

# Alegre!

The Newsletter of Indy Tres Dias

January 1999

## *From the Spiritual Director*

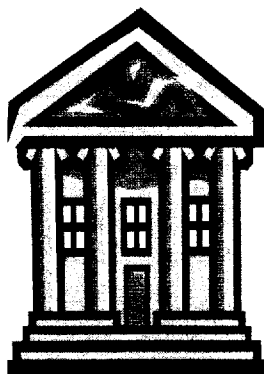
*From A Church Wall in Mexico:*

*Give us Senor, a little sun, a little happiness, and some work. Give us a heart to comfort those in pain. Give us the ability to be good, strong, wise and free, so that we may be generous with others, as we are with ourselves.*

*Finally, Senor, let us live as your own one family.*

*"In America, Christians pray for the burden of suffering to be lifted from their backs. In the rest of the world, Christians pray for stronger backs so they can bear their suffering. It's why we look away from the bag lady on the street and to the displays in the store windows. Why we prefer going to the movies instead of to hospitals and nursing homes."* Dave Dravecky

In his book, *Lectures on Revival*, Charles Finney says that one of the sins that stands in the way of revival in the church is the failure to practice self-denial: "Many who say they are Christians will do almost any act of faith that doesn't require self-denial. But call them to do anything requiring them to deny themselves. Oh! That is too much! They think they do much for God - as much as He could reasonably ask - if they do only what is painless. But they aren't willing to forsake even one comfort or convenience for the sake of serving the Lord." Finney goes on to say that Christians have completely forgotten "that self-denial is a condition of being a Christian." Amazingly relevant for something written nearly 150 years ago, isn't it?



The call of Christ has always been a call to self-denial and suffering for the sake of the Kingdom. And yet isn't it true that in America we have turned Jesus' Gethsemani prayer upside down - not Thy will but mine be done! We want to be saved and yet remain unencumbered by the demands of the Gospel. The primary reason for this is that personal preference has become the driving force of our lives. Ego has supplanted the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

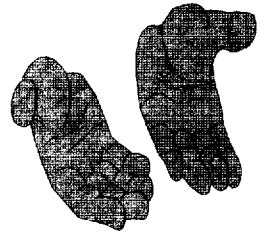
The reason that churches of our society are so weak and ineffective is simply that following Jesus is not a high priority in our lives. Sure you see large numbers of people who claim to be Christians and large (though shrinking) numbers attending church on a regular basis. But rarely do you see a person who is so thoroughly devoted to Jesus that he or she would abandon everything to serve him. Rarely do you see an example of someone who lives for the

*(Continued on page 2)*

## From the Palanca Director

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

Hope everyone has been well since the last newsletter. I ask that each of us in this Tres Dias Community lift this community up in prayer continually. Pray that the Lord continues to bless all of its efforts. I ask too that we each pray for a servant's heart and let us not forget that everything we do for this Tres Dias movement is for the honor and glory of our Lord. Whether we work the weekends, attend the serenades, attend the closings, do palanca for the weekends, whatever it is we do, it is for God's glory, not our own. The words of Jesus keep running through my mind: So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, "We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty." (Luke 17:10)



May the peace and love and joy of Jesus touch you and may you return that touch to others.

Love and Peace in Him,  
Steve Myers

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Kingdom of God with a sense of urgency. Rare is the person who has clearly sacrificed substantially for the cause of Christ. Rather than conforming our lives to the call of Christ, we conform the call of Christ to our lives. And so we choose going to the movie over a nursing home. We are unwilling to suffer even a little to serve Christ - unwilling to make room in our lives for true ministry and service. The Church of today has not more passion than the typical secular charity. There is no getting around the fact that the call of Christ is the call to suffering and self-sacrifice. And Jesus promises that those who are faithful to him will most certainly pay a price for their commitment to him. There is a cross to carry when we answer the call to follow him. Jesus never told us it would be easy. In fact, one time when Jesus made it clear what following him truly required, the Scriptures tell us that "many of his disciples left him and no longer followed him." (John 6:66) They apparently did not like the price they had to pay to follow Jesus so they chose their own way - an easier way. And really it's no surprise that these "disciples" would turn away from Jesus to find an easier way. It's human nature to look for a short cut. But let me ask a question. What did they think they were gaining by choosing the easy way? Sure they found a much more comfortable life. And they most certainly avoided a great deal of pain. But what were they losing in this choice? What price were they paying for their love of the world? We are faced with the very same choice today. We are faced with the decision to make a sacrifice either for the sake of our own security or for the sake of the Kingdom. We cannot avoid the decision. We will decide one way or the other. "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Scott Smith

## From the Chair

What is the purpose of Tres Dias? One might say to build up the body of Christ. Another might say to teach the church about grace. Still another explains it as promoting the formation of groups.

