

A Legacy of Faithfulness

The story of ICS Las Piñas.

In 1985, a group of believers from Parañaque and Las Piñas, who were attending at the ICS worship service in Mondragon at the time, started a fellowship in BF Homes. Sis. Myrna Isip-Kato, the fellowship's pioneer worker, saw in a vision that people were gathering to worship in her garage. With a passion to reach families within the Bgy. CAA Las Piñas, the ICS Satellite church in Las Piñas was born.

In 1989, Sis. Myrna and her family moved to settle in Japan, where her current ministry is located. This challenged the believers to look for a new permanent place to gather. After much prayer, ICS Las Piñas satellite members, with the help of ICS Main church, were able to buy a lot in Pulang Lupa. Immediately, construction of a new building started.

As the years passed, several changes of leadership took place; from Bro. Joseph Mirasol (1989-1996) to Bro. Babes Cruz (1996-1998) to Ptr. Sur Del Rosario (1998-2002).

In 2002, Ptr. Sur invited a young Alodia Maye "Dayang" Hindoy and persuaded her to have her Bible school internship in Las Piñas, together with Ptr. John-John Miaco and Ptr. Jess Tan. For two years, she helped them grow the ministry there.

Ptra. Dayang was installed as the area Pastor by Ptr. Abe Visca (former ICS Main Senior Pastor) in April of 2002. Since then, she has been faithfully shepherding the Las Piñas church. Under her watch, a lot of ministry opportunities have opened, such as the establishment of a local student center, which eventually metamorphosed into a Sunday afternoon youth service.

At present, Immanuel Christian Service Las Piñas is still steadfastly carrying out its mission of reaching out and establishing families of believers in the community.

Midweek Series...

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Past topics have included "Get Off the Fence", "Completing the Circle", "Patrol Your Pleasure" and, most recently, "Check Your Bags". If you haven't already checked it out, you owe it to yourself not to miss the last two installments in this power-packed series of teachings from God's Word.

So come on down to the Midweek Service, Wednesday nights, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. For more information, call Sis. Jess Cadimas or Sis. Emily Mercado at the office, 632-1093.

Coming Soon: "Harmony in the Church" – a series that will tackle inter-personal relationships, conflict management and ministry development in the church. Watch for it!

NAGPAYONG ON THE GO! – A Medical Missions Update

After the successful one-day Medical Mission held at Nagpayong, Pinagbuhatan, Pasig last June 30, the leadership and members of Immanuel Christian Service (ICS Nagpayong) made a positive commitment to continue to address the various needs of the community, in cooperation with ICS Main's Ministry Development Program.

In light of this, the ICS Nagpayong brethren have been holding regular meetings every Friday, from 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon, in order to undergo various trainings and conduct planning sessions so as to determine how to best help in the progressive and lasting transformation of its community.

One of the recently approved programs that the church will implement by September is the Reliv™ supplemental vitamin drink nutritional program. This three-month children's feeding program will see batches of kids from the area, in turns, being supplied with a daily dose of Reliv™. This program aims to address the rising malnutrition of the children in the area. More programs designed to benefit the community are still carefully being evaluated and considered by the church for implementation in the near future.

For more information on how to get involved in the Nagpayong outreach contact Ptr. Emman Vargas, ICS Nagpayong pastor, at 09198965384 / em2an_v@yahoo.com; or Sis. Rose Dedel, ICS-MDP Coordinator, at joyland138@yahoo.com.

Check out what's happening at ICS

online at:

www.ics.org.ph

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Jerry's Grill

The Nehemiah Attitude

When Nehemiah learned about the state of Jerusalem, his response was four months of fasting, praying, weeping and mourning. That allowed him to champion his cause regardless of the odds; he was tested, accused and attacked on every side. But not only that: without distraction, he finished the task. He was also able to unite the people of God to work together, staying on course with their eyes on the goal.

