

HARVEST USA

A NEWSLETTER OF WORD INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES USA

Infuse The Culture of Christlikeness

With a focus on establishing and maintaining the Christlikeness attitude among the leaders, workers, and church members, Word International Ministries USA hosted its Pastors and Spouses Conference in New Jersey from September 15-16, with the theme: **“Infuse the Culture of Christlikeness.”** The momentous event was held at WIN-New Jersey, also known as Word Christian Fellowship International (WCFI), located at Hopewell, New Jersey. This kind of face-to-face conference was held a few years after due to the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Pastors and their spouse from various states of America including California, Seattle, Arizona, Texas, New York, Massachusetts, Hawaii and New Jersey joined together to make this conference possible. Pastor Edwin Hernandez, being the host, welcomed the delegates with opening remarks, followed by inspirational message delivered by Pastor Babes Paulate on how can the pastor and wife live in partnership in infusing the culture of Christlikeness in the church. Also, Pastor Babes recognized the newly Ordained Ministers of WIN-USA who had been serving the Lord and WIN churches in America for many years.

Other speakers are Pastor Mando Zacarias who spoke about the “Salt and Light: A Lifestyle of Holiness.” He said that church leaders need to encourage the ministers, pastors and wives to cultivate holiness, and help each other in this particular area of life. Pastor Edo Miciano’s message is about “Christ and Culture,” speaking about the challenges the true followers of Christ are facing in a materialistic world of a new generation of our time. Pastor Edwin Hernandez’s message is about “The Life of Service.” He explored the experience of the brethren in the first century church in Philippi, particularly Euodia and Syntyche who both struggle in ministry and relationship. Pastor Vino Atienza shared his thoughts about “Imitators of Christ” taken from 1 Thessalonians 1:4-7. He said that we are called to live a life of holiness and become examples for all people. Pastor Ferdie Melendres shared his devotional message in the morning of Friday about the “Fruit of the Holy Spirit,” while Pastor Gordon Apura’s devotion is about a poem entitled “The Servant’s Sonnet” that emphasized the saying, “He must increase, I must decrease.” There were also some



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discussions, workshops and breakout sessions for all conference attendees. By the way, kudos to the music theme led by Pastor Jay Mabagos and Pastor Kiko Sanchez, and thanks to the whole WIN-NJ family for the wonderful hospitality and service they rendered.

One of the highlights of the conference is the visit to the city Philadelphia, a place that played an important role in shaping the history of the United States. The city is also known to be the spiritual heart of the American Revolution in the 18th century, where the Declaration of Independence was signed by the American forefathers. Friday, September 16 was a day for the wives to have their own activity. The day started with devotions by Sis Nickie Paulate. Sis Marita Hernandez then toured all the pastors wives beginning with Princeton University for an all day time for bonding and fellowship. Their day ended with a Tea Party at the WIN NJ church; hosted by WIN NJ Ladies Ministry - Women of Worth (WOW).



One of the most important moments that took place during this conference was the election and installation of the new WIN USA Regional Overseer. Pastor Babes is the current head of the US region, and by January 2023, his position will be relinquished and someone from among the US pastors would succeed him. Pastor Babes believes, and all pastors agree, that this is best time for him to retire. He will be 70 years old on his birthday in April 22, 2023. After the election and final counting, Pastor Mando Zacarias came out to be the next WIN USA Regional Overseer. He will be at this office for the next four years, with the chance of reelection for another four years. To the pastors' joy and gladness, they all prayed together that the Lord will give him success and prosperity.



Finally, pastors and spouses greeted Pastors Babes and Sis Nickie for the many years of faithful service in the Lord, particularly for establishing Word International Ministries worldwide. They were all working together as early as 1982, when these pastors were just starting as youth members in the Philippines. Today, they are pastoring churches in various parts of the world.

In conclusion, the theme of this conference was centered on the life of Jesus Christ, the only Lord and Savior Who is worthy of all praise and exaltation. Teachings and exhortations were all focused on commitment to Christlikeness to help everyone especially the church members, to understand that a reopening plan after Covid-19 pandemic is not to go back to the 'old ways' we were before, but to move on to the 'new normal' of what we must become in Christ our Lord. The focal point is not whether can we change or not, rather how we must change in order to properly care for the people under our pastoral care.

