

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

Hot Soup Feeding Program in Santa Rosa, Laguna

Jerry Crisostomo, WCCC

Word Christian Community Church (WCCC) conducted a feeding program in Santa Rosa, Philippines in partnership with CSSOH Philippines last November 4, 2017.

WCCC has been volunteering at Fraser Valley Gleaners - <http://www.fvgleaners.org/> - in cutting vegetables before they got rotten and thrown out. These are the vegetables that came from farms and market places. Volunteers would then cut the vegetables and remove the bad parts. Vegetables are dried and packed in bags, and eventually distributed to third world countries where there is poverty and hunger. FVG is a Christian charitable organization who partner with different churches and organizations in delivering food to alleviate hunger. WCCC has been volunteering at this facility for years and take pride, satisfaction and accomplishment every time they go there to volunteer. Even though we don't see the end results in feeding thousands of people all over the world, we experience great joy in being part of this great endeavor.

Pastor Noel and Pastora Daisy from WCCC took the opportunity to conduct a feeding program in Santa Rosa, Laguna when they attended the WIN Conference in Tagaytay, Philippines. Before they left for the Philippines, WCCC sent ahead bags of vegetable soup mixes to the Philippines. Each bag makes 100 cups of soup, when cooked in 25 liters of water. The remaining bags will be used on other feeding programs of CSSOH.

What a blessing to our Feeding Centers in the Philippines!

Pastors Ron de Villa, Ramil Carmen, Noel Orbeta, with JC Crisostomo and church members volunteer at FVG



Pastors Babes Paulate, Daisy Barilla, Noel Orbeta

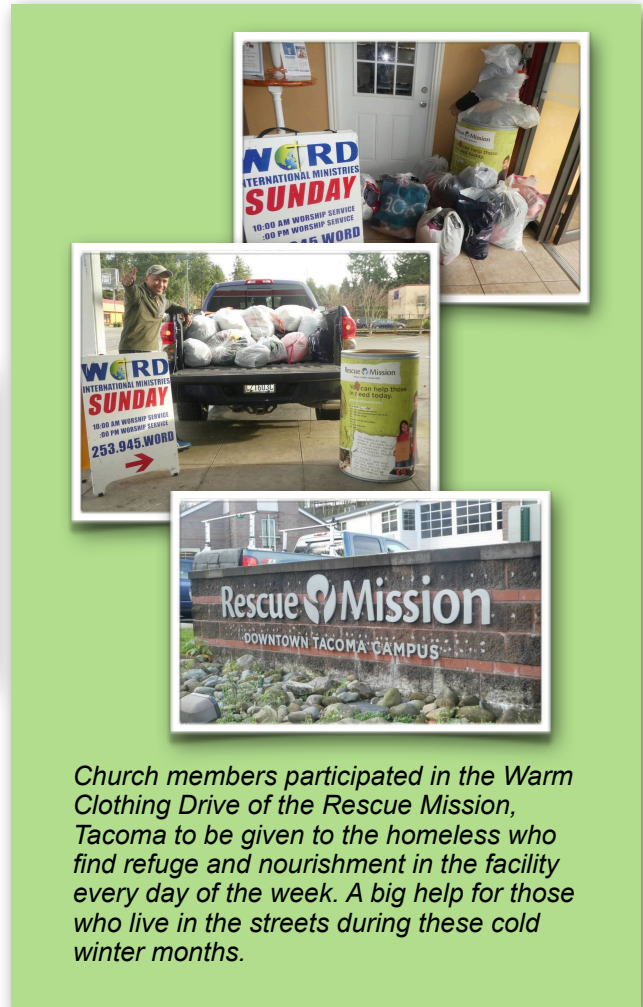


AROUND THE US REGION!

In Touch With The Community

WIN Seattle/Tacoma

Several church members volunteered at the **King County Parks -Your Big Backyard** in planting native trees and shrubs in the forested area around Lake Geneva, December 2. It also involved moving woodchip mulch to increase the ecological value of the park.



Church members participated in the Warm Clothing Drive of the Rescue Mission, Tacoma to be given to the homeless who find refuge and nourishment in the facility every day of the week. A big help for those who live in the streets during these cold winter months.