Nehemiah's response provides us a challenge to stay on course for the cause of reaching the unchurched and empowering the faithful. Thus, our desires are these:

1. Desire to build a spiritually strong and healthy local church with spiritual armories to penetrate the spiritual powers over our cities. Jeremiah 50:25
2. Desire to mobilize all believers to pray, fast, prayer walk and unite together to minister mercy to every house, apartment and business establishment within our targeted area. 1 John 3:8
3. Desire to penetrate every pocket or stronghold of darkness by increasing our repentance; first, by denying all sins revealed, and then, increasing our power of prayer intercession over our city – Ezek 22:30
4. Desire to reach each generation with the power of the gospel, reaching past, present and future generations with relevant spiritual tools and methods, by committing to raise up a young leadership that will take significant leadership roles in reaching our city. – Gen. 14:14

5. Desire to be knit together as one corporate, unified spiritual net, making up the church, a network of people and ministries governed by covenantal relationships that will catch a great amount of fish, without "breaking the net". 1 Cor. 1:10
6. Desire to turn wickedness to righteousness and see a full-blown authentic revival resulting in new conversions and growth in every Bible-believing, Jesus-centered church. Believing that our prayers and presence will change the future of our city. Isa 58:1

Together, let us develop the "Nehemiah Attitude" for the Glory of God. - JB

Midweek Series: "No Wonder They Crucified Him"

Ptr. Jerry Balbuena has been speaking on a series entitled "No Wonder They Crucified Him" during our Midweek services over the past month. In it, he discusses the reasons why our Lord was coldly and brutally set up to be publicly murdered in spite of His winsome and gentle ways.

Apparently, His message, not to mention His life, was so cross-grain and counter-cultural to the entrenched religious ways and means of His time. He just wouldn't quietly submit to contemporary social and religious stereotypes or fit neatly into their box. While everyone practiced and promoted surface-level religiosity, Jesus emphasized authentic spirituality anchored upon integrity and manifested by authentic spiritual disciplines.

And they crucified Him for it. (continued on Page 4)

Reach the unchurched, empower the faithful!

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ICS & HIV-AIDS Seminar
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ICS Attends HIV/AIDS Seminar

Sis. Emie Padla, together with Ptr. Jesse and Sis. Rose Dedel, attended "Channels of Hope", the 3-day launch-cum-workshop of World Vision in the Philippines' HIV and AIDS awareness campaign last Aug.8-10, 2007.

Rev. Christo Greyling,
World Vision
International HIV/AIDS
Global Advisor,



facilitated the three-day workshop, attended by leaders and representatives of several religious and cause-oriented groups. The workshop was intentionally designed to challenge and breakdown the prevalent myths, pre-conceived notions and stigmas that people have, either out of ignorance or fear, of the dreaded virus.

Greyling is an HIV survivor. A hemophiliac (a "bleeder"), he contracted the human

immunodeficiency virus after getting a transfusion of HIV-contaminated blood. Together with Leisl, his wife of 19 years who still chose to marry him in spite of his revelation of his stricken condition, Christo Greyling is living witness to the fact that there is bright hope, significant meaning and fullness of life after HIV. Part of their incredible testimony as people living with HIV is that Leisl and their two children remain HIV-negative, by God's grace.

Consequently, the delegates were powerfully awakened and challenged to respond to the call of de-mystifying HIV and AIDS, as well as sounding the alarm for the rest of the country to realize that a full-blown epidemic in our nation is not such a far-fetched possibility.

The workshop ended on a pro-active note, with the delegates submitting their inputs and action points which they will propose and implement within their respective churches and organizations.

*People don't care how much you know,
until they know how much you care".*

The personal testimony of Dra. Claire Celiz.

I wanted to become a writer. But my dear Father in heaven apparently had other plans.

When God holds your dreams in His hands, He will take you way beyond where you have imagined yourself to be. He is not assuring a smooth ride, but a sure destination. I can confidently declare that throughout all this, I had God's favor. My duty schedules, the residents that supervised me, co-clerks and co-interns I have been grouped with, were to some, not anything worth mentioning, but to me were altogether designed beautifully. I have built up great friendships and learning experiences with these people. The oral *revalida*, a major requirement for graduation, was provided for me with a tribunal that is compassionate and objective. The latest and probably the sweetest victory God and I shared was the board exams. When I look back, I am more certain that I am where God lead me to be.

