

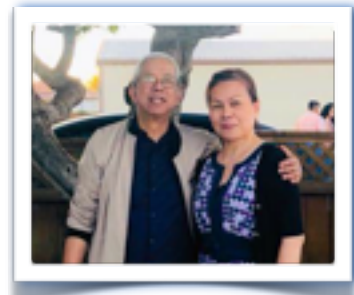
# HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

## In The Heart of San Francisco

### JCSGCC - WIN: The Big Little Church

Jesus Christ Son of God Christian Church (JCSGCC) was officially registered in 2005, as Jesus First Christian Ministry (JFCM). Beginning with no more than twelve members, today, by the grace of GOD, the church has grown into about a hundred congregants, for both the San Francisco and Vallejo locations. Founding pastor, Francisco Hidalgo, oversees this church, which continues to impact the community as it heeds the call to evangelize; faithfully submitting to the life of faith in the LORD.



Pastor Francisco & Violeta Hidalgo

The church in downtown San Francisco is at the heart of the Mission district, where a large number of the Filipinos reside, and where many of the homeless and the disenfranchised people frequent. This is where the grace of GOD is even made more evident for in such a very challenging condition, the church has witnessed the manifest presence and power of GOD, with miracles of healing and deliverance. Indeed, the LORD is gracious and merciful to His people.

The JCSGCC, in its desire to help ensure health and vitality as a body of Christ and in keeping up with the ever increasing tasks and challenges in its path, joined the Word International Ministries in 2017, paving the way for a more exciting days of stronger ministry.

JCSGCC rests and refreshes itself in the Scripture of John Chapter 15, which was given by the LORD Jesus to Pastor Francisco Hidalgo, at the time when He was a new convert in Christ, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It was there that Francisco received his clear calling. And, to this day, the call to fruitfulness in His faithfulness remains.

Indeed, JCSGCC is a church truly blessed by GOD. His mercy endures forever. His grace is sufficient for our strength. Praise the LORD.



# AROUND THE US REGION

## WIN USA NORTHEAST DISTRICT

**WIN NE USA Pastors and Leaders** from New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts gathered together at the Word Christian Fellowship International Church, Hopewell, NJ, October 25 - 26, 2019.

The purpose of their meeting was:

1. To revisit the vision, mission and church strategies for WIN churches in the USA and the world.
2. To provide updates on the state of WIN churches.
3. To strengthen the bond among pastors in the region.
4. To encourage one another in the course of church ministry.

The delegates were welcomed by Pastor Edwin Hernandez, Pastor of WCFI New Jersey. Key speakers were Pastor Armando Zacarias, US NE District Overseer, spoke on *The Elijah Meltdown* and Pastor Babes Paulate, US Regional Director, spoke on *Taking the Path of Perpetuity*. Ces Zacarias led the breakout activities.

## Northeast Pastors & Leaders Meeting

October 25-26, 2019, New Jersey



Keynote Speakers: Bro Babes Paulate, WIN USA Region Director  
Bro Mando Zacarias, WIN NE District Overseer

Word Christian Fellowship Int'l  
44 Van Dyke Rd Hopewell, NJ 08525



## Bridgepoint Community Church - WIN San Francisco

Great Day for Worship  
October, at the heart of Union Square, San Francisco





## Around the US Region

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### WIN Seattle

WIN Seattle's STS (Saved to Serve) Teams were activated to share God's love in tangible ways. STS Team 1 served to clean up our church's immediate surroundings while STS Team 2 served at the Light of Christ Community Garden. September, Federal Way, WA



### WIN New Jersey (WCFI)

#### Operation Christmas Child

WCFI Family is on its 3<sup>rd</sup> year involvement with Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, a Samaritan's Purse ministry project, to bless children in need around the world in action. Through the efforts of Malou Escobar, church members young and old completed 363 shoeboxes this year!



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



## Social Media or Antisocial Media?

What church has not taken advantage of the developments in technology to further the kingdom, serve its members and engage their community? I will say “none”!

Everyone, including businesses, artists, politicians, environmental groups, matchmakers and yes, churches – all use Social Media to advance their cause.

**That’s all good... or, *is it really good??***

Multiple scholarly researches have been done to examine the social media phenomenon.

My goal in expressing this is to simply make you reflect upon your use of social media. If I only make you answer the following questions honestly, I would have accomplished my objective:

### **1. Have I replaced real social relationships for online friendships?**

Facebook has about 2 billion users worldwide. Most of you reading this, like me, are on Facebook. Whether we like it or not, it has changed the way we define friendship, the way we connect with friends and the mode by which we socialize. *Have we replaced genuine intimacy and affection with emojis and tweets? Are we still connecting with people or are we losing the ability to relate to someone across the table from us?*

### **2. Have I traded encouraging posts and podcasts for real evangelism and discipleship?**

The most touching comments and the most heartfelt retweets even of the most convicting bible verses are no replacements for face-to-face interaction with the goal of living out your faith and obedience to Jesus! The bible talks about gathering for the purpose of worship, encouragement and instruction – that simply cannot be replaced by Skype conferencing, streaming worship service or even a live webinar! *No matter how advanced technology gets, it cannot replace the intimacy and authenticity of true personal evangelism and discipleship.*

### **3. Have I been spending more time on social media than I should be?**

Now that’s a personal question. Or is it? Consider adopting “screen-less family dinner traditions” and new distracted-driving laws and cyber-bullying offenses... consider new therapies and injuries that are all related to “excessive screen times”... how about behavioral and psychological mechanisms that help manage “social media” addictions? *Have I been spending more time and attention to my online “relationships” than on my personal connections? How much of my thinking process is invested in online activities? Is it the best and wisest use of my time and resources?*

Again, these are just questions to reflect on. It’s neither an attack on Social Media nor an offensive against your use of it. Just a friendly reminder to be mindful of your use of it.

