

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

WIN US Churches Raise Funds for Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) Victims

WIN US churches responded overwhelmingly to the plight of our Filipino brethren living in the Typhoon Yolanda devastated areas in Leyte and Bacolod. WIN churches affected in Leyte are located in Dulag, Mahanlod, Palompon and Sta. Rosa, as well as, the Narra Outreach in Cadiz, Bacolod.

We received reports of properties, crops and livelihood destroyed by the typhoon, people needing medical attention like tetanus shots from injuries caused by stepping on nails, and conversions to Christianity – among them a former Cult member.



Path of Typhoon Yolanda

Operation Storehouse: Report on Initial Distribution

(as reported by Bro. Edman Locsin, District Overseer-Visayas and Mindanao)

Pastor Jason and four others traveled to Palompon on November 22, 2013 to distribute relief goods that were initially donated in the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda and stored in WIN-Cebu.

All in all, 861 relief goods of various items were distributed to 596 families in Palompon, Dulag, Mahanlod and Sta. Rosa. The team arrived in Palompon where three vehicles were waiting to carry the goods to the other three towns.

Most families in Dulag, Mahanlod and Sta. Rosa, even if they were not church members, were given relief goods. In Bgy. Calipayan, Dulag, where Richard Madla pastors, all families received relief goods. However, church members were given more relief goods than non-church members. The amount of relief goods given to a family depended on the number of family members, but the allotted relief goods could last around two weeks.

In Mahanlod, Pastor Jason had to travel two kilometers by carabao to reach the church proper.

In Palompon, it should be noted that Sunday worship service attendance doubled since the storm. Thus, it is imperative that we rebuild the church as soon as possible. Immediate needs for this are roofing, walls and a generator set. Estimated cost is about Php200,000.00, including labor. When we are able to help our Palompon church, we indirectly help her outreaches.

Bro. Edman Locsin, further reports, "The coping mechanism of our members in our churches were quite remarkable seeing how light and positive they were in handling their situation. The community has a water source but still have no

WIN US Churches Raise Funds

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electricity and shelter. Men could not yet concentrate on working in their fields since they face the challenge of reconstructing their homes. Harvest of crops would not come until April which would mean relief goods would have to be extended to them until late March.”

We recently shipped four chainsaws to Leyte for the four churches affected by Yolanda. The chainsaws will enable them to cut the coconut trees destroyed by the typhoon and convert them into coco lumber to help rebuild homes and later become a source of livelihood. The chainsaws were purchased in the US because the cost of one chainsaw in the Philippines is Php70,000.00 (around \$1,628.00) each compared to \$300.00 at Home Depot. The shipment also included oil and gas containers needed to operate the equipment.

The bulk of the funds raised will go to the rebuilding phase of the four churches in Leyte, of which three were completely wiped-out. Each church will need a budget of \$10,000.00 – a total of \$40,000.00. We have enough funds to rebuild two churches. WIN–Canada will partner with WIN–USA to raise more funds to rebuild the other two churches.

Thank you WIN US churches (Arizona, Artesia, Hawaii, Los Angeles, New Jersey, New York, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Silicon Valley and Texas) for all your effort to raise funds and send balikbayan boxes to help rebuild our WIN communities in Leyte and Bacolod.



Properties destroyed



Coconut trees felled and livelihood affected



Relief goods to be distributed

“Men could not yet concentrate on working in their fields since they face the challenge of reconstructing their homes. Harvest of crops would not come until April which would mean relief goods would have to be extended to them until late March.”

WIN-Seattle Rallies to Help Victims of Typhoon Yolanda

by Rev. Vino Atienza, Senior Pastor

While preparing for a church event, the first reports about the effects of Typhoon Yolanda making landfall in the Philippines came to WIN-Seattle. It was Friday, November 8, and the initial texts, tweets and news reports were coming in through our phones and tablets. At about 7:00pm (Seattle time), the initial reports said that a small number of people perished (about 4 to 6 only!). But it wasn't long after – when various video clips of massive death and major destruction became available – when the facts and details of what really happened struck us and moved the church to ask: *“What can we do to help?”* This was especially relevant to WIN-Seattle workers who just launched their anniversary theme *“Hearts in Worship, Hands at Work”*.