I am now writing this testimony as a proud licensed physician, a product of the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, and most of all a living proof that God weaves into dreams beautiful people and opportunities that make known His goodness and faithfulness. Never be afraid to dream big, for God's hand can take you beyond the stars. I give thanks for His guidance throughout my life, and with ICS as my spiritual family. Whenever I enter the



sanctuary, I look into the faces of good friends who gave me support and tolerated my endless whining and anxiety attacks during the board review, of titas and titos who earnestly prayed for me and beamed with pride as if I was their own child, and once again I am overwhelmed with God's love. And the one person who probably deserves the same recognition for all this, if not more,

is my mother. It is beyond words to describe what she has done for me, and I am more than ever proud to be her daughter. God has given me a good life, a life I gladly share with you. He deserves all the praises for what He done. To God be the glory.

As a last note, I leave to you the passage of my devotion the night before the Board Exams. It had a great impact on me and, I eventually shared it to the rest of my friends. It was the promise I held in my heart.

Psalms 94 v. 18,19,22 (NIV)

When I said, " my foot is slipping", Your love, O Lord supported me.

When anxiety was great within me, Your consolation brought joy to my soul.

The Lord has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.

Congratulations on your success. We're proud of you!
- Your ICS Family.

(Read the full testimony at <http://ics.org.ph>)

Lola Linda and Martha's Café

Those who know her well call her "Lola". But, at 57, Sis. Erlinda Tolentino has a winsome smile and sprightly way about her that belies her unlikely nickname. "Lola Linda" is the person responsible for the tasty, nutritious and reasonably priced meals available every Sunday at the church's Fellowship Hall, also known as "Martha's Café".

"In 2000 (the late) Sis. Lita (Visca, wife of former ICS senior pastor Abe Visca) approached me, Sis. Vaisy (Bunsoy) and Sis. Emily (Mercado) and encouraged us to handle the ICS kitchen ministry," Lola Linda recalls. "Since that time... I have been the one left in-charge of the church's kitchen ministry."

Quite the accomplished chef, her versatile repertoire of culinary delights includes Chinese, Western and Filipino dishes. Needless to say, the Sunday crowd at Martha's Café are always a happy, satisfied bunch!

Lola Linda is also the head of the church's Visitation ministry, ever since she was appointed by Ptr. Jerry Balbuena back in 2005.

Get to know more about Lola Linda and her ministry at our website: www.ics.org.ph. Or better yet, hang out at Martha's Café.



The Children of ICS Experience the Joy of Giving

The month of August turned out to be another exciting time for the Children's Church as their topic was on "The Joy of Giving". Children were treated to a film showing of "The God Man", a movie that dramatically portrays the expansive

biblical narratives, from Creation to Jesus' death and resurrection, and underscores the unique person and godhood of our Lord. August also saw a new set of teachers installed to teach the Beginners, Primary, and Middlers classes.

TRS' Handa Ka Na Ba? Concert : A Glorifying Success

August 26 saw a showcase of God-given talents as The Redeemed Stage Productions held its fund-raising concert for the benefit of their upcoming HongKong outreach. As concert director Nio Manzano put it, a lot of people were not only entertained but truly touched and moved as the TRS artist circle performed. The audience was treated to a night of anointed praise and worship, beautiful song numbers, energetic dance moves, touching drama, and an

inspiring Word that reminded the people to get ready for life in the hereafter. Ultimately, the concert succeeded not only in raising the much-needed mission funds but also in bringing more people to Christ as well as glorifying His Name.



ICS Deaf Church : Joyfully Worshipping God in Silence



the communion, with Sis. Emi Padla faithfully interpreting the preaching for them.

The Deaf Ministry of ICS continues to be an inspiring story of God's wisdom, love, and patience. Every Sunday, they meet as a church, studying the Word and praising God simultaneous with the 10 am service. And every first Sunday of the month, they join the ICS Hearing Worship Service for

Led by Pastors Rommel and Bernadette Infanta, the ICS deaf church now has 30 regular members, all happy to work and reach out to even more.

Last July 29, they celebrated their 8th Anniversary with "God is Good All The Time" as theme. Pastora Lani Guzman, their former pastor, was their guest speaker.

The Deaf Church of ICS would like to interact more with the hearing members of the church. They would also like to become active in the other ministries of ICS. Their major challenge for now is communication. Through the learning of sign language, both deaf and hearing can very well share with each other their love for the same God. For hearing members, perhaps now would be a good time to learn a new skill?

To know more about ICS' Deaf Ministry, you may contact Pastors Rommel and Bernadette Infanta at (0920)2995433 and (0927)5250943.