

The Abraco



Vermont Tres Dias

April/May
2015

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President's Letter



Dear Pescadores,
The anticipation and planning are well underway for our fall weekends. I

ask you to pray constantly for the team to come together under our Lord's direction. Also pray for God's guidance for your answer if you are asked to serve.

On behalf of the whole community I want to thank Jeff Cyphers and Marilyn White for accepting God's call to serve as rectors this fall. Truly a blessing.

Now is the time to begin praying that God would touch the hearts of those whom He has selected to

be pilgrims this year. We all can encourage fellow Christians to attend but only He can create the desire.

I am excited to tell you that at our last secretariat we decided to fill the positions on the visitation committee. I said fill but it certainly is not full. If you have a calling to share about how Tres Dias can impact church leadership please contact me. I know from first hand experience that there are many churches that do not know anything about our mission. Namely training, supporting and encouraging church leaders. I believe that the

task of the visitation committee is to seek invitations from interested churches and go to them with a clear overview of our mission. Three people have stepped forward so far; Karen Warner, Janet Smithers and Jim Guiel. Did I say I am excited?!!



There is no time like the present to put on the Palanca hat. Prayers, service or whatever you can do will be used to glorify our Lord and Savior.

DE COLORES

May He bless you

Dick Michaud

2015 Spotlights

- Be in prayer for the upcoming weekends. Rectors will start the process of picking people to be on team.
- Thank you for those of you who have offered to host Secuelas. Please see the last page for site listings.
- Mid summer, we have a picnic. It is in July, so mark your calendar now for July 18th. This is a great time to bring someone that you may have been talking to about attending a weekend, as it is an Open gathering.

Truly one of us and so much more

by Bernadette Tracy

The snow is falling from the roof collectively into small pools of water onto the ground below. The temperature climbs some days, reminding us, almost teasingly that spring, although officially having arrived on the calendar is still just a faded memory with the promise of green

grass, bluer skies and warmer days ahead.

Each year, Christians prepare for the sobering day of Good Friday, followed quickly by the jubilation of Easter and the realization of the Hope we have in our Risen Savior.

It is a time of

reflection knowing the great sacrifice of Christ in bearing the sin of the world on His body; my sin, your sin, the sin of those who reject His sacrifice made very personally for each one.



I often ponder the

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Letters from our Rectors

Letter from Men's #50 Rector

Jeff Cyphers

Greetings!

My name is Jeff Cyphers and I am humbly honored and slightly overwhelmed to serve as Rector on the Men's



Tres Dias "Jubilee" weekend #50 this coming fall. My first Tres Dias weekend was #32 in 2000. I am a member of Wellspring Worship Center in West Lebanon, NH, where I serve as one of the worship leaders. I currently

live in Grantham, NH with my beautiful wife of 27 years, Margaret and God has blessed us with 3 sons Jonathan 24, Joshua 23 and Michael 21 who all follow Jesus.

With so many of our Pescadores in the Vermont community going home to be with the Lord recently, it is a constant reminder to all of us that life on this earth is short and fleeting. We tend to be so distracted by what seems to be urgent and making plans for tomorrow that we sometimes neglect the essentials of today. Yesterday is gone and there are no guarantees for tomorrow. Today is a gift from God and I believe He wants us to seize every minute for Him, our families and the call He has put on our lives.

With this in mind, I have chosen James 4:14 as a theme for the men's weekend: *"Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes."*

Please pray as I begin putting the team together.

De Colores!

Jeff Cyphers

Letter from Women's #55 Rector

Marilyn White

Dear Vermont Tres Dias Community,

My name is Marilyn White and I will be the rector for the Women's Tres Dias weekend #55 (November 5-8). My husband, Robert, and I attend Green Mountain Gospel Chapel in Randolph and made our first Tres Dias weekend in the Fall of 2009. What a blessed weekend that was! We live in Bethel, have four grown children and eight grandchildren that keep us active.

When asked to serve as rector this year I went into my room, knelt down and cried. You see, God has been teaching me to trust Him and Him alone. As the years pass by, I am given more

reasons to trust and depend on Him. I am learning to go to Him first and that I



can trust Him. He is always there. Being rector is another opportunity to serve others and to trust God that His will may be done within everyone involved in the weekend.

