

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

Deborah's Fire Goes to Skid Row

Every year, the Deborah's Fire Ladies Ministry of WIN - LA raise money for the annual Blankets for the Homeless program. But this year was different. Instead of dropping off blankets at the rescue mission, we personally went to Skid Row three times to give out 180 brand new blankets, toothbrush kits, hand sanitizers, clothes, and shoes. More than the distribution, the ladies had the opportunity to talk to the homeless, call them by name, pray and tell them that Jesus loves them.

The Skid Row neighborhood is the epicenter of the homeless population in Los Angeles where about 8,000 people live in tents. Deborah's Fire partnered with Hope House of Prayer-Skid Row, a ministry that sets up a worship tent every Saturday and has established friendships with the community.

I can truly say that worship shifts the atmosphere. A resident shared that when the team comes to minister, people in nearby tents turn off their loud music and chaos stops. It was a joy to see several homeless people receive prayer with tears in their eyes. There were also Christian residents who have become "regulars" and prayed, sang, and played with the band. And even when they do not come near the worship tent, the seed is being planted as the sound of worship, testimonies, the Word, and prayers is heard in the streets. We cannot solve the homeless crisis, but we can bring hope and touch lives one person at a time.



Supporting Pastors Families In the Philippines

WIN USA churches have been setting aside money to help widows of pastors. They are very grateful for your compassion and generosity. Let's continue to pray for them and their children.

Testimonies from our WIN Philippines widows:

Cheska, widow of Pastor Sonny Penaflor, WIN Sukat

Thank you for blessing us. We went to the grocery yesterday and half of the money will be payment for my son's balance in his tuition fee in college. God bless po and more blessings in your church.

Elen, widow of Pastor Ador Soquiat, WIN Laguna

Ptr. Muli po na receive ko na po ang monthly support WIN USA. Salamat po Inyo Ministry na patly sa pagkalinga sa tulad ko na balo . . . Ang Diyos na po natin na pinagmumulan ng laa ng pagpapala ang magbalik tigit pa inning pinagkakaloob. Regards po sa mga Kaptiran. Stay safe po.

Fe, widow of Pastor Don Sambire, WIN Toril, Davao

Hi Pastor Babes / WIN - USA, thank you so much for your support. I really, really appreciate it. I am so grateful that I am one of the recipients of God's blessing thru you.

In September, WIN Seattle sent a couple of Balikbayan Boxes to Pastor Norman Tec, WIN Laguna. Boxes contained clothing, VBS materials, coffee and assorted items for the church.



Jeremiah Johnston wrote, "Faith and the mind are not at odds; faith is not believing nonsense, faith is not embracing unreasonable, illogical things. In short, faith is not stupid. Some people seem to have faith in faith (as Dawkins and other atheists have in fact pointed out). Faith is intelligent; it is educated; it is learned; it is hungry for understanding. A healthy faith is a seeking faith. A healthy faith is not satisfied to be ignorant, to be naïve, to remain in the dark, or to pass on misinformation." [1]

(Do You Think Christianity?, Christian Thinkers Society, August 10, 2020, <https://christianthinkers.com>)

AROUND THE US REGION

California WIN Eagle Rock

Much needed COVID 19 Test Kits were part of the items WIN Eagle Rock distributed during their Food Pantry, January 5.



WIN New Jersey (WCFL)

Pastor Randy and Sis Malou Castro continue to lead this annual activity together with the untiring volunteers of WIN New Jersey (WCFL) who continue to send out Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes to Samaritan's Purse to be distributed to children in various countries in the world.

