

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

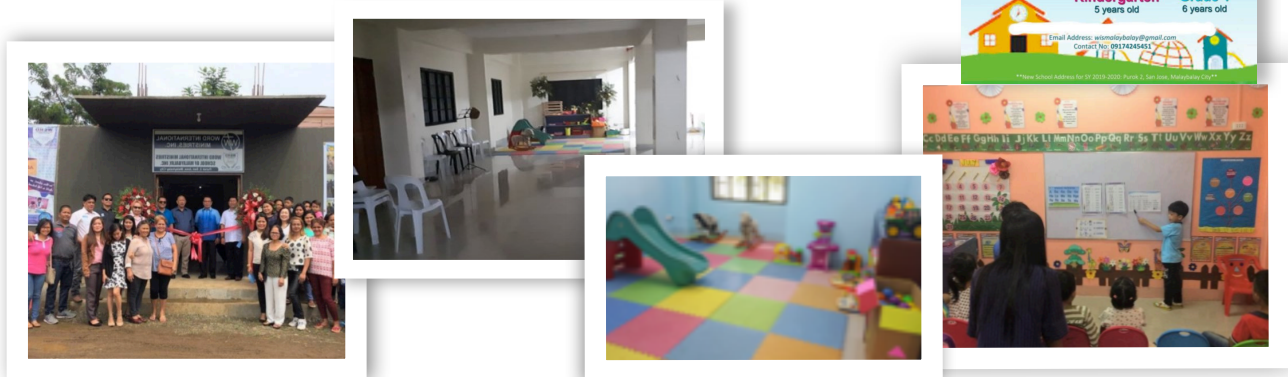
CSOH Update: Malaybalay / Iloilo

In July, Rex Waga, Vice President of CSOH, USA, visited the various projects of Center for Seeds of Hope in the Philippines.

WIS Malaybalay is in the 4th phase of construction (second floor) with the ground floor already being used. As of July 16th, the ground floor was already 90 percent accomplished needing a few finishing touches. The only major concern is the water system because of the low water pressure in the area. The installation of a water tank and pump is being scheduled.

Thank you to Word Christian Community Church (WCCC), Vancouver BC, Canada and Senior Pastor Ron de Villa for being a major contributor to this project.

WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES
Teach your child to choose the correct path. Prov. 22:6
SCHOOL OF MALAYBALAY, INC.
 WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES SCHOOL OF MALAYBALAY, INC.
 Offers the following for SY 2019-2020:
Toddler 3 years old
Nursery 4 years old
Kindergarten 5 years old
Grade 1 6 years old
 Email Address: wordintlphil@protonmail.com
 Contact No. 09174245461
 New School Address for SY 2019-2020: Purok 2, San Jose, Malaybalay City



WINK Christian Learning Center Iloilo has successfully transferred to a new place. It is now located at Barangay Habog Habog, Molo, Iloilo City (near the Molo Plaza and Baluarte Elementary School). This area is a residential community with over 100 families. This means that we're going to be more than able to reach out to even more kids and their parents.



Soul Anchor 2019: Renewed Pursuit

Rizza Aldaba

Summertime marked another anticipated Soul Anchor, with youth and young adults from all over Southern California and Arizona uniting for another mighty movement of God. This year's camp was held once again at Oak Glen Christian Conference Center in Yucaipa, CA from July 4 to 7, with the theme, **Renewed Pursuit**, being inspired from Isaiah 1:16-17:



Rizza

**“Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes.
Cease to do evil,
Learn to do good;
Seek justice,
Rebuke the oppressor;
Defend the fatherless,
Plead for the widow.”**

The following leaders and guest speakers taught eye-opening workshops to both the youth and young adults in combined and breakout groups: Jonathan Aldaba (*Pursue Worship*), Sandra Cordero (*Pursue Wonder*), Pastor Hermen Atienza (*Pursue Vision*), Pastor Biboy Abejuela (*Pursue the Word*), Sis. Julie Atienza (*Pursue Workplace Success*), Joanna Cordero (*Pursue Integrity*), Pastor Jersson and Elizabeth Garcia (*Pursue Marriage*), Mishal Estanislao (*Pursue Purity for the girls*), and Jonathan Cardeno (*Pursue Purity for the boys*).

