

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

Leyte, Philippines - Road to Recovery

Babes Paulate, Regional Director USA

A significant amount of the US Benevolence /Calamity funds were recently released. This will cover the final completion of all projects in the once typhoon-ravaged Leyte. Excess funds, saved from previous calamities, were also released to help other churches that needed assistance with their building projects.

Below are churches I visited while I was in the Philippines November this year.

Island of Leyte

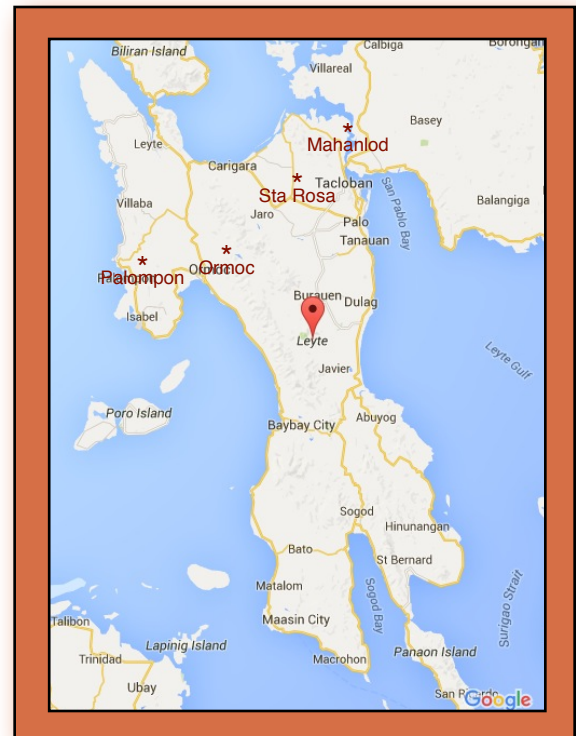
Ptr. Edman Locsin, Overseer for Visayas and Ptr. Art Ona, Overseer for Leyte accompanied me on my trip to Leyte via Cebu. We arrived in Ormoc, Leyte on a Saturday and visited WIN Mahanlod, which is a farming community. The recent funds of Php150,000.00 released to them came from the US churches (Yolanda funds). The project was 60% completed. We continued to WIN Sta. Rosa, also in a farming community, to observe the progress of the church construction on a hill. The project is 80% completed. The final leg was WIN Palompon which is now a completed project and a result of donations coming from other WIN International Churches (including the USA).

All projects were reviewed in a meeting with Ptr. Edman Locsin, Overseer for Visayas and Ptr. Art Ona, Overseer for Leyte and the deadline to complete all projects in Leyte was set for the end of the year 2015.

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On our way to Sta. Rosa, with Ptr. Edman Locsin, Visayas District Overseer and Ptr. Art Ona, Leyte Overseer



Leyte . . .

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A WIN Leyte Convergence took place on Sunday, November 29 attended approximately by 400 WIN church members from Tacloban, Sta. Rosa, Mahanlod and Palompon. It was also the anniversary celebration of WIN Palompon.

Proposed WIN Mahanlod School

My visit to WIN Mahanlod was a realization of the need for a school in the area to educate the children of the farmers and also our church members; as the public schools are quite a distance away and located in a different Barangay. The church building can serve as a school on weekdays. The 3 children of Pastor Rene Garces who have degrees in Education can serve as teachers. We offered to fund their board reviews to secure their teaching licenses and a salary coming from our SOH funds to teach at the proposed school.

WIN STA. ROSA



Up the hill to WIN Sta. Rosa



WIN Sta. Rosa church 80% complete



WIN PALOMPON



WIN Palompon church completed

WIN MAHANLOD

WIN Mahanlod church to be dedicated February 2016



Pastor Rene and Remy Garces with two daughters



Other Project Updates

WIN Quezon City

I met with Pastor Aaron Guibao of WIN Quezon City to discuss their Leyte outreach in MacArthur. This outreach is near the city of Tacloban and is now developing into a local church. They intend to purchase a property with an existing structure destroyed by Yolanda in the amount of Php100,000.00. The building once renovated will serve as a community center, preschool and church. We also discussed the need for a vehicle estimated at Php150,000.00 to be used in a livelihood program in Tacloban.

Aurora Mission Trip - A Huge Success!