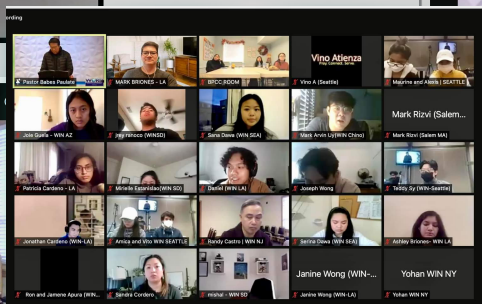


Debroah's Fire - Skid Row



Youth and Young Adults Leadership Conference

Pastor Babes Paulate spoke on The Making of A Servant Leader during the Youth and Youth Adults Conference, September 2021



Youth and Young Adults Leadership Conference

January 14 and 15, 2022

Speakers:

General Session - Pastor Mark Briones

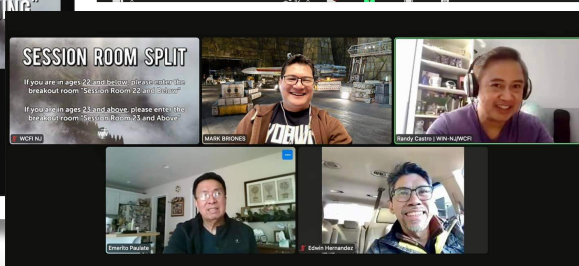
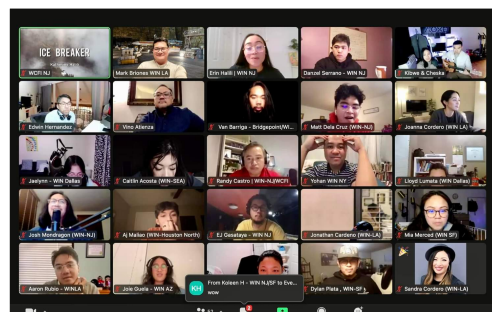
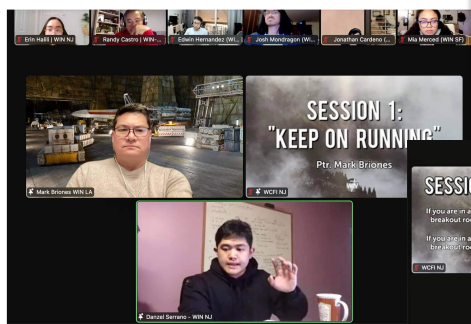
Breakout Sessions:

Kathleen Alabado(NJ)

Ron Apura (Houston)

Rizza Aldaba (LA)

Yohan Arnaldo (NY)



Word International USA Youth & Young Adult Leaders Conference
January 14 - 15, 2022

"Endurance"

Hebrews 12:1
"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

EST	PSI
• JAN 14 8PM - 10:30PM	• JAN 14 5PM - 7:30PM
• JAN 15 12PM - 4PM	• JAN 15 9AM - 1PM
CST	VIA ZOOM
• JAN 14 7PM - 9:30PM	ZOOM ID - 825 8242 1040
• JAN 15 11AM - 3PM	

Reaching Our Goals

What a ride the year 2021 has been. Many of us thought that 2021 will be the year when we all will be able to get over the pandemic with the vaccines rolling out and the tapering of the infection rate, but this pandemic threw a curve ball with the Delta and Omicron variant affecting our way of life again.

As we face a new year, let us all encourage ourselves to continue to plan and set goals as an individual, as a family and even for our respective ministries we are involved in for the year 2022. Life goes on!!

It is important for all of us to have goals in our lives. I am sure we all have goals, and if we break them down, we should have goals in the different areas of our lives, physical, character, financial and spiritual. Our goals should be realistic, achievable and have a timeframe.

Just like the young high school basketball player who has his goal set on playing in the NBA and being an All Star, or like a young high school football player who dreams one day playing in the NFL and winning the Super Bowl or young adult wanting to go to college and earn a degree and have a good career, getting married and start a family. Goals of buying a new car, a house and other things that we want to reach. We all have goals one way or another; which is good. If today, you do not have any goals and are reading this, I encourage you to sit down and spend time thinking and planning on it.

Just as we have goals in the other areas of our lives, ***we should have spiritual goals and ought to or strive to reach them.*** Do we have any? What comes to mind is what the great Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 3:12-14.

