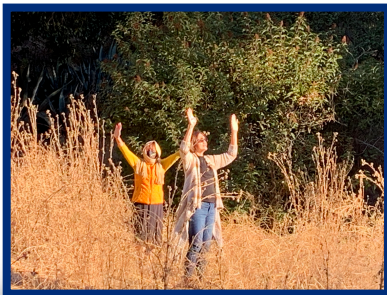


# HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

## Worship at the Park



*“My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”* Psalm 84:2 was the cry of the hearts of WIN LA’s ladies when we started a series of outdoor worship at the park last July. There was a deep longing in our hearts to pray and worship together in the presence of the living God. Although our church resumed our in-person worship service at the end of May, attendance was limited. The strict safety protocols did not allow us to have much interaction and fellowship. The seniors were encouraged to stay home. We felt we needed to come together in an open air setting to pray and release our praise and worship to God.



We first planned for a one-time gathering at 7:30 am at a secluded area in Brand Park but ended up gathering for eleven Saturdays. First, a lady joined us for worship and asked if we will be back the following Saturday. That made us decide to meet again. On the following week, a hiker joined us and said he will bring his friends next time because they miss in-person worship. So, we decided to extend for another Saturday. He came back the next week with a couple of friends, and then came again and again. Some of the ladies started bringing friends to join us.



During those times of unrestricted, socially distanced praise and worship, we prayed for America and cried out to God to bring revival. On one of the Saturdays, we held the outdoor worship at the Bonnie Brae House where the Azusa Street Revival started in Los Angeles in 1906. We also joined the tent gathering at Azusa Street the following week to re-dig the wells of revival. Our last gathering at the park was the culmination of WIN-LA’s 10 Days of Prayer for the nation.



We believe our prayers and our worship are filling the bowls in heaven as described in Revelations 8:3-5. Even if we do yet see the results in the natural, we know that our prayers are mixed with the fire of God. In His perfect timing the prayer bowls in heaven will tilt and God will pour out answers to our prayers.

*Sis. Tess Cordero is the wife of Pastor Chito Cordero, Senior Pastor of WIN Los Angeles. Sis. Tess leads Deborah’s Fire, the Ladies Ministry of WIN-LA*



# AROUND THE US REGION

## US Missions Projects

Thanks to US Churches effort to fund various projects of WIN churches in the Philippines, we are able to help in the construction and renovation of churches in Negros Oriental and Marikina.

### WIN Bayawan, Negros Oriental

Assistance for the construction of a new church building.  
Pastor Lito Lajot



### WIN Marikina

Assistance for the renovation of WIN Marikina church building after it was damaged by Typhoon Ulysees.  
Pastor Ron Credo



### WIN Dauin, Negros Oriental

Assistance to complete the construction of their church building.  
Pastor Dan Torres



# AROUND THE US REGION

## WIN New Jersey (WCFI)

WIN New Jersey (WCFI) continues with its annual program of sending out Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes to Samaritan's Purse to be distributed to children in various countries in the world. This year they were able to gather 216 boxes.



## WIN Seattle/Tacoma

Serving the needs of its community  
WIN Seattle / Tacoma was involved in the  
Community Connections activities

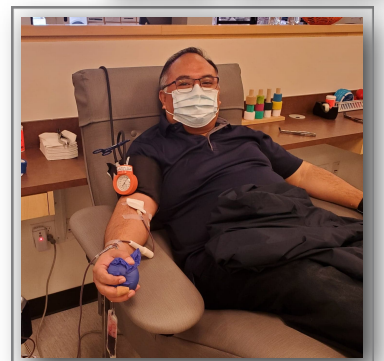
## Construction of Tiny Homes



## Food Bank & Food Deliveries



## Blood Donation



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



## Less Is More!

2020 is almost over... and for many of us, it couldn't come soon enough! For many, they just want to say *"we're done, 2020... goodbye!"* From a virus that took hundreds of thousands of lives to the economic hardships due to lockdowns... from the political and racial protests to the depressing isolation of social distancing measures – I fully empathize with the feeling of just wanting to turn the page and ending this 2020 already!... *as if the year itself was the cause of all our difficulties!*

*"as resilient as the church is, we survived (some even thrived!) even with less!"*

I feel, as a church community, we lost a lot this year. There's a long list of usual activities we are used to - *that allow us to fulfill our mission and celebrate our fellowship* – that we were not able to do this year! **However, as resilient as the church is, we survived (some even thrived!) even with less!**... *for many, much, much less!* Less in-person gatherings, less face-to-face activities, less community events, less committee meetings, etc. This forced all of us to **choose and prioritize** which activities are absolutely necessary, and which are not... which expenses are definitely required, and which are not... which committees are unquestionably essential, and which are not. Some call this process **"strategic streamlining"**... I call it survival! The crises of 2020 forced us to think through what's really important. We realized that **"less is more!"**

*"strategic streamlining"... learning to say "NO" to some therefore allowing us to say "YES" to some... that produce the highest yield for the Kingdom of God!*

This is a good exercise for all of us – **Learning to say "NO" to some, therefore allowing us to say "YES" to some other events/activities that produce the highest yield for the Kingdom of God!**

Hopefully, by the grace of God, we will look back to 2020 as the year that made us do 2 things: **Clarify our Purpose**, and **Improve our Service to God and to His People!** We can surely do this – *even with less...* because, as 2020 has taught us, less is more! That's just my humble opinion.

