



A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

## **Recent Immigration Changes**

### ***Do they affect you?***

*On November 20, 2014, President Barack Obama announced a series of executive initiatives that are meant to be steps in attempting to fix a broken immigration system. While there are several initiatives and memoranda being implemented, here are three (3) Executive Actions that you (or someone you know) might be eligible for:*

#### ***Expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program***

The USCIS will expand eligibility for DACA to encompass a broader class of children. DACA eligibility was limited to those who were under 31 years of age on June 15, 2012, who entered the U.S. before June 15, 2007, and who were under 16 years old when they entered. DACA eligibility will be expanded to cover all undocumented immigrants who entered the U.S. before the age of 16, and not just those born after June 15, 1981. USCIS will also adjust the entry date from June 15, 2007 to January 1, 2010. The relief (including work authorization) will now last for three years rather than two.

#### ***Extension of Deferred Action to Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA)***

USCIS will extend eligibility for deferred action to individuals who (i) are not removal priorities under our new policy, (ii) have been in this country at least 5 years, (iii) have children who on the date of this announcement are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents, and (iv) present no other factors that would make a grant of deferred action inappropriate. These individuals will be assessed for eligibility for deferred action on a case-by-case basis, and then be permitted to apply for work authorization, provided they pay a fee. Each individual will undergo a thorough background check of all relevant national security and criminal databases, including DHS and FBI databases. With work-authorization, these individuals will pay taxes and contribute to the economy.

#### ***Expansion of Provisional Waivers to Spouses and Children of Lawful Permanent Residents***

The provisional waiver program that USCIS announced in January 2013 for undocumented spouses and children of U.S. citizens will be expanded to include the spouses and children of lawful permanent residents, as well as the adult children of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents.

*For more detailed information regarding eligibility guidelines, procedures to follow, forms and fees involved, please consult with your immigration lawyer and/or visit the following websites:*

<http://www.uscis.gov/immigrationaction>

<http://www.dhs.gov/immigration-action>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/immigration/immigration-action>

- Rev. Vino Atienza, WIN US Office



## Developing A Shepherd's Heart

We pastors are often referred to as shepherds of God's flock. More precisely, we are undershepherds who serve under the leadership of Christ, the Chief Shepherd. As co-laborers in the work of Christ, it is important for each of us to truly understand what it means to have a "shepherd's heart." Thankfully, Jesus himself demonstrated this for us on many occasions throughout his earthly ministry. One good example is the time when Christ sent his apostles to various villages to preach the Gospel, heal the sick, and cast out demons. The evangelist Mark recounts this event when he writes:

*The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and what they had taught. Then Jesus said, "Let's go away from the crowds for a while and rest." There were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat. They left by boat for a quieter spot. But many people saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and met them as they landed. A vast crowd was there as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he taught them many things. (Mark 6:30-32)*

Imagine how frustrated the apostles must have felt at this time. Although they were excited to report their ministry experiences to Jesus, they were also tired and hungry. Furthermore, Jesus invited them to take a break from their work and led them to a quiet place where they could rest and eat. However, when they reached their destination, a large crowd met them. To the apostles' dismay, instead of telling the crowd to leave them alone, Jesus began to teach them. It may have seemed like Jesus had completely forgotten his promise to give the apostles a time of rest.

Readers come to understand, of course, that Jesus was using this time to teach his apostles a very important lesson on compassion. Mark describes Jesus' response to the crowd as having "compassion," or "to be moved as to one's inwards." Christ had a deep concern for the crowd because he saw them as a people in dire need of guidance and care; they were "sheep without a shepherd." As such, he took it upon himself to provide the people with the shepherding they needed. This is why Jesus laid down his plans to rest with his apostles, and instead proceeded to feed the crowd the truths of God's kingdom.

The apostles clearly did not share this same level of compassion. While they may have tolerated Jesus' actions for a moment, their impatience was unveiled late in the day when one of them finally said, "This is a desolate place, and it is getting late. . . . Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy themselves some food" (Mark 6:35-36). Without reading too much into their recommendation, it is as if the apostles were saying to Jesus, "Enough with this teaching; send these people home so that we can go on to get the rest and refreshments we were promised." Remarkably, Jesus, knowing the condition of their hearts, responded by saying, "You feed them" (Mark 6:37). With this, Jesus reminded his apostles that caring for a lost and displaced people was

. . . . *Continued on Page 7*

Some time ago, I was speaking at a Christian college and a student asked me if working too hard was the cause of burnout. My response was that hard work is not the cause of burnout. Burnout occurs when we become so occupied with our work that we don't have time for God.