Each of these is a key segment of its purpose, but the most complete answer I have come across is right out of the word of God. Ephesians 4:12-13 gives us our very best statement of purpose: *The purpose of Tres Dias is "to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."*

Works of service. Built up. Unity in faith. Unity in the knowledge of Christ. Mature. Whole measure. Fullness in Christ. A complete sermon could be developed from every one of these statements.

The prayer, the talks, the chapel services, the dynamics of the entire weekend are designed to give us a method we can take into our environments, and particularly our churches, the rest of our lives. It has always been stressed from the very beginnings of the Cursillo movement that this method is not to replace church.



Rather, the ideal is to work toward installing these methods into our various churches. Why? To prepare all God's people for works of service . . . I would love to see the day when Cursillo, Tres Dias and all the other Fourth Day ministries are put out of business because the churches were doing such a fabulous job of preparing God's people. And that is my fervent prayer.

Until that day, however, Tres Dias, in some form or another, will be my primary ministry. God has placed it on my heart and on the hearts of so many others who give tirelessly of their time, their talents and their treasures to see this work done.

That doesn't mean that I ignore God's call to work in other ministries and environments where He has placed me. I am an elder in a small church and I regularly suggest ways we can implement Tres Dias-type methods into that environment.

Neither does it mean that I will not be involved in a Tres Dias weekend just because I may not be a team member. I still support it with an hour or more of prayer, payment of someone's weekend fee, serving a meal, coming to send-offs and closings, singing at serenades and sending palanca.

This does not have to be everyone's primary ministry and, in fact, it shouldn't be. But it is critical that the entire community support each and every weekend in one of the ways mentioned above and attend as many sequelas as possible. This way we can stay connected to the community and do our part in preparing God's people for works of service.

DeColores,  
*Jim Doyle*

## From the Secretariat

### Strict Methods Can Provide True Freedom

Have you ever wondered why some people are adamant about following certain methods of Tres Dias? Do you struggle with the idea that freedom in the Spirit will be stifled by rules, regulations and methods? I believe we all have had these questions at one time or another. Even the secretariat wrestles with these almost constantly.

Doing God's work doesn't mean it will be simple. In fact, the more impossible His work seems, the more powerful it can be if we follow His lead. Every powerful move of God has had its roadblocks, barriers and mountains all down through history. Our own flesh (will) gets in the way, Satan gets in the way, other people (yes, even Christians) get in the way, sin gets in the way and the world gets in the way. Sounds like obstacles to grace, doesn't it?

Strong Christian discipline (rules, regulations and methods) is the only way to overcome obstacles to grace and maintain our discipleship. Certain methods of Tres Dias have their roots in the Cursillo methods which were developed over fifty years ago with inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Things like the order of the talks, the key points in the talks, the meditations, the communion services, the chapel visits and many other things during a weekend must be strictly followed. They have been proven through the test of time to change lives.



Then where is the freedom to follow the Spirit? True freedom comes from discipline. A good example is the violin or any musical instrument. I could pray for years and have enough faith to move mountains, but probably still could not pick up a violin and play it like a master. Sure, I'd have freedom to screech out some noise, but without the rules of music and fretting and stringing or without the discipline of practice, all it will be is noise - irritating noise.

Let me study music, however, to learn the rules and regulations. Let me follow the methods set down by former masters. Let me practice with discipline every day. Before long, I will have the freedom to make that instrument do things I only dreamed of before my training.

Tres Dias and all Christian work is like that violin. Making a weekend does not prepare me to be a leader in just three days. It is only the beginning, like an orientation. It tells me what to expect and gives me the methods and tools, but then begins the arduous task of discipline and practice and further study. Working a weekend is only a small part of the preparation. Attending sequelas, closings, group reunions, writing palanca, praying, etc. are all important in developing freedom in Christ.

The secretariat continues to schedule weekends and sequelas, and is now preparing a Tres Dias school, all for the development of Christian leaders. You must do your part too. We can provide the opportunities, but you have to take advantage of them. Remember, God offers grace, but we have to receive it.

We encourage you to learn the methods, practice the rules, follow the regulations and develop the disciplines of Tres Dias so you can experience the freedom to change your world for Christ's body and God's glory. Hallelujah!