Aside from that, each night was ignited by powerful sessions, starting with Pastor Mark Briones on *Pursuing a Fresh Start*, Pastor Chito Cordero on *Pursuing Purpose*, and on the last night, Pastor Hector Saucedo on gaining a *Renewed Pursuit*.

Mishal Estanislao, a youth leader from WIN-San Diego and one of our workshop speakers, shares: “God showed me this year how even at such a young age these kids are carrying so much heavy baggage. He revealed to me how prayer is needed in their lives as a generation and to remind them that His love and comfort never ends.”

Mark Uy, a youth leader from WIN-Chino, attested how Soul Anchor was such an anointed experience for himself and his WIN-Chino youth, as he saw many of his younger youth develop a love and desire for a relationship with the Lord, with one of them even accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour at one of the altar calls.

In the midst of the fun and fellowship, there were many moments of surrender and restoration, from the worship, the altar calls, and even during the water baptism as new souls openly offered their lives to God. It was truly amazing to witness how each year the Holy Spirit unravels something new and wonderful that surpasses our expectations, and how God continues to transform lives during each camp and beyond.





Law and Grace

Is it proper for Christians to abandon the Mosaic law and live by the grace of God through faith in Christ alone?

As Paul said to the church in Rome that they are not “under the law but under grace,” (Rom. 6:15). John also wrote that, “the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:17). But wait, what about the other side of the coin? Christ has no problem in obeying the law. He said: “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill” (Matt. 5:17). And Paul confessed: “I delight in the law of God according to the inward man” (Rom. 7:22). Is there any contradiction, or we don’t only understand the nature and design of God’s law to human beings? The truth is that, there is a deep issue in the entire Scripture, that when a person understands Christ’s grace, he will also understand its connection to the law of Moses.

To begin with, let us go back to the original stage of humanity. We understand that when God created Adam in the beginning, it was accompanied with commands and laws to “be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it, and have dominion over all creatures” (Gen. 1:28). Among all things, only Adam was made in God’s image, the only living thing with God’s breath of life, so that he could walk and converse with Him. It is clear that God made it plain in those commands what man should do and follow. Human beings are created in God’s own image and likeness to reflect Him, as it is written in the Torah, saying: “You shall be holy, for I am the Lord your God am holy” (Lev. 19:2). Nevertheless, they are only external laws given to them to provide specific applications. But there is another law inbuilt in the divine image, laws that are already on men’s conscience. As Paul said: “when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness” (Rom. 2:14-15). Paul wants to make it clear that when God created human beings from the beginning, they were pure and innocent, and the law of God had already been written

in their hearts. Their conscience and thought testify if they are guilty or not, even though they don’t have yet the Mosaic law.

But the fall had changed everything! Though Adam had desired to imitate God, to be like Him because he was created in His image and likeness, the entrance of sin distorted the image which resulted in the malfunction of inner human instincts. The outward appearance remains the same, but the image from within is marred. The commands to govern the creation and to live best are unchanged, however, human beings are crumpled and twisted from within, unable to follow the same commands of God written in their hearts. “Just as through one man’s sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Rom 5:12). Indeed, human beings are powerless to obey God fully, too weak to reverse the adverse effect of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil.

When God called Moses to write the Decalogue on the tablets of stone, including all others laws and commands, it was a “rewriting” of the original law from man’s heart into the stone tablets. The law in the stone is given to fallen men, to include the sacrificial offerings in order to address the new but fallen conditions of humanity. Paul said that the law was “our tutor to bring us to Christ” (Gal. 3:24). It means that the recipient of the written law, the Israelites, are considered “underage children,” heirs and heiress that live in the restricted environment of Mosaic law. The law is their guardian until the day when the types and sacrifices of the law would be fulfilled by the coming Savior. The written law presented in the negatives such as “thou shall not” and “no other gods” are indications of men’s inability to rectify the damage they had done. At the same time, the animal sacrifices substituted for human’s sinfulness lacked proportion and could not deliver the forgiveness they pictured. “In those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins” (Heb. 10:3-4). It is hard to understand the law of Moses without understanding the grace of Christ and God’s intention to bring the people back to

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



Simple Discipleship

Some of us grew up in a church tradition where “discipleship” was only a trendy buzz word... It was either a one-hour midweek class that’s part of a 2-3 year curriculum or a half-hour Sunday School lesson after the church potluck in the Spring or Fall seasons! Some might have stacks of ‘Certificates of Completion’ after years of church attendance and yet have no clue about what they all mean in “real life”!.. Something tells me that “discipleship” is more than just the download of information and definitely more than simply going through levels of training if the goal is to make it connect with everyday life!

