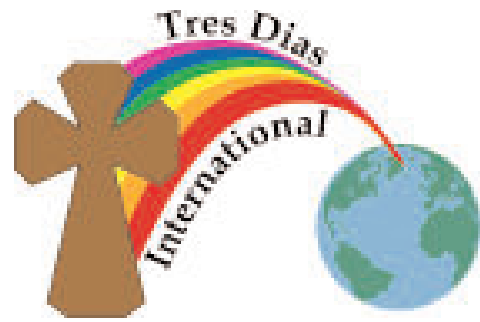


The Colors of Tres Días International



Spring/Summer 2008

The President's Letter

DeColores!

The fiscal year is winding down, the 2008 Assembly will be here in just a few short weeks, and my two-year term as President is almost at an end.

A lot has happened since I began attending International meetings over 10 years ago. Back then, the International Secretariat was a small group of men and women who met and had a lot of fun together and helped manage the problems of a few communities. Then the issue of the different rollo outlines hit and the Secretariat became a group of men and women who met and argued to the point that a split between the North and South seemed imminent. By the Grace of God and the help of the Holy Spirit, we overcame that and other obstacles and the growth of new communities picked up again—and still shows no signs of slowing.

The fun came back, but the work load became huge as the group found itself solving new problems. Too often we heard that the Secretariat interfered with those communities that were doing great and didn't help the ones in trouble. I wanted us to reverse that position and become increasingly service minded. As my term as President comes to a close, I am especially pleased that we were able to respond to three challenges:

- Improving the Tres Dias Fund to support communities in financial need.
- Improving the Services Committee functions to provide materials in electronic format as well as hard copy.



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- Improving the Active Pescadores census to provide a more fair and equitable method of determining the amount of assessment and the number of community votes.

The Tres Dias Fund now has a full-time committee in place with the power to solicit, manage, and distribute funds to assist communities in need. The committee works under the supervision of the President and is fully responsible to him, to the Secretariat, and ultimately, to the Assembly for its decisions, but does not have to seek approval for every action. This greatly improves the speed at which we can respond to a community crisis. Many think this service is restricted to international communities

such as those in Russia or Ukraine, but it is open to any community with a legitimate need for financial assistance.

The Services Committee was confronted with the problem of trying to provide a print solution in an increasingly electronic world. Most communities have been using electronic versions of the materials in some form for many years, which is a technical violation of our copyright. We have now put into place a method of distributing the materials by CD and are looking into the possibility of making materials available by Internet. About 10 percent of our income

comes from material sales and as a result of making these materials available electronically, some adjustment to the assessment will be necessary. The one thing we want to stress is that the rollo outlines should not be divided up, but that every team member should be given the entire group of 15 rollo outlines. Remember, this is not 15 separate talks but one talk given in 15 parts. These outlines are extremely important when critiquing the talks.

At the March meeting, the Secretariat approved a proposal for a revision of the method used to count active pescadores, and we are sending the proposal to the communities for proxy vote. The traditional method had always caused confusion, even dissention, and we decided that it was time to develop a method that would be fair, equitable, and easily audited. Instead of trying to figure

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On Fire with the Spirit in Peru

by
Don Bohl



To appreciate how effective Tres Dias can be in an international setting, consider what is happening in Lima, Peru.

This urban metropolis of 7.6 million was founded by Spanish Conquistadors early in the 16th Century on a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Today, Lima, Peru can boast of one of the most complex mixtures of nationalities and ethnic groups in South America. Immigrants came from Spain (the majority), France, Italy, and Germany to make Lima's population a predominately European mixture blended with native American (Quechua Indian) descendents. Also, representatives from various Middle Eastern countries now contribute to the diversity. Originally brought in as slaves and workers, Chinese immigrants to Peru added another cultural seasoning by creating Chifa—a Peruvian-Chinese cuisine found nowhere else in the world.

