

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

Answering The Call To Serve The City

Jonathan Aldaba, LA Pyros



Thanksgiving. A holiday widely known to most as when families gather together, or a time that reminds all of us to appreciate all things. For some, it is a time of rest and reflection, and yet in reality, many are out there in the streets, barely getting by day to day.

On November 22nd, Thanksgiving Day, several members of Pyros Youth Ministry under Word International Ministries Los Angeles volunteered from early morning until the afternoon to serve and feed the impoverished region of South LA. With the unprecedented numbers that Pyros brought to the volunteer field, we became the main workforce. That day, God moved.

The youth assisted in setting up and worked as food servers during the event. The delicious Thanksgiving food enticed many, with most staying and having the opportunity to hear God's word. Aside from serving food, some of the volunteers drove and delivered packaged food straight to the homes of those who do not have anyone to celebrate Thanksgiving with. We left each home with a prayer and a hug. The only request of each homeowner: that we come back again. It was certainly a Thanksgiving we will not forget.

As the people of God who are blessed with provisions we often take for granted, it is simply right to let everyone else experience a Thanksgiving that they will remember. The hope is that we all do our part to ensure every corner of our community is enveloped in God's love, one thankful smile at a time. There is no better time to put Jesus' words into action, and that is one of the greatest examples of serving others.

Adventures of a RAVE Mom

Tess Cordero, WIN Los Angeles

Last October, we joined a Rave Outreach in our effort to find creative means to reach millennials. Attended by 125,000 young people aged 18-24 years old, *Escape: Psycho Circus* was the nation's biggest Halloween festival. Despite the outreach training, I was not prepared for what I saw. Hordes of young girls wore almost nothing; many walked alone in the dark streets of San Bernardino looking for tickets. I was blown away to see so many kids overdosing and getting lost. I have never seen so many ambulances and police cars coming and going.

Ravers say that a rave is a place where, while dancing to electronic music and having a good time, they feel loved and accepted by everyone no matter who they are or what they look like. Law enforcement has estimated that 90% of attendees at raves use drugs, mostly Ecstasy, which lowers inhibitions, increases blind trust, and enhances touch and sexual activity.

As Rave Moms, we were there to be moms to kids who were lost, in trouble, in danger, or needed medical attention. We ministered in the streets from 6:00 pm till 5:00 am. We started with giving out "Kandi" bracelets to the young people as they came in. As part of the rave sub-culture, the ravers collect and trade these bead bracelets with each other as a sign of PLUR (Peace, Love, Unity and Respect). We also reminded them to stay together and ping their parking because many of them get lost.

Because the kids were mostly under the influence, we didn't share the gospel outright. The bracelets had the website of PLUR Life Ministries where they can hear about the gospel message and how they are loved and accepted by God. Many of them have a bad concept of religion or felt condemned by the church. We were just there to love on them, and not condemn. Rob Myers, head of PLUR Life Ministries told us, "You don't clean a fish before you catch it."



These bracelets direct ravers to the Gospel message on the website.

My first action scene was helping David and Laura walk towards our RV. She was very sick and was about to collapse from drug intake. We set her on a cot and called the paramedics. We were pleasantly surprised at the end of the concert because the couple came back to our RV to thank us. Laura said we saved her life. Shortly after, we again called the medics after we saw four kids behind a drive-thru. One of the young girls was throwing up and had severe headaches after she took something. We called the medics and they were brought to the promoter's medical tent.

We had a couple of Rave Dads in the team, but they had to stay put in our base because older men may be mistaken as predators or human traffickers. They will also be stumbled over the sight of these girls. It was a blessing to see our WIN-LA Rave Dad, Ed Francisco, sharing with a young man outside our RV. As they were praying, a couple of guys asked if they can pray with them.



Ed Francisco shared with a raver outside our RV. Then two guys asked to join the prayer.

