

El Tintero



August 2007

North Texas Lutheran Secretariat

El Tintero” is Spanish for “the inkwell.” Legend has it that Martin Luther threw an inkwell at Satan who tempted Luther while he was writing.

Called to be Like Jesus: A Life-Long Lesson in Humility

Laura Huddleston, Rector 72

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! Phil. 2:5-8

“The very nature of a servant....he humbled himself...”

A servant....really? When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? A fireman? A doctor? A superhero? A princess? When I was a kid, I wanted to grow up to be a veterinarian, or maybe a teacher. But a servant...are you kidding? The thought never crossed my mind. It seems so contradictory to what our world teaches. In the work world, we're taught to sell ourselves and take credit where credit is due..."look out for #1" so often seems to be the underlying theme.

But along comes Jesus and flips the world on its head. A servant? Yes, a servant.

Have you ever noticed that when we get out of the way and allow God to work, amazing things can happen? When we humble ourselves and realize that apart from God we are nothing, we can do nothing, that's when the Holy Spirit does some of His finest work. In humbling ourselves, we recognize that ALL that we have is a gift from God; we have done nothing to deserve it and we cannot take credit for it. When we become humble servants of God, He allows us to do far more than we ever thought we were capable of.

These Via de Cristo weekends give us just such an opportunity. Regardless of whether or not God has called you to humbly serve on #72 staff, YOU have the awesome opportunity of following Jesus' example of a humble servant. We are ALL called to a life of humility every day, of putting others first. Every Via de Cristo weekend, we are given the opportunity to do this, through the writing of palanca and by sacrificing our time and lifting our voices in praise at the Love Team Serenade and attending Wake-up and Clausura. These are tangible opportunities to humble ourselves, to put others first and to follow Jesus' loving example of a humble servant.

And how did God reward Jesus' humble servanthood? Read the next verses in Philippians 2: *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil 2: 9-11)*

“The very nature of a servant....he humbled himself...”

...and guess what? “...God exalted him.”

So, what do you want to be when you grow up? I know what I want to be.

A servant.

Peace & Joy,

Laura Huddleston

Via de Cristo #72 - Weekend Calendar

August

1	Wed 6:30 pm	Setup for Weekend at Lake Sharon; Food and Palanca Drop Off
2	Thu 6:45 pm	Via de Cristo #72 Begins
4	Sat 1:30 pm	Love Team Visitation
5	Sun 6:00 am	Arrive For Wakeup
5	Sun 6:30 am	Wakeup Begins
5	Sun 2:45 pm	Clausura Setup
5	Sun 3:30 pm	Clausura Begins
5	Sun 5:30 pm	Takedown & Cleanup
5	Sun Evening	Homecoming, Various Locations

We Need Your Help

Once again it is our turn to participate on a weekend. We can't do it without YOU!

A team will meet the Rector and the CHAs to set up on Wednesday evening August 1st at 6:30. We need many people to help set up tables, the living room, the chapel, the sound system, the palanca room, bedrooms for the Spiritual Directors and the dining room. There is much to be done on Wednesday, but many hands make lighter work!

On Sunday afternoon we need to prepare for Clausura. The staff and participants leave the building around 2:30. At that time the 4th day is needed to get in to take down the rollo room; it becomes the worship sanctuary. We need rows and rows (and rows) of chairs for participants and lots of 4th day attendees. While some of us are setting up the sanctuary with chairs, the altar and the area for the musicians, others can be taking down the chapel, putting away the LBW's, taking down beds in the SD rooms and storing away those things which will not be used during Clausura.

After the worship ends, the service begins. Our work is not over when the chairs are put away. If the boxes with seat cushions, hymnals, table cloths, artwork supplies and all the items it takes to make the weekend happen have not been stowed away someone has to stay to do these things. Again, many hands make lighter work and it is more fun!

You are needed also to serve on **REGULAR LOGISTICS TEAMS** which are now being formed to facilitate future weekends. We are looking for people to be part of the following teams: Food, Altar Guild, Art Supplies, Comfort Supplies, Wednesday Setup, Clausura Setup, Sunday Takedown. We are also looking for someone to assume responsibility for assembling the participant crosses, and also for someone to help with repairing the banners.

4th Day Service Opportunity sign-up forms will be distributed at the Clausura.

Please serve in this way. We really do need your help!

Blessings,

Alice Allison

Weekend Rep / Logistics Coordinator

alice.fa@earthlink.net or by phone: 817-999-8549

Finances

Donations to support our weekends may be sent to the NTLs Treasurer. Please make checks payable to NTLs.

