



Edgar Guzman

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

The old year has passed, a new year is just beginning. If you are like me, you might be thinking of what you would like to accomplish or do better in this new year (e.g., get better organized, live with less clutter, lose weight, spend more time with family, reconnect with old friends, etc.). We all have our lists; some are short and some might be lengthy. We might not be able to accomplish all that is listed, but that's okay.

Our community also has a list for this year. In addition to secuelas, we will be holding five weekends (one more than the regular four, thanks to an unusual snowstorm and its effects). In addition, we will be conducting an Essentials Training/Tres Dias School, hosting a Tres Dias International Secretariat meeting in the fall, and possibly celebrating summer with a picnic. And there may well be additions to this list!

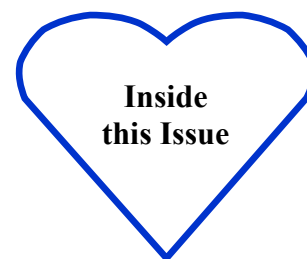
I came across the following prayer and want to share it with you. It is a New Year's prayer – touching and meaningful:

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

As we journey through this new year, I pray that each of you and our community will rejoice in all the blessings He offers.

De Colores!

Mark Thunem, President



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Getting Ready for Men's 96

On Being Touched

By John Pacheco, Rector

Shortly after I had agreed to serve as rector on Men's 96, I was reminded I needed to choose a scripture passage for the weekend. I immediately thought of my favorite Bible passage, the healing of a blind man at Bethsaida as shared by Mark 8:22–26:

²² They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. ²³ He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"

²⁴ He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."

²⁵ **Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.** ²⁶ Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't even go into the village." NIV 1984



I realized the passage was too long to fit on the nametags, so I chose to focus on verse 25 as the weekend scripture. I also decided that at team meetings and on the weekend we would tune into the entire passage.

The passage is attractive to me because it not only raises questions but also allows me to put myself into the picture in a variety of roles. It is a reminder of my personal journey in faith, through my dark valleys of disappointments, rejections, confusions, and losses, as well as an affirmation of final healing, restoration, and redemption. I am reminded of Jesus' ability to come to me, and to *keep* coming back with his

gifts of unconditional love, grace and healing. When I struggle to get beyond my innate stubbornness, I am also reminded that *I have to go back to him repeatedly*, even when I don't feel like it!

While I often wish I could be like Saul and have an "instant conversion" experience, God has chosen to make himself known to me in a gradual process. I don't always get it clear the first time he's there, and he comes back and touches me repeatedly until I see everything clearly. I pray frequently for discernment and for patience in the process.

As I called the team together, this continual process of being touched by Jesus, of his coming and touching me, and/or of my going to him to be touched became increasingly evident. At each encounter, my eyes opened to a further understanding of his will for me. By the end of the weekend, I am likely to be referred to as being a little bit "touched!" I am already feeling it!

The healing in the verses also parallels my personal vocation and career as a counselor, as well as the mission of Tres Dias, "to make a friend, be a friend, and to bring that friend to Christ."

I mentioned earlier that the entire passage leaves us with questions. Why do you think Jesus took the blind man by the hand "out of the village," and why do you think he sent him home saying, "Don't even go into the village?" Any feedback would be appreciated.

On behalf of the team and candidates, I thank you for your prayers and palanca now, throughout the weekend and in our Fourth Days.

You can respond to John by sending an email to jpacheco231@gmail.com.





The Team for Men's 96

John Pacheco	Rector	Bob Westervelt	Christian Community
Bob Lewis	Asst Rector	Dave McClay	Aux
Chuck Schif	Chief Aux	Rick Santos	Aux
Mike Sikora	Music Dir	Ken Paulsen	Aux
Scott O'Dell	Ideals	Nick Vanghele	Aux
Gary McClendon	Church	Scott Davis	Aux
Greg Pierce	Piety	Christopher Leighton	Spiritual Dir
Will Eighmy	Study	John Parille	Spiritual Dir
Tom Hearne	Action	David Marks	Ex. Rector
Ken Cornish	Leaders	Joe Sharp	Ex Rector
Tom Schadlich	Environments		

Welcome, Pescadores of Women's 95!

