

## FAMILY FIRST PHILIPPINES LAUNCHES SHEPHERDS' CARE PROGRAM



**Manila, Philippines** - Family First Philippines (PMP - Pamilya Muna Pilipinas), in partnership with Philippines Without Orphans (PWO), has just launched its initial Shepherds' Care Program. More than 40 pastors and spiritual leaders were in attendance. The gathering was hosted by Cornerstone Church in the city of Manila. The first program of the day was a seminar-workshop called Be A Better Dad Today, facilitated by Reverend Mike Menez, senior pastor of Heritage Christian Church, the Executive Vice President of Baptist Bible College-Asia and a father of three teenagers.

The idea for the Shepherds' Care Program began as a simple conversation between the president of Philippines Without Orphans (PWO), Robby de Luzurriaga and Glenn Yu, president of Pamilya Muna Pilipinas (Family First Philippines). The mission of PWO is "To prevent and remediate orphanhood by educating, equipping, and activating every Filipino in a national movement for permanent families." This is in line with Pamilya Muna Pilipinas's vision for strengthening families. Both organizations desire to prevent



orphanhood and believe strengthening the family is a means to address this issue. Additionally, PWO places orphans in families that would care for them, presenting the need to promote strong and healthy families to ensure the welfare of these orphans. The idea is to start with our Filipino churches, asking members to consider "fostering or even adopting" orphans.

The conversation led to the idea of strengthening the pastors of our Filipino churches and their families. Pastors are fathers and mothers, as well, and they minister to families within their

congregations. Yet, who ministers to these pastors? Ambassador Gregory Slayton wrote in his book, Be A Better Dad Today , "There are no successful Lone Ranger dads-you need the support of friends and older role models from whom you can learn." Pamilya Muna Philipinas and Philippines Without Orphans seek to encourage and come alongside our pastors, shepherding the shepherds through equipping and educating them to live a balanced ministry-family life, so they may serve their own families first and foremost. And, as they and their families are encouraged, they will be able to minister more effectively to the families entrusted to them in their churches.

Some quotes from the pastors that attended the first Shepherds' Care Program indicate the value of this project:



*"Good to see specific areas I had missed previously; these are opportunities for improvement and encourages me to achieve the Family Vision. I started taking notes right away."*

*"I am blessed for attending this seminar. I learned a lot and, as a soon to be 'father,' I am excited to put into practice the gems from this workshop."*

*"For me, the seminar has greatly enhanced good fatherhood practice that is biblically based-the ten tools are so helpful."*

*"This kind of seminar is unique and provides help for all the dads*

*who want to be better dads in this generation. It's very effective and I see that God's grace is available for all parents."*

*"What the facilitator is saying hurts a little because it is the truth. It breaks the heart and made me realize that my very first disciples should be my family."*

As a result of the success of the first Shepherds' Care Program, PMP and PWO have been invited to conduct the "Be A Better Dad Today" Seminar-Workshop for the Olongapo City Christian Ministerial Association this November.

As a partner of Family First Asia, Pamilya Muna Pilipinas seeks to promote good family values and practical steps for putting family first. The Fellowship of Fathers Foundation (USA) provides support and partners closely with these family centered organizations.

More information on Family First Philippines/Pamilya Muna Pilipinas is available at [www.PamilyaMunaPilipinas.org](http://www.PamilyaMunaPilipinas.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PamilyaMunaPhilippines](https://www.facebook.com/PamilyaMunaPhilippines).

You can read more about Family First Asia at [www.FamilyFirstAsia.org](http://www.FamilyFirstAsia.org) and Fellowship of Fathers Foundation at [www.FellowshipOfFathersFoundation.org](http://www.FellowshipOfFathersFoundation.org).