



The Abraco

Vermont Tres Dias Newsletter

July-August 2014

Visit www.vttresdias.org

Secuelas

July 19th
Tres Dias Picnic

August 16th
The Ridge - Brookfield

September 20st
Randolph United Church

October 18th
Georgia Plain Baptist

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The Narrow Way

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Matthew 7:13-14

Pilgrim applications are coming in! Let's fill the Wildflower Inn to capacity! See page 11 for dates. Applications and sponsor forms are on the web site or request them from: pj_smithers@comcast.net

Presidents Letter



Greetings in the Name of Christ,

Nothing will happen without prayer. Prayer is our personal communication with our Abba Father. It is our one-to-one time with God. I've always found it so amazing in the way Abba works, He knows exactly what we need and how we should receive it.

There are times in life when a page needs to be turned-which means our life compass is set to a different bearing; a change begins in uncharted waters and it seems as if we are drifting life's ocean. I am one of the many, that has been given an altered course. As most of you know, I have worked for the state of Vermont since 1979, and now I work for Advance transit in Wilder, Vermont, I drive a bus. In my heart for the past 5 or 6 years I have been feeling a great change was needed in my life, the seed had been planted, watered, cultivated and tended to through different circumstances. Last

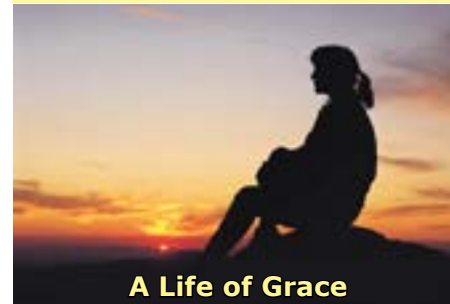
spring it finally met the soil. Without going into great details, all this time Abba had known what was going on with me and knew exactly what and how this change would come to pass. Of course, I had no clue and spent many days in and out of prayer, visiting my pastor and Christian brothers/sisters for support. A great many unanswered questions, it seemed, were lifted up to Heaven with many days, weeks, and months of uncertainty were sailed right through. God knew where I was headed and how I was to get there.



Faith was instilled in me and an even closer relationship came to pass. I prayed: we prayed, and in time a page was turned. Not in the way that was envisioned by me but by the course Abba had charted. New waters and a new and stronger faith came to pass. Not to men-

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Reflections



A Life of Grace

by Bernadette Tracy

A life of Grace & Truth
Through Boundaries and
Borders

God is all about relationships. You see His desire for intimacy with us as far back as the garden as He walked with Adam and Eve. He created within us a longing for relationship; first with Him and then out ward to each other. We are relational creatures. The desire to relate is a basic need found within each of us regardless of gender, age, intellect or geographical location. Every society has testified to this through written records, songs, poems and writings. But God's view of relationship and ours do not start and end on the same page..

God is perfect and the relationship that existed within the godhead was perfect as

well. God desired to share this perfect love with us and in purity the first man and woman came forth from His hand. He used His own breath to give us life. From the beginning He gave us choice. He wanted our love to pour out of a willing heart, free of manipulation, guilt or fear. He wanted us truly free. But even in this freedom, God gave us boundaries and borders. Boundaries and borders help us recognize where we begin and end; helping us see God and others as separate from ourselves, with individual freedoms



and choices and were put in place as natural protective barriers. These boundaries were present in the garden displayed as the Tree of the Knowledge of good and evil. When the boundary was violated, sin entered. We see the birth of sin and its

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Reflections

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works in the lives of Adam and Eve and its inevitable spread to Cain and Abel, who while in a jealous rage, murdered his own brother.

Once sin entered the world all relationship changed. There was now a gap in the relationship between God and man and in our relationship with each other. Throughout time, history records the freedoms of choice that man has made as a result of sin. These choices have often been to the detriment of others. Slavery, poverty, murder, exploitation, control and manipulation were the path of selfish freedom that many traveled. The purity was gone, the giving was gone. The cry of "me first" replaced what God had originally intended for us at the heart of relationship and every man, woman and child has suffered under its selfish root.

