michael and Johan will be sent from New York, while Pastors Mando, Edwin, Randy and Kiko from New Jersey. This arrangement was to be done until the Lord sends His full-time pastor, and it was welcomed by the members of WIN-MA. "We are so blessed because God sent many pastors to our church," said Winie, one of the members of the church in Salem. In the early month of 2016, the church in Salem had moved to their new location at #63 Jefferson Avenue, Salem, Massachusetts.

In May 31 of this year, a pastor from WIN Sharjah UAE was "sent by God" to the East coast for some extraordinary reason; to be the interim pastor of WIN-MA. His name is Raheel Rizvi, a Pakistani national, married to his Filipina wife for 15 years. They have two kids; Mark and Danial. He just finished his Master's degree this year at the Pentecostal Theological Seminary in Cleveland, Tennessee. Currently he is on his 1-year ministerial internship program. We understand that there is no accident with God, and there is always a reason why we are in our present locations. Indeed, "He makes all things beautiful in His time." (Ecc. 3:11).

On July 17, Sunday, WIN-MA celebrated its first anniversary celebration, with Pastor Babes Paulate as special Guest Speaker. As we grow in the grace and knowledge of God, let us follow the words of Jesus that "men should always pray and never give up" (Lk 18:1). May the Lord bless the vision and mission of Word International Ministries, so that we can be His channel of blessing wherever we go, even today and forever more. To God be the Glory!



Center for Seeds of Hope Registered in the US

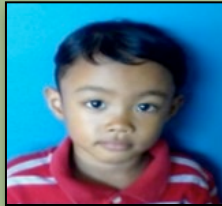
We have successfully incorporated Center for Seeds of Hope (CSOH) as a Non-Profit corporation in the State of Washington on November 15, 2015. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has also approved CSOH as a tax exempt Non-Profit corporation under the 401 (c) (3) classification.

Sis. Rosemarie Jose, US CSOH Coordinator and Pastor Rex Waga, both members of the board, are tasked to raise funds for CSOH to support WIN related projects in the Philippines; such as child sponsorship, building infrastructures in calamity affected areas, assisting pastors medical needs.

We covet your prayers that through CSOH we can bring the message of hope and salvation to many.

God bless you!

MEET SOME OF OUR SEEDS OF HOPE KIDS



Fiel Cyrus M. Balagtas

Fiel, an active 5 year old boy, goes to school at Word International School Camiling, Tarlac; Preparatory Level. At a young age he showed signs of brilliance and a thirst to learn. However, the little income his father earns is good enough for the daily needs of the family. His parent's wanted to send Fiel to WIS Camiling so he can

gain a good foundation in education just like his cousin when she was studying in WISC.



Lezandro Saladas

Lezandro is a 5 year old boy from Iloilo City who dreams to one day be a Seafarer. He goes to school at Wink Christian Learning Center; Kinder 1 Level. He was a SOH beneficiary last school year. Lezandro's family lives in one of the squatter areas of Iloilo City. His father is a trisikad driver and most of the time works from midnight until early morning in the public

market. His father's salary is just enough for their daily needs but not enough to pay rent or buy their own house. His mother stays at home to take care of their kids and do household chores. His parents witnessed a lot of improvement with his attitudes and personality. They want Lezandro to continue learning more academically and spiritually.



Justin Mark E. Indiong

Justin is a 4 year old boy, from Malaybalay, Bukidnon, who goes to Word International Ministries School of Malaybalay, Inc. at the Kinder Level. His parents serve as pastors in Malingon Fundament Baptism Church in Valencia City and are fully depending on God's blessing to sustain their daily needs.



Where Did Everybody Go?

I went to pick up something from the store the other day and I parked right in front of a familiar building. It was the video store where I used to rent movies. The last time I was there, the place was packed, filled with people who were checking out new releases as well as old classics. It was undoubtedly one of the more successful businesses in the area.

This time, however, things were different. Not only was the building empty, the business had shut down altogether. Why so? Are people no longer watching movies? We know, of course, that this is not the case. The truth is, the business model has changed completely. Instead of people going out to get a movie, movies are now coming to people in the form of downloads and online streaming. The next generation of movie watchers no longer use the system that once ruled the industry. Because the whole system changed, the brick-and-mortar video store became outdated and died (R.I.P.).

A similar phenomenon is taking place in church culture. One study reveals that although church attendance in America was once well over fifty percent, it is now down to about thirty-three percent. And that's the national average. In some of the most unchurched parts of the country, that number can be as low as three to five percent. Are people no longer interested in God? Absolutely not. In fact, we can probably assert that interest in God and spiritual things are at an all-time high given all the suffering and tragedy that we see around the world today.

I think two major shifts are taking place. First, those who are seeking God are not looking for Him in the usual places. Perhaps they have been turned off by their previous religious experiences and are now seeking answers somewhere else. Second, current believers are not even winning their own children to Christ. As aging believers pass away, they are not replaced by the next generation.

This reminds me of what happened to the people of Israel many years ago. In Judges 2:7 we are told, "And the Israelites served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and the leaders who outlived him—those who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel." Yet in the tenth verse we read, "After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel." That's astounding! It only took one generation of Israelites to forget the Lord. This is a sobering reminder that it can happen to us as well.

The way I see it, there are several factors that leads to this dilemma. Let's consider a few of them:

1. Leadership Crisis: Leadership development must be perpetual. We cannot afford to raise an amazing set of leaders today while ignoring the potential leaders of tomorrow.
2. Inauthenticity: When we fail to genuinely live out our faith, and our spirituality is reduced to institutional conformity, our children are not moved to follow our footsteps. Young people can see if our faith is real or if we are simply trying too hard to appear relevant to them.
3. Competition: There is so much vying for the attention of people today, especially for the young, that church and spirituality become a mere option rather than a priority.

