

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

Big God Building Tiny Homes

Our Youth Ministry, WIN-Seattle Ambassadors, are in the middle of a very busy summer in the midst of these unprecedented times of a global pandemic! While following all the safety guidelines and preparing for our church's first online VBS, we spent three Thursdays in July volunteering to address the huge homelessness problem in our community.

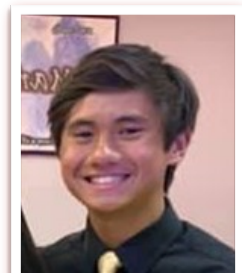


We helped build "tiny houses!" We prepared and furnished these tiny homes to help the homeless people of Tacoma get back on their feet. In cooperation with The Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI), a local non-profit that has worked on similar projects in the City of Seattle, we volunteered to build these micro shelters. Materials were donated and professional builders were there to train us. The shelters were occupied during the last week of July - only a day or two after our last day of volunteering! We are looking forward to working with LIHI again for their future projects in the greater Seattle area.



It is important for our church to serve our city and this was a very effective and tangible way for us, the young people, to learn these values. It was incredibly fulfilling and very gratifying to be used by a big God to build tiny homes!

*Vito G. Atienza,
is the son of Pastor Vino & Maica Atienza*



Big God Building Tiny Homes

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AROUND THE US REGION

WIN Eagle Rock

Local Church Serves the Needs of Its Community

WIN Eagle Rock resumes food distribution in a Los Angeles community in collaboration with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank to serve the poor of Southern California. In every crisis the church must be present in the community and meet its needs. Pastor Robert and Ellien Hernal, and church volunteers led in the distribution.



WORD'S
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES
EAGLE ROCK

MATTHEW 25:42-46
Feed The HUNGRY!

Food Pantry

DISTRIBUTION DATE: JULY 15, 2020
(WEDNESDAY)
TIME: 12 NN - 3 PM @ The CHURCH



AROUND THE US REGION

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ONLINE!!

WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES - SEATTLE
Invites You to Our Very First
ONLINE VBS!
August 3-7, 2020
 Ages 4-12 ~ Donations are welcome

NEW FORMAT!
 Monday to Friday 1:00-3:00 PM via Zoom



All Aboard for Fun at VBS

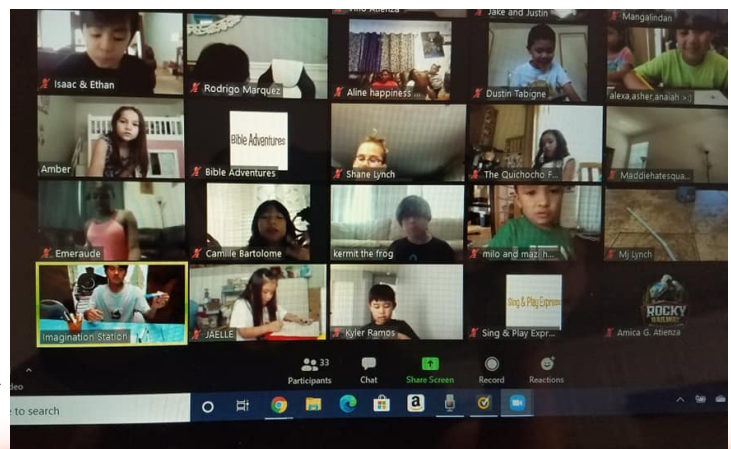
ROCKY RAILWAY
 STEEP HILLS OF TACOMA

SIGN UP BY JULY 31!

1. Notify Sis. Maica Atienza how many children are attending via FB Messenger or text 206.226.9007
2. Pick up materials at Church on:
 8/1 - Saturday - 3:00-5:00pm or
 8/2 - Sunday - 12:00-2:00pm

Word International Seattle / Tacoma launched its Vacation Bible School online from August 3 - 7, 2020 via Zoom! Yes it is possible!

Maica Atienza (wife of Pastor Vino) a public school teacher, pioneered a concept that was never tried before. Almost 50 children were enrolled for the four day class. Maica together with 10 youth and young adults of the church became agents in creativity and innovation to serve the needs of the children this summer.



