

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

First Batch of WISL / ASCM Graduates

On Friday, May 6, at 10 am Philippine time, thirteen WISL alumni from United States joined ASCM's (Asian Seminary of Christian Ministries) 46th Commencement Exercises.

The ceremony was led by Dr. Marc Morris, President of ASCM, at the seminary campus in Cavite, Philippines.

This year's graduation theme is, "He is Faithful" with Hebrew translation "הוא נאמן". The president spoke about God's faithfulness to the seminary and the graduates for so many years.



First Batch of WISL / ASCM Graduates

Continued from Page 1

ASCM is the home of missionaries, teachers, pastors, preachers and God's servants scattered around the globe. Graduates from various part of the world, including the Philippines, India, Korea, Africa, Middle East, USA, and Latin America joined the ceremony, some in person, others via online livestream.

Our thirteen WISL-ASCM graduates who received their Certificate in Ministry joined the livestream broadcast.

Mark Briones	Panteha Sarah Madah
Domingo Constantino	Jal Raval
Marigold Cordero	Linda Del Rosario
Edgard Curbita	Sandra Soriano
Bel Ever Juan	Marilou Turla
Rosemarie Lamichhane	Alexander Wong III
Jay Mabagos	

They also joined the special song presentation rendered by Batch 2022, singing the song "Ocean" of the Hillsong. Through this song, the graduates declared that God remains faithful despite the trials and hurdles they had experienced in time of pandemic.

*~ Dr. Ferdie Melendres,
WISL Vice President / Registrar
and Senior Pastor , WIN New York*

Entrust The Truth

Continued from Page 6

After each session, the youths and YAs would break out to their respective workshop sessions. In these workshops, the youth leaders planned activities with the intention of strengthening the campers' understanding of the message through practical applications or through games highlighting it. My personal favorite was the workshop session wherein the YAs performed skits according to how they would address specific scenarios. The scenarios presented often involved the Word being compromised and it led to a lively discussion on how to best approach such a scenario.

It was a blessing to witness many of the new youths and Christians young in the faith experience a youth camp for the very first time. Flashbacks of my own experience as a youth member kept going through my mind and I was humbled to now be on the other end of that experience. Pastor Randy challenged the YAs by tasking us to be more hands-on with this year's camp, receiving minimal help in logistics and planning. The team even woke up at five o'clock each morning to cook breakfast for 40 campers! I believe I speak for the rest of the team when I say that all of it was worth it because God had moved throughout the camp to attain His purpose.

We are grateful for the renewed strength in the faith and the new bonds built between the two churches. We strive on to continue in our journey with the Lord not simply as individuals but as one united body of Christ. To all WIN pastors and church families who prayed and supported this event, we thank you and may God richly bless you. To God be the glory!

The WORD on the STREET



Reimagining Our Mandate

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

There’s a story after Jesus’ ascension... some angels asked him, “Did you accomplish your mission on earth, Lord?” *“It is finished.”* the Lord replied. The angels added “Has the whole world heard of You and Your Kingdom?”. *“Not yet...”* said Jesus *“... I left eleven Jewish men and a few other followers to carry that message to the whole world!”...*

The angels looked at each other with a concerned, puzzled look, and politely asked Jesus:
“So, Lord, do you have a Plan B?”!

The story, of course, is fictional but it does make a valid point - ***the Lord did entrust the treasures of His Gospel and His Kingdom to His broken, sinful disciples!*** (And, knowing our own sinfulness and our stubborn tendency towards rebellion... *I don’t blame the angels for wondering about a “Plan B”!*)

The church has been entrusted with the Gospel of the Kingdom. It is the agency that God, in His wisdom, chose to anoint and empower for the spread and growth of Jesus’ reign and righteousness unto the world’s salvation – ***what an awesome privilege! What a tremendous responsibility!***

Coming out of the worst of this pandemic, WE, the church, need to revisit and reimagine how to get back into fulfilling the Commission Jesus gave US. Here’s a few points to consider:

1. **Reimagined Connection** – reconsidering how we IDENTIFY with those we want to reach, increasing our influence through contact and “speaking their language” without compromising our stand.
 - **BUILD BRIDGES... Don’t Burn Them!**
2. **Reimagined Intention** – adjusting our approach from “let them come” to “go where they are”, assessing our READINESS to engage in gospel conversations
 - **BE Purposeful... Go To Them!**
3. **Reimagined Composition** – relearning INCLUSION and refocusing on what really matters, ensuring that the Gospel stays open to Everybody and our church open to everybody.
 - **BE WELCOMING... Embrace Diversity!**

I’ve said it in a sermon before *“We NEED to do what we NEED TO do so that we GET to do what we HAVE TO do”* to obey the Lord and make disciples of all nations.”