"I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."

From this familiar Scripture passage we read, Paul teaches us how to achieve these GOALS by developing certain attitudes in our lives:

- Not be contented where we are in our Spiritual Life.

We should never be contented where we are in our spiritual lives. We should always remind ourselves that God is changing us from Glory to Glory. Here, Paul, who has gone on several missionary journeys, planted dozens of churches, shared the Gospel to thousands of people and wrote so many books in the New Testament gives us this great example. We should be continually growing or changing from glory to glory, maturing in our walk and in our relationship with the Lord. We will never be perfect because only Jesus is perfect, but we can strive to be perfect.

Friends when we are contented with our spiritual lives we are in a dangerous condition, because when we are in that condition, the next thing that happens to us is we stagnate and don't grow. When we stagnate and don't grow, the most likely thing that will happen to us is we drift away, or we become toxic or polluted in our spiritual lives. If we are honest with ourselves, we all know of people who have drifted away this year. When we are not contented where we are in our spiritual lives, we study, we learn and we grow, we fellowship with other believers, we are refreshed (like water that is always flowing). And if we are being refreshed, we can also be able to refresh others and be a blessing to them. Let us be like the Apostle Paul who was never contented with his walk with the Lord. Always wanting more of Him!!! Do we want more of Him?

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

Reaching Our Goals

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- Forget our Past

We should forget the past. I do not know how the year 2021 was for you. For some it might have been challenging financially, health wise and or even emotionally because of a death of a loved one or friend. For us to reach our goals, we must forget the past. 2021 is gone! Paul's past was not good at all, he persecuted the church, he was a murderer when he approved the stoning to death of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. He was causing so much trouble and was feared by the early Christians and in fact he was on his way to Damascus to put believers in jail when he had his personal encounter with the Lord. ***But what did he write "one thing I do, forgetting what is behind."***

The devil will always want to remind us of our past. He will always say we will never make it; we will never grow; we will never change; we will never reach our goals, why even plan for them? That is a lie straight out of hell. How we can forget our past. By giving our past to the Lord. Our hurts, our pain, our mistakes, our frustrations. With God there is always a second chance and a great future to look forward to.

- Persevere and Press On

Paul wrote, ***"I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."***

We must persevere or press on with our walk with the Lord. We know our Christian life is a race. It is not a 100-meter dash or a 400-meter run, but our Christian life is liken to a marathon. Whether you like it or not, when you say you are a Christian, you are running that race to which God has called you heavenward. Our prize or goal in running this race is to ultimately get to heaven. That is our prize, that is our goal when we meet our Lord and He will say well done, good and faithful servant.

But for us to achieve this goal, we must do our part here in this world. We must persevere in our Christian life. Just like running a marathon, we need to prepare and go into training, we must adhere to the rules so we are not disqualified, we must finish the race. It is not an easy endeavor for we will be tested, we will undergo trials, but God has so many promises in His Word. His grace is sufficient for us, He promise to strengthen us when we are weak. He promises to guide us so we will not be led astray. These are some of the promises that we can find in the Bible.

Friends, God is a God of new beginnings, let us look forward to allowing Him to do a deeper work in our lives this year by having goals in our spiritual lives and for us to reach these goals, we must not be contented where we are in our spiritual lives, we must forget the past and we must persevere and press on towards the goal that God has called us to. I pray that the year 2022 will be a BREAKTHROUGH YEAR FOR ALL OF US!

When leaders listen to the Lord, others will listen to them. When we serve the Lord with joy, enthusiasm, and confidence we'll inspire others to do the same.

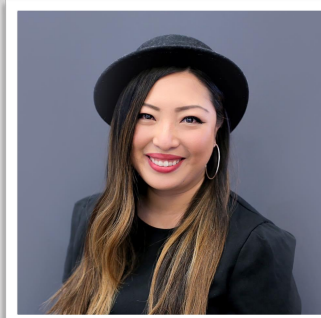
~ Dr. David Jeremiah

Congratulations to Our Young Adults

We're proud of you!

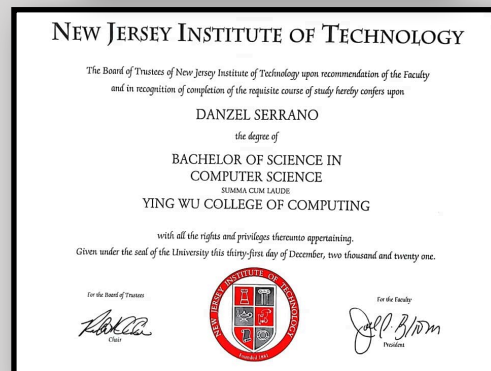
Sandra Cordero, WIN Los Angeles

Sandra Cordero, daughter of Pastor Chito and Tess Cordero of WIN LA, was honored as one of the Brand Innovators 40 under 40 yrs old for the West Coast by brand-innovators.com. Two weeks ago, the Women of Email network gave her the GOAT (Greatest of All Time) community award. Last year, she received the 2021 Email Marketer of the Year award from the Association of National Advertisers Email Experience Council. Congratulations, Sandra!

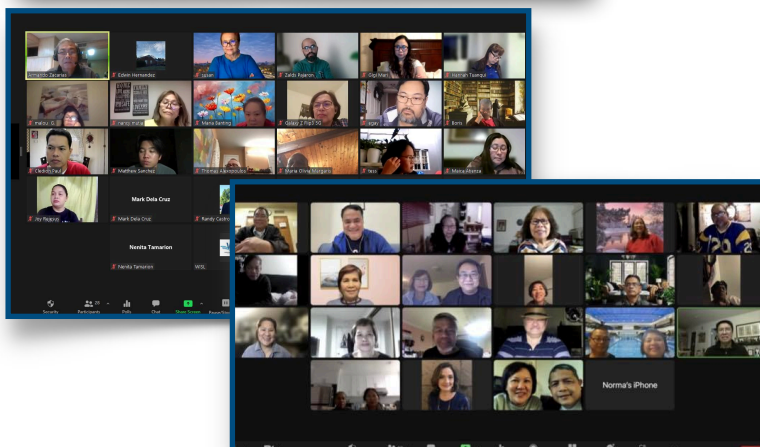


Danzel Serrano, WCFI New Jersey

Danzel Serrano, son of Ed and Dhang Serrano graduated Summa Cum Laude - Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from New Jersey Institute of Technology. Congratulations Danzel!



WISL



WISL resumed classes in January 2022 on Hermeneutics and Old Testament Survey taught by Dr.Ferdie Melendres and Pastor Edwin Hernandez.

WIN Seattle / Tacoma

Serving the Community

Tacoma Rescue Mission Men's Shelter - Cristina Coppa led a group of volunteers who prepared the food in a home and distributed a packed meal at the Men's Shelter.



Multi-Service Food Bank, Federal Way — Hedi Smith led a group of volunteers to help pack groceries at the food bank.



WIN Seattle / Tacoma

Serving the Community

Toy Rescue Mission— Share The Warmth

Toy Rescue Mission in Tacoma, WA was the recipient of this year's WIN Seattle's "Share the Warmth" Project. Church members gather warm winter clothing like new coats, jackets, gloves, beanies, scarves, blankets and socks for all ages, men, women, teens, and babies.

This project was spearheaded by Rene and Rosemarie Jose.

Toy Rescue Mission is a non-profit organization founded by Martha Davis, who is currently the CEO. Since 1994, Toy Rescue Mission caters and serves low-income families and low-income seniors in nursing facilities. They have a store where qualified low-income families can get free holiday and birthday items. The organization is run and operated by volunteers and have served over 13,000 low-income families.



George Muller wrote this about his ministry to orphans: "The Lord led me to this work. He gave me faith for it. He sustained my faith for it to the end He provided the means. He remarkably helped me through one difficulty after the other. Had he not upheld me in the midst of them all, I should have been surely overwhelmed by them."

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



Proclaiming Christ or Promoting the Church's Brand?

These pandemic years have forced churches to adjust and conduct virtual services (online, streaming and video-conferencing) just to reach members and gather for Sunday service! It was very challenging in the beginning and definitely a struggle... *until lately*. Now, most churches have adapted and are becoming proficient with the "hybrid mode" (combining in-person and virtual modes) of doing church. Many churches have invested on technology that allows them excellent livestreams and broadcasts that are at par with (if not better than!) the professionals!

Branding techniques include the use of catchy jingles, popular taglines, captivating logos or cute mascots.

We've heard of churches hiring marketing professionals who use words like 'branding' and 'clickbaiting'. "Branding" is that component of marketing that seeks to promote one's "*distinguishing proposition*"... highlighting the characteristic of one's product or service that sets it apart from the competition. Branding techniques include the use of catchy jingles, popular taglines, captivating logos or cute mascots... *anything to get people to click or look*.

The danger (*and tendency*) of this trend is two-fold:

1. *the development of a "celebrity culture" over the centrality of Christ*, and,
2. *the promotion of the "church's brand" over the proclamation of the Gospel*.

There should be nothing and no one above Jesus – pandemic or no pandemic – the church's message is centered on Christ.

We definitely need great speakers and excellent musicians... the lights and the "likes" are all good signs that the church's reach is far and wide. But, the problem is when the services turn into entertainment instead of worship, when the focus is no longer Jesus but the vessel that's supposed to proclaim Jesus! The church is in deep trouble when we give in to the tendency of promoting the "church's brand" over proclaiming the Gospel. There should be nothing and no one above Jesus – pandemic or no pandemic – the church's message is centered on Christ.

Let's keep Christ at the Center of it All and keep Proclaiming His Gospel! That's the warning and the reminder and the 'Word on the Street' for us.

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





The Happiness of Contentment

Happiness is a word that is not easy to define. It differs from person to person; each one has a distinct perception and picture of being happy. The ancient Greek sought wisdom and virtue in order to be happy. Others find their happiness with wealth, health, career, marriage, or success. Yet, finding happiness can be a difficult task. In the Bible, God wants His people to be happy, and He cares about our happiness. The prophets, sages, and the apostles believed that if happiness is essential to life, it should also be essential with God.

In the Decalogue, God shows us that human beings can discover true happiness in life. Happiness is available in this world, and this is the result of worthy pursuits and a healthy relationship with God. Those who seek God's Word and the things God loves, can understand the true meaning of happiness. When God spoke from mount Sinai and laid out the Ten Commandment to the Israelites, one of the laws or instructions that He declared was; "Thou shall not covet... (Exo. 20:17). Here includes the neighbor's house, wife, male servant, female servant, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to a neighbor, or things that are out of our reach. Yet, many in all levels of the society rarely even think about this specific command, but always break this one that hurts our economic system, our world, our society, family, even church, and day-to-day thoughts.

The Hebrew word for "covet" is chamad (חָמַד) which means "lust" or "strong desire." It tells that a person desires something that someone else has, just for his or her own gratification. The Bible contains lots of warning and examples of negative and adverse consequences for coveting something that does not belong to us. The Lord forbids us from wrapping our hearts and minds with material desires because this may pull us away from God. Both Old and New Testaments commands us to govern our hearts with the ways of the Lord. The Lord Jesus warned his disciples that they can't have two masters; for you either love the one and hate the other; listen to one and work against the other (Matt. 6:24). He meant that

we cannot have both God and riches as our bosses at the same time.

