

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

Ignite A Lifestyle of Worship



Word International Ministries USA Convergence 2018 **Ignite A Lifestyle of Worship** was held on July 26 to 29, 2018 at the Murrieta Hot Springs Conference Center, Murrieta, California. 445 people traveled by air and by land from all over the United

States to attend this large gathering of WIN churches. The last convergence was held in the year 2000 in Fresno, California attended by close to 300 from WIN churches in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Vancouver BC and Toronto, Canada.

Plenary sessions were conducted in the evenings for all attendees. Break-Out Sessions were scheduled during the day; which focused on the specific needs of the Couples, the Men, the Ladies, the Singles and Seniors, Young Adults, Youth and Children. Marriages were strengthened, Men were reminded of their leadership roles, the Ladies' role was raised to a position of significance, the singles were made aware of their invaluable contribution to the church, the Youth and Young Adults were challenged to own the future and the Children had their own activities with a Children's Ministry teacher.

It was one big gathering of people who came to worship and give honor to our God. Some met members of the other US churches for the first time and some had the opportunity

to renew acquaintances and to fellowship once again with those they communicated with from across the US.

The National Convergence aimed to ignite or to catalyze a lifestyle of worship. The work (ministry) on these groups have to continue in the local church and district settings. The local church pastor's role is important in sustaining the care, the discipleship and leadership development of these homogeneous groups through regular activities.

There were various inquiries on the next date of the National Convergence. This means that our people were blessed significantly if not overwhelmingly and found the importance and need for such a gathering. The proposed dates for the next convergence will be held in the year 2021.

Our special thanks to our speakers and pastors who led in prayer for you have blessed our people and pleased our Lord. The delegates from the different WIN US churches witnessed the giftedness of all our WIN USA pastors in sharing the Word. We are thankful to God for your leadership as you lead us into the future.

... Continued on Page 2



Ignite. . .

Continued from Page 1

“The convergence team did an excellent job at making the convergence flow smoothly with God’s grace. Glory to God Who makes all things possible because He delights in seeing His people gather and worship Him in Spirit and in Truth!”

“Teachings were good. Lessen break times maybe to get the most of it.”

“Faithful, gracious Lord and God has moved mightily. Touched and ignited many hearts and lives. Fan my faith and worship into flame. Worship in Spirit and Truth was my message from the Lord. His presence and anointing seen, heard and felt in the speakers and in the worship team, kids and all. Thank you Lord for such a great blessing and experiencing You in our midst.”



“It was perfectly coordinated and I don’t see anything to improve. God bless!”

“Best retreat ever for me! Preaching is very relevant and anointed, connected with the theme and focused on how we can apply in our daily lives. The pastors made the sermons interesting; including the speakers in Break-Out sessions. I was in the Ladies group and all speakers did well. Everyone was well prepared; including the praise and worship leaders and ministers. May all WIN churches work toward one goal to reach out to the lost for the expansion of His Kingdom as we keep an ignited heart for worship. Excellent WIN convergence! Congratulations to all the organizers and workers!”

“The emphasis on discipleship was evident throughout all speakers and they all supported one coherent, Bible-based message.”

“God wants us to take time to celebrate who He is and what He’s done, not only as individuals and families, but also together as the church.”

~ Joshua Ryan Butler, God Likes To Party

Ignite...

Continued from Page 2...



Many thanks to the Registration Team for making it easy for the delegates to register, get their packets and room keys and retrieving room keys at the end of the convergence in a very organized manner! Good job!

“Daycare for the children was ESSENTIAL for the success of this program for many families - well done please keep it up.”

“Suggestion to include activities, which will involve participation from different churches, with the objective of developing camaraderie among WIN people.”

“I had bonding moments with some of our WIN church family.”

“There could’ve been more time allotted to a more workshop-atmosphere and reflections as well as mingling with other members of the WIN family.”



Ministers and Spouse Session



Ladies Session



Make rice available ...hahaha



Couples Session



Mens Session



“Although there were a few things that need improvements, those little flaws did not take away from the overall experience at all. I had a blast, and I wouldn’t change a thing if I could do it all over again.”