~ The Navigators, Daily Discipleship Devotional  
Monday, February 17, 2014

# No More Excuses!

## Sermon Outline

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



- Text : **Exodus 3 : 1 – 10**
- Theme : Getting involved / Serving in Church
- Title : **No More Excuses**
- Introduction :
  - a) Sometimes our excuses pile up and get in the way of doing something for God.
  - b) God miraculously calls Moses from the burning bush – he finds an excuse not to serve!
  - c) God is calling each of us to serve... but, like Moses, we have our excuses. Let's look at some of his excuses... we might relate to some of them:

### 1. The Excuse over IDENTITY (Exodus 3:11-12)

- ***"Who am I to face such a big task?"***
- Moses was focused on his 'smallness' compared to the 'bigness' of the task.
- He forgot: It was God's identity at stake, Moses was just the messenger!

### 2. The Excuse over AUTHORITY (Exodus 3:13-22)

- ***"By whose authority will I speak?"***
- Not by your own authority, nor your church's ... but the Lord's!
- When we serve, we serve under the Authority of Jesus Christ the Risen Lord and under the Power of the Holy Spirit!"

### 3. The Excuse over CREDIBILITY (Exodus 4:1-9)

- ***"What do I have to show them?"***
- Signs and wonders will accompany you!
- There's Power in the WORD, be careful how you handle it!

### 4. The Excuse over ABILITY (Exodus 4:10-12)

- ***"I don't know how to speak?"***
- "I will help you speak and tell you what to say" (read Mt.10:19-20)
- the Bible is filled with stories of God's enablement upon weak people!

### 5. The Excuse over AVAILABILITY (Exodus 4:13-17)

- ***"How about someone else?"***
- "Maybe someone else will do a better job...," "I'm just too busy...," "I just don't have the time...but I know someone who does!"...
- When God sets an appointment ... just be there, He'll do the rest!

- **Conclusion:** Finally, in Exodus 4:20, Moses responds in Obedience!... and a whole nation was delivered from bondage! Moses served and the result was a lot bigger than what Moses could ever have done!...

Philip Clarke Brewer expresses it this way:

*God uses what you have to fill a need which you never could have filled.*

*God uses where you are to take you where you never could have gone.*

*God uses what you can do to accomplish what you never could have done.*

*God uses who you are to let you become who you never could have been.*

# What I Will Remember About My Wife Carol...

Reverend Jess Tuanqui

## 1. She Loved Life

She's always happy. She likes to smile and laugh. She always wants the best in life not only for us but also for other people.

She always dreamt of a better life. Whenever she sensed that our family needs a better place or she needs a better job she would always pray and work hard for it until she gets it. She loved life and always had the courage to face life's challenges.

## 2. She Loved her family and friends

She always expressed her love for us by saying I love you and other words of endearment. She always said to our kids, "Love you mga anak". She's very thoughtful not only to us her family but also to her friends and church mates. She never forgets birthdays even before the existence of Facebook. When we were in the Bay Area, I remember the night before our second church Christmas party she baked to like 4 am of the following day to be able to give something to every family in the church. Last November, she bought a lot of Christmas bags and cans that she planned to use for her Christmas presents to co-workers. But her sickness prevented her from doing it.

If you go to our house now, you will see a lot of gift wrappers, ribbons and gift bags ready for the next birthday celebrant or for the next Christmas. Aside from that, she also loved to cook for us and her friends. Whenever she likes a new dish, she will learn to cook it and will not stop until she gets it right. We usually joke



that will be our flavor of the month or food for the whole month.

## 3. She loved the Lord

When God called her to salvation and upon realizing that she's a sinner and needed a savior, she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. Because of her desire to know God more and to know the Bible she did not just faithfully attend Bible study but she also took a few subjects in a Bible school.

When God called her to service, she served her Lord faithfully. According to her first pastor (Rev. Ray & Estela Paano) in their letter to me, sent after knowing Carol went home with the Lord, "Because of her enthusiasm in the Lord's work, she volunteered to teach the Sunday School for children, in Vacation Bible School which she really enjoyed. She actively participated in the Youth ministry. She accepted responsibility with a smile. She joined the choir, and made sure she was always present during practices."