Around the US Region

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Online Zoom Meetings

Summer around the US Region was filled with much online activities such as Zoom meetings and attending various webinars. Pastors and pastors wives scheduled times of fellowship, catching up, workshops on counseling as we anticipate an increase of mental and spiritual needs of people as the church return to a New Normal, Partners in Pastoring, current issues and WISL classes.

Some WIN churches have opened their doors to a limited capacity following the rules of attendees wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Online church services continue in the region to serve those who cannot attend in person worship service on Sundays. Weekly Bible study groups continue to meet online via Zoom. Online worship services via Facebook or Zoom have reached hundreds of viewers who are not church members and who are outside of the US. Such a remarkable method to reach out to those outside the church walls!

Workshops

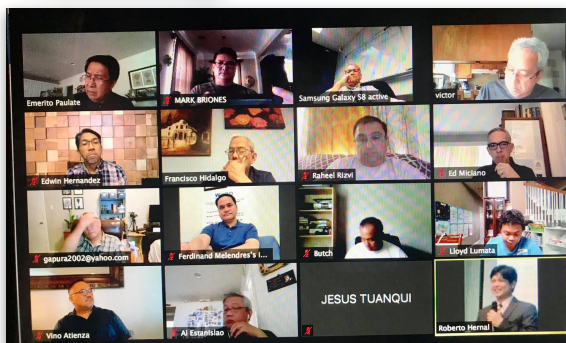


Understanding Grief and Loss
with Dana Wakabayashi



On A God-Centered Counseling
with Pastor Raheel Rizvi

Fellowship



Partners in Pastoring

Pastors Wives Chat Room ~ Let's Chat Over Coffee



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



COVID-19 and Church Reimagined

When (*not if!*) we return to gather for worship and fellowship again, it will not be the same church as before this pandemic. It might be the same place, same time, same folks and the same program and activities – but it will not be *the same!* And (*this is the contention of this article*), this might actually be a good thing!

• *Whether we like it or not, we have to REIMAGINE CHURCH.*

As the world rapidly changes in reaction to this health crisis – so will the church. After a period of adjustment, the result will either be bleak or a blessing depending on how we reimagine church in the post-pandemic era.

We've always said "**be the church,**" well... now is that perfect opportunity! Instead of finding ways to "*bring people to church*"... we are now asking how we can "*be the church where we live, work and play!*" Since we could not gather together in our church facility, we had to be creative and resourceful to fulfill our purpose right where we are! *Church reimagined!*

We've also said "**church is WHO, not WHAT**"... now we can flesh that out! If we emphasize on "*what,*" leaders will focus on building better structures, processes, facilities and institutions. If we shift to "*who,*" then we are forced to come up with non-institutional expressions of our mission and more incarnational articulations of our duties! *Church reimagined!*

We've also emphasized phrases and programs like "**Leadership Development, Church Planting, Lifestyle Evangelism and Dynamic Discipleship,**" we have to rethink all of that - not abandon - just *rethink* how they might look like post-pandemically! Then probably ADD IN phrases that sound more like "**online outreach, virtual visits and livestream fellowships** and **contactless connections!**" Again, just making the most out of current limitations. *Church reimagined!*

I sincerely look at these times (*pandemic and post-pandemic*) as **opportunities more than obstacles.** Our success still depends on God's grace and anointing, of course! But whether we barely survive or greatly thrive from this point forward depends on whether we adopted a mindset that insists on "*the way we've always done it*" or we enthusiastically reimaged church. And that's the "word on the street"... **REIMAGINE!**

Stay blessed!

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





Moving On After The Crisis

We work every day with people who are joyful and optimistic, but some of them are desperate and hurting. We may not be aware of the struggles they handle right now, and the crisis they are going through. Probably because of our busy life and the considerable attention that we give to our ministries, or the heavy works that we are doing in our offices, hospitals, schools, jobs and families, and so often that we don't notice them. Or maybe, to be honest, we are those who are being hurt, lonely, injured, wounded and weak.

One day, the coronavirus crisis will end, and all of us will say that it's safe to go outside, go to the park, visit friends and relatives, go to the church, or do the parties. Also, we can do missions, fly the 747, attend the conventions and discipleship programs, with no social distancing and without putting the mask on. However, many doctors and pandemic specialists suggest that until the vaccine is available, it will be necessary to be cautious, and be able to identify who can move freely, specially, those with underlying conditions that need protective measures.