Natoshia Maitland	Joy Fellowship
Teddy Dianah Kemirembe	Our Lady of Solace
Mary Lou Woods	UMC Branford
Roberta Arbelo	Black Rock Congregational Church
Nicola Keehan	Unaffiliated
Fay Sobottka	St. Peter Lutheran Church
Fernanda Morales	Abundantly Blessed Baptist Asmbly
Sylvia Appleton	UMC Branford
Laurie Holder	Christ Family Community Church
Justine Guckin	UMC Branford
Doreen Salerno	Black Rock Congregational Church
Adora Okogeri	Eastchester Presbyterian Church
Rose Richards	Soul Saving Station
Sharon Schirmann	Black Rock Congregational Church
Christie Nelson Karoscik	Black Rock Congregational Church
Phoebe Repetsky	Mary Taylor Memorial UMC
Alecia Andrews	Faith Church
Doreen Esposito	Black Rock Congregational Church

In Memoriam

Brigitte Hahn, Women's 37, went to her heavenly rest November 26th.
We praise God for the way Brigitte enriched our lives, and we pray for comfort for family and friends.

Sponsoring a Candidate? Do it Right!

By Lloyd Johnson

If you are like most pescadores, you are thankful that your sponsor introduced you to the Tres Dias experience. Now it's your turn to introduce others. If you are a new pescador, you cannot be the sole sponsor of a candidate until a year after your candidate weekend. You can, however, be a cosponsor along with an experienced pescador.

As you prepare to sponsor a candidate, prayerfully consider the following guidelines.

First and foremost, your candidate should already be a Christian. Tres Dias does not make accommodations in the program for non-Christians, nor are efforts made to convert non-Christians. The preamble to the Essentials of Tres Dias opens with,

The Tres Dias Movement endeavors to bring Christians to a closer, more personal walk with their Lord Jesus Christ and encourage them to Christian leadership and Apostolic Action in their environments."

So, Tres Dias is for Christians.

Secondly, we urge you not to sponsor or cosponsor someone you do not know well. If you could answer all (or most) of the questions on the candidate's application form without asking the candidate, and if you know in your heart that the time is right in this person's life for Tres Dias, then you know the person well enough.

Understand that, according to the Essentials, the candidate is to be sponsored for participation in all phases of the Tres Dias Method, and not just the weekend. Get the new pescador into a reunion group following the weekend; bring him or her to secuelas and meetings of the secretariat during the twelve months following the weekend.

Generally, pescadores sponsor candidates who are members of their church, and sometimes they sponsor

several candidates from the congregation for the same weekend. We caution you to keep two things in mind:

1. Spread out the sponsoring of church members over several weekends. We try to have no more than four candidates from the same church per weekend.
2. Don't sponsor more candidates than you can reasonably support.

The sponsor is responsible for getting the candidate to the place where the weekend is held and getting them home. You also need to be in touch with the candidate's family, giving assurances that their family member is being taken care of. You need to provide palanca and you must pray for your candidate before, during and especially after the weekend.

If your prospective candidate is married, it is best to speak to the husband and wife at the same time about Tres Dias. It is preferred that the husband attend a weekend first. If both plan to go, both applications should be submitted together in order to assure the wife will be able to attend on the next

available date.

All applications should be sent to the Pre-Weekend Committee *along with* the sponsor form. Please do not send them separately and do not ask the candidate to send in his or her own application. Make every effort to have the candidate's pastor review and sign the application.

Applications may be mailed, faxed, or emailed as an attachment (addresses are on the form). If a mailed or faxed application and sponsor form has been acknowledged, there is no need to send an original.

Please read the sponsor form carefully. It contains vital information for the sponsor. Review your candidate's application carefully before sending it in with your sponsor form.

Lloyd Johnson and Dora Johnson serve as chairpersons for the Pre-Weekend Committee

**Make a Friend.
Be a Friend.
Bring a Friend to Christ.**



To download sponsor and candidate forms, got to TDFC.org and click the RESOURCES tab.

