

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

WIN Pulangbato PFAP Bakery / Enterprise Update

James Jumawan

It's been fully functional for the past 2 months now. The first month was the adjustment month (time and resource management). They are now seeing positive profit on this second month. As it is, getting past the learning curve is quite fast. As such, the outlook moving forward is very positive.

More than that, I believe the growth of the team managing the project (led by Pastors Reuel / Billy and Pastor Billy's Family) is very encouraging. Actually I have a regular mentoring with them. They are fast catching up in having the entrepreneurial mindset. This would include proper management of their time and resources, with forward looking outlook. They now see / record the profit on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. I find this very important because I link it to the management of the church. With God's guidance, we can see in the near future a different / improved way in their management on both their business and their church.

Another good news is that they are starting now to network with our co-WIN brother in Dumaguete. They have now established 3 outlets (i.e. selling beyond Pulangbato area) and a brother from Dumaguete is one of their outlets (bread products).

“The hope and intention is to send a positive message of how fellow Christians help each other.”



A project of PFAP (Pastors Financial Augmentation Program), an old building transformed into a lucrative Bakeshop serving the community of Pulangbato, Dumaguete.

Project Shoe Box

Malou Castro and Ces Zacarias, WCFI New Jersey

It all started with a Facebook video.

I watched this kid holding a colorful shoebox. He opens the box to take a glimpse, then closes it, his mouth breaking into a big smile. Then he peeks into the box one more time. This time, he could no longer contain his excitement. He jumps up and down with joy and his feet break into a dance. My heart melted. Even Mr. Scrooge's would have.

My thoughts brought me back to a more familiar picture – children I know, who are so used to gifts, that opening one is seldom special anymore. But not the kid in my video. Receiving a gift was a dream for him – and the reality of holding a Samaritan's Purse shoebox in his very own hands was a dream come true.

I was transformed into that child – full of excitement. My sister and I sent a few boxes but is there more I can do? I surfed the Samaritan's Purse website and guess what? I could do something in my own church. Without a second thought, I ordered 100 boxes, a few flyers and even an eye-catching poster to help promote the project.



By January, I had all the materials I needed. I knew of course that I couldn't do this on my own and that I needed the support of others in the church. How to inspire others? Then came the Ladies Ministry's annual planning meeting. A lot of exciting projects and activities came up followed by passionate exchanges over which of these should be prioritized for this year. Amidst the high-pitched discussions, I gently proposed that we consider doing the Shoebox project. There was no objection! Hallelujah – the first challenge has been hurdled.

Then came the summer where WCFI had one big event after another: there was a VBS, then the Family Camp, then Mission Sunday and the Anniversary month. Everyone was enthusiastic, engaged and excited. All these activities were huge successes, with God's grace of course. At the end of it all, I can see that everyone was exhausted.

Alas, it was also Project Shoebox time. "How can you even bring up another project after all that," a quiet voice whispered in my ear and my heart fell just a bit. Quickly brushing all apprehension aside, I put up a small Project Shoebox display at the hall the next Sunday. As people (ladies and men alike), passed by, they would ask what it was about and I would explain patiently to them one by one, showing pictures of a sample box to tickle their imagination. Our church members were quick to respond – getting 2-3 boxes at a time. And the word spread. Ladies would sit by the display and exchange stories about where they got their loot. They would even open their shoeboxes and display the cute gifts stuffed inside. Some encouraged – even challenged - me to make a pulpit announcement so we can have more involvement, but I politely declined. I was confident we could get 20-25 boxes even without an "official" announcement.

Perhaps it was the soft approach, not pushing, but pulling them into the project with the stories and pictures. Perhaps it was all the free word-of-mouth advertisement from the ladies. Or the FB reminders from some handy helpers. Whatever. But when deadline came four weeks later, we had delivered 79 gift filled boxes to Samaritan Purse. Hallelujah – I could almost picture the 79 kids, wide eyed, faces alit with wonder and expectation: "*What wonderful surprise will this box bring me this Christmas!*" A quiet voice whispers yet again. "Oh you of little faith."

God has a plan to touch the lives of many children around the world. He also touches the heart of people who are willing to do something to fulfill this plan – even if it is just filling up a shoebox. Praise God!!!

Thank you Ladies of WCFI for your tireless effort and all-out support for this.