We were on the lookout for girls walking alone after midnight. Many were looking to buy tickets while their friends were already inside. Some lost their companions. We offered to walk with scantily dressed girls like Jenna who was walking alone at midnight because she was not able to buy a ticket. Guys across the street were heckling her, while a guy followed her around. When we confronted the guy, he

* Names have been changed to protect privacy.

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We called the medical team to assist ravers who got sick from drugs.



said to us Rave Moms, "I just had to try". She called a friend to pick her up five blocks away and said, "Three moms are protecting me!"

Many kids got in trouble after the concert ended at 2:00 am. There were massive crowds, road blocks, and the area was very unsafe. We helped several scared-looking girls who were alone because they lost their companions. Several lost their phones while dancing. We helped contact their friends through our social media accounts and walked with them several blocks until they found their companions. At three or four in the morning, some Rave Moms accompanied girls who parked their cars many blocks from the

venue. We never commented on what they wore but we offered them blankets when they felt cold.

At our base, we had phone charging stations for those who ran out of power. We also offered coffee and blankets. As the kids were on their way out, we displayed a "Free Mom Hugs" sign. I could not believe how many young people ran towards us saying, "I want a Mom hug!" Many gays came to me for a hug and I felt real compassion for them. One of the gays said to me, "You don't know what this means to us. People don't know what's going on deep inside of us."

One of the girls asked me, "Why are you doing this?" I explained that we just wanted to help young people and make them feel the love of Jesus. She said, "It felt very spiritual even before you talked about Jesus."

We arrived home past 6:00 am. Yes, we were tired and sleepless. Yes, it was very dangerous because we were around scalpers, pushers, predators and human traffickers; but we felt a certain kind of joy.



Free Mom Hugs!

When kids get in trouble, they run to their moms, right? We became Moms to this lost generation. Many of these kids were simply looking for happiness in the wrong places. If only they met the One who can truly satisfy.... These kids may never come to WIN-LA but we were just happy to be the hands and feet of Jesus outside the four walls of the church.

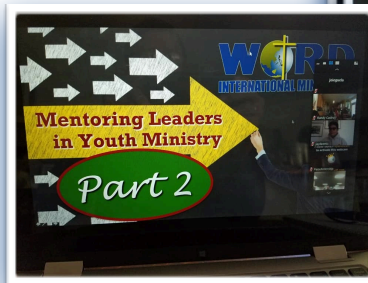
Tess is the wife of Pastor Chito Cordero, Senior Pastor of WIN-LA and International Missions Director

AROUND THE US REGION

Youth and Young Adults leaders from various WIN USA churches meet regularly via Zoom with Dr. Ed Miciano for training and equipping. The past meetings touched on the topic of "Mentoring Leaders in Youth Ministry."

During the last session on Mentoring, 27 desktops, laptops and smartphones connected online. At least 40 young people and pastors were in attendance. Thank you Pastors and future leaders for your time.

Next topic is "How to write your Vision Statement." ADMG!



WIN Massachusetts launched a street evangelism campaign for three consecutive Sundays during Salem's annual month long Halloween Festival in October. Salem is commonly known as the "Witch City." The witch trials of 1692 have cast a shadow over Salem, Massachusetts, that has spanned centuries. Several families came together and took the opportunity to minister God's Word in the busy streets of downtown Salem.

WISL Graduation Day, November 18, 2018

Congratulations WISL graduates for completing Associate Arts in Biblical Studies! We are proud of you! You have increased the ranks of our teachers and sharpened your ministry skills. May the Lord direct your lives and ministries.



Alberto Cordero, Maria Wong, Tess Cordero, Lyndon Aldaba, Rachel Briones, Mark Briones, Alex Wong with Babes Paulate and Dr. Ferdie Melendres



The Power of Unity

Psalm 133

This psalm is an acclamation on unity and harmony among God's people declaring, "how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." The power of unity is hard to ignore, because if we pay attention to its principle, we can persuade people to live together to act with one goal. On the other hand, if we neglect its goodness and strength, our works and labors will be pointless and frustrating. The psalmist penned this song with the intent of encouraging the Israelites to work together as God's special people. He went back to the time of Aaron to illustrate the anointing that God pours out to those who would live together in unity. To him, the spirit of unity is proper and necessary to succeed, so that when the people of God work hand in hand, there is life, joy, love, strength, blessings, and they are forevermore.