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

**In this ever changing world, hope remains fixed on
the never-changing God.**

~ Dr. David Jeremiah

Bring His Church to The Next Level of Ministry

In the recent 2022 US Pastors and Spouses Conference held in New Jersey, the pastors elected Bro. Armando Zacarias as its new National Overseer. Anyone who replaces Bro. Babes Paulate will have big shoes to fill. But Pastor Mando has “big feet.”

After founding WIN Better Living and leading WIN Alabang in its growth, in the Philippines, the Zacarias' moved to New Jersey in 1999. The move was indeed led by the Lord. What was originally intended as a better future for their special child, Joshua, was directed by the Lord as a crucial pastoral ministry for Bro. Mando.

In a matter of two years, WIN NJ was founded through the efforts of brethren living in the greater Princeton area under the leadership of Pastor Mando, the church's first Senior Pastor. From then on, the small group bible study leveled up into a church with ministries that reach out to its immediate locality. One vision that God placed in the heart of Pastor Mando and the growing church was to have its own property to bring the worship of God and the church's commitment to the community a level higher. The Lord, through the leadership of Pastor Mando, did just that. In 2011, the church held its first worship service in a building nestled on an 8-acre property in the heart of New Jersey.

Bringing the commitment to the Lord's work a level higher has always been in Pastor Mando's heart. This attitude eventually paved the way to a Senior Pastor succession plan. Pastor Mando knew that the church must continue its growth beyond his leadership. So in 2011-2013, he convinced and prayed with his church Board and finally saw through WIN-NJ's transition to its new Senior Pastor in 2014.

Pastor Mando knows when to take on the leadership and also knows when to hand this over because in his heart, the work is the Lord's and not his. He knows his job is to constantly discern when and where the Lord would like to bring His church. This is the reason why he did not balk at the opportunity to be nominated in the recent National Overseer election. Pastor Mando has “big feet” because they have hiked various levels of ministries and leadership transitions. No doubt, the Lord will use him in leading WIN USA to a new level of growth and ministry.



~ Pastor Edwin Hernandez, NE District Overseer and Senior Pastor WIN New Jersey (WCFI)

True prayer will always lead us to the place of elevating God's will over our own will in the issues of life.

~ O. S. Hawkins, The Prayer Code

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Bro Edwin Hernandez was appointed by the US WIN Board to the position of WIN NE District Overseer after Bro Mando Zacarias took on the position of WIN US Regional Overseer. Bro. Edwin began his pastoral ministry in WIN Better Living, Manila, Philippines where he served as Senior Pastor for seven years. He then joined the Asia-Oceania region where he was the Deputy Senior Pastor for WIN Singapore. He was later petitioned by WIN New Jersey, together with his family (Sis Marita, Kathleen, Koleen and Caleb), in 2013 to take on the position of Senior Pastor of WIN New Jersey (WCFI); which he currently holds. His new position will start January 2023.



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



The Camel Thru The Eye of The Needle

Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God. Matthew 19:24

Let us not miss this point... that the rich young ruler was a good person - he was humble enough to ask for direction and guidance and has always been a generous steward of what God has blessed him with! His problem, as exposed by Jesus, was that he wasn't ready to give up everything to follow Jesus!

In that regard, we can all relate. All of us are called to follow Jesus, most of us are considered “good” and in the process of becoming more like Christ... all of us are required to give up something in obedience to Christ. It might not be riches and it might not be position, it might not be status, like the young man... but definitely the struggle is for all of us to identify that “camel through the eye of the needle” – that one thing that seems to hold us back!

What is your “camel thru the eye of needle?”

Figuring this out may depend on those things in your life and in your heart that you aren't readily willing to give up... areas where the lordship of Christ is not yet completely experienced... pet peeves that you struggle with to release or turn over to God's care and keeping.

It might be helpful to view this (this requirement for full commitment and total surrender) as an **ongoing experience** that needs to be regularly revisited rather than a **once-and-done** activity. After all, commitment and surrender are spiritual disciplines that must be practiced daily in ALL aspects of our living! This self-review hopefully leads us to a healthy detachment from ANY and EVERY element that grabs our attention and loyalty from Jesus Christ.

In my mind, I'm comparing the rich young ruler (Matt.19) and the poor widow with two mites (Luke 21)... one was commended and one went away sorrowful. It wasn't the amount given nor the amount required – but the readiness of the heart for commitment and surrender – both functions of faith in God! The prayer is that we honestly and regularly review how we will answer that requirement when our time of audit comes – and it will!

