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EL TINTERITO



June – 2008

NORTH TEXAS LUTHERAN SECRETARIAT

A MESSAGE FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and from His Son, Jesus Christ who is our shepherd.

When I think of Via de Cristo I am surrounded by the images of sheep and shepherds. In John 21, Jesus three times asks Peter "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" When Peter replies affirmatively, Jesus tells Peter each time to feed his lambs, feed his sheep. This is the same call we, as the 4th Day, are to answer. We are to feed Jesus' sheep. In this community, we do that by sponsoring participants, attending Staff School so we can answer a Rector's call to serve on the weekend staff, serving on Love Team, being there for Wake Up and Clausura, being part of an Ultreya, and going to Grand Ultreyas.

I received an email from a lady who has recently moved to North Texas from Florida. She has been searching for a small group / reunion group to join and a way to become part of a 4th day community. I replied to her email and gave her my cell number; I was blessed to get a call from her the next day. We shared some time visiting on the phone. I put her in touch with Cid Smith, our Post Weekend Rep, and some women I know who live in her area. She was excited to hear that we have a Grand Ultreya coming up and is eager to attend Staff School in September so she will be eligible to serve on a weekend staff. She has come to a new place yet already has a connection because we are all part of the same community (flock) no matter where we are. (Lori I am looking forward to seeing you soon.)

As it says in 1 Peter 5 we are called to tend the flock of God willingly and be examples so that when the chief shepherd appears, we will win the crown of glory that never fades away.

We are called to be shepherds; we are to feed the sheep. And we are also the sheep of God's pasture, we are His flock; we are to follow only His voice, answering His call. He asks us, "Do you love me? Feed my sheep".

There are so many ways in our 4th day community to be a part. Will you please listen for God's call to serve Him. That call may come from John Harris, the Pre Weekend Rep, asking you to share with your congregation about Via de Cristo. It may come from Gerald Stout, the Weekend Rep, asking for supplies such as baked goods, veggies or your time to help with set up and take down on a weekend. Cid may call asking for help to find a location to host an event. Your physical palanca in the form of gracemats and letters from your Ultreyas are always wonderful expressions of your love, and Barb Guinn is ready and waiting to receive those from you. Linda Sims would love to have an article from you sharing something special you experienced on your weekend. The list is endless. It takes each of us to make us this community. You are a blessing to this community. Thank you for feeding God's lambs and tending the flock.

Peace, Blessings & Joy, (p, b & j)
Alice Allison, NTLs Lay Director

NEWS FROM THE PRE-WEEKEND TEAM

Greetings to the 4th Day Community from your Pre-Weekend Representative, on behalf of the Pre-Weekend Team!

What, you may ask, is the Pre-Weekend Team and what is its function? Glad you asked! This is a new group assembled this year, of people from around this Secretariat's region who share my interest in getting the word out about Via de Cristo and in assisting the 4th Day with other Pre-Weekend functions as needed.

Basically, the Pre-Weekend functions are (1) public relations, (2) recruiting, and (3) Sponsor awareness.

Public relations: This will consist of providing general information about Via de Cristo to any congregation in our area which either requests it or is otherwise receptive to it. In this regard, we have a couple of different types of tri-fold brochures available, and we also have a supply of an excellent DVD produced by the National Lutheran Secretariat entitled "*Is Christ Calling You.*" It is 12 minutes long, is a very nice, up-to-date presentation about what Via de Cristo is, and includes a number of testimonials. Note that each member of the Pre-Weekend Team now has a copy of the DVD, and is available to either come to your group and show it, or to make arrangements to lend it out to you. We would love to have speaking engagements during Sunday School hours or similar times, and would like to show the DVD then!

Recruiting: I am not ashamed to use the word "recruiting" when I speak of the extra efforts which we should all be considering in order to introduce our Christian friends to the concept of Via de Cristo. Remember that feeling that came welling up from inside you at the end of your Weekend, when you wanted everyone you love to experience what you had experienced? We want to rekindle that enthusiasm and give you the necessary tools and guidance to use that enthusiasm to share the Via de Cristo experience with others!

Sponsor Awareness: The well-informed Sponsors should be careful and prayerful in identifying potential participants, because (1) they should be satisfied that the participants meet the suggested criteria for attendance at a Weekend, and (2) they should be sure that they (the Sponsors) are committed to see to their candidate's 4th Day experience through small groups and Ultreya activities. A good resource for potential Sponsors to review is page 2 of the application form (available on the web site), because it contains a concise statement of these two items. More resources and information are available; just contact any member of the Pre-Weekend Team.