The Bible shows that even God's people are not exempt from suffering, pestilence or crisis. Noah was in crisis for 150 days during the deluge, Moses was in crisis when Korah and his people rebelled against him. Who can forget the suffering of Job? It felt like a never-ending suffering to him. The prophet Jeremiah was in crisis before and during the Babylonian's Jerusalem siege, while Paul was in crisis when he was in prison in Philippi and Caesarea as well. The life of King David was an open book, and many of his Psalms describe his thoughts and everyday concerns. We see his emotions in times of success and jubilation, as well as, pain and agony in time of distress and troubles. For a long time, he suffered persecution in the hand of Saul, conflict with the Philistines, and crisis within his own family. Even in the zenith of his reign, he still had enemies and still had many concerns. But how did he and all other

men and women of God handle these crises and had moved on after going through painful experience. Recovery after the crisis can be a big challenge to all. We are left to recover the pieces of pain and confusion we had to overcome when the crisis smashed into us. Since the Bible did not give us a formula or a step-by-step plan on how to move on and take steps toward the future, what actions should we make to move forward away from the crisis? Here are some of my thoughts.

First, determine your priorities. Before Noah established any action plan, the first thing that he did was to build an altar to the Lord. After removing the animals out from the ark, Noah built an altar to the Lord and offered burnt offerings on the altar (Gen. 8:20). He set up the requirement for worship, first and foremost, and offered sacrifices to God using some of the precious animals from the ark. Similarly, after recovering from the crisis on the census issue, David purchased the ground, today's temple mount in Jerusalem, to build the altar for the Lord. As a result, God heeded the prayers and the plague was withdrawn from Israel (2 Samuel 24:25). Both Noah and David put God first. On the contrary, the Israelites who just came back from Babylonian captivity, began to build their own houses and business to the point of neglecting their religious obligations. The prophet rebuked them, saying: "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?" (Haggai 1:4). They failed to see that the reason they were sent back home was "to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah" as commanded by Cyrus the king of Persia (Ezra 1:2). Indeed, we need the help of God to understand His mind and the meaning of what is going on around us. Pray to discover issues wherein we have offended our Lord. Examples: we neglect our regular Bible Studies and church Sunday service, we don't exactly give our tithes and offerings for fear of financial shortage, we ignore the importance of evangelism even in time of coronavirus, and others.

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Moving On After The Crisis

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Second, protect yourselves and get proper group support. When the famine struck the land of Israel, Elijah was told to go to Zarepath in Sidon, and meet the widow who would support him. He discovered that the widow's food supplies were exhausted and that she was preparing her last meal for herself and her son. But Elijah told her to prepare a meal for him first, then later for her and her son (1 Kings 17:13). At the surface, Elijah seemed selfish and unmindful of others, but there is a principle we can learn from this. In such a time as this, Elijah had to secure his strength first so that he can be more useful to strengthen others. Since the widow listened to him, for the one meal afforded to the prophet, God miraculously increased the small stock which was afforded to her and son for many days during the time of famine. "The jar of flour was not used up, and the jar of oil did not become empty" (v16). The supply of flour and oil came without end during the time of crisis. Therefore, we need to protect and strengthen ourselves first, because we were sent by God to our people not for our own protection and security alone, but on account of our people's faith, that they may be stronger, encouraged and active as they serve the living God.

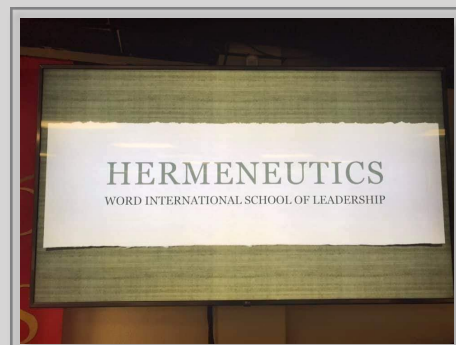
Third and last, proceed to the necessary manual works. Attending manual works such as visiting friends, relatives, and brethren, or doing other ministry works like accounting, payment of bills, or repair of properties that may require our physical attention, has to be done properly. Noah, David and Elijah did the first thing first, then proceeded to other essential manual works. Noah began to cultivate the land to plant a vineyard (Gen. 9:20). David went to Araunah to buy the ground and paid him six hundred shekels of gold for the site (1 Chron. 21:25). Moses, after the crisis with Korah, took action to set up the priesthood ministry of Aaron and his sons (Num 18). In our case, we can do the same, by visiting people who are in pain physically and emotionally, reset the ministry works up, pay the pending bills, answer emails and letters, and the like. However, if we are struggling with this part of the recovery process, why not ask help from others too!