It seems more than a little appropriate, then, that one of the leaders of the Peru Tres Dias community (and currently president of the secretariat), Dieter Koerner, should be a German expatriate with American citizenship who speaks fluent German, English, and Spanish and is married to a native Peruvian. To add to the international kaleidoscope, pescadores from the U.S. and other countries—as far away as Ukraine—have been welcomed as observers and helpers to support the first weekends. Moreover, pastors

from Ecuador and Costa Rica attended Peru Men's No. 1, returning to their home countries with the kind of enthusiasm that seeds new communities.

How Dieter Koerner came to Peru is a story in itself. Early in his professional life, he developed a friendship with Jim Rayburn, the founder of Young Life, the non-denominational Christian ministry to teenagers. After working in America for Young Life, Koerner returned to Germany and, subsequently, to a ski camp in Switzerland. It was there, in 1968, that Rayburn approached him with a simple proposition: "I think we should start Young Life in Peru."

"Six months later," Koerner says, "I had learned a few Spanish words and was off to Peru with a list of people to see." Then, a military coup added an unexpected twist; everyone Koerner was supposed to see had either been deported or left voluntarily. "So, there I was, without a list but not without God," Koerner says. "I started walking the streets and praying. And that's how Young Life came to Peru 40 years ago."

Koerner had not been retired from Young Life for long when he accepted an invitation to attend a Tres Dias weekend in the Trinity Valley—and a new phase of his life began. "I didn't know what to expect," Koerner reports. "I was just going to have fun. You see, I've done a lot of camps—in Colorado, Switzerland, Germany, Brazil—but this was an experience of love and compassion unlike anything I had ever seen."

He returned to Lima "on fire with the Spirit" for a new ministry. Peru Tres Dias will be holding its fourth set of weekends this fall, at a campground about 50 minutes outside of Lima. Approximately 40 men and 40 women have become new pescadores at each set of weekends.

Tres Dias communities outside the U.S. sometimes struggle to find leaders and often rely on sizeable teams from abroad to support their weekends. Peru Tres Dias is an exception. From the beginning, their intent was to be self-sufficient as soon as possible. Peru will soon host its men's and women's No. 4 weekends led by Peruvians serving as Rector and Rectora. Foreign visitors play supporting roles, sometimes serving as "Chas" (a term used in some regions in place of "auxiliaries"). Peru Tres Dias is "breathing on its own," as Koerner describes it.

As with many communities outside the U.S., cost is the major inhibitor of growth. While the cost per candidate, about \$55, may seem modest for U.S. standards, it is a sig-

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Meeting Brothers and Sisters in Christ—Anywhere in the World

Paul Weis

Can you leave your house and travel 4,000 miles and still be home? You can if your destination is a Tres Dias community. From the moment we saw Libby Epps waiting at the airport with a “DeColores” scarf, we felt right at home. As Membership V.P., I have had the privilege of traveling to many TD communities to conduct Essentials Training classes, attend meetings, and participate in secuelas. The unifying nature of Tres Dias makes this easy. We are all brothers and sisters who just haven’t met yet. We are all part of the body of Christ and share the love of our



Lord. The bonding and fellowship are instant. What could be more important to have in common, than our Lord?

This past April my wife Karen and I had the privilege of traveling to England and Ireland to conduct Essentials Training for three communities: London and South East of England; South West of England; and

Ireland. During our stay, Libby and Jim Epps, Steve and Barb Wells, and Jim and Cita Carty each opened their homes for us.

Imagine traveling all the way to England only to discover that the person playing music for the training sessions and the secuela spoke with a southeast U.S. accent, as opposed to a southeast England accent. She was originally from the Atlanta area and had gone through a North Georgia weekend before marrying an Englishman!

Tres Dias is the same everywhere. It is the same in that each community follows the Essentials, and also in the way regional traditions make each community distinctive. Just as a community in Vermont differs from a community in Arizona, the two English communities are each unique. Yet, underneath it all, they are all the same. They are all a community, the community of Tres Dias. Just as when I went to those U.S. communities, I felt right at home in the English and Irish communities. It was the same when I went to Korea. Although many of us could not communicate without an interpreter, we still had that same bond.