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





## For the Love of Christ

To be a dedicated follower of God is not easy, but it's worth it! From the Bible, we learned that the ancient Israelites struggled with their relationship with God, and when they wrestled with sin, Yahweh reacted and brought upon them judgment. God and Israel's relationship embroiled with an intimate communion was similar with that of husband and wife. And because of this relationship, the Lord had favored His people, the Israelites with blessings more than any other nation. I believe that the greatest gift of all God provided was the revelation of Himself, including the knowledge of His purpose, and the Law in which the Israelites were taught how to live a life at its fullest.

If a question would be asked whether or not Christians love Jesus Christ, surely, most of them will reply "Yes." Some might say, "I love Jesus more than anything else in this world." While others may reply, "Yes of course, from the bottom of my heart." Inspiring, isn't it? We are familiar with the teachings and sermons of Jesus in the gospels. He taught us to love God and neighbors as ourselves. He also encouraged His followers to follow the new commandments, "to love one another as I have loved you." Now, how much do you love God, and how long has your patience been since you did it just for the love of Christ?

In this article, let me share a story of a young Israelite who was struggling with his spiritual life, and probably with his relationship with God. One day, this man came to Jesus and asked this question: "What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" The synoptic gospels wrote that he addressed Jesus, "Good Teacher." Mark said that this man "came running, knelt before Him," (10:17), Matthew described him as a "young man with great possessions" (19:22), while Luke informed his readers that he was a "ruler" (18:18), probably in the synagogue. The narrative is well known to us, unfortunately it has always been misunderstood and has not been applied correctly.

This young rich ruler asked question about eternal life, and Jesus replied immediately on how to obtain and inherit it. Jesus told him that if he wanted to inherit eternal life, he has to keep the commandments. Then

the ruler asked Him which one does he need to follow? Jesus said, "You shall not murder," "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "Honor your father and your mother," and, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Here we see that Jesus listed the most common and familiar commands of all, the Ten Commandments, but only the last part, not mentioning the first part. We know that the first part is the commandment to love God, while the second is the commandment to love human being. But why did He escape the first part?

This young man loved the God of Abraham, willing to give his life to Yahweh, to bring his offering and animal sacrifices at the temple, to celebrate the feasts of the Lord regularly, to keep the Sabbath weekly, to refuse to bow down to the idols, however, he was unwilling to love his fellow men. Jesus answered him this way because many religious people in His time, including this young rich man, who were willing to serve God but neglecting other more important things like mercy, love and respect toward human being. In our time, we can see believers serving the Church faithfully but following the ways of the religious people in the time of Christ. And because the rich ruler wanted to justify himself, he replied that he kept the commandments since he was young, and asked the Lord, "what else must I do?" We know that Jesus is different from all religious leaders, and He does not let anyone off that easily. Christ wanted change, and so tested him if he's telling the truth and willing to give up all. In the end, the man refused to share his great possession to the poor, and declined Christ's invitation to walk with Him and follow His way. Instead, he walked away, failing to hear what the Lord said, "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God" (Matt. 19:24). It was indeed difficult not only for a rich man, but for all people to strip himself of his wealth, pride and self-esteem, and surrender all things at the feet of Jesus.

When the disciples heard this, "they were greatly astonished" at His words. Nevertheless, Jesus proceeded that the impossible is possible if a person is

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## Law and Grace

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willing to give up all for the love of Christ. "See, we have left all and followed You," Peter said to Christ. But the big question today is: how much of myself must I give up? It is true that riches and disobedience can be obstacles for eternity, but when we lay down our great wealth, great pride, and all great hidden sins to Christ, that may bring possibility to life everlasting.

This difficulty should be applied to everybody; rich and poor, young and old, men and women, Jews and Gentiles. Christ came to save men, because men in their own cannot save their souls. From the snares made by the world, and the devastating effect of sins to humanity, the natural man is totally unable to disentangle himself. But through the grace of God, He sends His only Son to tell the rich men and women that they may be delivered from this dangers. He also calls the arrogant, the disobedient, the hard-headed, and the proud men to overcome their weaknesses by due recourse from the favor of God, and the strength of the future life. Many stories in the Bible and in our time; a rich man like Zacchaeus, and a proud person like Paul exist in our own days, as in the time of Christ. Do you consider yourself one? God bless you.



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Worship is the awakening of the conscience to God's holiness, the feeding of the mind with God's truth, the opening of the heart to His love, and the devotion of the will to His purpose. This corresponds to what Jesus called the great commandment, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30).

~ Charles Stanley