Reimagining... that’s the Word on the Street.

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





Higher Learning

Dr. Ferdie Melendres
US Education Coordinator

The Prayer of the Righteous

Prayer is our means to connect with God the Father, to talk to Him, to present our petitions, to listen to His voice, to make requests for personal and loved ones, and many others. These requests could be prosperity, healing, peace, protection, wisdom, strength, and innumerable blessings for ourselves, family, relatives, church, friends, enemies, leaders, nations, and the whole world. As we pray, we quote the most popular promise of Jesus that says, "Most assuredly I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you" (John 16:23).

However, many of us find that our experience fails to live up to that promise. Many people wish that they receive more answers to their prayers. In fact, we who believe in the power of prayer still want to be more effective in our prayers and personal devotion to God. However, some times, all of us wondered that God did not answer our prayer. We know God hears us, but we are not seeing real results. Maybe we are not sure if God hears our prayers at all. In this article, let us make a short survey of the Bible and try to find the most "ignored" and "overlooked" key to answered prayer.

Scattered in the pages of the Bible are examples of God answering prayers. When God is ready to wipe out Israel for their sin and unbelief, Moses prayed and God listened and answered his prayer (Exo. 32:7-14). When Elijah prayed that it might not rain, God answered his prayer that He did not send rain on the earth for three and a-half years (1 Kings 17; James 5:17). When Jehoshaphat declared prayer and fasting for fear that the invading enemies from Moab and Ammon will annihilate his people, God answered his prayer (2 Chr. 20). These individuals were ordinary men, imperfect and weak people like us, yet their prayers had changed the mind of God to fulfill His plan. Their prayers transformed the course of history and they got real results.

Recently, we hear lots of bad news in television and internet. Killing, shooting, violence, natural calamities,

wars, rumors of wars, politicking, and others. We hear the president and political leaders expressing their condolences and calls for prayer, particularly after the crises and calamities hit. Religious leaders and business people are uttering prayers saying; "Our thoughts and prayers are with you!" "Our prayers go out to the victim of such and such tragedies." People hold prayer vigils, seek to commune with God when terror strikes, or illness afflicts the loved one, especially during the last pandemic crisis. Despite that, do these prayers make any difference? Did God listen to the prayers and consolations? Many people today believe that the answer is, maybe no! In a secular world, more people even mock the idea of prayer.

The Bible teaches that the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much; the prayer of faith will save the sick, we must be bold in prayer, we must be energetic while praying, we must remember the history of God's faithfulness, we must study the promises of God in the Bible, we must know His desires to bless us, we must hold Him to His promises, we must pray according to His will, we must pray using the name of Jesus, we must be diligent, we must put in hard work, we must pray the most important part each day. Nevertheless, we can do and quote all these prayer verses and not receive real results! Why? Well, probably none of these is the most "ignored" and "overlooked" key to answered prayer! Maybe we are missing something that will genuinely change our knowledge and understanding about prayer.

When the Lord revealed to Noah that He would destroy the earth because of the sins, He commanded him to build an ark. The Bible said that Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him (Gen 6:22). When the rain began to fall, God spoke again to go inside the ark and bring all the animals along. Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him (Gen 7:5). Noah obeyed

. . . Continued on Page 5

The Prayer of the Righteous

Continued from Page 4 . . .

God accordingly! When the Lord revealed to Abraham that his descendant shall be as many as the stars in heaven, the Bible said that Abraham believed and that made him righteous with God (Gen 15:6). But Abraham also obeyed when God tested his faith and told him to offer his son Isaac in the land of Moriah (Gen 22:1-5). Abraham believed the promise but he has to show his faith unto the Lord by means of obedience. Abraham did obey the Lord accordingly!

In the time of Moses, he was told by God to make the tabernacle as a symbol of God's presence in the midst of His people. The Lord told Moses to see to it that he makes the tabernacle according to the patterns which was shown him on the mountain (Exo 25:9, 40, 26:30, Num 8:4). Moses and the Israelites made all the utensils to be used for the rituals, and constructed the tabernacle exactly similar according to the words of the Lord. When David became king of Israel, he decided to bring the ark of the covenant from Shiloh to Jerusalem. He also planned to build a house of God, a temple that would stand permanently in the City of David (2 Sam 7). With this intention, the Lord was impressed by the heart and action of David because of His willingness to do and sacrifice for the sake of his God.