Question: **How Does all the “Stuff” that Makes a Weekend Work Get to the Right Places?**

By Brenda Braun

Serving on the Weekend Committee might be compared to hosting overnight guests in your house four times a year, only on a larger scale! While hosting in your house, you might provide the basic necessities: sheets, towels, some cookies or scones, extra toothpaste, those special tea bags that your sister-in-law uses, or that special shampoo your daughter uses. For a Tres Dias weekend, it all happens on a totally different level.

The Weekend Committee’s role is to supply the necessary “stuff” to maintain a working Tres Dias Weekend, and supplying stuff means maintaining an inventory of all the required TD weekend necessities: Bibles, Pilgrims Guides, reunion group tri-folds, and CDs, as well as all the miscellaneous items, like notebooks, tissues, poster board, coffee, tea, paper goods and of course the snack food stuff (still considered a necessity).

Prior to each weekend, the committee checks all boxes to be sure all supplies are in order (in the proper location, according to the lists, in sufficient quantities, etc.). If anything is needed, a run to Walmart, Staples, BJ’s, is put on the “to do” list.

Prior to each weekend, the committee arranges with Sister Bernice and the Chief Aux for the team members to tour the Spiritual Life Center. The committee helps set up on Thursday for the weekend and is there to assist with mumming at the end of the weekend.

And then there is a full houseful of miscellaneous duties during the weekend, all of which rely on help from others:

- Coordinating with the song leaders for mananitas (current leaders are John Monroe and PC Schnell).
- Checking that the fourth day packages are ready (preparing these is a separate job all by itself, so thank you to the volunteers who’ve taken on this responsibility – currently Chuck Schif and Jimmy Lang for prior years).
- Arranging for the weekend photographer (thank you to Greg Griffin and Peter Brown for a great job).
- Preparing and managing the meal server grid (thank you to all the faithful servants who serve meals on the weekends).

The Weekend Committee is also responsible for keeping all the manuals and CD’s updated. All manuals and songbooks are stored in the committee chairperson’s home (needless to say you almost need an extra walk-in closet to do this). The committee is responsible for handing these over to the rectors prior to the weekend as well as retrieving them at the end of each weekend.

The tasks might seem monumental, but the reward is knowing that the team and candidates enjoyed an awesome weekend – in the presence of God and the Holy Spirit. We are all one in him, and whatever it takes to make a weekend work, that is what we do as followers of Christ.

Brenda and John Braun serve as chairpersons for the Weekend Committee.

A Valentine



For all those who volunteer to make a weekend successful

Answer: The Weekend Committee is behind the scenes, doing more than most people realize.

The Essentials of Tres Dias

Everything a New Pescador Should Know About Tres Dias

But Might Be Afraid to Ask

By Gordon Quimby

Let's pretend you are a brand new pescador coming off of a terrific Tres Dias weekend. You've had a three-day introduction to Tres Dias but you are not feeling well-versed as to what Tres Dias actually is. You know Tres Dias is good – you just aren't sure how it works. So the question is: What is it you should know about Tres Dias?

The first thing you should know is this: when you've just come off a weekend, you *still* haven't experienced the *best* that Tres Dias has to offer! In fact, you have just scratched the surface. As the Essentials of Tres Dias put it:

The Weekend is a tool of God, not an end in itself. The Weekend will not produce a permanent effect without Fourth Day activity.

The Essentials go on to say:

The purpose of the Weekend...is to prepare individuals for effective participation in the Fourth Day.

Many think that the purpose of Tres Dias is to put on three-day weekends. After all, isn't the name of the group *Tres Dias*? But the Essentials clearly say otherwise...the purpose of the *three-day weekend* is to prepare people to participate in the *fourth*

day, their Christian walk after the weekend.

Tres Dias seeks to bring people to a closer walk with our Lord Jesus Christ, to build leaders for the local church, and to empower people for apostolic action. You can't expect to make a significant impact in all these areas in just three days. The Essentials make it clear that this is to be done in three phases, referred to as the *pre-weekend phase*, the *weekend phase*, and the *fourth day phase*. Together this is called the Tres Dias Method.

The essential parts of the pre-weekend phase are that candidates have a desire for a closer relationship with their Lord Jesus Christ and that they be sponsored for participation in *all phases* of the Tres Dias Movement. Remember, Tres Dias is not just about a three-day weekend! The sponsor makes sure the candidate is prepared for the weekend and that any special needs are met, then continues the support during the weekend, through palanca and by being there for the person at the closing. Being away for three days can put a strain on the candidate's family, and the sponsor will often seek to lessen the strain. Then, as the person enters the fourth day, the sponsor encourages the new pescador to attend *secuelas* and to be a part of an active reunion group.

There is much the Essentials have to say about the weekend phase. These Essentials are vital in assuring the success of the weekends, but strangely

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The Essentials, continued

enough, this is not really important for to you know now, as a new pescador just coming off your weekend. (I'll touch on the essentials of the weekend in the next issue of the *Upper Room*.)

So let's move on to what *is* most important to you now: the essentials of the fourth day phase. This is where you have the opportunity to experience the *best* that Tres Dias has to offer. This begins with being a part of a reunion group and is reinforced by attending secuelas, the two primary aspects of the fourth day phase.

Reunion groups take on many forms. The principal form is a small group that meets regularly; participants discuss how they are living lives of piety, study, and action. My first group took a different format. It was a monthly men's group, larger than a typical reunion group, with a rotating leader who would be the speaker for the month. Some groups are based on Bible study, but many would say the classic piety, study, and action format is the more meaningful.

Secuelas are one of the great gifts of Tres Dias. They offer an opportunity for the community to come together for an evening of joy, to be inspired by a witness talk, to break into small groups to share, and finally to join back together in sacred worship. Secuelas are uplifting evenings that fill our spiritual gas tanks as we prepare to return to our individual ministries.

While reunion groups and secuelas are the two items spelled out in the essentials of the fourth day phase, they by no means represent all the fourth day has to offer. It is also essential that the community support each Tres Dias weekend. Here in Fairfield County; we do this through writing palanca, offer-

ing prayer palanca, singing at the mananitas, and attending closings. When you actively support weekends in this way, you learn first-hand how it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Many feel the absolute BEST that Tres Dias has to offer is serving on a weekend team. It is essential that each team meet before the weekend to form its own loving community and to prepare for the weekend itself. These 8 to 10 meetings enable you to learn from and become close to twenty other leaders from other churches you may never had met otherwise. But that is just the warm up; it is the opportunity to give of yourself in service on the weekend itself that is truly a life-changing experience. Serving on team is also the primary way that the community builds leaders for the local church. When you serve on a team, you will be empowered for greater service in your local church. No question about it.

Finally, as you come off of your weekend, you should know that you are now a part of a local community known as the Secretariat. This community offers many other opportunities to grow as a leader. It is essential that the community be led by a central body that assures the successful completion of the community's activities. The board of the secretariat is where this takes place and while membership on the board is an elected position, many have learned that the best way to learn about Tres Dias is just to show up at the monthly meetings.

So there you have it; everything you wanted to know about Tres Dias but were afraid to ask. In the next issue of the *Upper Room* we'll touch on what makes the weekends tick through a discussion on the Essentials of the weekend.

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Upcoming Events

Joint secuela with Central Connecticut Tres Dias at Watertown United Methodist Church, Watertown, CT, February 11, 7:00 -10:00.

Men's 96 Weekend, March 22-25

Women's 96 Weekend, May 3-6

Secuela at Mary Taylor United Methodist Church on the Green, Milford CT, May 19, 7:00-10:00.

Driving directions and maps for the secuelas are on the website, TDFC.org.

Supporting the Weekends

The Nazareth Spiritual Life Center is at 1428 Monroe Turnpike, Monroe, CT 06468

Monanita: Arrive by 7:10 a.m. Parking is to the left, at the back of the Spiritual Life Center. Song practice begins at 7:20 sharp, singing at 7:50. Coffee will be served. Coats should be left in the cars, or carried.

To deliver palanca to the Spiritual Life Center: Park in the temporary parking area in front, then enter the glass enclosed entryway. There will be a basket for receiving your palanca. OR-- You can give your palanca to team members to take to the weekend, or give to sponsors to take to the opening, or give to mananita singers for Sunday delivery.

Closing: Arrive at 4:00; park in the designated areas; enter through the gym entrance.