Bro. Nate & Sis. Melanie Daep, proprietors of *“Big Boys Filipino Food Truck”* were planning a big party to celebrate their truck's first anniversary on Saturday, Nov. 16. Although their plans were already set, the burden to help the Philippines moved them to use their anniversary celebration to raise funds for typhoon relief and rehabilitation. Bro. Nate coordinated with WIN-Seattle and a committee was formed with Bro. Joe & Sis. Maria Velasquez leading the efforts of WIN-Seattle's Outreach Ministry. The idea of Bro. Nate & Sis. Melanie coupled with the efforts of Bro. Joe & Sis. Maria were met with the eagerness and enthusiasm of WIN-Seattle members and workers – the result was a roaring success of a party that was able to raise \$7,000 and send more than 10 *balikbayan boxloads* of clothes and canned goods for relief and rehabilitation in the Philippines!

The event was held at the parking lot of Uwajimaya Asian store in Renton. It felt like a big Seattle Seahawks tailgate party because Bro. Nate invited his friends and NFL players Marcus Trufant and Doug Baldwin. A booth beside the food truck was set-up by WIN-Seattle workers to receive donations for typhoon relief. Raffleing-off NFL merchandise, special numbers from local Filipino artist Rocky Sandoval and all that good tasting food made for a great afternoon party and a good cause! The efforts of that Saturday afternoon sparked many other efforts that WIN-Seattle participated in – our Everett Outreach, under Pastora Beck Alcoran Walker celebrated their anniversary and raised funds and awareness too. WIN-Seattle wants to thank our friends from Private Label Bridal through the efforts of Sis. Meakara Mendez contributed also. We also recognize Child United, LBC and Cakedgoods cupcakes for the opportunity of service and partnership towards the common goal of bringing much needed relief for disaster victims.

WIN-Seattle gives glory to God for the opportunity to be used by Him – *to be an extension of His hands and an expression of His heart* – in building His kingdom and touching the lives of those that are desperate and needy. *“Thank You, Lord Jesus!”*



WIN Seattle church members with guests.



Bro. Vino with daughter, Amica and NFL Marcus Trufant



Big Boys Filipino Food Truck line



Growing in Faith

Shortly before he died, a young reporter threw Pablo Casals a question: "Mr. Casals, you are 95 and the greatest cellist that ever lived. Why do you still practice six hours a day?" Mr. Casals answered, "Because I think I'm making progress." The attitude Casals had toward his development as a musician ought to be the same attitude we have in our spiritual walk with Christ. Having been born again by the power of the Holy Spirit, we must continue with this new life by growing in faith.

In the first century, the Apostle Peter had great concern for the believers that had been scattered all over the world because of persecution. Furthermore, he was aware that false teachers were intent on exploiting this situation by penetrating struggling churches and inflicting Christians with a gospel of their own. It was important, therefore, for each individual believer to be fully committed to developing strong spiritual roots and grow in the knowledge of Christ and His teachings. He therefore wrote these words of encouragement:

³ By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. ⁴ And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. ⁵ In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. ⁸ The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins. ¹⁰ So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. ¹¹ Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:3-11)

In this passage, Peter offers four principles that motivate us to continue growing in our faith. First, he says that we have everything we need to grow (1:3-4). Each day, it is easy to succumb to the temptation to focus only on what is missing in our lives. This attitude keeps us from understanding that God is more willing to provide for our needs than we are eager to be provided for. In fact, not only does God want to provide, He actually does provide! The providence of God is grounded on His promises. Even if we cannot see all our provisions ahead of time, we know God to be a trustworthy Father and His promise to provide is all we need to keep on keeping on.

Second, Peter encourages us to respond to God's promises by developing our faith (1:5-7). He offers us a specific list of spiritual qualities that ought to supplement a believer's faith — this includes moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, patient endurance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love for others. It is a reminder that faith is not merely a statement of belief, rather, it is a lived-out belief. The developmental stages of faith, from right living to right loving, are the products of putting faith into action.