Ptr. Aaron Guibao, Senior Pastor WIN Quezon City

Spearheaded by the Joshua Mission Team Batch 6 of WIN Quezon City and WIN Medical-Dental Mission Team, along with the Gospel Riders (group of motorcycle riders from different churches), conducted a Dental Mission, Relief-Giving and Evangelism to the survivors of typhoon Lando in Depaculao, Aurora last November



Pastors on motorcycles to Aurora

18-20, 2015. Traveling for 6-7 hours along the mountain ranges heading North was not a smooth journey. We trekked through series of short, sharp turns and the place seemed unreachable. An accident happened to one of the riders when he slid in one of the sharp turns in the middle of the trip and fell from his motorcycle. But miraculously, it wasn't serious. God's hand and protection was upon the whole team. The difficult road didn't stop us from pursuing our mission and bring aid to our fellowmen who experienced an irretrievable loss from the destructive typhoon.



An outreach church of WIN-Bataan, WIN Decapulao, Aurora hosted the team for 3 days. The church building served as the venue for the Dental (Libreng Bunot and Medicine), Relief-giving, and Evangelism. Our brethren there also served as our partner in sharing the Gospel to the patients during counseling time. After the treatment, the patients were given free medicines, toothbrushes and relief clothes and items. Seeing their smiles and hearing their 'thank you' were proof that God was at work in their hearts.

The church members were also given relief grocery items. We thank those who extended support through prayers and financial assistance, thanks to WIN QC church. Also, thanks to Ptr. Babes Paulate of WIN-USA who handed us P10,000 and those who continually support the missions financially. It was a great help for the team and the people of Aurora.

It was indeed a worthwhile endeavor. Christ's love was shared and felt by our fellowmen in Aurora. The whole team was also blessed! To God be the glory!



WIN Baliwag, Bulacan

I visited Baliwag, Bulacan to preach and meet with the Pastor Larry Castillo and his leaders. They are recipients of excess calamity funds in the amount of Php 100,000.00 to provide a roof for the children's classrooms at the church. The roofing or slab is now complete.



WIN Baliwag Sunday Service



Completing roof slab of Children's Church

Missions Trip Opportunities

The regions of Bulacan, Leyte, Marinduque and other parts of the Philippines are opportunities for mission trips for WIN US members in the medical field as well as our Youths and YAs. Discussions have been made with Pastor Ferdie Melendres and Pastor Mark Briones to expand the Annual Israel Group Pilgrimage to include short term group missions trips to the Philippines and other countries.



SEEDS OF LEARNING

A BIG THANKS

"We are excited to inform you that as of this writing, all 96 kids under the Seeds of Hope program have already found sponsors. We are indeed honoured and grateful to you, who determined to give us your trust and support, for making it possible for our ministry to continue in reaching out to these children.

As we faithfully press on with renewed hope this season, we pray that you will continually partner with us in accomplishing our vision and in giving God the glory through our efforts.

Thank you, and God bless you as always!"

SCHOOL	SPONSORED KIDS
Agape School - Cagayan	17
Word Int'l. School East-Cainta	23
Word Int'l. School - Camiling	17
WINK Learning Center - Iloilo	14
Word Int'l. School - Malaybalay	2
Word Learning Center - Davao	23
TOTAL	96



Getting Started on the Right Path

It was the American mystic, Thomas Merton who once said, *People may spend their whole lives climbing the ladder of success only to find, once they reach the top, that the ladder is leaning against the wrong wall.* What a sad commentary of how some people live their lives. Perhaps you are one of those who tirelessly work hard every day yet remain unsure of where all this hard work will lead. You are determined to live life meaningfully, yet you have no idea of where exactly your journey will take you.

Too often we set off on a life journey but we go about it all wrong. We miss out on the most important part of planning the trip. Perhaps a simple lesson on traveling can help us avoid this mistake. You see, whenever I prepare to travel, the very first thing I need to establish is where it is I need to go. So here's the point—*the most important part of planning a journey is to first identify the destination.* Everything about the journey is influenced by the determined destination.

Many centuries ago, the Apostle Peter spoke to a large crowd of people on the day of Pentecost. He passionately preached the message of the Kingdom, and as a result, the people were compelled to think about where their lives were headed. Luke tells us, "Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" (Acts 2:37). Now that Peter had clarified that the destination was to be with Christ and enjoy eternity with him forever, the people were eager to find a path that would make them certain that this destination would be reached.