Looking at the Bible (*which is always a good place to start!*), Jesus DID emphasize “discipleship” when he challenged His first “disciples” (*learners, followers, students*) and said **“Follow Me.”** Those that did enter into a ***lifelong, life-altering relationship with Jesus*** would multiply into a formidable movement that we now call the “Church!”

Here’s a debatable but useful definition of biblical discipleship:

“Christian DISCIPLESHIP is a Purposeful MOVEMENT that begins with RELATIONSHIP and results in Christ-centered TRANSFORMATION.”

- It’s NOT a CLASS but it involves a lot of learning.
- It’s NOT a PROGRAM but a process that may involve programmed steps and activities.
- It’s NOT about GOING TO CHURCH but involves GROWING in a COMMUNITY of Disciples.

I like how author and pastor, Daniel Im put it:

“A lot of churches will see discipleship as a program whereas in reality when you look at the Scriptures, discipleship is actually more about the direction you’re moving in rather than the destination that you’ve arrived.” (Daniel Im)

• ***It is a Purposeful Process...*** it is intentional (*as opposed to accidental or coincidental*). It has the goal of transforming the disciple and restoring in him/her the image and likeness of Christ! As such, it involves one’s whole being – yes, 24-7-365 – from salvation to eternity!

• ***It begins with a Relationship with Jesus...*** when you were born-again, your New Life is now IN CHRIST - you died to your Old Self and have trusted the Holy Spirit to guide you into growth in the new found life with new goals, new priorities and new desires.

• ***It happens IN COMMUNITY...*** Yes, the church (*that group of people you gather with and worship with and attend classes with*) will play a crucial role in your growth and development as a disciple. No, there are no perfect communities... but, you had better belong and commit to a good, Christ-centered and loving community as early as possible!

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





Pastorally Speaking

We're All in This Together

So here's my pet peeve. Why is it that when a movie is over and the closing credits start to scroll up the screen, the people in the audience stand up and leave the theater? The truth is, without all the names listed in the closing credits, the film would never have been completed. Each name listed, even if we don't know anything about them, is as much a contributor to the film project as the superstar actor that performed. The least we can do to honor the work of every contributor is read their names as they scroll up in front of our eyes.

You see, ministry works on the same principle. While we tend to make heroes of preachers and worship leaders simply because they are the most visible, the work of the ministry can never be done without the many nameless men and women who give their time, resources, and energy to do God's work. And each one needs to be acknowledged and honored for their contribution to Kingdom ministry.

At first glance, the third chapter of Nehemiah appears to be the most boring part of the book. After all, it's just a list of faceless names and a brief description of something they did towards the building of the Jerusalem wall. A typical verse in this chapter reads like this: *Malchijah the son of Rechab, ruler of the district of Beth-haccherem, repaired the Dung Gate. He rebuilt it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars.* One might think, "Why in the world should I care about Malchijah or Beth-haccherem? So what if he fixed a door? And what is a Dung Gate anyway?" Well, the reason we should care is because whoever Malchijah was, he was part of a team that completed one of the most ambitious projects in the history of Jerusalem—the rebuilding of the wall. Sure, Nehemiah seems to be the hero of this story, but he certainly could not

have accomplished anything without everyone else pitching in. If anything, Nehemiah 3 provides us some very important lessons on what it takes for a project to work. Let me suggest a few.

It takes leaders with integrity. The first verse of this chapter tells us that Eliashib the high priest along with the other priests built the Sheep Gate. Isn't that interesting? The first builders mentioned were not even builders by trade. Rather, they were the spiritual leaders of the people. As leaders, they not only led with their words but also with their works. Even though they were dignified priests, they were willing to roll up their sleeves and get involved in the dirty work of rebuilding. It has been said that leaders should not require of others something they themselves are not willing to do. A primary reason why the building project was a success is because the people had the privilege of following leaders with integrity.

