

A. Intro: Our Humble Beginnings

Before we joined Victory Churches International over 20 years ago our 7 churches, that we started in the provinces, never grew over 80 in numbers. We were struggling personally in ministry for workers and finances. Feeling drained, tired & discouraged. Then we received an invitation for all the missionaries in Asia to bring us to the 'Time of Refreshing Conference' in Singapore. There we met Pastor Al & Terry Purvis. Pastor Al laid hands on us and spoke a prophetic word over us and 'BOOM' Pastor Rich went down to the floor. Afterwards they connected us to Drs. George & Hazel Hill. We spent a week with Drs George & Hazel at their house in California, coaching & mentoring us, showing us how they do church planting. One thing that stuck in our hearts was when Dr. Hazel said, "we won't start a church until there are 200 people at the grand opening". Pastor Rich said, yes, we can do that. Meanwhile, I'm elbowing him, whispering to him, don't make that promise, we can't even grow our churches to 100. How will we do that?

Then after a few days, the Holy Spirit spoke to Pastor Rich and said, "double that 200", so on the day of our grand opening we are fearful and excited by God's grace when 450 people came at the grand opening. That was unheard of during those times. During the altar ministry almost half of the people there went forward. The Holy Spirit moved and we saw salvation of souls, healing, and signs & wonders in the midst of us. God is awesome!

B. How Do We Connect To His Destiny?

1. Destiny is first and foremost connected to God

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

2. Destiny is connected to who you are. What's God's calling for you, what is his purpose for you, what is he saying to you?

3. Destiny is connected to our leaders - Exodus 3:7-10 NIV

"So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey... And now

Connecting to Your Destiny

By Pastor Ning Conte

the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

God raised up leaders who would help His people go to the promise land. When God called Moses, God had this concern, ‘I heard their cries, I want you to lead them to the promise land I prepared for them’. They that are planted in the house of God will flourish. Those that are not committed, most of the time, are scattered. They have no permanent address, no spiritual family, and they just go to any church, mentor & coach.

4. Destiny is connected to our attitude & character. John Maxwell said “Our personality can bring us to the door but character will bring us to our destiny”. How do we respond to situations. Are we reactive or proactive.

Are we willing to obey God, no matter what happens. Are we willing to sacrifice to go through the process? (It’s not easy. When we were about to move from Cabanatuan province to Manila to start a new church, we were prepared to stay in crowded place with pollution & traffic. Our kids at that time were 10, 13, & 15 years old. They told us “we are not going with you. We will stay here with our friends.” Of course, at the end they come with us and after a while they liked it in manila so that they didn’t want to go back to the province.)

C. We Are Going To The Destiny That God Has For Us

Recently we just bought a lot and a 4-storey building to use as a headquarters, Bible school and an event center to hold seminars and meetings for pastors and workers.

By the grace of God, we now have 36 churches in the Philippines. We also opened one church last year and are in the process of opening 2 more churches in metro Manila. We have 4 missionaries (one in Thailand, 3 in Cambodia) with 2 churches and a family of missionaries in Vietnam.

Truly destiny won't happen without God, without our apostolic leaders, and without the help of the team we have. God has more for each one of us, for His glory and for the expansion of His Kingdom!