The Pre-Weekend Team had its first "small group" meeting at the May Grand Ultreya, and is ready to assist you with any of your Pre-Weekend needs or ideas. Please feel free to contact either me or any of the other Team members:

Kathy Garcia	Calvary, Richland Hills	Kathleen Talafuse	Faith, Flower Mound
Roye Moore	King of Glory, Fort Worth	Carol Welch	Prince of Peace, Carrollton
Carol Otterstad	Preston Meadow, Plano	Amber Meyer	Christ the Servant, Denton

As you can see, we have the Metroplex area pretty well covered geographically, but it would be very nice to have a Pre-Weekend Team member from the Waco/McGregor area, as well as one from the Wichita Falls area. If you are interested, please contact me!

We pray that the formation and activities of the Pre-Weekend Team will be of help to our movement in attracting both new participants and dedicated Sponsors. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or Pre-Weekend needs, please contact me or any member of the Team! Our contact information will be printed in the July El Tintero.

Peace,

John Harris
Secretariat Pre-Weekend Representative

more ...

**GREETINGS TO THE 4TH DAY COMMUNITY!
FROM THE REV. VICKI TAYLOR, SECRETARIAT SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR**

First of all, I want to tell you that I am delighted and honored to be serving as one of the NTLs Spiritual Directors. Some of you know that I was a participant on Cursillo Weekend #12 in 1989 – at Bishop Mason Retreat Center. I was a lay person with NO conscious thought that I would one day be writing to you as one of those “clergy type” people. But as we all have experienced, God’s ways are not our ways. And in my case, I see that our amazing God has a great sense of humor. It seems God delights in surprising us!

Were you at the Grand Ultreya on Saturday, May 17? If you were there, you know what a wonderful time we had. The turnout was great, the food was delicious, Jennifer Isernhagen’s witness talk was inspiring, the worship was a joy, and the fellowship and hugs – well you know...! If you were unable to attend, we missed you and I would like to suggest that you take out your calendars right now and turn to Saturday, October 18th, and write (in ink) “GRAND ULTREYA!” I hadn’t been to a Grand Ultreya in (I hate to admit it) a couple years. I had forgotten how these gatherings feed my soul.

One final word – and actually this is the real point of this note to you all – I am writing to encourage you to pray for this particular 4th Day Community and to give of yourselves in ways that will enhance the experience for others. The next Via de Cristo weekend is July 31 through August 4. Pray, pray, pray! Invite potential participants. Pray. Participate in the weekend behind the scenes by praying, writing palanca notes of love and encouragement and, individually or with your Ultreya Group, plug yourself into the logistics fun – set-up Wednesday night and take-down following Clausura on Sunday. Perhaps you might make some Gracemats, bake some cookies, help sort palanca.

Remember how you felt on your weekend when you were introduced to the larger community of faith at Wake-up and Clausura? Let’s all try to be there to bless and welcome the participants into their 4th Day!

In Christ’s service and because of His love,
Pastor Vicki

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Financial Support

Although our Grace Weekends are free to the Cursillistas, they are not “free.” We pay the Lake Sharon Retreat Center \$110 for each Cursillista’s accommodations and meals for a Via de Cristo weekend, and it costs another \$25 per person to provide the necessary published materials and other supplies for the weekend. We rely on donations from the 4th Day to finance these gifts of grace. **Send donations to support our Grace weekends to Jim Bingaman, NTLs Treasurer, 1401 Lakeview Blvd., Denton, TX 76208.** Please make checks payable to **NTLS**.

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Coming Events

The next Via de Cristo weekend in North Texas will be July 31-August 3, 2008

The deadline for registration is 5:00 p.m. Monday, July 21st

Mail completed registration forms to:

Valerie von Bergen
Via de Cristo Registrar
142 Quail Circle
Shady Shores, TX 76208

The next Grand Ultreya will be held on Saturday, October 18th.

Details will be published as soon as they are available
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EL TINTERO

Deadline for material to be included in the next *El Tintero* is Friday, July 18th.

Is there something you would like to share which was particularly meaningful to you on your Via de Cristo weekend? If you have a story to share (you may remain anonymous, if you choose), please send it to me.

Send your *El Tintero* articles and ideas to Linda Sims at EITintero@tx.rr.com