God bless You!

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





## Empowering Future Leaders

Covid-19 has brought disruption in our society even in all churches, giving much attention on how each one handles specific situation. Social distancing, face masks, and hand washing have played special support to contain the spread of the deadly virus through the difficult year of 2020. After nine months of fear and doubt since March of this year, vaccines are now being rolled out. Yet some church leaders think that the next three months or four will be even more challenging, since some of the things and works in the church may not return to their old ways, as to how they were before.

Some members are now used to attending Sunday services via Zoom or Facebook live streaming, and social media serves as a tool and platform for evangelism, giving, and discipleship. However, we need to take into consideration the probable effect of social media to build up real and tangible relationship with others. In other words, people might feel connected, but they can really be more distant from us. The true and sincere Christian fellowship requires personal involvement and biblical engagement with people as we really are. In doing so, we can honestly handle our strength and weaknesses, and grow together in Christ.

Avery Dulles' book titled *Models of the Church* wrote that it is helpful for church leaders to examine the true meaning of the terms 'disciple' and 'discipleship,' otherwise, we might produce either weak or phony disciples. People's development should not be set aside by the church leaders, rather it must be integrated in the life process within the ministerial work. While limited activities and lockdown remain imposed in various places, the church leaders must begin to find ways at the moment to keep the church workers and ministry heads engaged till the virus ends. For sure, this crisis needs to be handled carefully with godly wisdom to maintain the momentum and continuity of the ministry in the long process.

Empowering leaders is necessary because leadership is what will cause the change and transformation of the church and community. When I started to facilitate the mission and church planting of our local church, the plan usually came up with discipleship training as a major goal for the effectiveness of the ministry. This plan started with the question about the goal of our church. In other words, what is that thing that we want to accomplish? We know that we have talented and potential members that will bring more growth for the ministries, and yet we need to disciple them properly. Below are some tips when creating a leadership program as we empower future leaders of the local church.

***First, meditate on the book of the law day and night (Joshua 1:8).*** God has instructed Joshua, first things first, to do this exercise so he can be sure to obey all that is written in it. Meditation of God's word is the key to knowing God in a deeper way. A true relationship with God is not based on a loud voice and speeches, but by spending time with Him in silence and listening to His voice. Meditation is a way of experiencing God through Christ beyond what our finite mind can understand. To achieve this, pastors and church leaders must lead by example, owning up to their actions as a vital part of who they are as a person.

***Second, encourage bravery as well as experience.*** Doing ministry requires risk, and we must be willing to take it. In the case of Joshua, he saw the parting of Red sea, the coming of water from the rock, the miraculous provision of manna and quail, the appearance of God's presence before their eyes, and much else. All of a sudden, Moses died and Joshua became the head of Israel. God assured him that as He was with Moses, so He will be with Joshua (John. 1:5). We need to keep in mind that it is God who owns the ministry, and the strength of the future leaders must be found in God alone. Moses

... Continued on Page 6

## Empowering Future Leaders

Continued from Page 5 . . . .

was the leader for 40 years, and Joshua was to take over; full of experiences. Experience is necessary, it gives the future leaders a free hand to explore their potential. Nevertheless, future leaders are not free from fears and doubts, they need to be encouraged that God will be with them, if they continue to be faithful with Him. That's the reason why the Lord encouraged Joshua several times: "Be strong and courageous."

**Third, know the difference between God's will and personal skill.** It is one thing to have the ability and education to do the job, and another thing to do it according to the will of God. The Bible tells that people are responsible for their actions, but it also tells that it is God who is in control. Though He is sovereign, within the context of His sovereignty, He granted us freedom to act that we are responsible too. Even the church environment in which He chose for us is less than perfect. We are not exempt from afflictions and difficulties, and therefore dispute happens under the sovereign control of the Lord. Sometimes it happens because of our fallen circumstances in which we live, or because of the actions made by others. For this reason, it is necessary for the leaders to know that God requires skills to handle the situation, but know as well that it is always under the ultimate oversight of God who rules in the affairs of men and women. God's will rules!

**Fourth, show your future leaders that you believe in them and they own their ministry.** When people feel valued, they are more likely to go above the expectations. Tell them that you believe that God called them, and that He brought them with you for a specific task. Share your past experience with God including your personal devotion and vision, with the intent of inspiring them to do more and aspire better for the Lord. As you put them in charge of a specific ministry, support them as if they owned it. Believe that future leaders need to see how the growth of the ministry actually depends on the decision they make. Along the way, mistakes will follow, but allow them to make corrections if their decision proves to be wrong. After all, how will you taste success if you have not tasted failure?

**Fifth, let the future leader distinguish the difference between ministry and career.** Church work must be understood that we are building a ministry not a career. We are not pleasing men but God, we are God's partner, not of the world. We cannot have both God and world as our boss at the same time (Matt.6:24). God gave us a ministry for His glory, and through that ministry He can change us to be a person that He wants us to be. Most of the time, we are eager to change others, without knowing that God is more interested in our personal change. Our goal is to be able to move God's heart, that we may be able to move men's hearts. Knowing this will encourage our people to go the extra mile and enhance their feeling of freedom and enjoyment in the ministry.

As we move to 2021, let us be flexible to the new changing work of God in our midst. Creating a new focus on the coming year by knowing His ways through past experiences can help create the feeling of a fresh start, as if they have been done and has already happened.

The Bible says God's Church is unstoppable (Matthew 16:18). Crisis turns people inward, but God sent the Church outward. This is not a time to survive but thrive.

~ Scott Ridout, Evangelicals Magazine, Winter 2020/21, Vol 6 No 3

# A Year of Change and Transition



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

As we have just entered into a new year, I cannot help but reflect on the year that just ended. The year 2020 will be a year many of us or maybe more correctly all of us will remember the rest of our lives. It will be year that we will surely be talking about for a long time and even to our grandkids in the future.

When 2020 started, we were all excited. I was excited. Many felt it will be a breakthrough year being a start of a new decade. Then the pandemic hit and affected not just us but the rest of the world. It seemed that from mid-March till the end of May, the world just stood still. Travel stopped, we had to stay home because of the lockdowns and workers were furloughed and for some laid off from their jobs. Those who had jobs and not considered essential had to work from home. Students had to continue their classes on-line from home. Pastors and ministries had to change and adapt how we ministered for Sunday Services, bible studies, teachings all being done on-line. Families had to adjust especially those had a family member contract the Covid virus and those who lost a loved one. Change was constant, economically, socially and politically. We all had to adapt and adjust the way we had to minister and do life.

But in spite of the changes and challenges we faced in 2020, we can take comfort and strength that through it all, God is Faithful! He comforted those who needed comfort, He provided for those who were in need, He gave creative ideas on how to minister in spite of not being able to come together as a church or ministry.

God is and will be always faithful because He never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Our economic condition may change, elected officials or people in authority may change, but we can take comfort

and strength that our Lord still sits on the throne and is still sovereign.

I am reminded of the command God gave to Joshua as the Israelites were transitioning from the leadership of Moses and were about to cross the Jordan River into the promise land. They have never traveled to the promise land; they have never been there at all. Just like Joshua and the Israelites, we are also transitioning from the year 2020 and have entered a new year, 2021.

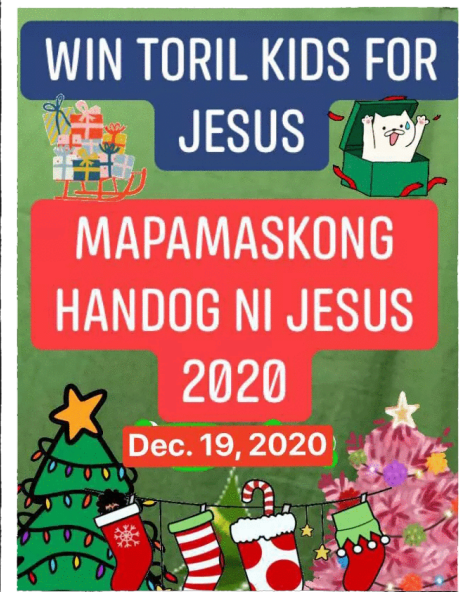
We do not know what this year holds, but we can hold on to the command and promise that God gave Joshua. He said in Joshua 1:6-9 *“Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. <sup>7</sup> Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. <sup>8</sup> Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. <sup>9</sup> This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

May this command that God gave Joshua strengthen our hearts and faith rise within us as we transition into a new year. Let us all have an expectant attitude and dream big, that the Lord will grant us the success we desire in 2021 as we hang on to this promise. He will give us the strength, courage, wisdom and success as long as we study and meditate on His Word and be always dependent on Him

# Pamaskong Handog at WIN Toril, Davao



Thank you Seeds of Hope donors for making this possible. Your generosity provided a wonderful and happy Christmas to these kids in the midst of a pandemic. God loves the little children! God bless you!!



Outside prayer and fasting, one of the best things we can do during moments like this is to be present, engaged and respond to needs.

~ Malcolm Burleigh,  
Evangelicals Magazine,  
Winter 2020/21. Vol 6 No 3



**USA Regional Office**

**Washington Address**  
7101 58th Street Ct W  
University Place, 98467 USA  
Tel. No: (253) 564-8053

**Email Address:** [wordusoffice@aol.com](mailto:wordusoffice@aol.com)

**Website:** [wordinternationalusa.org](http://wordinternationalusa.org)