I believe there is no right and wrong way to recover from crisis. We only need to set a goal, in order to at least, lessen disappointments and stresses in order to create a more pleasant environment. Having various courses of action in order to start a new beginning is not easy, it may require a strong spiritual and physical body. But, if we can get through that, with the grace of God, we can move on unto the right direction.

Around the US Region

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WISL ~ Word International School of Leadership



Soul Anchor Online Conference



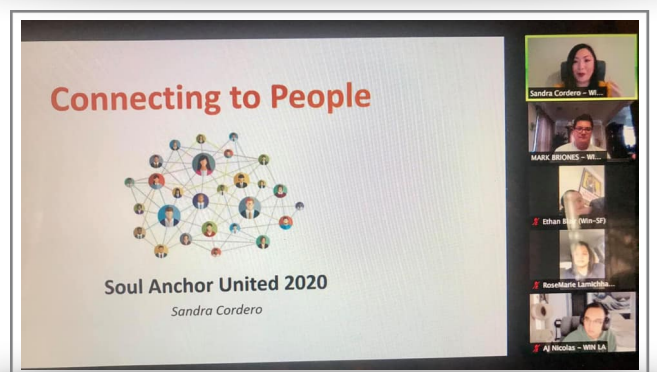
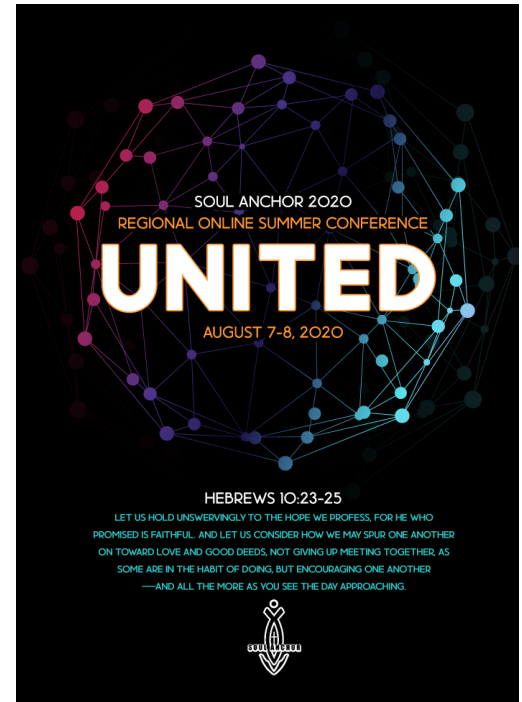
*Pastor Mark Briones
WIN USA National Youth & Young Adults Coordinator
District Overseer, Southern California*

For the past 16 years since 2004, the highlight of every summer for our youth and young adults was our Soul Anchor Youth and Young Adult Camp. We gather as one body in the mountains of San Bernardino, CA for 3 nights and days. Young people from our WIN Southland churches would come in attendance to know God in an intimate and deeper manner through worship, workshops, teachings, and fellowshiping with one another.

This year's Soul Anchor Regional Camp was scheduled to be held on July 4-7, 2020 at our regular venue at the Oak Glen Christian Conference Center in Yucaipa, CA. However, due to the Covid pandemic, this had to be scrapped and rescheduled to January 2021. We were in quandary on how to have a meaningful activity for our young people during the summer especially since late March to June, students were doing online classes from home and most of the young adults were working from home too.

During the last week of June, I called a meeting with my Pyros leaders to discuss what activity we can do for the summer. I personally just thought of doing a beach or hiking activity when the "safer at home" order or in other words "lockdown" would be lifted. But to my surprise, a group of the younger generation Pyros leaders already had a plan in mind. They had been discussing of doing an online regional conference. I was amazed on how detailed their plan was and how confident they were when they presented their vision since this has never been done before.

