

# SAMARITAN STRATEGY

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*Samaritan Strategy is the official newsletter of Samaritan Strategy Movement Philippines. The movement aims to promote the concept and principles for doing Wholistic Ministry in local churches. It works in partnership with Food for the Hungry, International and Harvest Foundation, U.S.A. For more information on the movement call (0917) 848-4768.*

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## Samaritan Strategy Philippines team member promotes Vision Conference in TOPIC confab

Bishnu Regmi, a member of Samaritan Strategy Philippines Movement team and student of the International School of Theology – Asia student attended the TOPIC conference held at the Manila Hotel this month. He was given the chance to talk about his involvement with the Vision Conferences that are being conducted by the movement for local churches in the country. The following is his account of how he was given the opportunity to address the TOPIC participants:

*“I thank God for allowing me to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Consultation of TOPIC (Trainers of Pastors*

*International Coalition) that was held at the Hotel Manila Pavilion from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of September, 2005. Ninety two participants from 25 different countries from Asia, Africa, Latin and North America attended the consultation. The theme for this year’s conference was “Closing the Gap”. The consultation was officially begun by Bishop Ef Tendero (national director of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches) who delivered the welcome speech. The casting of vision, “Closing the Gap”, were presented by Dr. Ramesh Richard and Rev J. Paul Landrey. Although I did not have any plan to attend the meeting, God gave me the opportunity through my mentor Nelson Reed. I represented the Himalayan Region along with other four participants from the region including Nepal. At the consultation, I came to realize that there is a great need for training pastors and leaders in my country. And I have a responsibility to be a part of it, specially training them on wholistic ministry.*



*[Bishnu Regmi is seated, center, with fellow participants who took the mini-Vision Conference*

*conducted by Dr. Taniajura, standing extreme left, last summer of 2004 for ISOT students]*

*One of exciting things I heard throughout the consultation was the need for churches to be wholistic. As Dr. Henry Tan was delivering his powerful message on “The Challenging Future: Closing the Gap in Asia” he strongly said “good works and good news should go hand in hand. Churches must be taught to engage in lives of people outside the church through simple acts of love with no expectation in return”. Dr. Jose Norberto Saracco said likewise in the conclusion of his paper on “Theological Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. He said that the central agenda of Latin American churches is the transformation of society”.*



*[Mr. and Mrs. Bishnu Regmi with their two children and niece]*

*The emerging realization of the need of churches to be wholistic is to make an impact in society. I realized that it would be good to share with the participants about vision conference and “seed projects”. As a response to my humble request, God provided me 15 minutes of time with the help of Nelson Reed. Considering the limitation of time, I talked about the seed project followed by two presentations on sample seed projects from the video produced by the DNA movement in Arizona. As conclusion I shared my personal experiences in putting*

*up a children’s school at ISOT-Asia as our first seed project. I also mentioned our available resources (Basics and LDTP, If Jesus Were Mayor and Discipling the Nations books, VC manual, and DNA internet courses). Following my talk, many of the participants personally inquired from me about the vision conference and seed projects. Dr. Nary Santos, Director of Purpose Driven Life (PDL) Ministry for Asia has also shown in interest in wanting to have a meeting with DNA Philippines team for possible partnership. The following day fifty copies of VC 2000 manual with FHI/Philippines brochure and newsletter were provided to the participants. I also gave 10 copies of the book “If Jesus Were Mayor” to key leaders of the conference, including Dr. Henry Tan, Dr. M M Maharjan, Philip Flores, and Dr. Alan Weaver. I thank God for Nelson Reed and Debbie Toribio who generously provided for the books and VC 2000 manuals respectively. Although I had no plan of promoting the vision conference and “Seed Projects” at the conference, I believe it was the intention of God that they be promoted. For this I give God all the glory!” – Bishnu Regmi.*

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### **Community Development 1 class conducted at ISOT**

For the second time, the introductory class in Community Development (Com Dev 1) was offered on the first quarter of school year 2005 to 2006 at the International School of Theology – Asia. The class, which uses the materials of Samaritan Strategy/Disciple Nations Alliance (DNA) as primary references, was taught by Dr. Rey Taniajura, co-chairman of the Samaritan Strategy/DNA Philippines movement.



[The six students of Dr. Taniajura who took up Com Dev 1 at ISOT on the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the school year]

In conducting the class, Dr. Taniajura presented the role of worldview to development. He also introduced the students to wholistic ministry approaches, particularly the concept of Seed Project and Seed Project planning. Already some 18 ISOT students have taken the Community Development 1 class. Five of those who took up Com Dev 1 have already completed the Community Development 2 class.

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***If leadership of your church or ministerial fellowship would like to invite the team of Samaritan Strategy/DNA Philippines to conduct a Vision Conference on what is “Samaritan Strategy and Wholistic Ministry” in your local church, we will be happy to do so as a ministry of love. Please feel free to contact us at the following email addresses:***

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