God's plan for redemption was present long before Adam and Eve exercised their "freedom" and made the first wrong choice. It was present long before Abel's blood cried out to Him

from the ground. When Jesus Christ came it was to set the captives free; free from the trappings of sin and death.

When God gave us freedom, it was always within the safety net of borders and boundaries. These boundaries and borders weren't meant to trap us within, or to keep others out. These were the tools of relationship that allowed us to live and move in true freedom while honoring God with our lives and loving others without guilt, fear, control or manipulation of God or others. It let our yes be yes, and our no be no. It let us release others into the hands of God, allowing them the freedom to make choices as separate individuals accountable to God, whether they were our children our spouse or our neighbor. These boundaries and borders are not prohibitive fences, but rather guiding gates that allow us to walk in the fullness of life, the grace and truth of relationship that is at the center of the heart of God.

De Colores,

Bernadette Tracy



Vermont TD Web Site

www.vttresdias.org

Visit the link, check it out. Get monthly information about Secuela sites, and maps for directions. Find PDF files of Brochures, Applications, and Sponsor forms. Send your feedback to pj_smithers@comcast.net We would love to hear from you!!

Documents Online

Don't forget, you can get important documents like applications, sponsor forms and brochures on the website: www.vttresdias.org, under the "Info" tab. or by contacting Peter and Janet Smithers, phone 728-9639, or email pj_smithers@comcast.net



Find us on Facebook

or connect via the VTD web site at: www.vttresdias.org



(President's Letter

Continued from Page 2)

tion a considerable financial increase. God is good, extremely good! Amen.

The moral of the story: pray, pray without ceasing, nothing happens without prayer. Use your prayer closet and every waking moment to fervently pray for people in the Kingdom.

I ask that you make a point to add Tres Dias to your prayer list. Pray for our Vermont charter and for Tres Dias all over the world, for we are many. We are His hand and feet, His plans and purpose will come to pass through us (YOU). And all we need to do is simply pray.

It has been a blessing and honor to be your president as my term comes to an end. We also need new officers to fill the positions that are vacant. So pray for them, and also the upcoming weekends. Ah! The weekends! Oh how I love them and you too.

In His service,
Richard Chamberlin

Women's Rector Letter

Dear Community,

What an awesome God we serve! I am amazed and humbled while watching God put together His team of women to serve Him this upcoming fall Women's Tres Dias #54. I am grateful for all the ladies who agreed to serve on team and I'm looking forward to seeing what God has in store as we move forward. Our verse for this year is: Romans 12:12 "Be joyful in Hope, Patient in affliction, Faithful in prayer." Please pray for all team members and their families and pray for the Pilgrims that God will be calling to participate in the weekend. Decolores!

Cindy Bailey
Rector, Women's #54



Men's Rector Letter

Life has many ups and downs. Some are uplifting and wonderful like the birth of your child, your graduation and your wedding day.

Some however are not so wonderful. In life there are many surprises that leave you feeling pain, feeling scared, and even lonely. The day you receive divorce papers, a call from your doctor letting you know that you have aggressive cancer, and you need to make a quick decision on a treatment. A rush to the hospital by ambulance because you are having a massive heart attack after your normal workout at the gym. Then finding out that you are flat lined in the ambulance on the way to the hospital and you now have permanent heart damage.

I have been the recipient of all of the above. However I would not change a single thing in my life. The trials in my life have strengthened my spiritual muscles bringing me into a deeper relationship with God.

God has always been faith-

ful in giving me the desires of my heart. Tres Dias #49 theme appropriately is Psalm 37.4

"Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart"



Tres Dias is a tremendous gift from God to strengthen men to be the Leaders that God has intended them to be from the creations of the world.

Oct 30th thru November 4th 2014 is this years upcoming Men's Tres Dias #49 Weekend.

Please help in supporting this upcoming Tres Dias Weekend. There are many ways in which you can help.

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Weekend Signups

Weekend team meetings will be starting soon. Pray and think about how you might serve: make a banner, bake a pie, serve a meal, sing a song - sign up soon. Contact Richard Chamberlin 728-5918 (men), or Jill Williams, 276-2171 (women) to sign up. Also, consider and pray about pilgrims you might sponsor for the weekends now.