Even during my time, (When I was assigned as the third pastor of the church.) Carol was always available and faithful in serving in whatever ministry she could be of help.

When God called her to become a pastor's wife she accepted it - even though she was at first not comfortable because she thought she was not cut out for that ministry. She said in one of the dawn watch prayer gatherings in the church, the Lord spoke to her that I would become her husband. She tried to resist it because she was not the type that the congregation would want to become a pastor's wife. Carol has a bubbly personality, she talks loud and a little bit annoying sometimes. So when we finally end up together, not everyone in the church was happy. We were joking - "you and I against the world."

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Bro. Jess, Jeco, Jecah and Sis. Carol



## Excerpts from Carolyn Agra Tuanqui's Journal

These were her personal thoughts and prayers from her first days of chemotherapy (Dec. 19, 2014) to her final day (Jan. 16, 2015). Many will be encouraged by her faith, her prayers and her positive attitude throughout her ordeal in the hospital.

12-19-14 (7:30 am)

Dr. Y \_\_\_\_\_, my onco-chemo doctor said, "Your leukemia is very aggressive. WBC is up, LDH is up. It is bad... we have to treat you aggressively."

12-19-14 (4:00 pm)

After the second dose of low chemo my nurse asked "How do you feel?" I answered "No changes... I feel I'm still strong." ... She even said "It's as if nothing happened to you... God is doing a miraculous thing in you."

12-23-14

"I thank God... this is my fourth day of chemo and God continues to spare me from the side effects... Thank You Lord for the strength and good appetite... and continued favor, grace and love."

12-25-14 (11:44 pm)

"Bless the Lord oh my soul, I thank you Lord for friends, co-workers and family who continue to show support and love. Worship your Holy name!... 10,000 reasons to bless the Lord!"

12-25-14 (8:03 pm)

Enjoying God's love & presence. "I love you, Lord!"

12-29-14 (between 2-3 pm)

At the table for Intrathecal Procedure lumbar tap with chemo meds. while on this table I can feel His hand holding me & caressing me - He is at my side comforting me while Dr. G \_\_\_\_\_ the radiologist doctor is preparing & doing the Intrathecal Procedure. I strongly felt God's hand, His love for me, his compassion for me is like His compassion for Mary and Martha when Lazarus died. I can see/feel His compassion when the doctor is doing the procedure, His hand holding mine. Thank you Lord for love. For love that never fails. He is always with me throughout this treatment.

12-29-14 (10:55 pm)

Thank You Lord, pina-realize mo sa akin how important my job is as a nurse, helping the sick, in their weakest point of their life, as a nurse you have an important role - to redirect their faith in God and gain confidence to live, & help themselves to be restored to health. Praise The Lord, now I know why I am a nurse. On my way to the road to recovery.



12-30-14

During Dr. C \_\_\_\_\_'s round: PRAISE THE LORD!!! Per Dr.C \_\_\_\_\_, my ALL is negative for Philadelphia Chromosomes. Good prognosis!!! HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!!!. I love you Lord!

1-6-15 (8:05 pm)

I feel God's touch on my back to soothe my coughing,... it is relaxing. I feel yung pag-hinga ko naging relaxed. Thank You Lord for continuing to touch my body towards recovery. Thank You Lord.

1-6-15 (9:40 pm)

Thank You Lord that my platelet count is 154+

1-7-15 (2:07 am)

Lord I'm praying for a miracle to please Lord, touch my lungs once more. I don't know what's going on... as if there is music, air in my lungs... it's very annoying, makes me cough. Lord please let me sleep. In Jesus name. Amen. Gen.18:14 - "is there anything too hard for the Lord"

1-7-15(10:00 am)

Per Dr. C \_\_\_\_\_ bone marrow biopsy has 98% cancer cells. My lab work today shows normal, my cell responds normal... ready for next session of chemo. GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME!!!!

1-9-15 (10:54)

Matt.7:7-14 My father in heaven gives good gifts to those who ask Him. Praise The Lord.

1-10-15 (1:45 pm)

Thank You Lord for continually healing my body. Your Divine Power is indescribable. Because God is powerful, everything is possible. Praise the Lord.



## Excerpts . . .

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1-10-15 (9:26 pm)

God's healing hand is on my body, He is taking away the cough & touching my body for divine, miraculously healing from all sickness. Praise The Lord!!!!