*The Secretariat*

## Reflections From Women's Tres Dias #7

How do I start this? What are my reflections on Tres Dias #7? I have to say that the weeks that led up to that awesome weekend were some of the most spiritually challenging times of my life. I had to really put my faith into action, to prove that I believed with every ounce of my being that Jesus is my Lord and Savior and the Master of my life. I certainly found many areas that I thought I had turned over to Him, but when the rubber met the road I was still holding onto very tightly. I professed to believe in the power of prayer, but I really learned the awesome power of prayer, and what it was to depend upon the Lord for every little decision.

We say that God does not call the qualified but He qualifies the called. No one was more aware than myself of my inability to coordinate a Tres Dias weekend. You see these weekends can not be simply coordinated or they are simply nice little retreats. They have to be God driven, God directed. I learned that I had to spend every moment of every day in a state of submission to the Lord. That is not an easy task for a "child of the sixties".

What I learned from Tres Dias #7 was that prayer is the most important aspect of our lives as Christians. Not the grocery list kind of prayer, but conversation with our loving Father. From the choosing of the theme verse, through choosing the team and the wonderful Spiritual Directors, to each sister who shared their hearts and their stories, the Lord directed and usually had a better idea than my first thought. It was truly a humbling but awesome experience for me as the Lord sculpted our weekend. I thank each of you for saying "yes" to the Lord in your own special way concerning Tres Dias #7. You may have been part of the team, a pescadore, a volunteer in the kitchen, a prayer partner, or simply part of our loving community. Your prayers and love were certainly felt and appreciated.

As we continue on our Fourth Day may each of us learn the reality of the importance and the power of prayer. Steve Myers, as our Palanca Director, would like to coordinate a prayer chain made up of this community. The purpose will be to pray for you, your needs, your family and needs you become aware of for other people. What we need is for you to partner with us to first, pray and secondly, to ask for the prayers of your community when you need support. Please call Steve at 787-8170 to help get this very important ministry going.

Another real need we have in our Fourth Day is Group Community. How many of you are part of an active group? If you are not, I urge you to do something about it now. I sent around a sheet at the sequela following the weekend, and then misplaced it somewhere. Please give me another chance to help you get connected. If you are not grouping call me at 786-7792. I will do my best to put you in contact with other brothers and sisters who also desire to group. Just as we need each other on the weekend, we need each other during our Fourth Day.

Another personal note, I would like to thank you for all of the wonderful palanca I received on the weekend. I have not been able to thank each of you for your thoughtfulness, because many of the cards became separated from their gifts. I had started a list and then was unable to get them all opened due to the busyness of the weekend. When they were packed, my semblance of order disappeared. I love each of you and would love to thank you in person but this note needs to be the next best thing.

DeColores,  
*Aleen*

## Letter to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I'm not exactly sure how to put this without stepping on some toes. My intent certainly is not to offend, but rather to make it clear to everyone that we do not make rules just for the sake of having rules. Every single part of Tres Dias plays an essential role in the success of the movement. From the team formation throughout the Fourth Day. There are certain rules that have been broken time after time, and I feel someone needs to address it again.

**THERE ARE NOT CHILDREN ALLOWED AT THE SATURDAY EVENING SERENADE!!!!** This includes newborns, infants, toddlers, and anyone else who has not experienced a Tres Dias or similar weekend.

I really enjoy serenading and being serenaded by the Community, but unfortunately, it is not always possible to do so. I understand it is not always an easy task finding a babysitter, but this is the rule. Not only are children a distraction (even when they are quiet), but there are many people, candidates and team members, who are missing their families and seeing someone else's children could add to those feelings.

Perhaps the solution could be that if you cannot find a babysitter, you could spend that time at home with your child praying for the weekend and offering up that time as palanca. I would have enjoyed being able to participate in the serenade on Tres Dias #6, but I, like others, was unable to attend. Only to find out there were others there with children. This is hardly fair to those of us who followed the rules. I hope this does not sound too harsh, but this is not the first time this has needed to be addressed in the newsletter. Hopefully, it will be the last.

*Your Sister in Christ*



The Rectors for the Spring 1999  
Tres Dias weekends are:

Men's #8  
May 6 -9, 1999  
Steve Myers

Women's #8  
May 20 - 23, 1999  
Kathy Doyle

# Alegre!



Cheryl Myers  
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Alegre!

353-1886



Chi Chi's 7PM  
wed. Mar. 3  
MG

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