

The Colors of Tres Días International



Spring 2010

Jesus is counting on you...and I on Him!

*By Pamela Belknap,
Vice President of Administration, TDI*

As a candidate on Tres Dias Cleveland women's No. 1, I experienced what can only be called a life-changing weekend! At the closing, I stood there, grinning like a Cheshire cat, filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit, as well as true spiritual joy, peace, and love. I had come to the weekend as an only child and left with 57 sisters (and 2 brothers—the spiritual directors!).

Three years later, in 1998, I attended my first Tres Dias Assembly, held in Tallahassee, Florida. I didn't know what to expect, but from the moment I arrived, I was greeted warmly by fellow pescadores--people I had just met, but who felt more like old friends than new acquaintances. I sat in awe as I watched the Parade of Banners, representing so many Tres Dias communities throughout the country and around the world. Most of all, I recalled how my weekend had changed my life and I perceived that here was a gymnasium full of changed lives!

Since 1995 I have served on team in various capacities, including rectora, and also as Tres Dias Cleveland's president. Just as I felt

led to serve my local community, I felt God calling me to make a sacrifice of time, talent, and treasure to travel around the country three times a year to serve Tres Dias, as it supported established as well as new communities. Over the years, it has been such a joy to worship, share fellowship, and work with pescadores, far and near...people who are now among my dearest Christian friends!

I encourage you to prayerfully consider serving God and Tres Dias on the international level. The Administration Committee contacts local secretariats "to submit annual nominations of members to serve on the International Secretariat." There are 27 elected members in all, including 7 officers. This year there are openings for 4 officer positions, including President, Executive Vice President, Membership Vice President and Financial Secretary and 10 regular Members of the Secretariat. Qualifications and descriptions of the officers and secretariat members, as listed in the Constitution and By-Laws of Tres Dias, have been sent to each community president. If you are interested, please speak with your community president quickly, as nominations are due by March 1, 2010.

Remember the words of two believers on the Road to Emmaus: "Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us..." Perhaps the Lord is calling YOU to serve Tres Dias, to use your unique talents, education, and experiences in His service.

De Colores!

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An Invitation from the President

Pam Belknap has described what serving on the Tres Dias International (TDI) Secretariat has meant to her. Quite likely, many of you reading this are not aware of the type of service that Pam and others perform as secretariat members. In fact, you might never have attended a meeting of the International Secretariat.

What goes on at those meetings? Come and find out! The next meeting will be held in my home town – Rockford, Illinois—March 12 to 14. If you look at your map, you will see that Rockford is a bit north, but it is right in the middle of the United States, east to west.

These meetings are a great place to interact with pescadores from other Tres Dias communities. Anyone is welcome to sit in on the committee meetings, and even to volunteer for work on a committee. Besides the business, there is time for praise and worship, and for communion and fellowship, starting with a secuela on Friday evening. I assure you that you will experience that common bond we all share through Tres Dias. You will know that we are truly one community.

There can be practical benefits as well. Each community is required to have a Tres Dias Essentials Training, conducted by a certified trainer, during each two-year charter period. While the Membership Committee can arrange to have a certified trainer come to your community, it's possible for each community to have its own trainers. A class for trainer certification will be held Saturday evening, March 13. For many communities, the location and timing may be their best opportunity to get certified trainers.

It's not too early to start planning a trip to the Annual Assembly, July 9-11, in Houston, Texas. Anyone who attends an Annual

Assembly is eligible to be nominated by their local community to serve on the International Secretariat. Many more people serve as committee members.

Come and see if the Lord is calling you to serve!

In Christ,
Paul Weis
President, Tres Dias International Secretariat



By now, the chairman or president of your local secretariat has received the forms needed to nominate candidates for membership on the Tres Dias International Secretariat. If you are interested in serving, please get in touch with your local secretariat. The signed forms, along with a short resume, must be returned to Valerie Mehl, elections chair, at: tresdiaselections@gmail.com by March 1. For questions, contact Valerie at 845-790-8199.

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Upcoming Meetings

- Mar 12-14, 2010** International Secretariat
Abundant Life Tres Dias/Northern Illinois Tres Dias, Rockford, IL
- July 9-11, 2010** International Assembly & Secretariat
South East Texas Houston, TX
- Oct 22-24, 2010** International Secretariat RIMA (Rhode Island and Massachusetts Tres Dias)

Love Letters from Around the World

By Brenda Higgins

Do you remember what it was like on your Tres Dias weekend? How did you feel when a letter from some other community was read aloud? Perhaps there was a letter from Maine Tres Dias, or from the North Florida community, or possibly even Ukraine.

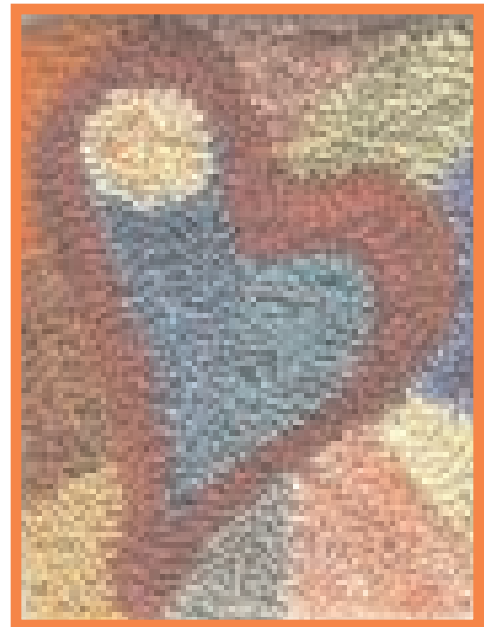
Yes, there were letters from friends, from family, and from strangers, but for me, of all the forms of palanca, the international letters really hit home. Such beautiful love letters—letters that let me know that God loved me, just as he loved those men and women who had taken the time to write. It was as if God himself were writing to me! I was no longer a “Lone Ranger Christian.” My family had grown. What a feeling!