Tres Dias is a marvelous tool created by the Lord to build up the body of Christ. To see it being used in all these places truly makes you appreciate it. It is also humbling, because you truly appreciate the fact that it is the Lord doing this. It is not something we are doing; it is something He is doing through us.

Tres Dias on a Navajo Reservation—It’s Getting Closer

Mike Holmes

Editor’s Note: Last issue, we published a story about Mike Holmes’ special ministry to the Navajo Indians. Twice a year, Mike makes a trip to the Navajo reservation, bringing a truckload of food, clothing, Bibles, and other items requested by the Native American pastors, and also preparing the way for bringing Tres Dias to the Navajo. We asked Mike to keep us updated on progress. Here it is.

“My people have been praying for hundreds of years for the white man’s God to come and minister to us. This weekend experience makes those prayers start to become true.” These words were spoken by a native pastor after a Tres Dias weekend in Colorado. God has heard those prayers of the ages and is now moving in a mighty way.

For the time being, Navajo and Apache people have been attending the three-day weekends at Rocky Mountains West Tres Dias in Colorado, all the time believing that God will bring this ministry to Gallup, New Mexico, in the near future. A total of 10 people involved in ministry to the Navajo and Apache people have attended Tres Dias. There is the potential for 21 native Americans to attend Tres Dias No.7 in Cedaredge, Colorado this fall (2008). If that happens, we will go to Gallup in the late fall and begin a steering committee to get Tres Dias of the Amerinds under way. Even before it is started, the community has a facility, at exit 8 on I-40 west of Gallup, with meeting rooms, dormitories, kitchen facilities ready and waiting. The facility can be used for a very small fee. This is going to make the cost for the weekend affordable to the native people who have an average income of \$3,600.00 per year. Praise God!

More Native Americans would come to Christ more quickly if it were not for the fear that their Shaman or Witchdoctor has more power than our God. We know “that greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4), but this truth is not believed by the native peoples. Join us in constant prayer that this Spirit and Truth of God will be magnified and understood by the natives. This needs to happen before Tres Dias makes much progress.



The food we take is from a ministry in Atlanta and the clothing is donated by local churches in the Atlanta area. God always provides enough of each to fill a 26 foot truck. The trip this June was our fifth trip in three years. God continues to bless people who have been mistreated for decades.

In closing, here is a comment from one of the Navajos in tears at the closing of a Tres Dias weekend. *“All my life I have not trusted the white man, but this weekend I have been loved and waited on by so many white men who truly lived out the love of God, that my life has truly changed.”*

Why Be a Guest Pescador?

Rosann Miloscia

The answer is simple. When we share knowledge, we gain wisdom, and we grow in our ability 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.”

This is precisely the kind of growth that can happen when pescadores from one community become guests on another community’s weekend. More specifically, here are three ways guest pescadores can strengthen communities:

- When well-established communities invite pescadores from new or emerging communities to serve on their weekends, the guests gather information, ideas, and resources that they can take back to their home community.
- New communities often need experienced team members. Pescadores from established communities who are willing to travel can answer that need, bringing with them the knowledge and wisdom that comes from having served before.
- Communities outside the U.S. often cannot put on weekends without support, financial support as well as support from experienced team members.

Everyone who has served on an international team hopes that the community will become strong and self-supporting; however, in many economies, that hope may not be realized for many years.

Guidelines for Guest Pescadores

The Policy Committee has published a set of guidelines for participating as a guest pescador of another community. The guidelines are intended to create a basic understanding for the exchange of ideas and resources and should not be regarded as a formal policy.

Initiating a request. Anyone wanting to serve in another community should approach their own secretariat. That local secretariat should then contact the appropriate contact in the other community. Requests should not go directly to the rector, unless, of course, that rector is involved with the request. But, always, the request should be submitted to the hosting community. This keeps all lines of accountability open and very little room for confusion.

Guest pescadores. Guest pescadores should be active members in their local community. That way, the hosting community will benefit from genuine experience.