“My Lord and my God, please remind me to be prepared daily to give up anything & everything in commitment and surrender to You... even things that you have blessed me with! Help me to look at You, the Giver, and treasure You over the gifts you have bestowed on us. I praise and worship You. Amen”.



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

Discipline: A Word We Don't Like

The word discipline was a word that many of us did not like to hear when we were growing up if we are to be honest. We want to do what we want to do and without a care in the world. Disciplining ourselves is tough because we want the easy way out. We want privileges without the responsibilities that come with it. But that is not how life goes especially in our spiritual lives. For us to be successful or make it in life, we need to have discipline in every aspect of our lives.

What does discipline mean? Dictionary.com defines discipline as training to act in accordance with rule. It is an activity, exercise, or a regimen that develops or improves a skill.

We all want to succeed in life. We want to be successful in our careers, marriage, businesses, and ministry. But success entails discipline.

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."

He reminds us that discipline is needed for us to win, and I am sure we all want to win. I am reminded of 2 areas that I need discipline and I believe we all can also relate too.

Prayer: In our day and age, especially the times we are in, prayer time is essential. We need the discipline to spend more time in prayer. Communicating with our Lord in prayer is essential in our daily lives. Prayer helps us have the wisdom to make wise choices daily that will glorify God and the strength to go through the challenges that life throws at us.

How much time do we spend in prayer? Or do we go into prayer just because we need something from the Lord?

Reading: I heard that a leader is a reader. Regular reading of the Bible will produce lasting change in our life. We can read our Bibles once a week and feel good about it! But the truth is, we are not going to grow or be transformed into more of Christ by reading our Bibles once a week. The way to receive more from God is to also have a disciplined time to read, study and meditate on His Word.

Joshua 1: 8 reminds us of this, "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."

How much time do we spend in reading, studying, and meditating on the Word of God? Reading once a week the bible may be good for a someone who is new in their relationship with the Lord. But, as mature believers of Christ, we should be compelled to commune with the Lord daily through the reading of His Word.

When it's all said and done, we will accomplish success in our lives by practicing spiritual disciplines. If we refuse to add these habits that help us grow in our relationship with God, we will remain weak and frail. When we supplement our life in the Lord with these spiritual disciplines, we will develop sustainable strength to live a victorious life.



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

Summer Evangelism in The Big Apple

Michael Raval, Associate Pastor, WIN NY

Word International Ministries New York went to the streets to engage in evangelism. Global pandemic caused by the contagious Covid-19 physically stalled the Lord's great commission. But summer 2022 came as an exciting year to resume the church's annual activity in New York City's predominantly Filipino community in Woodside, Queens. All icare groups collaborated with their members to ensure an effective and strategic approach to bring God's Word to the world while enduring heat discomfort, not to mention the high level of humidity. Young and old alike united to share a prayer to those who came to seek spiritual guidance, family and financial favor. Accordingly, icare groups were stationed in different posts to known Filipino hotspots on a Sunday afternoon. Flyers and cold bottled water were handed out to passersby.

Pastor Ferdie set a series of teaching and preaching on God's Plan of Salvation (GPS) to motivate the church community to be actively involved in this endeavor. GPS has equipped the body of Christ in WIN-NY to navigate the world of evangelism while raining sensitive to God's leading.

Responding to God's call is essential to spiritual growth since the field is now ripe and ready for harvest (Matthew 9:38). The 2-month after church street evangelism was a huge success not only because of the resumption of WIN-NY's summer tradition but the opportunity to bless others by responding to Jesus' charge to all believers to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20).



Higher Learning

Dr. Ferdie Melendres
US Education Coordinator



Transformed By The Spirit of God

Christianity centers in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and it is also about the changed-life of a person who decided to follow Him as Lord and Savior. His or her life has been transformed, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, the thoughts and actions has been altered forever to live a much higher standard based on the teaching of Jesus Christ. The Bible mentioned that being led by the Holy Spirit, the lives of believers will blossom, flourish, and prosper in all they do. However, if they neglect His direction, their lives may be languished by the trials and pressures in life. Sadly, many believers today seem to misunderstand the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and how it relates to their personal transformation.