Abraco Notes

The Abraco may be viewed online at www.vtresdias.org under the "Newsletter" menu. If you would like to defray the printing and postage costs for the Abraco, please send donations to our treasurer:

Vermont Tres Dias
Eva Ciampaglia
64 School St. Ext.
Northfield, VT 05663

If you would prefer to receive online notification only, (no

printed version) contact: pj_smithers@comcast.net



2014 Team List



Men		Women
Jim Guiel	Rector	Cindy Bailey
Jerry Cole	Chief Auxiliary	Lorinda Michaud
Don Cameron	Rollo Room Aux	Ann Howard
Dick Michaud	Rollo Room Aux	Bonnie Kenyon
Lucas Hayward	Rollo Room Aux	Cheryl Morrill
-----	Rollo Room Aux	-----
Rich Chamberlin	Chief Kitchen Aux	Jill Williams
Paul Moses	Kitchen Aux	-----
Ralph Cook	Kitchen Aux	-----
Don Jones	Kitchen Aux	-----
Reg Wilcox	Kitchen Aux	-----
Fred Tomaselli	Spiritual Director	Steve Berry
Ron Rilling	Spiritual Director	Janet Smithers
Ed Chase	Music Director	Doreen Puopolo
Jason Jarvis	Ideals	Brenda Berry
Greg Wadlinger	Church	Beth Cole
Pete Smithers	Piety	Peggy Lewellan
Glen Norton	Study	Barbi Langdon
David Satre	Action	Lynn Butler
Luc Legault	Leaders	Nancy Knapp
Greg Smithers	Environments	Marilyn White
Jim Mather	CCIA	Karen Warner
Mark Lake	Reunion Groups	Joan Cook
Jim Guiel	Fourth Day	Cindy Bailey
-----	Table Leader	Pat Maynard

First consider and pray about pilgrims you might sponsor for the weekend.

Secondly to donate food, general supplies, as well as volunteer to serve a meal you can contact my kitchen Chief Richard Chamberlin at:

Home (802) 728-5918
Cell (802) 356-3381
Palanca - Uplift the pilgrims. Send your personal palanca for each pilgrim letting him know that there is a larger supportive community there praying for him.

Prayers - Please pray for those serving on team that God will use them for his purpose, and that the Pilgrims hearts will be open to hear the message that God has for each one of them.

Blessings,
De Colores,

Jim Guiel
Men's Rector 49



Weekend Supplies

Dear Pescadores,

The Supply Committee is in charge of picking up the different items needed for the weekend. Please call Wayne & Karen Warner to let them know if you have donated items to bring to the next Secuela. This will help greatly in easing the financial burden of the weekends. Let's pull together to make a few of these purchases and be blessed. If you would like to make a financial donation to help, that would also be appreciated. Thank you!

Warner home phone:
802-728-4958

Items that could be donated are:

- White Lined paper
- Paper Towels
- Kleenex boxes
- 2 pocket folders
- Hot Cups
- Cold Cups
- Liquid Dish Soap-sm bottle
- Poster Paper
- Sponges with scrubbie
- Toothbrushes
- Travel Tooth Paste

Tres Dias Picnic

A beautiful setting



Great food and fellowship



Games



For all ages.

Invite your friends

Last years tug-of-war:



It's true - a single cord *can* be broken



**Join us Saturday, July 19 starting 11 am at Kenyon's
Pot luck - bring meat, food and drink.
See web site for directions.**

What is Palanca?

(Reprinted from Abroco, November-December 2012)

Palanca is a Spanish word that means "lever." Just as a lever enables a person to move something which is beyond normal strength, palanca, as used in Tres Dias, empowers the accomplishment of things which would not be possible without the Grace of God.

Bear in mind that letters themselves are not palanca! Letters are merely the vehicle to convey the actual palanca being done at that time. In other words, the effort, thoughts and prayers that go into the letters are actually the palanca, not the letters themselves.

Types of Palanca: PERSONAL, GENERAL, SERVICE

PERSONAL PALANCA: performed on behalf of individual pilgrims and team members, frequently demonstrated in personal notes that are meant only for the recipient.

A brief note of encouragement; reassurance that God will meet the pilgrim right where he or she is. Add an encouraging scripture (reminding of God's promises, etc). Let them know you are praying for them (and do it!).

You can include small items such as cards, bookmarks, pins, etc. Do not refer to special events that happen over the weekend. Your palanca may not be delivered when you expect, so you wouldn't want to spoil the surprise.

Do not refer to home or family. It's important to maintain the focus and sequestered nature of the weekend. Do not talk about how you felt on your weekend. The pilgrim may be having a very different experience.

GENERAL PALANCA: This is palanca performed on the weekend in general, most frequently demonstrated in letters or posters that are addressed to the team and pilgrims, often accompanied by small gift items or tokens.

The letter should be addressed to the team and pilgrims on a particular weekend. It should include the actual palanca that you will be providing to the weekend - such as:

A gift of prayer. Let them know you will be praying for them. Perhaps you will pray for the weekend everytime you have to stop at a red light, or something like that. They should know it. (And be sure to honor your commitment). A gift of sacrifice: perhaps something that you are giving to the weekend. Let them know the spiritual significance of the item. Try to include an encouraging scripture. Using the theme scripture of the weekend helps to promote the unity of the weekend. The letter shouldn't be too long or complex as it's meaning may be lost.

This IS where you can refer to your own weekend ("I sat where you are sitting...") If possible, include small tokens for the team and pilgrims. The items should have some spiritual significance and can be as simple as some chocolate or as complex as craft items that you and your Reunion Group made. Remember it's the thought, prayer and service that's important, not the actual item itself. Posters with brief notes signed by individuals in your church or Reunion Group are an excellent form of general palanca. General palanca is also provided in other ways:

You may provide palanca bags for the weekend; decorated aprons for the auxiliaries; the rollo candle; supplies for communion; break food; candy for the tables; or flowers for the dining room or rollo room.

SERVICE PALANCA: This palanca is service performed before or during the weekend, often behind the scenes and without specific recognition. For instance: assisting in the preparation and breaking-down of the Agape; running errands to obtain supplies during the weekend; serving meals to the team and pilgrim (aka: Kitchen Palanca); or serving as a cook's helper.

Remember, Palanca is a lever - Let's Use It!!

International News



Happy Summer Everyone,

I know I for one am enjoying the sun and warmth of the season. I am not a winter person and dislike the cold and snow so I never complain during about the summer.

This month Ron, Pat Maynard and I will be flying the friendly skies once again headed for Atlanta Georgia and the annual Tres Dias International Assembly and Secretariat Meeting being held July 25-27. Ron and I are the TDI Delegates representing this/your Vermont community. Pat was a long time Delegate and Ron and I have been very blessed to have her still involved. She is loved and respected by so many of God's children for her many years of faithful service to the Lord, TDI and the Vermont Tres Dias community.

We encourage you to get involved in your local community and if you are able, visit a TDI Secretariat meeting which are held in March and October or an Assembly which are held in July. If you ever have any questions please feel free to ask any one of us, we would love to share with you what God is doing. We each serve on committees and what a blessing it is to fellowship with so many brothers and sisters in the Lord from communities around this country and the world. When we return I am sure we will have lots to share so come to the next secuela. Enjoy the rest of your summer and remember that when the sun isn't shining the SON always is.

DeColores!!!
Ron and Barbi Langdon



Upcoming Events



Clip & Save

Secretariat at 5:30 PM Secuelas at 6:30 PM

Secuelas:

July 19 Tres Dias Picnic at Kenyons

August 16 The Ridge, Brookfield

Sept 20 United Church of Randolph

Oct 18 Georgia Plain Baptist Church

Weekends:

Men #49 October 30 - Nov 2

Women #54 Nov. 6-9

(Maps and directions may be found on the web site)

Carpool to Secuela . . . its great fun and fellowship



Decolores!

Vermont Tres Dias

Peter and Janet Smithers

91 Smithers Rd.

Randolph, Vermont 05060

pj_smithers@comcast.net

www.vttresdias.org