Thus, the very first Soul Anchor 2020 Online Conference was birthed last August 7-8, 2020 with theme "United." Our theme verse was taken from **Hebrews 10:2-25** ***"Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near"*** which we believe was very appropriate with the times we are in that in spite of not being able to gather in person for camp, bible studies and other activities, we can still be united and connected to one another. Facebook and Instagram were used to promote the online conference. We were able to gather 104 young people from 11 different WIN churches in the US and had also a few young



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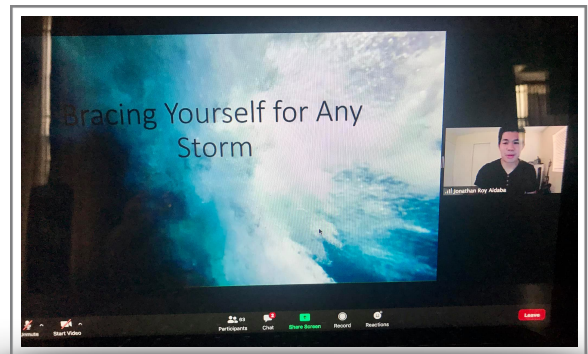
Soul Anchor 2020 Online Conference

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people from WIN Calgary and WIN Singapore join us. Ruszel Rubio who was the conference coordinator used Zoom as our online platform for the conference. I was so amazed to see how the team of Pyros leaders with the help of the youth leaders of WIN San Diego were able to have not only a time of worship but also an emcee, icebreakers, cell groups and discussion groups with each segment having a very smooth transition.

Session speakers for the conference were Joanna Cordero who spoke on the topic "Connecting To God" and Jonathan Aldaba who closed the conference with the message "Connecting To Purpose." In between these 2 sessions, we had breakout messages geared to respective age groups with the message on how to "Connect To People." Sandra Cordero spoke to the young professionals; Rizza Aldaba shared to the college group with Ashley Briones and Jonathan Cardeno speaking to the high school and middle school group respectively.

God did a new work in each one of us during the online conference whether it was during the worship time, sessions, breakouts and discussion time. Everyone who attended felt refreshed and encouraged. God exceeded our expectations and blew all of us away! The very first Soul Anchor Online Conference was a tremendous success! To everyone who put this online conference together, your labor is not in vain. God sees you and knows you by name. To God be the Glory!

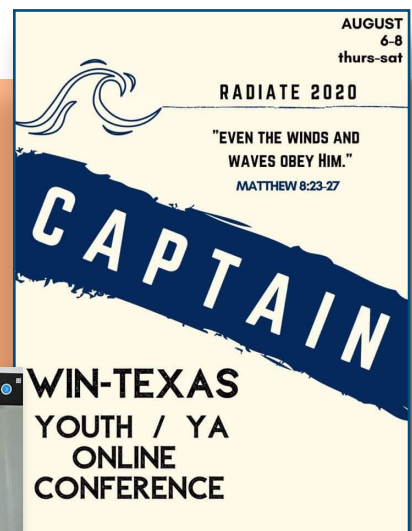


Around the US Region

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Texas

Youth and Young Adults Gather for Online Camp



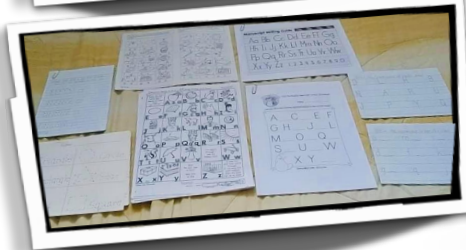
Wise – Cainta: All Set for Class



WISE - Cainta was all set to open classes Monday, August 24. They prepared Kids' Starter Packs and learning materials for distribution to the enrollees.

Word Integrated Schools of the East (WISE), Rizal Philippines serve children in Taytay, Cainta, Pasig and Antipolo for the educational needs of the children.

Thank you Principal Lealee Tria and teachers for your dedication to educate these precious underprivileged children.



Kids with their Teacher Moms



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Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

~ Psalm 34: 8