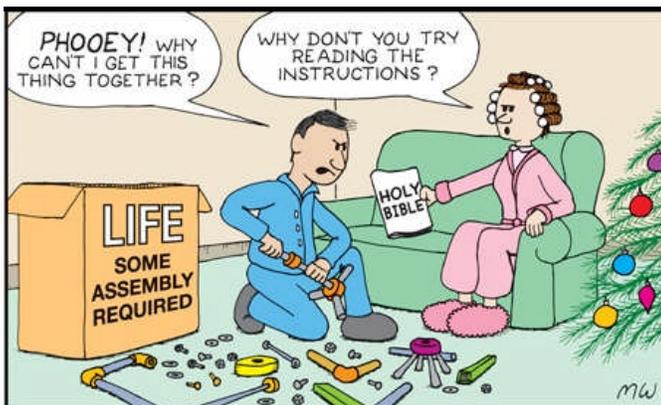
A couple of years ago I put the following verse on my wall in front of my desk at school and have since put it on my refrigerator. It is the verse that I would like to use for the theme of the women's weekend. *"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord is the Rock Eternal."* Isaiah 26:3-4

Please be in prayer concerning the formation of our team that we will be knit together as one in Christ Jesus serving one another with gladness as we trust in Him.

Thank you for your prayers and God bless.

In Christ,

Marilyn White



Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

— PROVERBS 3:5-6 NIV



More info from our President



Dear Pescadores,

Lorinda and I attended a meeting in New Hampshire with the New Hampshire community, RIMA (Rhode Island/ Massachusetts) and

two representatives from Tres Dias International: Executive Director, Paul Weis and Membership Vice President, Frank Yarbrough.

Many topics were discussed but two stood out and I think are pertinent to our community. The first one is our Sequelas. Both Paul and Frank believe we have "shot ourselves in the foot" by not opening our Sequelas to the public. I personally have had Pastors ask if they could attend to get a feel for what we are about. Paul and Frank pointed out that there are websites that accuse Tres Dias of being a cult because of our secrecy! I experienced that feeling when my wife attended her weekend before me and refused to tell me anything about it. I think I used the word cult and almost refused to be involved. Paul used a great analogy. If you were standing on a railroad track facing an oncoming train you would know that you were going to be hit but would that change the "impact"? I believe that to grow our community we need to be more sharing in our mission and how we carry that mission out.

The second topic of interest is sponsorship.



We need to be more purposeful in educating potential sponsors in the process of identifying pilgrims and supporting them before, during and after the weekend. It was suggested that before

deciding to sponsor anyone, we should pray for 30 days asking the Lord if we should sponsor and if yes who. Once you have a name then pray for 30 days for the potential pilgrim, their family and their situation. At the end of the 60 days you would then approach the person (or persons).

Reunion groups are also a very important aspect of our 4th day. Are you involved in a reunion group? Have you invited those you've sponsored to a reunion group? Just some things to think about.



On a sad note, Tres Dias New Hampshire is struggling, they have not had weekends in 3 years and membership has diminished significantly. RIMA seems to be having difficulties as well. We need to pray that God's plan for these communities will see them through and to a fresh new beginning. From listening to conversations with these two communities I feel blessed that Vermont Tres Dias is in a much better state, no pun intended, but we need to look to the future and pray fervently that our God will bless and lead us on the way.

De Colores,

Dick Michaud



Truly one of us and so much more

(Continued from page 1)

Christian life and how it is to be lived. I have learned that it truly only can be lived out victoriously in Christ and through His strength and Life that indwells us. This involves yielding and the act of our free will submitted unto God to do as He pleases. You might be thinking, "Whoa, that's an

awful lot of trust!" It sure is! It might even cause you to put the brakes on before being willing to hand over the wheel.



The past few years I have been the recipient of some very unwelcome circumstances in my life. Have I been angry at God? - Yes! Have I turned a cold shoulder at times, shutting Him out? - Again yes! But God has been Faithful and Graceful and extremely patient with me. And I am learning to listen and even yield. How has this happened in the midst of overwhelming pain and anguish?

I have always loved the book of Hebrews, particularly the description of the tearing of the veil in the Holy of Holies and the awareness that I may now enter, draw near and access the Father. His person once closed off to us through sin, now wide open. Jesus, The Word, by taking on flesh became one of us. It was His humanity, His identification with us, the temptations that He faced, the physical and emotional pain, and lastly the tasting of death that enabled Him to become our High Priest forever. He experientially knows. It happened to Him.

We all recognize immediately when someone else quickly identifies with us when we share our painful experiences. There is no hesitation on their part. There's no scratching of the head or blank stare on their face. They experientially know it. It happened to them. They get it, because they lived it. And so with Jesus. He not only died for us, but He lived for us. He lived a perfect human life, full of all the difficulties we face and then some.