It takes a clear and compelling vision. Whether it was building bricks, or hammering nails, or fastening latches for a gate, everyone in the project understood that the ultimate goal was to build a wall. The actual work each person did might have seemed menial, or even inconsequential, but it was all part of a grander scheme. Vision is simply a vivid picture of a preferred future. Without it, it is easy to be discouraged and distracted. But as long as the vision is clear, and as long as it remains compelling, people are willing to continue in their work towards seeing the vision become a reality.

It takes workers who function as a team. It's fascinating to note that most of the people mentioned in chapter three were not even professional builders and construction workers. For the most part, they

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



Law and Grace

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their original portrait. In Christ Jesus, we are “being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Cor. 3:18). The written law in the hearts of men will be permanent, but the written law in stone tablets were temporary until the coming day dawned.

Finally, when Christ came, He changed everything! Jesus recreates a brand new group of people marked by a restored internal love for the Lord and a desire to imitate Him. The book of Hebrews explained that in the new covenant, God will “put My laws in their minds and write them on their hearts” (8:10). Through Christ, the law in the stone tablets had been rewritten onto the hearts of the believers by the Spirit. Paul declares that, “we are the epistle of Christ, ministered by us not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but in tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart” (2 Cor. 3:2-3). The spirit of God empowers Christ’s followers that we may obey the righteous requirement of the law, not outwardly but inwardly.

Jesus did not abolish the law but fulfilled it in our hearts through the grace of God. Our Savior is Jesus, never the law. Obedience to the law is a demonstration of our love for Him. Christ said, “If you love Me, you will keep My commands” (John 14:15). The law is a gift from God, and we need to understand its worth in our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Simple Discipleship

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DON'T just attend church or enroll in class! BE a genuine Christ-follower by truly accepting your NEW IDENTITY in Christ and allowing that relationship with Him to TRANSFORM your daily habits, life- goals, aspirations, ambitions, your set priorities and even your very personality!

BE involved. Be involved in Discipleship. Be involved in Discipleship TODAY!

Remember Jesus’ mandate? *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.* (Matt. 28:19-20)

We’re All in This Together

Continued from Page 5

were ordinary folks who were willing to do whatever they could to finish the project. Along with the priests, other workers included goldsmiths, perfumers, rulers, temple servants, merchants, and even the daughters of rulers. Ordinary people willing to function as a team can accomplish the extraordinary!

The saddest part of the chapter is found in verse five, which reads, *And next to them the Tekoites, repaired, but their nobles would not stoop to serve their Lord.* Isn’t that disappointing? Some of the noblemen felt they were too good to do manual labor that they refused to participate in the project. Nehemiah, however, warned the naysayers that *you will have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem* (2:20). The price of hardheadedness and laziness is that you will not enjoy the fruit of the team’s labor. We function as a team, and we are rewarded as a team.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus said that he would build his church. And he left his disciples with the task of making disciples of every people. Do you realize what that means? The church has no problem with a leader of integrity because Jesus is the most honorable leader anyone can follow. The church also has no problem with a clear and compelling vision because the Great Commission is as clear and as compelling as it can be. The church, however, can be plagued with workers who fail to function as a team. That part falls on us.

My prayer is that as we follow our leader, Jesus, in fulfilling the Great Commission, we will each learn to also work with our fellow brothers and sisters so that, as a team, we will be blessed to see the work of God’s Kingdom come to its fulfillment and completion.

AROUND THE US REGION

WIN LA Ladies' and Mens' Retreat

Keeping the flame alive, stirring up the deep wells of Revival.

WIN LA hosted its annual Kingsmen and Deborah's Fire Retreats last spring. They were joined by men and ladies from WIN Chino, WIN Norwalk and WIN IE.

WARRIOR WOMEN

May 17 - 19, 2019
Murrieta Hot Springs Christian
Conference Center, Calif.



TAKE CHARGE, MOVE FORWARD
May 28 - 30, 2019
Forest Home Christian Camp, Calif.





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“Being willing to give up some of the things you love in order to focus on what has the greatest impact isn’t an easy lesson to learn. But the earlier you embrace it, the sooner you can dedicate yourself to excellence in what matters most.”

~ John C. Maxwell,
How Successful People Think

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable— if anything is excellent or praiseworthy— think about such things. (NIV)



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