Big Boys Filipino Food Truck owners, Nate and Melanie Daep, invited the church to volunteer at the 5th Annual Toy and Canned Food Drive, December 4 at the Auburn Volkswagen. Toys are donated to Santa's Castle and food will be donated to the Auburn Food Bank. Church members came to help *Big Boys* hand out over 150 free food to donors and volunteers who came to participate in the event.

Volunteers were treated to some 'meet and greet' time with four of their favorite Seattle Seahawks team members.



WIN New Jersey - Word Christian Fellowship International

Get Involved



LEARN MORE



WCFI delivered 79 gift-filled Shoeboxes at a drop-off location for Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child." This was a project of the Ladies Ministry spearheaded by Malou Escobar.



WORD
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

#GivingTuesday

This year WIN New Jersey took advantage of the #GivingTuesday by Facebook last Nov. 28. Every year, Facebook promotes giving to non-profit organizations the Tuesday after the Thanksgiving weekend. It was some form of a respite from the Black Friday and Cyber Monday that has now become a part of the Thanksgiving holiday.

To further encourage the citizens to give during #GivingTuesday, Facebook waived its usual fees. FB also partnered with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to match up to \$2 million in donations. The Foundation pledged to match every dollar given during this day until the amount of \$2 million was used up. The strategy is to give the donation immediately at the start of the campaign in order to get the donations matched. The campaign began at 8:00 am (EST). It was so encouraging that during the first fifteen minutes, almost \$10,000 were already donated to WIN-NJ by members and friends. By the end of the day \$24,000 were donated and on top of that a total of \$2,000 were matched by the Foundation.

Glory to God! This campaign showed WIN-NJ that there are so many creative ways to fundraise for the Kingdom of God.





First, The Bad News

And once again it's the Holiday Season, the most wonderful time of the year. The coming of our Savior is truly an event worth remembering and celebrating. But before the festivities begin, we need to stop and consider why a Savior had to come in the first place. Lest we forget, the Good News of the Gospel actually begins with bad news.

The Christmas story begins in the Garden of Eden, not Bethlehem. It was in the garden that humanity's epic fall took place. According to the writer of Genesis, Adam and Eve were blessed to eat of any fruit in the garden, except the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Unfortunately, they succumbed to the temptation and ate of it anyway (Genesis 3:6). As a result, they were banished from God's presence and doomed to an eternity apart from Him.

Furthermore, the fall of Adam had a catastrophic effect on all humans. In his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul wrote, *When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned* (Romans 5:12). Because Adam sinned, all those who come from his seed (you and I) are born in sin. Bad news indeed.

And yet, although the consequence of sin is death, *the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord* (Romans 6:23). Through the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross, the penalty of sin is dealt with, and we who believe have a restored relationship with God. It was for this reason that this baby was born of Mary. He grew up to become our Savior.

So let me offer a few suggestions on how we, believers in Christ, can celebrate the Christmas season in a way that glorifies the Savior:

1. Don't let the world dictate the terms of the celebration. Food, lights, and shopping can be fun. But it often has little to do with celebrating the coming of humanity's redemption. Let's be sure to keep our focus on the mission of God and what He sought to fulfill through the giving of His Son.

2. Keep Christ at the center of it all. When I was a teenager, I attended a birthday party without even knowing who the celebrant was. Even after consuming food and participating in the merry-making, I went home and still did not know who had a birthday. We do the same thing when we celebrate Christmas without acknowledging the person and work of Jesus Christ.

3. Give the Gift that matters for eternity. While we all appreciate exchanging the gifts that we place under the Christmas tree, the greatest gift we can give anyone is the message of salvation and forgiveness through Christ. Even better, let's not wait until the holidays to share such a wonderful gift.

Make no mistake about it. We celebrate Christmas, not because of what the man in a red suit will bring, but because of what our Savior Jesus Christ has brought—the gift of eternal life with Him forever. And that, for sure, is good news!

God bless you and have a truly blessed Christmas.

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



SIMPLIFY: **Unclutter Your Soul**

The malls started playing those carols and putting up those decorations... something in you is quickened and suddenly you are on “*Christmas Mode*”! Unfortunately, for many (admittedly, even born-again Christians), distractions like these easily take-over their minds, priorities and relationships! We run to and fro, scrambling to fulfill gift lists or prepare hors d'oeuvres for numerous parties or purchasing new stuff to wear or booking long-awaited vacations... oh, the frenzied panic of what we’ve unfortunately called the “*Christmas rush*” (as if Christ had anything to do with the hustle and bustle!)