When God sent King Saul for a mission, he was commissioned to destroy and kill all Amalekites, men and women, child and babies, including animals. Saul has to do it because of what Amalek did to Israel in standing against them on the way, when they came up from Egypt (1 Sam 15). Saul obeyed the voice of the Lord, but he obeyed partially not accordingly. Instead of killing all, Saul spared king Agag and the best of the sheep, the cattle, the fat animals, the lambs, and all that was good. They only destroyed everything that was hated and was of no worth. God, through prophet Samuel accused Saul of disobeying God's command, but Saul refused and declared that he did obey God's command. Consequently, Saul lost his throne, and David became the new anointed king. But this was not the first time for Saul to disobey God's voice, this one was the climax of all his previous disobedience.

Obedience matters most to God. Obedience is better than sacrifice. Prayers, animal sacrifices, all sacrifices in church ministries, singing and dancing on Sunday

services are less significant when there is disobedience in the hearts of God's people. Many believers don't realize that obedience is the key, something that we often "ignored" and "overlooked" when we pray and present petitions to God. We must not only pray, but we must also desire to obey God, and actually obey His will. What did the Lord tell Noah, Abraham, Moses, Samuel, David, Elijah, Paul and other men of prayer that they need to do? Simple, they must obey God's command accordingly.

Loving God is not simply saying "I love You, Lord!" Jesus told his disciples, saying, "If you love Me, obey my commands" (John 14:15). "If you obey My teaching, you will live in My love" (John 15:10). The Lord knew the Bible, He knew the will of God, and He instructed His disciple to know and follow His way. Obeying God means giving up one's will and doing God's will instead. Many Christians don't realize or admit this, but most of the time, our will is contrary to the will of God. This doesn't just apply to nonbelievers, but to the people of God as well.

So, what is the prayer of the righteous? Well, "prayer as usual," but never ignore the importance of obedience to the will of God. The book of Psalms, Tehilim in Hebrew, is a book of prayer of the Jewish people. When you see a Jewish guy in a bus, train, plane, or any place reading a pocket book with big Hebrew letters written in it, it is a prayer book, but actually book of Psalms. Here, we can discover many prayers of David asking God to help him obey His will. "Open my eyes that I may see your wondrous things from Your law; Give me understanding and I shall keep Your law; Help me that I shall observe it with my whole heart; Help me that I may learn your commandments; Empower me that I may know your testimonies, according to your words."

Lastly, we are all struggling in our prayer life. There is no formula on how to pray. The major thing is to search the Bible for God's will and His promises. But stop playing fire with God, and then faithfully believe His promises even though it is beyond your comprehension. Not only will you get the real results, but you will know as you are praying that God always answer our prayers. You may not know how or when, but you know that He answers when you pray.

Entrust The Truth

WCIF NJ Youth Camp



Kathleen H. Alabado

Last month, WIN New Jersey (WIN NJ) had the immense pleasure of hosting the WIN Youth and Young Adults North-East Regional Camp at our church grounds in Hopewell, New Jersey. The last time that we had this camp was back in 2013 when we were joined by WIN New York (WIN NY). After nine long years, we were once again reunited with WIN NY and were met with familiar as well as many fresh, new faces. All in all, we welcomed 40 delegates from both states.



The theme of the camp is “**Entrust the Truth**”, which is based off 2 Timothy 2:2 where Paul says, “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” Often, in today’s society, we hear that truth is relative and one person’s truth may not be the truth of another. However, as Christians, we believe that our God is The One, True God and that His Word is absolute. With the truth being constantly skewed by the world, the aim of the camp was to equip the youth and YAs on how to uphold and entrust the truth so that their peers will come to know our savior, Jesus Christ.

In order to highlight the theme of the camp, the equipping had to be done in a two-fold manner. First, we listened to the messages of speakers. Kibwe Calzado encouraged us through his message to “Be Strong”, and then followed by a challenge from Jireh Alabado and myself to “Be Diligent”. We also discussed what it meant to “Endure” by Matt Dela Cruz and to “Focus on What’s Important” by Bro. Yohan Arnaldo. The camp concluded with Pastor Randy’s recap of the theme along with his inspiring personal journey with God.



