

the FIN News

Filipino International Network

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A New Initiative for Training People on the Move: IDS Launching

Manila, Philippines & Portland, Oregon, USA (April, May 2007) -- The committed Christians in the Filipino Diaspora – a substantial estimate of 7% of 8 million registered Filipino expatriates, are a great potential witness around the globe! With the goal to “motivate, equip, and mobilize Filipinos to partner for global missions”, the Filipino International Network has partnered with Alliance Graduate School (AGS) in Manila, Philippines, and Western Seminary in Portland, USA to launch the Institute of Diaspora Studies (IDS) this Spring (2007).

Negotiations for this new initiative in training have been underway since FIN began in the mid-nineties; however, it was not until the FIN-initiated Filipino Theological Educators Consultation, held from January 4-6, 2006 at the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary, Baguio City, Philippines, that solidified partnerships and actual planning began for the Institute of Diaspora Studies. The theme of the consultation was: Mobilizing Filipinos for Global Missions through Theological Education. Representatives came primarily from theological seminaries and Bible colleges in the Philippines with some from Middle East, Far East Asia and North America. Several diaspora leaders and ministry practitioners joined them. After a fruitful time of dialogue and reflection, the participants formulated and signed **The Baguio Challenge** which is a prayerful five-fold challenge:

1. That the Filipino church will continue to excel in equipping all Christians for growth and witness, and training leaders for effective ministry globally.
2. That theological institutions especially those in the Philippines will embrace the reality of Filipino diaspora missions and will include missiological training for all pastors and Christian workers.
3. That region-specific curricula be developed to prepare the Filipino diaspora Christians to engage in effective and contextualized ministry.
4. That a sustainable multi-delivery system of formal and non-formal theological education be sensitively coordinated and implemented for diaspora Filipino believers in creative access nations.
5. That networking and partnership be sought with other Diaspora groups and networks to enhance and expand the availability of theological education for all Christians.

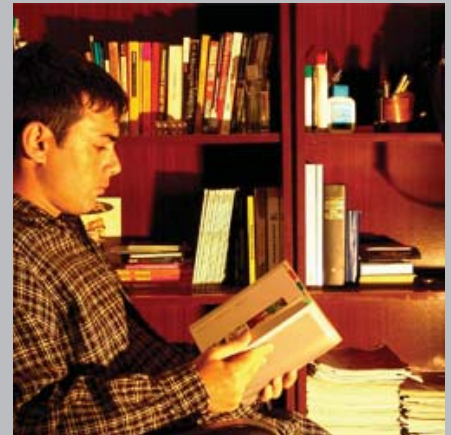
Direct results include the kairos partnership of FIN with AGS in the East and with Western Seminary in the West to develop the IDS program which would be inline with the Baguio Challenge. AGS launched the first-phase of IDS-ASIA in April 2007, and Western Seminary launched IDS-USA in May 2007.

Dr. Tetsunao Yamamori, evangelical leader, missiologist, and former International Director of Lausanne Congress for World Evangelization expresses congratulations on the launching of the IDS centres, and affirms the program by saying: *“The topic of people on the move is of immense significance missiologically and those committed to the Great Commission ministry must explore its strategic implication.”* The hope is that IDS will result in the upgrading of lay-pastors who are presently leading diaspora congregations, and that it will contribute to increasing the maturity of their lay leaders, particularly in the high-priority Creative/Limited Access Nations where there is a large presence of Filipinos. In the past, many have benefited from excellent informal training opportunities that have been made available through various agencies. What makes IDS unique is that it is a more formalized and systematic education program. Such an approach will draw other diaspora Christians to take advantage of this training.

Core courses include: Diaspora Missiology; Practical Evangelism; World Religions (e.g. Buddhism, Islamic, Hinduism, etc.); Globalization and Global Violence: Implications on Global Missions; Contextualization; Catalytic Leadership; Intercultural Communication; Cultural Anthropology.

The courses offered in Spring 2007 were: “Diaspora Missiology: A Filipino Case Study” taught by Dr. Sadiri Joy Tira, “Cultural Anthropology” taught by Dr. Enoch Wan, “Catalytic Leadership” taught by Dr. T.V. Thomas at IDS-Asia; “Diaspora Missiology: Case Study of Jew, Chinese and Filipino”, taught by Dr. Enoch Wan, Dr. Twovya Zaretsky and Dr. Joy Tira, and “Business as Transformation: Principles and Practice of Holistic Mission”, taught by Dr. Ted Yamamori at IDS-USA.

FIN welcomes future partnerships with other institutions in Asia to work together to enhance the breadth and quality of education. FIN is certainly looking forward to the implementation and fruit of this new initiative in ministry training.



Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age. -- Matthew 28:19 paraphrased in the Message

For more information about IDS-ASIA, please contact Dr. Averell Aragon at AGS. The E-mail is

contact@ags.edu.ph

and visit the website at

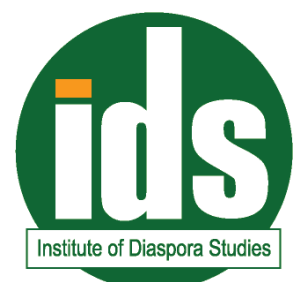
www.ags.edu.ph

For further information about IDS-USA, please contact Dr. Enoch Wan at Western Seminary. E-mail him at

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www.westernseminary.edu/diaspora



Recent Events

GLOBAL DIASPORA MISSIOLOGY CONSULTATION

- Sponsored by FIN & endorsed by Lausanne

Edmonton, Alberta (Nov. 16-18, 2006) -- Participants included missiologists, theologians and leaders of diaspora groups such as Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Jewish, South Asian, Korean, Brazilian, Hispanic, Nepalese, West African, East African, Russian, Arab and Filipino. The impact of global migration on the future of global missions and new missions strategies were the major issues discussed at the Consultation.

The Consultation was hosted by Taylor University College and Seminary (Edmonton), convened by Dr. Enoch Wan (Director, Doctor of Missiology Program at Western Seminary, Portland), Dr. Tetsuno Yamamori (former International Director of Lausanne) and myself as FIN International Coordinator. The host for the event was Dr. Allan Effa (Associate Professor of Intercultural Studies at Taylor Seminary) and the facilitator was Dr. T.V. Thomas (Center for Evangelism and World Missions, Regina). Though the consultation itself was attended by invited participants and observers only; public lectures and services were scheduled and well attended. Papers presented by the participants were collected and will be published in a compendium volume as a sequel to FIN's first publication -- *Scattered: The Filipino Global Presence (LifeChange, 2004)*. The book "Scattered..." was distributed at Lausanne Forum 2004 in Pattaya, Thailand. We hope that this upcoming publication will be released in time for the Lausanne III in 2010.

APOLLOS PROJECT – Training OFW Lay Preachers

Dr. Roy Versoza, a noted Filipino preacher and FIN partner, trains Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) committed to ministering to their fellow OFWs and other diaspora communities to properly handle and deliver the word. The Apollos Project seminars focus on hermeneutics and homiletics and are conducted in South Korea, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, England and Japan. Please read his brief report below and pray that many OFWs will become effective preachers of the Gospel.

Japan & Singapore – Praise God for His mercy and grace! We thank the Lord for you and your partnership with The Apollos Project ministry. We end the month of May with a ministry in Singapore... We leave May 25 and come back May 30. Please do pray that we can challenge more pastors and lay workers there in Singapore regarding what Apollos Project is all about. Pray for more windows of opportunity to open.

Our ministry in Japan (April 27-May 8) went very well. It seems like we might have to return there for more training. Also if the plan of the 4 Nigerians who attended there in Japan pushes through, they are planning to organize an Apollos Project seminar in Nigeria come August, 2008.

For the month of June we will be conducting seminars here in Cebu City, Puerto Princessa, Palawan and also speak at a Couples Retreat and a Young Professionals Retreat. We're praying for all our ministry partners that God will continue to use you in a mighty way as we serve Him in the different endeavors He has given us.

Again, we're just praising God for all His goodness expressed through your friendship and partnership.

God bless you all the more,

Dr. Roy Versoza

Training Continues

Japan (December 2006, April 2007) -- New Life Training Curriculum continues in Japan. Several Japanese-Filipino congregations, as well as Filipino-American (based at American military bases) congregations have partnered with FIN to sponsor evangelism and discipleship training to Filipinos and their Japanese friends. Pray that the Filipino Christians will be a great witness for Christ in their Japanese communities and neighbourhoods.

Reports from the Field

FIN is committed to connecting "Kingdom workers" to prayer partners. If you are ministering with or to Filipinos overseas, or to other diaspora groups and would like to submit praise reports or prayer items, please send them to finedmonton@cs.com with subject as "Reports from the Field" and we would be happy to submit it to our partner site, an online missiology journal, www.globalmissiology.org. Please remember to include your name and location of ministry. Please note that items to be posted may be edited for appropriate content and security purposes.



Filipino International Network

FIN's Mission Statement: The Filipino International Network (FIN) is a catalytic movement of Christians committed to motivate and mobilize Filipinos globally to partner for worldwide mission.

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