Let’s do it again in two years time!



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Discipleship Training In A Local Church

If we have hope to remain as a church in the succeeding generations, or until the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will need to maintain our discipleship training program and get stronger in mentoring our potential future leaders. Our churches in the US are currently undertaking training programs with current leaders. Our younger generation is building a love relationship with fellow believers as we continue to equip them in the Word, and as they build a personal ministry in Christ. When we talk a lot about discipleship in our local churches, we need to make real disciples of Christ as often as we check our Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Jesus did it! Paul, Peter, John and the rest of the apostles did the same! But what does it really mean to make disciples? What is our solid foundation and practical application in order to live out the mandate of Christ to make disciples? Aubrey Malphurs said, "If the church is not clear on what Jesus meant, then it will be difficult for the church to comply with Christ's expressed will." (Strategic Disciple Making, 2009). For the church to understand what Jesus meant by making disciples, it is necessary to examine its meaning in biblical context. For many years, intentional disciple-making was lost during the rise of the clergy in the dark ages, nevertheless, the interest in making disciples is rising up again in our generation.

The Discipleship Process

The word "disciples" was mentioned two hundred seventy two times in the entire Bible. When Jesus spoke to His original disciples in Semitic dialect to "go and make disciples," those words had a specific meaning to them. The first-century Jewish listeners had embodied a well-known paradigm and understood the meaning of Christ. Since then, the Hebrew word "*lomed*" has been translated into Greek (*mathetes*), and then Latin (*discipulus*), before being translated into the English language many years later. So, in order to understand the meaning of Jesus, we need to disengage from our traditional and structured understanding, then ask how the early Christians who first heard those words would have understood them. Only then can we understand what those words mean for our discipleship process today.

In ancient times, the role of a teacher is very critical in the discipleship process, as the prophet Isaiah wrote in his book. "Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples" (Isa. 8:16). The teacher focused on the testimony of God and on the serious study and obedience to the law of Moses. In the time of Christ, the teachers of the law were given the authoritative role to interpret God's Word on how to live a righteous life, and by defining what behavior is right in the eyes of the Lord. Therefore, teaching and personal mentoring bring qualities to the process that no one can bring but the teacher, or the rabbi. And for that reason, James exhorted his fellow brethren to be careful in teaching and mentoring others, because teachers or disciplers "shall receive a stricter judgment" (James 3:1). However, when the church understands what Christ meant in making true disciples, the future looks better. Church members will be looking for more opportunities in serving the Lord, and multiplication becomes possible. I believe that the most important thing we can do for our church is to continually produce high quality disciples.

The Great Commission

Our basis for the discipleship process is the Great Commission. We go out, we baptize, and we teach people, thus we make disciples in obedience to the Great Commission. Christ is the center of our service and He is the sole owner of our churches and ministries. If we all agree and submit to the full authority of Christ, then we can come to a point of relationship with a desire and a willingness to do so; surrender to the authority of God's Word according to the Scripture. The first century church started from twelve apostles, then seventy, and grew to one hundred twenty, to three thousand, five thousand, and then multitudes of people in various areas of the Mediterranean world. They were so successful seeing that their discipleship process was authentic and accurate. This process

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Discipleship Training . . .

Continued from Page 4 . . .

includes soul-winning, baptizing people, teaching them to observe godly things, building a quality friendship, founding a personal ministry, gaining victory over sin and struggles, praying and fasting, imparting gifts and visions, kingdom living, confronting issues in loving discipline and many others. Here include. In a church where believers duplicate themselves, it is of value to see them leading other people to Christ, and even their own groups. Though Jesus ascended to heaven, He will be with us always, even to the very end of the age. Jesus knew that the great endeavor of bringing the Gospel to all nations would not be a human accomplishment alone, but with the help of God. He promised that He will continue to be close to his disciples in order to support and encourage them.

The Harvest is Possible

As people grow in discipleship training, we can anticipate good things to happen in the church.