The psalmist assures the importance of unity in the country, in the community, in the church as well. First, unity is compared to a precious oil, the anointing of the Levites that overflows from his head to his beard down to the edge of his robe. Oil is used to anoint kings and priests in biblical times that symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit within them. Because of unity, the presence and power of the Almighty will flow from the head of church down to the workers and members like oil, and it becomes the binding source of unity to accomplish the things to be done. The anointed unity of the group is the driving force that would foster harmony and cooperation among the believers. However, we can see today that lots of people are discouraged to continue serving God in the church because of the lack of unity among the members and leaders. Christians are splintered not only into denominationalism, but within the church too, where believers can be isolated because of irreconcilable disagreements. These Christians continue to do their disunited things while the world is watching, without knowing that the solution is actually within their reach.

In his epistle to the Romans, Paul tells the believers "to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Rom. 15:5-6). Having one mind and one mouth to glorify the Lord could not be achieved unless the Lord grant us the anointing for unity. In fact, this is the prayer of Paul to the Romans and also, to all churches, that the God of patience and comfort grant us all to be like-minded toward one another. Jesus himself prayed on the night He was betrayed saying, "that they may be one as we are one" (John 17:22). Christ, Paul and the Psalmist knew the importance of unity among God's people. But why is it difficult for some Christians to be united? It is true that disunity can be discouraging, nevertheless, when we are discouraged and lose hope because of strife and conflict, we need encouragement, and we need more courage to face and upset the spirit of disunity. When we are disheartened and our spirit are cast down, we need to come into the presence of the God of comfort and encouragement knowing that He is able to help lift us up and enable us to persevere through another day.

The attribute of God is the one reason why unity is possible in the church. Our God is One God, three persons of the Godhead – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All three work together in perfect unity with one plan and purpose. The triune God is not divided in its saving work, having one direction for all kinds of group of sinners, like you and me. In the Trinity, there is no confusion, no conflict, and no disputation, for they are One from eternity to eternity. The triune God opens our blind eyes to see the truth about the kingdom of heaven. He opens our deaf ears to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. He touches our stony heart to receive and accept the gospel of salvation. He activates our dead wills to believe the saving works of the cross. And for these reasons, believers are not excused to be

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disengaged from the cause of unity of the good Lord. God is sovereign, but let us not resist the sovereign grace of God within the time. The church living in unity shows a powerful witness to the world, but those seeking their individual agendas leads only to disunity, and could never glorify the God of our Lord. Unity brings powerful anointing everywhere it is found, in a country, in a community, and in a church. Disunity is highly catastrophic everywhere it is found – in a country, in a community, and in a church.

The second assurance the psalmist wrote in this chapter is that, unity is compared to the dew of Mount Hermon falling upon Mount Zion. Hermon, with its height of 9,232 feet above sea level, is the highest point in the Holy Land. It is located in the northern part of Israel, while Zion is on the south, at the city Jerusalem, 252 miles away. Dew is a moist, a source of water coming down from the sky or heaven. In a dry season, dew provided an important supplement for rain, and it has life-giving power to sustain the water need for mankind. When the psalmist talks about dew coming down from Hermon to Zion, it is very hard to imagine literally about the overflow of dew in such a very long distance. But we can understand from the passage itself that just as oil comes down from the head of a priest, and dew comes down from the top of the mountain, so also the blessings of God comes down to the people who live together in unity. “For there, the Lord, commanded the blessings.” It means, “there, in the unity of the brethren,” God commanded the blessings to overflow. And as the dew gives life to vegetation, unity gives life to the church.