My eyes filled with tears when a letter from the International Tres Dias Secretariat was read. These were the people who kept Tres Dias running at the national and international levels. They loved me! They took the time to send a letter! How could this be?

Anyone can go to the Tres Dias Web site (www.tresdias.org) for a listing of weekend dates for other communities, and most local secretariats have appointed someone to send and receive letters on behalf of the community. Why not take the time to work alongside that person, to ensure that letters go out to each and every community, anywhere in the world, that lists its weekends? (Of course, there’s nothing to stop individuals from sending personal letters as well.)

Please understand, palanca letters don’t have to be sermons—a long letter gets lost in the reading. A beautiful scripture passage or verse sent in love means as much or even more than a long story. The message can be as simple as “We are praying for you.” What a statement! Five words! How powerful is that!

We are all human and lots of stuff can get in the way when we want to do things. Why not lean on the Lord and let him lead you?



*Trust the Lord with all thine heart, and
lean not on thine own understanding.*
Proverbs 3:5

Let Him write your community’s palanca to the different communities. Let your hands be His hands—what tool could possibly be better! Open your heart as you touch the hearts of your brothers and sisters in the Lord. He will send back tenfold the love that you have sent to those communities.

God bless you all, as you sent your love and prayers, and may He wrap his arms around you with a great big hug!



The Angel in the Plaid Flannel Shirt

By Brenda Higgins

In the fall of 1994, I was the chief auxiliary on the ladies' weekend.

The camp we used was old and not equipped for the handicapped, and one of our spiritual directors was unable to climb stairs. Normally, each of the spiritual directors would have her own suite, but this time we were told we could have only one. We made sure to request the suite that had a small step to the outside so we could bring our special lady in that way. The entrance to the rollo room was up a winding stair, but this was not a problem as there was also an outside door. We were all planned and ready!

When we arrived at the camp, we found that we had been assigned the wrong suite—and the suite we needed was locked. I ran off to the office to request a change. As I was going past the main building, I looked up and there on the roof was a man in a plaid flannel shirt and a beautiful smile. He asked if he could help, and I told him my problem. He said, "I can do anything." I continued on to the manager's office. The manager informed me that she was already aware of the problem and that it had been remedied.

Early Friday morning our ladies blew fuses in the "hotel" while getting ready. I waited until everyone was settled in for breakfast and ran off to report the problem. As I approached the office building, I again ran into the man with the plaid shirt and great smile and blurted out my problem. "I can do anything," he said quietly. We went back into the hotel, and the power was on! How wonderful, I thought, that the camp had put someone on special duty to look after our needs.

We were ready to start the first rollo, and we all walked outside and around to the rollo room door—when I discovered that I had forgotten to unlock that particular door! As I was standing there, waiting for the others to catch up to me, I turned to see the smiling man in the plaid shirt beside me. I blurted out an apology for my forgetfulness, and again he said "I can do anything." I put my hand on the door

knob—and the door opened.

Saturday morning I awoke before sunrise and looked out the window to discover that the lights were out on the main pathway and that there was frost on the stairs and walkways to the chapel and dining hall. I was up extra early and out before any others were ready. As I came around the corner of the courtyard, there was my smiling man in the plaid shirt. Once again I told him the problem and again he said "I can do anything." I looked around—the lights were on and the frost was gone!

Sunday morning we had a furnace problem and half of the rooms in the hotel lost heat. I left my seat at the breakfast table and there, in the kitchen next to the coffee pot, was the smiling man in the plaid shirt. Once again, I told him the problem and again the response, "I can do anything." I sat back down and ate. After breakfast I went back to the hotel—and the heat was on!

After the closing, I went to the main office to learn where I could find the man in the plaid shirt to give him special thanks, and also to tell the manager how much we appreciated that the camp had appointed someone to watch out for our needs.

The manager had no idea what I was talking about. They had not had a maintenance person on duty, no one on staff was wearing a plaid shirt, and she had not seen anyone matching that description. Neither had anyone else! Each of my encounters with the man had been away from the group, and I hadn't told anyone about how the problems were fixed.

All I can say is that a man in a plaid flannel shirt was there the whole weekend and that he had an awesome smile.

Did God send me an angel to carry me through those 72 hours, and does an angel sometimes wear a plaid flannel shirt? We say that God makes us aware when He is near, and that He can do anything, and that He sends his angels to watch over us.

What do you think?

The Colors of Tres Dias International is published three times a year by the Services Committee of the Tres Dias International Secretariat, Ned Heffington, chairman. Don L. Bohl serves as editor, Rosann Miloscia as artistic director and production editor, and Ned Heffington, proofreader. To submit comments, requests, or suggestions please e-mail newsletter@tresdias.org. Tres Dias communities are hereby given permission to reproduce material contained herein in their local newsletters, so long as the content and intention of the material is not changed.