So, when we celebrate His life, and seek to yield to His life in us, we don't need to hold back. We don't need to wonder if He gets what we face on a daily basis. He gets it. And He gets each one of us personally so much more than we know. Hebrews 4:15-16 *"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are- yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

Remember, He cares, He understands and He always has an open door policy!

De Colores,
In His Love,

Bernadette



Seeing the face of Jesus in others By Luc Legault

Having been on team for a number of weekends, one thing is certain: one or more Rollistas is sure to relate the manner that the parable of the prodigal son speaks to us about our human condition.

Often, it could be to ask the question: Whom do you resemble most: the prodigal or the older brother? In the end, the matter is not whether we are like the older brother or the prodigal son. The call for each of our lives is to become the father ourselves. In becoming the Father: it's our hands that forgive, console, heal, and offer a feast. Becoming like our heavenly father is the very heart of Jesus' message.

Most mornings and occasionally later

in the day, I sit in silence in the presence of God. At the end of the time, I enter into the moment described in the Gospel of Luc (15:20): While the prodigal son was a long way off, the Father saw him and ran to him, He put his arms around him and kissed him, and kissed him, and couldn't stop kissing him.

In sacred moments like that, the Holy Spirit affirms us in our identity as God's beloved sons and daughters. As a result, we can be secure in who we are in Christ and become like our compassionate Father.

In these moments, pray that God would make his face shine on those who are close to you so that he would draw everyone closer to him

and to each other. Growing in our relationship with Jesus surely requires that we also grow in our relationship with others.

Consider then the impact of the Gospel of John where the entire 9th chapter is devoted to the healing of a man born blind. In John 9:32, the young man says to the Pharisees, "Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind." Check it out. It's amazing that in all of Scripture, there is not one account of anyone other than Jesus restoring sight. Prophets, holy men and women, and disciples heal lepers, provide food in times of famine,

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and even restore others to life. However, not one person restores the sight of a blind person

As difficult as it is to restore sight to a physically blind person, it is more difficult to restore sight to a person who is spiritually blind.

This is the struggle the Pharisees are having. In John 9:41, Jesus says, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

Now in keeping with one called to be like our compassionate heavenly Father, allow Psalm 27:8 to take more space in your spirit: My heart says of

you, "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek. It follows that taken with the account in the gospel of John, that Jesus desires to restore our spiritual sight. He wants us to seek his face in everyone we encounter.

Admittedly we find it difficult to see God's face in others, when we limit ourselves to the exterior and when we allow offenses done to us to control our heart.

We are to see the face of God in the persons who have hurt us or shamed us, in the persons who say cruel and hateful things about us, and in the friends we once enjoyed fellowship and who now curse us. This is Jesus restoring our spiritual sight. This is the Holy Spirit transforming us more and more into the compassionate Father.

Blessings, *Luc Legault*

Your Tres Dias Officers

- President—Dick Michaud
- VP—Richard Chamberlin
- Secretary—Joan Cook
- Treasurer—Cheryl Lake

Your Committee Chairs

- Weekend Committee
Wayne & Karen Warner
- Post Weekend & Housing
Barbi Langdon
- International Palanca
Lorinda Michaud
- Application Committee
Marilyn White

Communication Committee
Janet Smithers

Team Screening Comm.
Jerry & Beth Cole
Jerry & Kathleen Sullivan

Food Committee
Anita Norton

Visitation Team
Jim Guiel, Karen Warner
Janet Smithers

International Representatives
Ron & Barbi Langdon

Spiritual Director Committee
Ron Rilling, Fred Tomaselli
and Paul Ciampaglia

Are you ready to Sponsor?

Continued from last month . . .

As a Sponsor, your responsibility does not end with just signing them up bringing them to the weekend and bringing them home. You need to also consider some other things:

- Do you know the candidate really well?
- Are you sensitive to where your candidate really is, in relationship to God?
- Are you sure that your candidate can handle the



weekend: -emotionally - spiritually -in good health?

- Are you willing to assist and to consider your candidate's family during the weekend?
- Can you milk their cows?
- Are you willing to take the children to the baseball game, music lessons, movies?
- Have you considered inviting your candidate's family for a meal?

Continued again next month!!!

Secretariat at 5:00 p.m.

Clip &



Save

Secuela at 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Secretariats and Secuelas

April 18 Jericho Ctr. Congregational Church, Jericho, VT

May 16 St. Paul's Episcopal Church, St. Albans, VT

June 13 The Ridge, Brookfield, VT

Barbi Langdon can be called at: 603-787-6119 to arrange hosting a Secuela