Jim Bingaman, Treasurer NTLs, 1401 Lakeview Blvd., Denton, TX 76208

Via de Cristo #72

Thursday, August 2 to Sunday, August 5
 Lake Sharon Christian Center, Corinth, Texas

Participants:

Barb Battcher
 Lue Bennett
 Karen Carroll
 Rosemary Carter
 Rachel Conroy
 Chris Dow
 Kathy Garcia
 Yolanda Garza
 Alice Gill
 Janet Knox
 John Knutson
 Karen Krailo
 Jon Krueger
 Sally Krueger
 Lilly Loehr
 Pam Mims
 Elecia Pitman
 Mary Rosenboom
 Steph Rosenfeld
 Andrea Schweitzer
 Jasmeeti Singh
 April Stewart
 Glynn Stewart
 Ron Wood
 Juli Ziev

Congregation:

St. Philip's (Carmel Valley, California)
 St. John's (Coryell)
 Prince of Peace (Carrollton)
 King of Glory (Dallas)
 Calvary (Richland Hills)
 Bethany (Dallas)
 Calvary (Richland Hills)
 King of Glory (Fort Worth)
 Christ the Servant (Denton)
 Zion (McGregor)
 Faith (Flower Mound)
 Faith (Flower Mound)
 Faith (Wichita Falls)
 Faith (Wichita Falls)
 King of Glory (Dallas)
 Ridgeview Presby (Farmer's Branch)
 Christ the Servant (Denton)
 Christ the Servant (Denton)
 Ridgeview Presby (Farmer's Branch)
 King of Glory (Dallas)
 King of Glory Fellowship (Richardson)
 Redeemer (Shreveport)
 Redeemer (Shreveport)
 King of Glory (Dallas)
 King of Glory (Dallas)

Sponsor:

Laura Huddleston
 Paula Moerbe et. al.
 Carol Welch
 Carolyn & Tim Johnson
 Viktor Andersson
 Mike Eskew
 Leslie Herd
 Larry Kemp
 Raelene Gibbons
 Olin Knudsen / Stephanie Hannemann
 Todd Hewett
 Keith Hauptmann
 Ernie Barr
 Stephanie Mudge
 Ruth Moncrief
 Sybil Shuck
 Amber Meyer
 Lilly Gholston
 Cid Smith
 Harold & Laura Huddleston
 Barb Freeman
 Alice Allison / Mike Eskew
 Alice Allison / Mike Eskew
 John Harris
 Bette Campbell

Staff

Laura Huddleston Rector
 Keith Hauptmann Observing Rector
 Pastor Phil Heinze Lead Spiritual Director
 Pastor Ryan Mills Spiritual Director
 Intern Tara Lynn Spiritual Director
 Dori Weir Rector's Cha
 Lilly Gholston Food Cha
 Kimbal Markwardt Food Cha
 Carol Van Buskirk Music Cha
 Michelle Hild Palanca Cha
 Jerry Court Palanca Cha
 Gary Keith Table Leader

Rollos

Wayne Shuck Ideal
 Libby Buuck Laity
 Harry Herd Piety
 Brad Buesing Study
 Tammy Lillard Apostolic Action
 Carol Court Leaders
 Harold Huddleston Environments
 Carol Welch CCIA
 Carolyn Knudsen Total Security 4th Day

Love Team

Cid Smith Love Team Rector

Staff Training School

By the time you read this, the Staff Training School (STS) held at Calvary on July 28 will be history and we expect to have about 75 people trained. Your opportunity to attend a STS in the DFW Metroplex will also be history.

BUT...if you are really motivated, you still have 2 more opportunities to attend a STS before Weekend # 73. Staff Training School is planned for Wichita Falls in October and another will be held in the Waco area in February. The exact date in October will be decided soon. Hopefully, it can be announced at Clausura August 5. (You are planning on going to Clausura aren't you? And you are bringing the person you sponsored with you? Good! Just checking.)

For those of you who feel that you never get asked to serve on a weekend, let's do the math here. Weekend # 72 has 18 lay people on it. Next year we have 3 weekends scheduled; our 75 trained people will staff 4 weekends, assuming everyone is able to serve when they are called, which they never are. Moral of this story, your chances of being asked to serve have never been better.

Attend a Reunion Group and keep growing in Jesus.

Vickie Clark, Training Director

Tell Me Again

Many of you still have questions about why Staff Training School (STS) is necessary; so the El Tintero sent Vickie Clark, one of its reporters to interview the Training Director, Vickie Clark. Our reporter started the interview with some tough questions.

ET: Is it true that you started STS as an ego trip, so you could say "Look what Vickie Clark accomplished as Training Director."