God's command of covetousness, which is the Tenth Commandment, aims to check our personal desire and tendency. Having the right mindset leads to correct attitude, but wrong thought may lead to wrong attitude. The issue about covetousness is the "attitude of getting." Our human nature always want to have one thing and another thing; toward selfishness and dissatisfaction. The intent of God for His people is to be holy and happy, and this particular commandment lays the question on true happiness. Obeying it will make us happy, but disobeying it will make us discontent and miserable. Our surroundings can prove that this is true. Rich people want to be richer; politicians want to gain more power, businessmen stir up the interest of consumers, and despite having so much, people are always demanding and craving for more.

Since we experience a variety of activities and emotions every day, it would be helpful to find an alternative on a regular basis; that is, the virtue of contentment. The Apostle Paul exhorted young Timothy when he said: "Now godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Tim. 6:6). Prior to this verse, Paul told Timothy that many Christians including leaders, during his time, were greedy for money, hard-headed, envious, and often seeking to obtain what others have. However, those material things are not the true gain in life, neither profitable for godly ministry. On the contrary, the real gain and profit in serving God is the virtue of contentment; and they are great gain indeed. The false believers are not gaining the favor of God, they are actually losing God's favor for wrong attitudes. In addition, Paul also wrote to the Philippians saying: "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content." (Phil 4:11). It means contentment can be learned, and Paul gained understanding to live with little or plenty because he knew God could supply his needs. But how is godliness with contentment great gain? Here is the

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The Happiness of Contentment

Continued from Page 11. . . .

the answer; the more content you are, the more satisfied you will be, and this is great gain. In opposition, the less content you are, the more desires and difficulties you will have, and you will not be happy for the rest of your life, and this is a great loss.

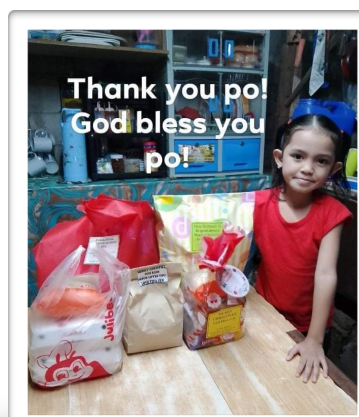
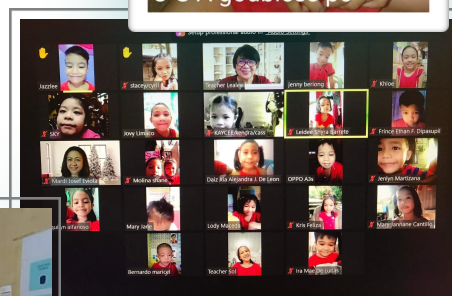
A human being has a spiritual emptiness that only God can fill up. King Solomon in his book of Ecclesiastes had attempted to enter all kinds of entertainment and enjoyment in life, gain all forms of wisdom and knowledge, penetrate the mystery and obscurity in life through pagan religions, but only to conclude that life is empty and is vanity. Without God, we are incomplete! If we try to fill that emptiness with worldly things, it will never be filled. It will only create misery, confusion, uncertainty and failure. But if you give up the “attitude of getting” and surrender it to Christ, those fleshy tendencies, including covetousness will die out naturally. Remember that breaking the Tenth Commandment is also breaking the First Commandment, because we put the pleasure of worldly things ahead of God. Therefore, let us cultivate contentment in order to experience the blessing of true happiness.



Pamaskong Handog ni Jesus

Together with our WIN churches in Spain, Frankfurt and Ireland Pamaskong Handog ni Jesus continues to spread God's love to impoverished Filipino children and their families in several schools and outreaches – WISE-Taytay, WINK Christian Learning center (Iloilo), WIN San Jose Camarines Sur & Outreaches, WIN Baguio, WIN Marinduque, WIN Manila – Vitas Outreach – Montalban Outreach – Pandi Bulacan Outreach – Kasiglahan Kidz – Villa & Salvador Kidz – Bautista Kidz.

Thank you for your continuous support and partnership for this annual program. The joy you brought to these children through your generosity is immeasurable and is a legacy that will be with you forever.



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