First, the worship of God continues as a consequential impact to the whole church where God might use more committed and sincere believers in Christ. Members become aware of the possibility that God can use them for something relevant in His kingdom.

Second, people experience changes that are heartfelt and genuine. They come down to a defining moment to answer questions in life that can bring them into a more meaningful lifestyle. It is true that the process lasted several years, nevertheless, the church could be released from the threat of spiritual decline, and be ushered into spiritual growth and maturity. God gave us new life so that we can share ourselves to others.

Third, church members are firmly connected into Christ and unto His body, the Church. People around us are disconnected from God and scattered like sheep having no shepherd. But discipleship can be our tool to see the end of people's disconnection, as we begin to share and bring them unto Christ. Andrew introduced Jesus to his brother Peter. Jesus sent His disciples two by two in various places in Judea. The four believers brought their paralytic friend to Jesus in Capernaum. Paul and his companion went back and forth to Asia and Europe to spread out the goods news of salvation. As the number of people being discipled grow, we will realize that they are not an ordinary group of people, but a very warm and welcoming body of disciples; eager to share their lives with others.

Conclusion

A church with a good discipleship training program is considered a blessed church. Though conflict and friction at some times are unavoidable, yet those are all parts of the portrait God would have us pursue. As the process expands, members enjoy being with each other, worshiping the Lord together and sharing their resources with one another. If your church does not have one, start with yourself, and be acquainted with the whole church as a common ground.

Leaders must be open to innovation and revision of the training manual, if necessary, for the benefit of the entire body.

Ignite A Lifestyle of Worship Plenary Speakers



Vino Atienza
WIN Seattle/
Tacoma



Mando Zacarias
WIN New Jersey
WCFI



Chito Cordero
WIN Los Angeles



Edwin Hernandez
WIN New Jersey
WCFI



Ferdie Melendres
WIN New York



Ed Miciano
WIN San Francisco
Bridgepoint

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



NOW is the Time to Worship!

Definitely a highlight of my summer this year was participating in “IGNITE a Lifestyle of Worship”, WIN-USA’s National Convergence in Murrieta, California. Almost 500 people, who simply love Jesus and desire to follow Him, gathered for one main purpose – **to WORSHIP Him!** I have a feeling that it will not only be a highlight of my summer (*or the highlight of a lot of people’s summer*) but a **benchmark in the history of WIN-USA!** All glory to God!

When we distill all the experience, wisdom and testimonies that were shared during the convergence, we will see a few things that will stand out... a few commonalities that shine through the diversified expression of WIN-USA’s journey of faith... these few concepts and truths that we can all identify with and hold as defining to our culture – these are what we call our “Core Values”! These are the ideas that are shared, learned and transmitted across states and through generations that make us... us.

Foremost of these values is WORSHIP. Like I said during the opening of IGNITE: “**Who WE ARE is defined by Who WE WORSHIP.**” The worship of God is central to shaping our Identity and molding our Culture as a church! Pleasing God and Serving Him are essential to maintaining who we are and Obeying Him is fundamental for our survival. ***Worship is In Our DNA!***

Our WORSHIP → Our IDENTITY → Our ACTIVITY

I was afraid that Convergence attendees were concerned about recording the event on their gadgets and/or streaming the happenings for their friends and/or thinking of someone else who could’ve/should’ve been there to experience it ... ***that they miss out on what the Holy Spirit is doing in the NOW!*** It’s possible to be fixated on the glory of the past (“oh, remember how awesome that experience was 10 years ago?”) or to be absorbed in the vision of the future (“oh, by faith I can already see a mighty move!”) that we miss out on what God is doing in the NOW! ***I’m always mindful of the past and ever-hopeful for the future – but I live in the present! I believe in God’s anointing and manifestation in the NOW! That’s why I say – NOW is the Time to Worship!***

After all, isn’t a glorious future simply a collection of miraculous NOWS? 😊

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





Dear Young Pastors

I'm writing this article after having just returned from the WIN-USA Convergence gathering in Murrieta, California. It was an incredible weekend of worship, learning, fellowship, ministry, and rest. The future of our organization remains very promising. I very much appreciate being a part of the WIN family.