We understand that oil and water are two important substances that will not mix together. But the illustrations used in this wonderful psalm of unity symbolize both oil and dew as the means by which the difficulties to achieve the goals could be attained through unity in diversity. Many churches today are a mix of diverse people, races, ethnicities, languages, and colors, similar to the various species of plants, trees, and vegetables over the hilly and mountainous areas. Paul in his epistle to Ephesian church spoke about unity in diversity, “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3). He tells that God’s call for His church is to be united, yet He has made us diverse. Though different personalities, skills, talents and gifts, the unity in the church can be enriched by the diversity of every member. No one would be superior or inferior to one another because every part must operate according to its design. We are here for a common good, for God’s redemptive purpose, for the edification of all brethren, and for the glorification of the One Triune God.

In conclusion, we as God’s people, need to be sure to set out an example of godly expectations in and out of the church. Our response to the depressing state of discord to some churches in our surrounding should be, to face it with humility and understanding. Though there are times that conflict and disunity are unavoidable, Scripture tells us to live in peace with everyone as far as it depends on us. We must guard the faith of our profession, and speak the truth in love when the truth of the gospel is being undermined, so as sin has entered into the church. But never compromise the value of unity at the expense of the eternal gospel of Jesus Christ.

John Maxwell ~ Your Road Map to Success

“You have to look at the person’s gifts, temperament, passions, successes, joys, and opportunities. And once you find that seed, you need to fertilize it with encouragement and water it with opportunity. If you do, the person will blossom before your eyes.”

The WORD on the STREET



The Distinguishing Mark

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the leaders, workers and members of WIN-Seattle for recently celebrating their 19th anniversary! I've had the privilege of serving as their pastor since 2005. Before that, Bro. Babes Paulate (our National Overseer) was their Senior Pastor. It has been a wonderful experience to see God at work in and through this local church!

Taking from WIN-Seattle's anniversary theme, "*Marked by Love*", I want to extend its application to all of us in WIN-USA. If you talk to a new member or a visitor of any WIN-USA local church and ask them "*What drew you to WIN or What was your first impression of WIN?*" You would get a whole range of answers... from those involving their excellent music ministry to their wonderful potlucks... from their accessible facilities to their skilled preachers or maybe even their warm hospitality! While it's great to be remembered for the things that we carefully pray and prepare for, Jesus gave us a new commandment- that if we obeyed - would leave a definite and lasting impression: "*love one another as I have loved you*" He says (John 13:34). Right after that he tells us "*by THIS all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*" (John 13:35). As that old campfire song used to say "*Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love!*". **Love is our Distinguishing Mark!** Let's be encouraged to seek new and creative ways to display the love of Jesus to an increasingly hostile and unfriendly world.

*Let us love one another as Christ has loved us... an unconditional, sacrificial and transformative love!
They will know we are followers of Christ by our love –
and by THIS love, we will change the world!*

The WORD on the street is "LOVE"! I conclude this article with a two-fold ending: A warm CONGRATULATIONS again to WIN-Seattle on their 19th anniversary, and, a general CHALLENGE to all of us... to renew our commitment to love one another as Christ has loved us!

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



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"Marked by Love", 19th Anniversary Cake
WIN-Seattle



Pastor Babes Paulate, WIN USA National Overseer,
praying for the Council Members of WIN-Seattle
during the Sunday Celebration of their 19th
Anniversary



Some Men and Women from WIN-Seattle 19th Anniversary
celebration, Oct. 28, 2018 "Marked by Love"

AROUND THE US REGION

WCFI New Jersey once again
donated gift-filled Shoeboxes towards
*Samaritan Purse - Operation Christmas
Child.*



*"It's easier to
take than to
give. It's
nobler to give
than to take.
The thrill of
taking lasts a
day. The thrill
of giving lasts
a lifetime."*

~ Joan Marques

Business Economics of the Kingdom

Hermen Atienza III

The social science called Economics evolved into a scientific discipline only in the last two centuries. However, the writings of all periods of history, starting from the Bible's Book of Genesis, indicate a great degree of human concern for, interest in, and even aptitude for this economics.

