

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

First WIN USA Missions Conference

Dr. Ferdie Melendres, US Missions Coordinator

The first WIN USA Missions Conference was held for two consecutive weeks, in New York on April 19-20 and in California, on April 27-28, 2018. This conference is part of eight courses required by the WISL (Word International School of Leadership) for all students.

Word International Ministries believes that missions, both local and international, is a responsibility that every believer should pursue. It is our deep conviction that our churches make this a priority to make a difference in this world. Jesus Christ built His church with a unique purpose and mission. We can find this mandate in the New Testament (Mt 28:19-20, Mk 16:15-18, Lk 24:46-48, and Acts 1:6-8). The authors of these books wrote about the Lord's command for Christians to go, preach the gospel, teach the hearers, and baptize the believers. Jesus emphasized that in our going out, we see to it that the goal of the gospel will be accomplished.

This conference is said to be remarkable, because it was the first time for WIN-USA to conduct such a gathering. The main goal is to urge all leaders, members and churches to grow a mission-minded church that will fulfill the original purpose of God, living in the fullness of His blessings. Christ has to be proclaimed into the world, regardless of race and background, as the Savior who has come from God to save people from their sins, that they might experience the gift of forgiveness and the newness of life. This conference also

raised awareness regarding global evangelism and helping the believers better understand the urgency of reaching the lost. After all, we agree that sharing the Gospel is foundational to the faith of Christianity, and God intends to use the local churches everywhere to train, support, encourage and send missionaries, first, to our surrounding communities, then into all the world.

The Conference included worship, teachings, breakout sessions, testimonies, fellowship, eating, and more. The teachers/speakers were Pastors Babes Paulate, Chito Cordero, Ed Miciano, Edwin Hernandez, Raheel Rizvi, Jonathan Winter, and Ferdie Melendres. The moderators during the breakout-sessions were Pastors Mando Zacharias,

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Bro. Babes
WA



Bro. Chito
LA



Bro. Ferdie
NY



Bro. Edo
SF



Bro. Jonathan
EU



First WIN USA . . .

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Robert Hernal, Randy Castro and Joel Dumapit from the East Coast, and Mark Briones, Cynthia de Castro, Tess Cordero, and Al Estanislao from the West Coast. Students from New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Georgia, Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco attended this momentous event.



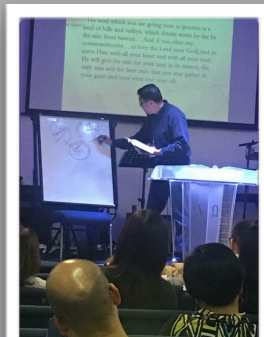
The main sessions touched on various topics like missions to the ends of the earth, migration in the Bible and scattering to the nations, the church in the New Testament, the power of the Holy Spirit, and prophetic visions for missions. One speaker stated, “The people of God from the beginning of biblical history were people in motion, they moved from one place to another to fulfill God’s plan of salvation.” The breakout-sessions discussed issues about the young generation, failure of churches to proclaim the gospel in modern times, the decline of attendance in the churches today, and the loss of interest to evangelize. Nevertheless, we obtained a good sense of what our churches need. The attendees were so delighted with the programs and the topics of the speakers.

A missions conference such as this is another milestone for WIN. We know that in every generation, Christians have their own stories that are distinctly their own. Churches from all continents, from many nationalities, races and ethnicities have organized, supported and engaged their churches in missions to bring new people to faith. They started new churches, new schools, conducted medical missions, worked for justice in society, helped the government alleviate suffering, without neglecting to be witnesses for the kingdom of God. In a world like we have, we need to continue the dynamism of the spirit of mission and the Great Commission. As Pastor Babes said during his session, “The church must be ready for the upcoming worldwide revival, so that when that very time comes, we have the means to face all the challenges and hardships.”

Supporting the idea of missions is critical because it is God’s desire to establish new churches and bring new people to Christ through the work of missions. When we think of missions, we often think of working in a foreign land. While such works are considered important, missions, is something that we can do in our own localities. For this reason, WIN-USA will continue to plant churches in major cities in America as a united body, to achieve our specific task and fulfill the last command of Christ to His disciples in a newly adopted homeland.

It is the desire of WIN USA churches that each church member would pledge at least \$5 to support the work of missions.

May the good Lord always bless the work of our hands!



“The church must be ready for the upcoming worldwide revival, so that when that very time comes, we have the means to face all the challenges and hardships.”

Witnessing Through Giving

Cynthia De Castro

Pastor of WIN-LA Saturday Service



During the WIN-LA Saturday Service planning meeting in January 2018, we brainstormed on ways to be salt and light of the community where God has placed us. We narrowed down the choices to a “Give-away Event” during the “Love Month”. The members enthusiastically agreed to go through their houses and set aside stuff to give away to the community as an expression of the love of God.

Pastor Paloo & Alma Guiuan took charge of coordinating the February 24 affair, which was themed *All you need is Love on a Saturdate*. Both the Sunday and the Saturday service members eagerly donated personal effects that were “gently used”; some were even brand new. Canned goods, cookies, bowls of chocolates, comforters, pillows and blankets, clothes, shoes and bags, books, chairs, tables, kitchen appliances, toys, even crib mattresses, tables and chairs filled the church parking lot on the day of the event. There was a table where our nurses checked the blood pressure of people and most, importantly, a corner where people who needed prayers were warmly welcomed.

As a team went around the neighborhood giving away flyers to invite people to the event, they realized the need to be very visible in the community if we want to witness for Christ. By helping the needy and cheerfully giving of ourselves and our possessions, we are letting our light so shine before men, as they see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven.