In response to their question, Peter offered these instructions:

1. We should turn from our sins (Acts 2:38)

Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

We cannot pursue the path to eternal life without letting go of the things that unnecessarily weigh us down. And nothing weighs us down more than the sins that keep us from a right relationship with Christ. In his book, *I Surrender*, Patrick Morley asserts that the church's integrity problem stems from the misunderstanding that *we can add Christ to our lives, but not subtract sin . . . It is a change in belief without a change in behavior . . . It is revival without reformation, without repentance.* It is imperative that we begin this year by turning away from any unconfessed sin that is certain to derail our journey with Christ.

2. We should hold to the promises of God (Acts 2:39)

"This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God."

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The WORD on the STREET



Preaching: Pastoral or Prophetic?

As a preacher who faces the congregation weekly, I need to answer this question squarely if I am to preach effectively and responsibly. I need to understand the role of preaching in our worship service and its role in our life as a family of faith.

"Prophetic Preaching" in a classic sense, is firstly authoritative. Jesus amazed the crowd *"because he taught as one who had authority"* (Matt. 7:28-29). That distinct ring of authority is not based upon the preacher's gift, knowledge or skill, but on the basis of being entrusted with a message from God Himself. It is also a call-to-action. Prophetic preaching calls for an urgent response from its audience – to change their hearts and minds usually to conform to God's plan. So the preacher is like those from the tribe of Issachar, *"who understood the times and what Israel should do"* (1 Chron. 12:32). This response desires to lead the hearers toward change and transformation.

"Pastoral Preaching", on the other hand, gives special ear to the particular setting of the congregation, the flock, whom the shepherd closely identifies with. Yes, the preacher brings a message from God but he feeds it to God's people who live in a specific time and place, with particular trials and triumphs that may be unique to their culture and setting. So the pastor takes care to exegete the text very well but he gives extra care in applying it to the specific context of the people he is called to minister to. Repentance and Revival are preached – remembering that the preacher is in Relationship with the listeners – as a sympathetic shepherd.

The preacher is an Advocate - a bridge, of sorts. He advocates for God toward the church, forcefully and faithfully declaring God's message to people that need the guidance and transformation. However, the preacher is also advocating for the church, empathetically and relevantly applying the flock's plight and trying to reconcile that to God's holy message. This is the exceptional role of the preacher: *he stands in between God's Word and God's People – he skillfully studies the text of Scripture so he can PRESENT it to God's People whom he has to relevantly REPRESENT during the preaching time!* This also gives us a good working answer to whether preaching is "pastoral or prophetic" – **it is unapologetically, both!**

Here are 3 Tips from 3 "Johns" that show us how to achieve this balance:

1. Faithfully Exegete the Text

John Piper said *"Good exegesis becomes a threat to our pride. By it we run the risk of honestly discovering that the prophetic and apostolic view of life is different from our own, so that our view — and with it our pride — must crumble."*

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



Getting Started . . .

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The whole of the Christian experience begins and ends with God. We are only able to live in the fullness of God's grace because He is faithful to all His promises. The Bible contains almost nine thousands promises for those who choose to live in the Lord's will. Scripture reminds us that the just shall live by faith, which means we must be willing to believe that God is faithful to do all He promised to do in order for us to complete the journey set before us.

3. We should distance ourselves from evil (Acts 2:40)

Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"

One of the biggest challenges to completing our journey is avoiding unnecessary detours. When I plan a trip, I have to anticipate the possible obstacles and diversions that will keep me from reaching my destination. Peter wisely admonishes us to not let this crooked generation distract us from staying on our God-directed path.

As you and I commit to following Christ this year, let us keep our eye on the goal and never allow God's enemy to stray from the road marked for us by our loving Savior.

"If you really, really believe in your dream, you'll get there. But you have to have passion and total commitment, you don't need a complex plan. Your plan is your life is your dream."

Rudy Ruettiger

Preaching: Pastoral . . .

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2. Lovingly Exegete your Audience

John Stott wrote a landmark book three decades ago called *Between Two Worlds*. He presented a homiletical paradigm encouraging preachers to become "bridge-builders." By this, he meant that preachers should bridge the gap between the ancient world, where the Bible was written, and the world today

3. Honestly Exegete Yourself

John Broadus: ***"We have truth to say, but there is an end goal, and the end goal is changing the will and behavior of God's people for their edification... The main goal of preaching is not information; it is transformation."***

"...two equal and opposite errors a preacher can fall into:

One was to neglect his study for his people.

The other was to neglect his people for his study.

Both errors are tragic."

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