It is even safe to say that you, dear reader, can be considered a practicing economist, even if you are not a holder of an economics degree.

The basic tenets of "Economics" as a social science are as follows:

- (1) Its studies activities of men as members of a community.
- (2) The human activities studied are those directed toward satisfying material wants.
- (3) It is particularly concerned with man's efforts to attain satisfaction when his means are scarce.
- (4) Man's means are scarce because his resources are not abundant enough to satisfy all his desires for them.
- (5) Lack of abundant resources requires that they be allocated among alternative uses. The allocation of scarce resources among alternative uses is the essential condition of economic activity. It also implies that some human wants must be denied.

This definition of economics, as one premised on scarcity, is so different from the Greek word for "economics" -- oikonomia -- which literally means "house-law." The first biblical principle - stewardship - is the root economics.

Before the Fall of Adam and Eve, man stood at the head of all creation as God's General Managers. The Lord had given them dominion over the earth (Gen 1:28). This management assignment involved work. God tasked Adam with the responsibility to manage and care for earth (Gen 2:15). This was the original economics. It involved the interaction of the factors of production (labor, resources or capital, and management) without the scarcity of resources and the need to allocate them.

The scarcity economics as we know it today has its roots in two biblical events.

The first event, which led to eventual emergence of the economics of scarcity, is described in the Chapter 28 of the book of Ezekiel. This account is about satan (the king of Tyre). It gives a thought-provoking insight that business and greed was a principal motive behind satan's rebellion against God.

(12) "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, (Satan) and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

(14) "You were the anointed cherub who covers; established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

(15) You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.

(16) "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones.

(18) "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. (Ezekiel 28:12,14-18, NKJV, Emphasis mine)

Indeed, even before the creation, unsatisfiable greed and lust for wealth through unrighteous business and trade practices were somehow involved in the rebellion against the Lord.

The second event was the fall. The Lord said to Adam ""Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life ... In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread "(Gen 3:17,19). The fall ended man's time of unlimited economics. Scarcity replaced unlimited in the definition of economics.

Economics was the groundwork for the king of Tyre's primeval strategy to manipulate and control human and world events (1 John 5:19). It led to the situation where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

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“Give unto the LORD the glory due his name,” says the psalmist; “worship the LORD in the beauty of his holiness” (Ps. 29:2). Surely the “holiness” of our public worship should influence how we dress for the occasion. There is nothing remotely “casual” about the worship taking place in heaven, where appropriate clothing seems to matter (Rev. 7:9-12). What internal disposition are we revealing when we dress no differently for church than we do for a trip to the mall or hanging out with friends around a barbeque grill? Could it be that our casual dress, chosen merely for our own comfort and convenience (that which “cost me nothing”), is a reflection of an equally casual, can’t-be-bothered (“what a nuisance this is!”) attitude toward worship itself?

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These two Biblical events led to the emergence of poverty -- a state of being where human beings are deprived of not only their basic material needs but also of their dreams, goals, motivations and desires.

Man's desire to be free of the curse of lifelong toil, his consciousness of the limited earthly resources available, and his craving to satisfy his limitless wants, all set the stage for man's desire to ruthlessly accumulate as much wealth as he possibly could and through whatever means necessary.

Paul in 1 Timothy 6:9-10 says, “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

When one talks of greed, we often think of a shrewd ruthless and heartless rich man. However, greed may be as prevalent among the poor and the rich. It is likely that the one most desirous of material stuff is one who owns little or nothing. This is especially true when one does not even have enough for food, clothing, and shelter. It is lamentable that business is at the center of the drive to accumulate wealth and power. Business profoundly affects, if not controls, the other key institutions of society – family, government, education, arts and entertainment, media, even religion.

Therefore, the renewal of business practices and corporate systems is a vital part of national revival. Business must have the economics of the kingdom of Jesus Christ as its cornerstone.



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