1-15-16 (9:26 pm)

Praise God, broscoscopy is done, thank you Lord for always being with me in all the procedures I'm undergoing... my fear was replaced by peace of mind - Your hand always comforts me. Thank You Lord. I love you Lord.

1-16-15 (1:57 am)

I have a God greater than these diseases. I have Jehovah-Rapha, the God that heals all sickness & able to restore my health.

1-16-15 (2:20 am)

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart & lean not on your own understanding."*

## What I Will Remember . . .

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But, you know what, after a while our congregation witnessed that she was really called to become a pastor's wife. There was a mother, when her son was called to serve as a pastor, said, "I'm praying that God would give my son a wife like Sis. Carol."

Carol loved the Lord, when God called her to salvation, she responded, when God called her to service, she responded. When God called her to become a pastor's wife she responded. And lastly when God called her home last January 16, she responded.

At first, she was wrestling with God. She wanted to get healed. In one of her journal entries, she prayed, "God let me see my 2 kids graduate from college & see my grandkids with them. Lead them, guide them, tell them the story how God miraculously heals. My desire is to come back to the ministry pray every day for those in need of healing & other difficult situations people are encountering."

She really prayed, she really hoped and believed that God would grant her the healing that she needs. She was pleading to God for healing but she also surrendered everything to God's will. She wrote these lines from *Our Daily Bread* . . .

*My Savior hears me when I pray,  
Upon His Word I calmly rest;  
In His own time, in His own way,  
I know He'll give me what is best. — Hewitt*

Her last entry in her journal was written at 2:20 am, it says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart & lean not on your own understanding."

That word is not only for her - it is also for us her family. We were not ready for this. It hurts deeply. Separation is always painful but somebody said, "The pain of separation is nothing compared to the joy of reunion." Someday when Jesus comes, or when he calls us home, we will see her again and this pain of separation will be nothing compared to the joy of reunion.

The Word International Ministries family mourns the passing of Sis. Carolyn Agra Tuanqui, wife of Pastor Jess Tuanqui. She suffered cardiac arrest on January 16, 2015 following a very brief bout with leukemia.

Let's continue to pray for Bro. Jess and their children, Jecah and Jeco, as they go through this time of loss and grief. As we all know it is difficult to lose someone we love. Our comfort is knowing that she is in the presence of the Lord where there is no more pain and suffering, only fullness of joy.

*Psalm 116:15 - Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.*

*Psalm 23:6 - Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*



## **Developing A Shepherd's Heart**

*Continued from Page 2 . . .*

their responsibility. Even if they themselves were hungry and weary, it was more important to have compassion for others in need. Jesus implied that ministry involves the willingness to temporarily suspend the gratification of personal needs in order to meet the needs of others.

When the apostles finally succumbed to Jesus' request and fed the crowd despite their limited resources, Jesus taught them yet another important lesson regarding the work of the Kingdom. After the crowd of thousands was miraculously fed with a meager five loaves of bread and two fish, there was still enough food left over. Mark even takes the time to specify how much was leftover. We are told that there were twelve baskets full of leftovers—that's one for each of the twelve apostles! Jesus did not forget them after all.

So the apostles eventually got their share of rest and food, but only after they took care of the greater business of God's Kingdom. This lesson would certainly remain in the hearts of the apostles for years to come as they would soon go to all the corners of the world preaching the Gospel to lost people everywhere. Only this time, they would each do it with the heart of a shepherd.

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**We are undershepherds who serve  
under the leadership of Christ,  
the Chief Shepherd.**

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**WORD**  
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

*Massachusetts*

**CHURCH LAUNCHING**

Church Address: 9 Church Street, Salem, MA 010970



February 15, 2015, Sunday  
4:00-600 pm

*Come and be blessed!*

For more information, contact Dr. Ferdie Melendres,  
Senior Pastor, WIN New York

## **Think On These Things**

John Maxwell

**Hope** shines brightest when the hour is darkest.

**Hope** motivates when discouragement comes.

**Hope** energizes when the body is tired.

**Hope** sweetens while bitterness bites.

**Hope** sings when all melodies are gone.

**Hope** believes when evidence is eliminated.

**Hope** listens for answers when no one is talking.

**Hope** climbs over obstacles when no one is helping.

**Hope** endures hardship when no one is caring.

**Hope** smiles confidently when no one is laughing.

**Hope** reaches for answers when no one is asking.

**Hope** presses toward victory when no one is encouraging.

**Hope** dares to give when no one is sharing.

**Hope** brings the victory when no one is winning.

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