We may be overwhelmed as we see where we need to be, or enslaved to wrong habits, with hatred inside, ill will, greed, selfishness, covetousness or may be addictions in other things. And our reason is, we lack the willpower to change. Nevertheless, Christ knows this well, and He promises to give the power to His followers to overcome the challenges in life and be transformed. Before His final ascension to heaven, He told his original disciples, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you" (Acts 1:8). This is not an empty talk, because on the day of Pentecost, 120 disciples received this promise, and 3000 were baptized in water on the same day. Later, innumerable number of believers embraced the new faith. They became brand new persons in Christ, and they were inspired and energized to be God's witnesses for Christ!

Jesus did not leave His followers wondering if they wanted to succeed, or to have the help they need to make the transformation fulfilled. He knows exactly what they need, and He is ready to provide it to them. The reason why many Christians fail to overcome difficulties in life is that they try to face their human weaknesses in their own strength, not recognizing their dire need for constant help from the Holy Spirit.

When we began to do it alone, we think that the Holy Spirit is powerless to take us out of the situation, and that is because of our unbelief and disobedience to the Word of God.

By understanding the nature and characteristics of the Holy Spirit, we are touching the Source of power, wisdom, discernment and strength. He is God, with feeling and emotion, a member of the Godhead Trinity. The Holy Spirit is our way and the answer for making needed changes in thought and action. The result is a transformed life! In fact, it is the Father's desire to give His children the Holy Spirit especially to those who ask Him (Luke 11:13). The Scriptures likens the Spirit of God to some useful objects to help the believers better understand how He could work to transform our lives. So, let us look at how the Bible describes the Holy Spirit and how He could be a Help to each one of us.

During the Pentecost in the book of Acts, it is written that "suddenly came a sound from heavens, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house... Then appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire and one sat upon each of them... (Acts 2:1-4). We all know how powerful wind can be, and the devastating power of a typhoon and hurricane. But winds can turn windmills to produce electricity that provide energy to many. Such manifestations of power in the natural realms serve to represent the ultimate kinds of power, the Holy Spirit. Like wind, fire provides another illustration of power. Fire could bring great heat and fury as we saw in the forest fires that happened in various places. But fire can also give warmth and comfort, just like the Holy Spirit as our Comforter. The refining furnace can refine gold by removing impurities, similar to the works in the lives of the believer that executes transformative works.

In His first sermon at Nazareth, Jesus declared, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He

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has anointed Me to preach the good news to the poor... (Luke 4:18). The Holy Spirit is upon Jesus symbolizing the oil of anointing to perform the service both unto God and men. During His three-year-ministry, the Lord released the captives from bondage, gave sight to the blind, healed the sick, raised the dead, fed the hungry, and performed many signs and wonders. As the oil is a source of fuel and energy, the Holy Spirit is also our source of energy and strength in order to accomplish what God wants us to do.

The gospel of John tells us that in the last day of the great feast, Jesus declared, "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38). The gospel writer added that He spoke concerning the Holy Spirit. Water is the essence of life, a powerful channel of power. It flows and performs lots of works in the lives of humanity. Likewise, the Holy Spirit flows and produces power in us as we yield in Him. Water refreshes and renews, quenching our thirst, so as the Holy Spirit. Rain makes crops grow, so

as the Holy Spirit makes us grow in the grace and knowledge of God. As we yield in the presence of the Holy Spirit, He will permeate every part of our lives, including family, works, ministries, relationships, everything, just like water in nature.

The Lord Jesus on the night before His death promised to give His disciples what He called the Helper, the Holy Spirit, "The Father is sending a great Helper, the Holy Spirit, He will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you." (John 14:26). We know that the Spirit of God is in us! He was illustrated in various ways in the entire Bible, and they are all connected with enabling power to transform our lives. The Lord wants us to be freed from what we are, and be transformed into a new creation in Christ Jesus. By immersing ourselves in the Scriptures, and obediently following as the Spirit of God leads us, we will be the fruit of the Spirit maturing in our lives. We will find ourselves being transformed from one level to another by the Spirit into the image of Jesus Christ Himself.

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The Pastors Spouses were treated to a Tea Party hosted by the Women of Worth (WOW), WIN NJ Ladies Ministry. Sis Tess Sanchez, our very gracious hostess, served the ladies tea and hors d'oeuvres. She just arrived from traveling and brought macaroons from Paris, France for the tea party. The spouses enjoyed a time of fellowship, sharing what was discussed during the session on the first day of the conference and a time of prayer.

It was truly a blessed opportunity to bond with spouses from around the US and to catch up about life and ministry.



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