During the pastor's meeting at the Convergence, I came to a rather startling realization. Looking around the room, I was among the youngest senior pastors in this organization—and I'm just about fifty years old! It made me wonder, "Where are the young senior pastors? Where are the teens and young adults who will carry on the leadership of WIN after the last of us are gone? What should be do today to ensure that there will be no lapse in pastoral leadership among our churches?" These are questions that must be answered, lest we soon fall into the path of inefficiency and irrelevance in ministry.

The key, of course, is to look to the next generation. And there are plenty among us. Our teens are full of enthusiasm for the faith, our young adults are able influencers in their fields, and our young couples are modeling lives of commitment to their churches, their families, and their service to God and others. It is from among these that the future of our pastoral leadership will thrive.

But where do we even begin? I say we begin with Scripture. And what better place to start than with the relationship between the Apostle Paul and his young apprentice, Timothy? How blessed we are that two of Paul's letters to Timothy have been preserved in our sacred text. Each letter is, in a sense, a concise manual for pastoral leadership. In it, the veteran minister instructs the younger minister in areas of church doctrine, team leadership, community relationships, and personal integrity. In Paul's second letter, in particular, he drills Timothy in four areas of pastoral ministry.

Preach Faithfully (2 Timothy 4:1-5). Of all the things we pastors do, the most important is to preach the word of God, "whether the time is favorable or not." Ministry always presents itself with many challenges, opportunities, and even distractions. But none should keep us from proclaiming God's message faithfully.

Stay the Course (2 Timothy 4:6-12). As he reaches the end of his own ministry, Paul reminded Timothy that in fighting the good fight, and in finishing the race, he has "remained faithful." I can personally attest to the fact that in ministry, we will constantly face the temptation to quit. But with the help of the Spirit, we ought to stay the course until the very end.

Endure Tough Times (2 Timothy 4:13-18). Trials and tribulations will always be part of ministry and pastoral leadership. But Paul reminded his young apprentice that "the Lord will deliver (us) from every evil attack and will bring (us) safely into his heavenly Kingdom." Pastoral leadership is not sustained by human will or inner strength. Rather, it rests on Christ's ability carry us through the most difficult experiences and yet come out victorious.

... Continued on Page 8

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



Dear Young Pastor . . .

Continued from Page 7

Appreciate People (2 Timothy 4:19-22). People are often cited as the chief cause of pastors' pain. But let's not forget that people are also among the leading causes of our joy. Paul was blessed to have people like Priscilla and Aquila, Erastus, Trophimus, Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, and Claudia. We may not know much about these men and women, but we do know that they all encouraged Paul in ministry. No amount of disappointment with others will match the delight of having wonderful people who come alongside us in our leadership journey.

If you are a young person reading this today, I'd like to encourage you to seek the will of Christ regarding your place in ministry. Who knows, you may be among those that God will task with the continued pastoral leadership of our churches. And to everyone else, I ask that you all join me in this prayer: That the Lord will raise among us a great number of young men and women of faith who will commit to the leadership WIN and continue the work of Christ in their generation. God bless you all!

Ignite. . .

Continued from Page 3



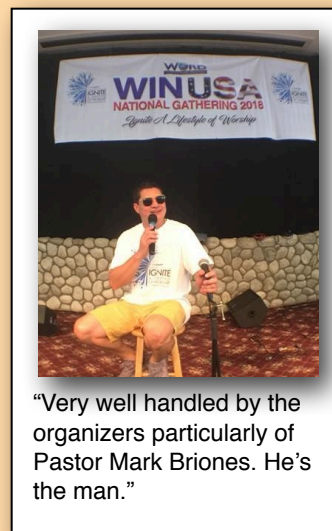
"We are blessed in WIN to have anointed pastors."

"Good job everybody and see you all again in next convergence. TO GOD be the glory!!"

"Everything was smooth considering the number of delegates."

"Looking forward to the next Convergence."

"Loved the idea of cell groups, especially for Youth!"



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