... Continued on Page 2

AROUND THE US REGION

California - WIN Eagle Rock

WIN Eagle Rock continues to distribute groceries and essential items during their Food Pantry in June.



Washington - WIN Seattle / Tacoma

Tacoma Rescue Mission Women's Shelter

WIN Seattle supports Tacoma Rescue Mission's Essentials for Women. We donated 12 glad bags of undergarments (underwear and sports bra) hair brushes and hair ties; tooth brush and tooth paste; deodorant and body wash; bath towels; pajamas; women's tennis shoes; razors and feminine hygiene products and some clothes.

"It's common for women experiencing homelessness to come to the Mission with just the clothes on their backs."

"If someone is on the street, homeless and a female, she is more vulnerable to predators, to someone coming and trying to attack her or try to take her. Women are seen as targets in a way that men usually aren't. Homelessness is a bigger threat to our lives as women," Lawanda, one of our Women's Shelter staff members, explains."

"10,789 nights of safe shelter were provided to 497 women in dire need."

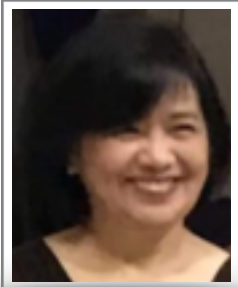
(February Tacoma Rescue Mission Newsletter)

Let's pray for the Tacoma Rescue Mission Women's shelter that they will care, serve and provide for more homeless women.





WISE, Inc. School Moving-Up Ceremony



Teacher Lealee

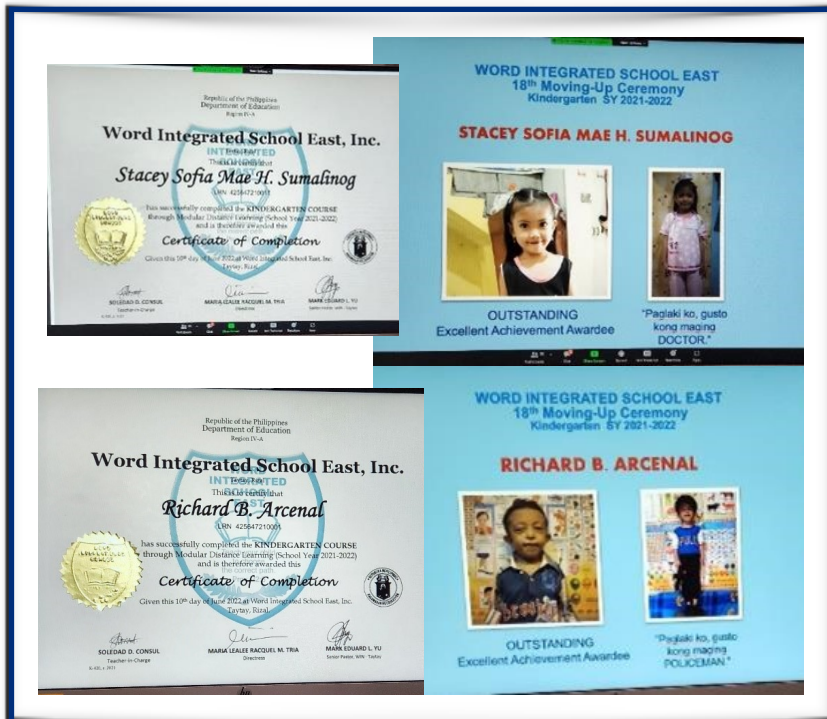
Word Integrated School East, Inc, Taytay, Rizal, Philippines celebrated another milestone of 18 years of God's goodness and faithfulness with the Moving-Up Ceremony 2022, June 10, 2022 for the School Year 2021 - 2022, Kindergarten Level. Guests from the United States, The Netherland and Ireland participated in the zoom graduation ceremony.

"Despite this being a very challenging year, with all our 22 Kindergarten pupils being first-time learners, (no prior face-to-face schooling with us) and with Modular Distance learning as their leaning delivery modality, by God's grace we did it!

By the end of the school year, all 22 are reading already and ready for Grade 1 next school year. Yes, only by God's grace.

We were only supposed to let the parents pick up their children's certificates, medals and cards, but we decided to make it a zoom Moving-Up with the help of Pastor Mark Yu."

Lealee Tria



USA Regional Office

Washington Address

7101 58th Street Ct W, University Place, WA 98467, USA

Tel. No: (253) 564-8053

Email Address: wordusoffice@aol.com

Website: wordinternationalusa.org