“We can’t slow down for fear our lives won’t matter if we do. The busyness gives us purpose; the jam-packed schedule provides meaning to an otherwise empty life. But here’s the truth: **A busy life is not the same as a meaningful one.**” (Ruth Soukup, *Unstuffed: Decluttering your Home, Mind & Soul*)

There was a man who limped into his primary care-giver’s office. After several tests and some bloodwork, the doctor tells him “*You have a severe case of gout... you’ll need to stop smoking and stop the alcohol.*” He replies adamantly “*What?!... give up smoking and drinking just so I can walk a little better?!!*” Sometimes, the price of change is costly and many are not willing to pay the price. If you are unwilling to change... then Merry Christmas... you may stop reading right here and enjoy the rest of the season. But, if you want to unclutter your mind and soul and you desire to simplify your lifestyle – to not just be busy this season, but actually have meaning and fulfill your purpose, try these tips that are meant to press the “refresh” button of your priorities and perspectives as you approach this season:

Simplify Gift-giving – spend less money but give more thought to your gifts; for some in your life spending quality time with them might even be more meaningful than a stocking-stuffer; consider transmitting values instead of tangible gift; let others know you thought about them.

Continued on Page 7

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



Pamaskong Handog ni Jesus!



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MEANINGFUL AND SIGNIFICANT TO DO THIS CHRISTMAS?

Every year the international churches of Word International Ministries raise funds to scatter Seeds of Joy to provide a Christmas Party for the scholars of WIN Schools and the children of WIN Feeding Centers in the Philippines. Some of the schools and families of these children are probably facing a bleak Christmas because they have been affected by the recent typhoons that visited the Philippines.



Let's show them that Jesus still wants them to enjoy His blessings this Christmas! Any amount you give will not only make this project a success, but will also be a meaningful one for you and these precious children.

Join us this year **AND** be a part of this joyous and memorable Christmas as the children eagerly await this year's **Pamaskong Handog ni Jesus!**



Scatter Seeds of Joy This Christmas!

Join us this year to bring Christmas treats to the CHILDREN of WIN schools and Feeding Centers in the Philippines.

Bring Christmas Joy to a poor child in the Philippines this Christmas!



WANT TO BE PART OF THIS JOYOUS OCCASION? ASK YOUR SOH COORDINATOR!

Like the crowd on the hill, too many times we want Jesus' food, not His will. We want His supremacy, not His humility. We want His power, not His meekness. We want our nation, not His Kingdom. We want His throne, but we don't want Him.

~ Leslie Leyland Fields,
The Man Who Wouldn't Be King



SAVE THE DATE

July 26-29, 2018



Murrieta, California





CSOH Is Now Registered with Amazon Smile

Rex Waga, CSOH Vice President

Through the efforts of Bro. Rex Waga, CSOH Vice President and Mark Briones, CSOH Treasurer CSOH is now officially registered with **Amazon Smile**.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible smile.amazon.com purchases to the charities selected by customers.

Spread the word to supporters so they can generate donations for CSOH when they shop.

Remember, if you want Amazon to donate to Center for Seeds of Hope, you need to start each shopping session at the URL <http://smile.amazon.com>.

GO TO CSOH unique link directly to skip the charity selection process:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch47-5519648>

AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.

smile.amazon.com



SIMPLIFY . . .

Continued from Page 5 . . .

Simplify Relationships – try to lay-off social media for a while (now that’s sacrifice!) and instead try greeting folks face-to-face when possible; adding the personal touch to anything involving friends and family; try not to be “Santa for everybody” and instead be “Jesus’ hands and feet” to someone in need; challenge family members to join you in volunteering somewhere; Serve them instead of spending on them.

Simplify by Focusing – focus on what’s essential (sometimes putting aside the important and prioritizing the fundamental); focus on serving the most needy and vulnerable; focus on Others even at the cost of selfish and self-centered pleasures; focus on doing a few things excellently instead of doing many things in mediocrity.

These are simply some tips for decluttering your mind and soul this season. I’m sure you have more to add to it, please do. The whole point is to keep it simple.

Jim Elliot, martyr to the Ecuadorian Indian tribes says, *“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”*

Jesus: *“What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”*

The WORD on the Street is SIMPLIFY.

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