More than a hundred people came and were blessed with our giveaways. Many couldn’t believe that they could take home anything they want for free. Several homeless men and women got blankets and comforters, jackets and bonnets to protect them from the cold. Children loved the chocolates and toys. Families went home happy with bags of food and clothes. There were some who specifically asked for prayers for healing and provision. One man just came out of jail and wanted to be prayed over. And our church made an impact in the neighborhood like never before.

Before the event, we were ready to bless other people by giving them things. But at the end of the day, we realized we were the ones that were truly blessed by our giving. We were in tears as God filled our hearts with joy in serving the community. Giving became a form of worship as we experienced a sense of intimacy and personal connection with God, while we connected with people He brought to us.

We may never see those people again, but we have their names added to our prayer lists. We don’t know the situations they’re going through, but God does, and hopefully, the Divine Provider became more real to them because of something they received that day.

Truly, all you need is LOVE to be the light in your community! And as we all know, you can’t LOVE without GIVING!

AROUND THE US REGION!

In Touch With The Community

WIN NEW JERSEY

Word Christian Fellowship, Inc. (WCFI)

May 6, Philadelphia, PA



WIN Seattle/Tacoma

May 12, Federal Way, WA



Witnessing . . .

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Restoring Our Commitment to The Spirit

When I began pastoring in San Francisco in 1992, I read an article that featured a Chinese pastor who had just completed his seminary training in the United States. As he prepared to return back to China, the reporter asked him, "Having lived here for the past three years, what has impressed you most about America?" The Chinese pastor's response was stunning. He said, "I am very impressed by how much the American church is able to accomplish without the Holy Spirit."

The words of our Chinese brother strikes us like a dagger to the heart. It is very difficult to receive such sharp criticism, yet perhaps it is very necessary. You see, most revivals begin as true spiritual movements. But it often does not take long for these movements to evolve into nothing more than religious machines. In time, we are tempted to do spiritual work while ignoring to depend on the Spirit of God. We are able to achieve a sense of success by the mere fact that we have become accustomed to doing ministry by force of habit.

Someone once said that one reason we do not experience a mighty move of God is because we are perfectly content to live without it. So true, isn't it? In fact, the modern church provides multiple examples of this. In churches and organizations around the world, we have replaced the power of the Spirit with impeccably crafted programs. We've virtually mastered "doing church" that we don't even need the Spirit to guide us anymore.

This is nothing new, of course. Even in the days of old the people of God have fallen into the trap of going through the motions of spirituality void of the Spirit's work. The Lord once chastised his people through the prophet Amos, who wrote,

I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen. (Amos 5:21-23)

I wonder if this is how God feels about some of our services and conferences today. I hope not. And it certainly need not be so. Our Father in heaven, in all his wisdom and grace, has promised us the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we would never have to attempt to do Kingdom work in our own strength. In fact, the gift of the Spirit is so important that Jesus forbade the disciples to begin ministry until they have received this gift from above.

Before his ascension Christ reminded his disciples, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). And we have the rest of the book of Acts to show us what happens when ordinary people fully surrender to the leading of the extraordinary Spirit of God. Despite having very little wealth, power, and political clout, the early church was able to fulfill the Great Commission because the Holy Spirit was more than enough to empower them for their work.

My prayer for us today is that we all continue to experience the powerful move and leading of God's Spirit as we serve him faithfully in ministry.



*Dr. Ed Miciano, Senior Pastor
Bridgepoint Community Church, SF, CA and
Professor at SUM Bible College and Theological Seminary*

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



When Christ-followers Pass Away

I just came back from a brief visit to the Philippines. No, this was not the usual pastors' conference nor an important meeting like I sometimes attend. I went home because my Mom passed away (Luchie B. Atienza, Oct.9, 1944 – Apr.10, 2018). Together with my Dad, my siblings, family and friends, we laid her to rest on April 15, 2018.

When death happens to a loved one, we ask some hard questions: *Why does God allow sickness to destroy a believer's life? Why doesn't God always heal when we pray? How do we reconcile sickness and death with our faith in a caring and powerful Savior? Did we say the right prayers? With every 'generational curse' and 'demonic influence' bound, what did we miss?*

I certainly didn't have answers to those questions when I spoke at my Mom's funeral service (I was just keeping myself from breaking down!). I don't claim to have all the answers, even now... but I can say – with humble confidence – that **God is healing me and opening my eyes to deeper truth in His Word while He moves me towards acceptance.** I can say now, without a shadow of a doubt, that I believe Jesus' words in John 11, *"whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."*

Of course, we want healing for our loved ones. And of course, we should pray for miraculous healings. But *if God doesn't answer in the way we want Him to* – we must continue to rely on His omniscient sovereignty and rest in the fact that death has been conquered by Christ! Death is no longer the final state of my Mom... I will see her again, either in resurrection or when Christ comes! I have said that to comfort many and preached that to even more... now, I believe it more than ever!

A believer who has passed away experiences the most powerful of all God's miracles – entrance into eternal life in Jesus Christ! We, too, hold on to that hope and power – the hope and the power of resurrection!

When Job's faith was tested, it was tested through death and suffering. After experiencing terrible loss, he said *"As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take his stand on the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God"* (Job 19:25-26). So the 'Word on the Street' is "Hope," specifically **"strengthened Hope."**

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



“ . . . worship isn’t something we manufacture in a service. Rather, it’s the outcome of a life centered on God - an outpouring of devotion and praise for who He is and what He’s done. Worship is an offering of our whole self to the One who loves and sustains us.”

~ Charles F. Stanley



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SAVE THE DATE

July 26-29, 2018



Murrieta, California