TD: Absolutely not. I could not have accomplished something of this magnitude without the complete support of the entire Secretariat. In fact, Mom Thorp and Janet Thorp did 99% of the work required to make STS a reality.

ET: STS is really a big change and the 4th Day Community feels left out of the decision making process.

TD: Vickie that is really two questions in one. I would like to address the second one first. The Secretariat has open meetings the 3rd Thursday of every month. Anyone is welcome to come and listen and give input. STS is not something we rushed into. Dori Weir wanted to reinstitute it when she was Training Director before she was Lay Director so that covers a time span of at least 5 years. We talked about it openly. Is it a big change? Not really? The old timers remember having to attend a 2 day Staff School before they could be called to staff a weekend.

ET: So why now? Why did you and the Secretariat decide to require everyone – even the old timers – to attend STS?

TD: We did research and we found that the most active and vibrant VdC Communities require everyone to attend a staff school on a continuing basis. We decided every 5 years for those who staff, every 3 years for those who have not been called to staff. There has been concern in the Secretariat and from the 4th Day that our NTL Community was gravely ill. Attendance at Wakeup and Clausura was down; every weekend we were unsure if we would get enough participants to make the weekend happen. We thought going back to the basics was necessary and STS seemed the best way to get us there. I would like to add here, that we would love to see some Pastors attend STS so that they can better understand the foundations of Via de Cristo.

ET: Thank you for your time, Vickie

TD: It was my pleasure, Vickie

GREETINGS FROM YOUR 4TH DAY REPRESENTATIVE

Apostolic Action - Apostolic action is motivated by the desire to share Christ with the person in order that s/he desires a relationship with Jesus Christ. It reflects Christ living in us.

Greetings from your 4th Day Representative. I want to start by saying a big THANK YOU to the Calvary Ultreya for hosting our last Grand Ultreya. We had a terrific turnout and good food, great worship and an overall good time were had by all. Mark your calendars now – the next GRAND ULTREYA will be held on October 20 at 5:00. A location will be named at a later date.

Now to the present – we have a terrific group of participants lined up for Weekend 72. Let's show these participants what the 4th Day support is all about by playing a part in Serenade (Sat. at 1:00), WAKE UP (Arrive Sunday around 6:00AM), and Clausura at 3:30 – feel free to come out early and help set up.

So, call a fellow 4th Day-er and carpool out to the activities. Let's do a little Apostolic Action and take part in these activities. Remember what these events meant to you when you went through your Weekend – now you get to be a part of the memories being made for the Weekend 72 participants!

See you all at Lake Sharon! God's peace to you all.

Cid Smith

PALANCA NOTES!

It's time to get your palanca ready. You know, the daily prayers for the participants, by name, especially on their weekend. Also hand written love notes to them. Remember the notes and letters speaking of God's love and blessings? These letters don't have to be long, but every one is special.

Gracemats are another form of palanca. Gracemats can speak of God and His love; they can reinforce the rollos to those who may need another reminder. Send them to the retreat by Thursday, August 2.

Another good form of palanca would be greeting them at the Sunday morning wake-up with singing and smiles. Or welcoming them into the fourth day with great rejoicing at the Clausura.

If you live out of the DDFWW area (that's Dallas, Denton, Fort Worth, Waco area) and need to mail your palanca, it should be sent in time to get to me postmarked by Monday, July 30. Send it to Barb Guinn, 2832 Mimosa Park Drive, Richland Hills, 76118. (817-284-8789)

DIRECTIONS TO LAKE SHARON

Directions from I-35E Going North

- Take Exit 458 Swisher Road and turn left at the light onto Swisher Road
- Proceed past Albertsons and the new WalMart Super Center
- Stay on Swisher until you reach Oakmont Dr and turn right.
- Lake Sharon entrance is approximately 1/2 mile from Swisher Rd on Oakmont Dr.
Watch for signs to assist you provided by Lake Sharon Christian Center

Directions from I-35E Going South

- Take Exit 460 S Corinth Street and turn right (a 45 degree turn) at the stop sign
- Proceed to the next Stop Sign which is Meadow Oaks and turn right
- After the curve take the first right onto Lake Sharon Road
- Proceed on Lake Sharon Road till you reach Oakmont Dr and turn left at the Stop Sign
- Entrance into Lake Sharon is on the right (2650 Oakmont Dr.)
Watch for signs to assist you provided by Lake Sharon Christian Center

Physical Address is 2650 Oakmont Drive

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North Texas Lutheran Secretariat
7633 Castillo Road
Fort Worth, TX 76112

To: