

Alegré!

The Newsletter of Indy Tres Dias

Spring 1997



From the Chair

Praise the Lord! Sometimes we get so busy in our everyday activities or get so beaten down by our circumstances that we forget or just don't feel like praising the Lord. This is exactly where Satan wants us to be.

Praise is something that should be directed by our wills, not our emotions. Sure, it's easy to praise Him when everything is going well and we feel good. But what about those times when we are so burdened we can hardly move?

God tells us He will put on us "a garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness (or despair)" in Isaiah 61:3. He's not telling us to praise Him for bad times or depression, but to praise Him in spite of these. When we use our wills to praise Him instead of our emotions, He lifts us right out of the pit of despair and puts glory and hope back in our hearts.

Our praise is not in response to our circumstances, but in response to the great sacrifice He prepared and Jesus carried out that redeemed us from hell and freed us from sin. We can think on this in good times and bad, and make ourselves praise Him. He knows our praise is sometimes a great sacrifice and it makes Him appreciate it all the more.

If we could live a life filled with praise every day, there is nothing - and I mean NOTHING - Satan or the world or our flesh could do to

steal our joy. The reason is that our praise overcomes all attacks and our joy would overwhelm us.

One day when we are gathered to Him at the rapture of the church, we will experience this. But even while we live on this earth, the overwhelming joy of the Lord is available to us by His Holy Spirit. Anyone who has experienced a three-day weekend like Tres Dias has experienced this overwhelming joy. If it didn't last it's because we haven't continued to praise Him daily.

Let's make a vow together that we will begin practicing for God's kingdom by praising Him daily and receiving His joy. When we all begin doing this, the world will recognize His kingdom on earth in us and they will be drawn to us. Join with me right now and say,

PRAISE THE LORD!

Jim Doyle

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1



From the Spiritual Director

*To the church of God in Corinth,
to those sanctified in Christ Jesus
and called to be holy, together with
all those everywhere who call on
the name of our Lord Jesus Christ - their
Lord and ours.*

I Corinthians 1:2

In the mid 1800's the United States experienced a widespread revival known in the history books as the Second Great Awakening. So powerful was this move of God that entire cities were dramatically transformed. Conversions were measured in the thousands. It was an outpouring of the Spirit in the true sense of the word. One city experienced this revival in a most powerful way was Rochester, New York. A local pastor in Rochester invited Charles Finney, a key figure in this nationwide revival, to come and preach that "God might display His wonders" there. After Finney had received the invitation, he came to Rochester to survey the situation. He learned that there were terrible divisions among the churches in Rochester. Christians were quarreling to such an extent that any hope of widespread evangelistic success was completely undermined. The strife was running rampant through every church of every denomination. From Finney's perspective, Rochester was the least likely candidate for revival. In fact, Finney originally decided not to stay in Rochester because it was "too uninviting a field of labor." God, however, had different plans!

The night before Finney was to leave Rochester, God spoke to Finney and convinced him that he needed to stay all the more because of the difficulties he saw. So Finney began preaching there on September 10, 1830 and he stayed until March 6, 1831.

The Lord blessed Finney's obedience. Revival came! Local churches saw hundreds of conversions. A new church was built in Rochester that held 2000 people, one-fifth of the city's population. And the revival spread from there to many other cities. The Presbyterian churches alone in that region saw between four and five thousand new believers. The total impact on the region was immeasurable. (For further reading see Finney's biography by Keith Hardman.)

Why tell this story? Because I believe that the Lord wants to bring revival to our great city. And I believe that the Lord is using Tres Dias of Indianapolis to bring believers together from every expression of the Christian faith together to pave the way for a significant move of the Holy Spirit. I also understand that we have an enemy who would do absolutely anything to keep believers from various traditions from coming together for the cause of Christ. If Satan can breed misunderstandings, promote denominational pride, provoke us to offend one another, or simply influence us toward apathy and indifference toward each other, then he will have greatly hindered the advancement of the Gospel. Remember, our battle is not against each other, but rather with the unseen prince of darkness. So what do we need to do? We need to begin to think like the apostle Paul. When Paul wrote his letter to Corinthians, he addressed it to the church of God in Corinth. Though there were many local congregations of believers in that city, Paul wrote one letter to them all. Why? In Paul's mind, the Body of Christ is a single reality. And the local churches in Corinth were all part of God's singular plan for that city. Tres Dias has a similar vision and seeks to build the Body of Christ across denominational barriers. We look at the churches in Indianapolis as parts of a whole, and our heart is to see revival come to the "whole" church of God in Indianapolis. Our heart is to see so many people being converted to Christ that we have neither the

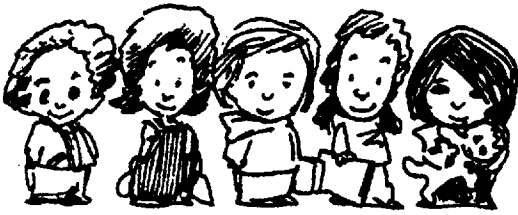
time nor the energy to focus on our differences. Our heart is to edify and build up every saint and every local congregation in Indianapolis to prepare the way for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

I would encourage every one who is reading this article to strengthen your resolve and commitment to building up the whole Body of Christ. Put on your spiritual armor and take your stand against the wiles of Satan who would seek to render us impotent (Eph 6:10-20). Resist the devil's attempts to keep us divided, and instead commit yourself to praying for revival to come to every local church in Indianapolis (James 4:7). Begin to pray not only for your own pastor, but other pastors in your community. Pray for the Lord to bless other congregations. Pray fervently for the love of God to be shed abroad in the heart of every believer in this city (Rom 5:5). And pray that the Lord would reveal to your own heart those attitudes and behaviors that pose a threat to the work of Christ in our city. Pray for revival to come, and pray that the Lord would find Tres Dias a pliable tool in His hands to bring deep and lasting revival to this city and beyond.

Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our time and make them known; in wrath remember mercy.

Habakkuk 3:2

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Scott Smith



Regarding kids...

As we all know, the Saturday night serenade at the weekends is a wonderfully moving, spiritual time for the candidates, team and the community members who participate. It is a time for present and future Pescadores to sing of God's great love and bask in the warmth of His people.

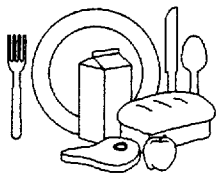
And as much as we all love our children, because of the nature of this event, the Secretariat is requesting that no children be brought to the serenades. We understand that sometimes finding a babysitter is a problem, so please plan ahead! Children will not be allowed in the dining room during the serenade. Children who are old enough are welcome to wait outside the dining room.

Men's Serenade: March 15 at 6:15 p.m.

Women's Serenade: March 22 at 6:15 p.m.



From the Food Director



Keeping within the food budget for a Tres Dias weekend is a challenge! We rely on donations in order to keep the cost of the weekend affordable to most everyone.

Therefore any donation of food items or monetary donation towards the purchase of food items is greatly appreciated. A list of items needed is not available at this time but we always have a need for the basics such as coffee, powdered lemonade mix, sugar, etc. The head kitchen chas and I will be providing a list of needed items at both the men's and women's team meetings; but if you are not on one of the teams for the upcoming weekends, you may call me and I will be glad to write down your donation. We will need to have the donated items collected or arrange for collection by one week before the weekend starts. This will allow us to finalize our shopping list.

Thanks for all of your help!

Mary Jane Strange
787-6019

It is by grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Reflections from Men's Tres Dias #3

Dear Brothers in Christ,

It has been almost six months since Men's Tres Dias #3. I want to thank you all for your "yes" to our Lord Jesus in being on the weekend. It was a wonderful and blessed experience for me and I hope it was for all of you.

One of the messages the team tried to get across to all of the candidates was the importance of changing your environment. First, you must change yourself—you must make Christ Jesus the center of your life. Secondly, you must change your family's focus and once again, the focus must be on Jesus. Remember, this can be done simply one step at a time. Lastly, your workplace must be changed. Encourage a friend at work to join you in prayer. With Christ Jesus as your center, it will be a special friendship. All of this can be accomplished, but first you must take that first step, and I encourage you to take that first step for Jesus. Continue to say "yes" to the Holy Spirit. Listen to his message in your daily reading of His Word. He will speak to you, but we all must be willing to listen.

As Tres Dias #4 approaches, please be willing to ask someone to the weekend - you will never regret it. Keep the team and candidates in your prayers. God bless you!

Al Dowd



Palanca

Remember on your weekend all the letters we received from various communities around the world ... letters lifting us up in prayer? Now it is our turn once again to pray for the following weekends:

Tres Dias

Anaheim, California

Women: March 31-April 3

North Georgia

Women: March 6-9

Taegu, Korea

Men: March 6-9

Indianapolis

Men: March 13-16

Women: March 20-23

Fairfield County, Connecticut

Women: March 13-16

North Florida

Men: March 20-23

Women: April 3-6

Cursillo

Evansville

Women: March 13-16

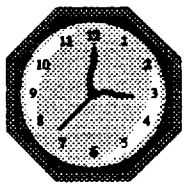
Little Rock

Women: April 17-20

Kairos (Prisons)

San Diego (outside) March 7-10

Chino: March 13-16



IMPORTANT!!!

Do you remember the "prayer clock"? You remember - the names of all the people and the hours they prayed during your weekend. Individuals pray for us CONTINUALLY from 7:00 p.m. Thursday evening until 5:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon during each Tres Dias weekend.

I'm seeking volunteers to donate at least one hour of prayer for the upcoming weekends here in Indy. Please call me and I'll give you the times that are available - the choice is yours.

One final item: When I began doing these prayer clocks, *years ago*, the Lord told me I should tell the community it was *really okay* to pray in the "wee" hours of the morning - He'd be awake. And remember what He told us, "My words will never pass away."

May our Lord bless each of us.

Love & Peace in Him,

Steve Myers
787-8170

Please call!!!

Notes from Post-Weekend

The Spring Victory Banquet is set for Saturday, April 12, 1997, at 6:30 p.m. Site will be announced later. Mark your calendar!

To all sponsors: All of us who are sponsors have a special duty to make sure the new Pescadors are part of a group reunion or prayer group. Grouping is an essential part of living a Christian life. The Gospels underscore this, and I'm sure each of us can recall a time that Christ worked through our brothers and sisters in prayer group.

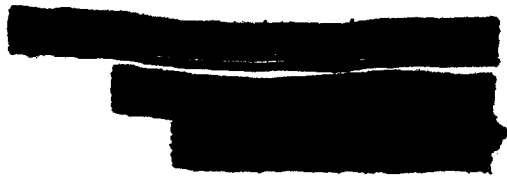
Paul Writes in I Thessalonians 5:11-14 that we are placed together to help each other, 'to warn the idol, encourage the timid, and help the weak.' New pescadors need this support and guidance at least as much as the rest of us, so if you haven't already done so, make sure the men and women you've sponsored are grouping.

Be at peace,
Alan Dowd

Alegra

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Women's Tres Dias #4: March 20-23, 1997