



An Expanding Vision

By Michael Williams

Michael Williams, director of ICI Ministries shared with *InterLit's* Suzanne Ralston how he makes the most of ministry opportunities.

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I am the director of ICI (International Correspondence Institute) Ministries, which is half ministry and half publishing. We work to enrich and strengthen pastors, church leaders and workers. Our motto, "Reaching the Lost, Training the Found," reveals that we are both outreach and discipleship oriented.

My days vary significantly depending on what I am doing. I have very few "typical" days because I am frequently out on ministry trips that last anywhere from three to ten days. All of my work is intertwined; we publish tracts and evangelism booklets in order to minister, then we go on ministry trips to distribute the resources.

We have a wide array of products, ranging from tracts to Bible curriculum. "Kid's Quest" comic book, are used as an evangelism tool for children. ICI produces literature for crusades and mass rallies, as well as training manuals, Bible curriculum, and five million tracts annually.

When I'm going into the office my day usually starts at 4:30 am, which gives me time to collect my thoughts and get organized. I get to the office between 6:00-8:30 am. Traffic is so bad in Manila that it can take me anywhere from 10 minutes to an hour to get to the office, depending on when

I leave. Timing is crucial. Manila is a city of 18 million people, known for its colossal traffic jams.

Once I get to the office, the meetings begin. We employ 25 people at our main office in Manila and I like to welcome them into my office. I enjoy problem solving and brainstorming ideas with employees. I like to have my finger on the pulse of the company. I typically meet with our Christian Education Department, encouraging them as they tackle their immense tasks. For the 3800 churches in the Philippines, there are 20 publishers. We produce curriculum, training manuals, books and tracts. At ICI we want to train pastors and believers with books on church doctrines and daily Christian living.

Additionally, once a month I lead a day-long department head meeting, where we can touch base and be aware of all that is going on. Our administration, ministry enrichment, publication, marketing, accounting and distribution teams all share what they are working on, so we can have an idea of our workloads and our progress on our goals.

Since my focus is ministry, I often welcome visitors who are seek prayer and counseling. This ministry is good for me, because it helps me keep my focus. One of my passions is to see people grow in their relationship with the Lord.

In between visits, I try to get more work done. Because I am in charge of the operations and business administration for our resources, I deal with the nitty-gritty details of visas, banking, and government procedures.

I sometimes have to teach. We have 12,000 students for a staff of 30, so I often find myself filling in. ICI's Bible curriculum supports our correspondence school. It has four tracks, with at least eight books per track, so there is a lot to do in helping our students to grow in Christ.

Over the years I have learned to listen to God and take chances. We received a vision from God years ago, and have done all we can to fulfill that vision. We have also taken chances developing the many facets of ICI, but listening to God the whole time, and it has been a blessing. We have not been trapped by our original vision, blind to the opportunities all around us. Instead, we have chosen to take every opportunity presented and use it, tweak it, to work for His glory.

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