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Community Outreach WIN Seattle/Tacoma

Maica Atienza



Maica is the wife of Pastor Vino Atienza,
Senior Pastor of WIN Seattle/Tacoma



Our kids
having fun
putting
together care
packages; a
Children's
Church
project



FUSION staff
receiving
Mother's Day
gift bags

Our children at WIN Seattle/Tacoma have always been committed to helping other children. We get together in service to have a food sale, to serve at the food bank or sort through Terracycle items to raise funds for our brothers and sisters in our Seeds of Hope Word International schools in the Philippines.

This year we had the privilege to bless the less privileged children in our local community. We worked together to make a care package for 36 children who are part of Friends United to Shelter the Indigent Oppressed and Needy (FUSION). FUSION helps provide housing and support services to the homeless in our community so they will have a safe secure environment as they work toward self-sufficiency.

The ladies in church were inspired by the efforts of the children and so for Mother's Day the moms blessed the moms of FUSION with a care package as well.

We are honored to be able to share the love of Jesus to families in such a practical way.

Where Did . . .

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4. Misleading marketing: If we present the church as a mere product to be consumed, we end up attracting consumers rather than disciples. When consumers no longer want or need the product they came for, they naturally lose any reason to stay.

5. False sense of community: Sometimes we think that attending a service counts for biblical community. But unless we intentionally build meaningful relationships with others, church attendance can become a mere religious routine.

There are many other reasons, to be sure. But perhaps at the heart of the problem is our failure to practice the multiplication principle proposed by Paul when he said to Timothy, "You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be to pass them on to others" (2 Timothy 2:2). Let's not forget to include the next generation in fulfilling the Great Commission of the church.

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



POLITICS and PREACHING

2016 is one of those years – it's an election year in the USA. This current political cycle has been particularly more animated and more vitriolic than the recent ones. Mainstream and Social Media have all been overrun by election headlines, political newsmakers, 140-character opinions, memes, posts, likes and comments ... The question is this: *How does the faithful preacher engage relevant political and moral issues while staying true to biblical preaching?*

Faithful pastoral preaching engages the pressing issues of the day. But this engagement is simply the result of the sanctifying work of the Gospel. Therefore, relevant political issues should not be the main thing that shapes pulpit preaching – Jesus and His Gospel are the main thing! The Pastor should preach the Word and let the Word do its work in the hearts of people – who will then influence their community.

The Word of God is the Source of Our Preaching

This seems like a given but it needs to be reiterated: faithful pastoral preaching uses the Text of Scripture as the source, content and authority of their preaching. Anything less is an opinion at worst, or a motivational speech at best! The message may be very inspirational, ethical and even relevant... however, if our basis is not the Bible - we're not preaching!

The preacher is guided by the Text of Scripture. There will be times that the Text itself will reveal principles that have relevant political or moral repercussions – for example, some Psalms directly refer to the principle of the Sanctity of Life... or, sermons from Proverbs and some NT biblical narratives show economic truths that address either Capitalism or Socialism... or, condemnations of greed from messages from the Book of James or Timothy. However, to promote a political or moral agenda and use Scriptures to back it up is simply bad hermeneutics and spiritual abuse!

Yes, topical preaching and topical sermon series all have their place and are very useful in addressing key issues of the day. They encourage the church to think through issues biblically, however, the pastor-preacher must still be faithful to the Scripture Text and let it speak to the issues without wedging in their political/moral opinion into it, no matter how relevant that opinion is.

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



Where Did . . .

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Social Media is an underutilized platform for expressing relevant opinions. Pastors should share their opinions freely and winsomely. But, the pastor-preacher must reserve the pulpit for the proclamation of God's Word!

We must never dilute the message of the Gospel.

Pastors are citizens of this world too and the Church has been challenged towards counter-cultural engagement of their world. But this engagement is always an outgrowth of the work of the Holy Spirit and His Gospel in the life of every believer and of the church.

So, in many venues, such as Facebook, blogs, comments, Twitter, YouTube (and the like...), Christians must speak their mind. We need gospel-preachers in all levels of society and in every sphere of influence – however, the Christian must guard against hatred and must always be winsome in all their expressions. That said, the pastor-preacher must not make Culture the basis of ministry – Scripture must still reign as the undiluted message of the Gospel of Jesus! Therefore, the pastor-preacher must reserve and preserve the pulpit for the proclamation of His Word!

Did you know that in many traditional Lutheran, Roman Catholic and Anglican churches, there were two pulpits? The one in the middle (usually referred to as the “pulpit”) is used exclusively by the clergy as the altar and for the reading of the Gospel. The other one is simply called a “lectern” which was for lay people, epistle reading and for the clergy’s homily. The thinking here was that the “pulpit” was to be reserved for proclaiming Jesus’ Gospel and the liturgy that surrounds the Eucharistic celebration while the “lectern” was for other (perceived) less sacred texts, prayers and exhortations. Protestant and Evangelical congregations have not adopted that tradition and instead put just one pulpit at the center of their ceremony.

Today, we uphold the primacy of Scripture not in terms of where or how many pulpits/stands or lecterns we use ... we uphold the primacy of Scripture by reserving the time, place and occasion of our worship gatherings for the teaching and preaching of God’s Word. While doing this, we may use Social Media to freely and winsomely express our political/moral stance and engage the world we live in.

And that’s “the word on the street.”

"When the regard for truth has been broken down or even slightly weakened, all things will remain doubtful. "

- St. Augustine

WORD
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