There's Nothing Wrong With The Harvest

Have you ever found yourself complaining about the lack of people coming to Christ? Or do you ever blame lost people for their failure to respond to the Gospel message? The Gospel writer, Luke, tells of a time when Jesus addressed these concerns in a compelling manner. He wrote,

The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them on ahead in pairs to all the towns and villages he planned to visit. These were his instructions to them: "The harvest is so great, but the workers are so few. Pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest, and ask him to send out more workers for his fields." (Luke 10:1-2)

At this juncture in his ministry, Jesus prepared to send seventy-two of his disciples to the mission field. In the verses prior to this, he had stipulated the cost of following him and established what it meant to be fit for the work of God's Kingdom. Having set a foundation for the mission, Jesus now opens the eyes of the disciples to the vast harvest of souls that awaits each of them.

The first thing Jesus does is establish the need for missions. He said, "The harvest is so great." In this moment of clarity, Jesus refers to the lost as a great harvest. This harvest speaks of the immense scope of world evangelization and the subsequent task of church planting.

Secondly, Jesus addresses the main problem in missions. According to Christ, there is nothing wrong with the harvest because there is no shortage of people that need to be brought into the Kingdom of God. Instead, there is a problem with a lack of workers willing and able to engage in the work of reaping this great harvest of souls. This insight is significant for church leaders today because too often churches are quick to conclude that the problem with the harvest is the harvest. Many complain about how people are unwilling to receive the Gospel message or how there are not enough people to fill the churches. In reality, there is a virtually unlimited source of unchurched people who are simply waiting for someone to bring them the good news of the Gospel. As in the days of Christ, there continues to be a shortage of Christian believers who are committed to the mission of gathering a harvest of lost people.

Finally, although Jesus is quick to point out the problem to his followers, he is likewise quick to offer a solution to the dilemma of the harvest. In Luke 10:2, he said, "Pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest, and ask him to send out more workers for his fields." It is imperative that those who wish to engage in missional work seek the Lord in prayer. Prayer accomplishes a number of things. First, it helps the missionary acknowledge that God is at the center of the mission. Second, it reminds the missionary that the work of missions is a calling, that is, it is an act of God sending people to the mission field. Third, it establishes the fact that God must be the perpetual source of all that is needed for the mission to succeed.

Raising harvest leaders is in harmony with Christ's call to be fishers of men and workers for the harvest. It is a call that continues to be given today because there remains a great harvest of souls that is ripe and ready, waiting for those who are willing to heed God's call to partner with him in his mission to the world.

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



BUSINESS NOT AS USUAL

As culture shifts, our mode of evangelism and discipleship must also shift, NOT the motive nor the message – *just the manner by which we do them...* that's if the church wants to stay relevant! Here's a couple of dramatic shifts I can remember from my readings on this:

Demonstration over Explanation

In a progressively postmodern and post-Christian era, the proclamation of the good news of Jesus will be more effective as an EXPERIENCE than a RATIONAL APPEAL to the mind of the listener. In the words of Beth Seversen, denominational leader for evangelism in the Evangelical Covenant Church and a Billy Graham Research Scholar, evangelism is “more fruitful when an encounter with God precedes explanation about God. In such contexts, non-Christians are led to experience God before receiving a download of information about God.” We are in the days where people respond to an ENCOUNTER with God more than they respond to a debate on the propositional truths about God. They will experience the reality of God's touch before they are open to understanding information about God – **demonstration before explanation!**

Argumentation, reason and evidence are still important (*so as not to diminish the ministry of our apologists!*) but the shift in culture will most likely find that an experience of God (because of cultural adaptation using appropriate tools and implements) will be the door that opens them to the truth about God.

Service Opportunities over Service Attendance

Pastors, like myself, will not like this next shift (because it might lower Sunday service attendance!). It emphasizes the members' opportunities to serve outside the church over their attendance in internal church functions. **It's changing our own scorecard!** We are celebrating opportunities outside the church where members represent Jesus by being Jesus' hands and feet at work, at play, in the bus, doing volunteer work, doing good in the community, etc. sometimes at the expense of Sunday attendance and other activities that are in-campus.

Reggie McNeal's book on Missional Renaissance names this shift as “**from Worship Services to Service as Worship.**” The adjustments in culture demand a wider bandwidth for what we define as “worship.” The movement is towards the more non-liturgical but more biblical approach to worship as honoring God in ALL things, obeying His commands in *EVERYDAY LIFE* and *DOING GOOD BY SERVING* others. Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson describes this shift in their book “*The Externally Focused Church*” (Group Publishing, 2004)

“Business NOT as Usual” should be the motto that describes evangelism and discipleship today. Our Mission is too important and our Message too valuable that we can't afford NOT to try what we can to make sure they are fulfilled! This might mean changing our methods to stay relevant and effective!

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



“True service is not something we do for the Lord, but something He does through us. By regarding service [this way], we can have confidence - not in ourselves and our abilities, but in God, Who makes us adequate for whatever He gives us to do.”

~ Charles F. Stanley



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