Third, Peter reminds us that active faith leads to spiritual fruitfulness (1:8-9). Maturing faith results in producing spiritual fruit and growing deeper in our knowledge of Christ. These two results are intricately bound together in that the more we know who Christ is, the more we are enabled to live as Christ lived. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul defined maturity as "measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ" (4:13). We who believe should always uphold Christlikeness as the golden standard of biblical discipleship.

Growing in Faith

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Finally, the Apostle Peter encourages us by offering the promise of a glorious eternity (1:10-11). We should never underestimate the motivating power of a desirable future. Without this perspective, the daily challenges of life would be difficult to endure. Conversely, if we recognize that our present pain leads us to the path of future bliss, we are able to persevere through such trials because we know they will last only for a moment in light of God's promised future for us all.

Albert Einstein was once asked what he did for a living. Surprisingly, rather than referring to himself as a physicist, he replied, "I am a student of physics." Remarkable, isn't it. Because of his posture as a lifelong learner, Einstein has left an indelible mark in his field of study. As disciples of Christ, we too are students of faith. I am confident that as you embark on a journey of perpetual learning, you will continue to grow each day in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

WIN USA Church Events

Southern California

March 1- WISL Class*

March 27-29 - Men's Retreat,
Yucaipa, Calif.

May 16-18 - Ladies Retreat

* All WISL dates are tentative and will be confirmed once speakers are available.

New York

March 9 - Church Anniversary



PAMASKONG HANDOG NI JESUS Was A Success!

by Rosemarie Jose, SOH US Coordinator

Once again **PAMASKONG HANDOG NI JESUS** was a success! Our Seeds of Hope kids had a great time during the Christmas season. See what God has done! We are proud to say that our WIN US congregations came through for our little ones. You covered most the children's Christmas celebration this year!

Keep on supporting our schools by sponsoring Seeds of Learning, Seeds of Nourishment, Seeds of Growth, and Seeds of Joy. Save up for these projects. Give them a bright future. Jesus loves the little children.



We would like to thank you for the special gift or blessings to our students this year, we are so happy and grateful for the love that you've shared to our little ones.

*Ptr. Philip Don R. Sambire
Word Learning Center, Toril,
Davao City*



With the amount, we will be buying Media Noche gift packs from Puregold worth P300 for each of the 55 children, 3 teachers and 6 volunteers. It will be such a wonderful treat for everyone to be bringing home something that the whole family can share and partake of.

*Teacher Lealee Tria
Directress, Word International School East, Inc.*

2014 US National Youth Leaders Conference Highlights

by Rev. Mark Briones, US National Youth Director

The National Youth Leaders Conference was held January 23 to 25 in Houston, Texas. Out of our 17 WIN US churches there were close to 60 youth leaders in attendance. US Churches that sent delegates were the following: WIN Silicon Valley, WIN New Jersey, WIN Arizona, WIN San Diego, WIN Los Angeles, WIN Northeast Houston, WIN Southwest Houston, WIN Southeast Houston, WIN Austin, and WIN Dallas.

The following people spoke during the sessions and workshops:

- Ptr. Rex Waga - WIN Northeast Houston
- Ptr. Lucien Matillano - WIN Dallas
- Ptr. Ching Mapeso - WIN Southwest Houston
- Ptr. Mark Briones - WIN Los Angeles
- Ptr. Randy Castro - WIN New Jersey
- Sis. Fedelyn Rapinan - WIN Los Angeles
- Sis. Sandra Cordero - WIN Los Angeles
- Bro. Chris Mapeso - WIN Southwest Houston

A youth leader from each church represented was asked to give a brief ministry report. Each one gave a very encouraging report on what the Lord was doing in their respective ministry.

All the delegates were so blessed by the hospitality of our WIN Houston area members who hosted the delegates from out of town.



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INSPIRE
A SPIRIT OF FAMILY
WIN USA Pastors' Family Retreat
Oxnard, California • June 25-28, 2014