Financial consideration. The guest pescador is responsible for making arrangements prior to the weekend. There are travel expenses and team fees that have to be considered. Payment of the team fees needs to be worked out between the two communities if necessary.

Host community. The host community should always remember that the guest pescador is not there to spy on anyone nor is he or she there to pry into the events, rollos, or any other aspect of the weekend.

Finally, the guest pescador can do several things to become a part of the team. The guest should see if it is possible to make at least one team meeting. If not, the guest may send a photo and a short bio as an introduction. The guest should always be in prayer for the entire team and candidates.

All can benefit from this process, and remember why we do this – to express the love and service of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Meeting Schedule

* July 11-13, 2008, Assembly and Secretariat, North Georgia, Atlanta, GA Area

* Oct 24-26, 2008, Secretariat, Tres Dias of Maine (Please check the Tres Dias Web site to confirm this.)

* Mar 20-22, 2009, Secretariat, Music City Tres Dias in the Nashville, TN Area

Please go to www.tresdias.org for registration information.

On Fire with the Spirit

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nificant outlay for Peruvians (average monthly salary in Peru is about \$150)—especially so when husband as well as wife attend their respective weekends. And, as with many other offshore communities, team fees from visiting pescadores are used to help offset weekend expenses.

Those visitors will have the mountain-top experiences of both a Tres Dias weekend and the city itself. More importantly, they will also feel the excitement of being part of a new phase in Tres Dias development. Koerner and others feel that the spiritual fire that has started in Lima may well light the way for new communities in other South American and Latin American countries.

Consider what has happened already. Peru TD supported the emerging Ecuador TD community by hosting about twenty of the Ecuadorians to attend Peru TD No. 3 and sending a number of Peruvian Pescadores to serve as team members on Ecuador No.1.

How to Get Involved

Anyone interested in serving in Peru, please contact either Richard Thornhill or Dieter Koerner for additional information:

Richard Thornhill, Chairman Peru Tres Dias, Trinity Valley TD, sponsor community
Email: richone07@gmail.com
Phone: 214-316-3660

Dieter Koerner, President, Peru Tres Dias
Email: hdkoerner@hotmail.com

"I AM A SOLDIER IN THE ARMY OF THE LORD"

The Lord is my commanding Officer.

The Holy Bible is my code of conduct.

Faith, Prayer and the Word are my weapons of warfare.

I have been taught by the Holy Spirit, trained by experience, tried by adversity and tested by fire.



I am a volunteer in this army, and I am enlisted for ETERNITY. I will either retire in this army at the rapture or I will die in this army.

But I will not get out, sell out, be talked out, or pushed out.

I will be faithful, reliable, capable, and dependable.

If God needs me, I will be there. If He needs me in Sunday School to teach the children, work with the youth, help adults or just sit and learn, He can use me because I am there.

I AM A SOLDIER!

Reginald Bush recites an excerpt from an anonymous poem at the Secretariat meeting in Gun Barrel City, Texas, March 2008

The President's Letter

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out what an active pescador is and then counting how many, we decided to base everything on total candidates per year. This is a number that every community tracks and is easy to audit. If approved by the communities, the assessment amount for 2009 will be based on current budget requirements divided by the total number of candidates reported for 2008, and each community will pay a "per-candidate" fee. This will shift a slightly heavier load to the small communities but will also give them a greater percentage of votes. This will help bring equity to the communities in proxy voting and Assembly floor votes and prevent a mega-community from dominating Tres Dias. In order to help communities overseas, we are allowing them the option of a flat fee, to be determined each year. Current budget projections set the fee at about \$100. Communities who choose this option will be limited to two community votes.

Are all of these solutions perfect? No, but they are a step in the right direction, and over the next several years, as Tres Dias grows from 80 communities to several hundred, community needs will be better served by these actions.

It is with some sadness and some joy that at the conclusion of my term, I will be taking some time away from the International Secretariat to spend with my wife and my Mom and Dad. I know God has His hand on this ministry and that He will make a way through every trial. The members of International represent a greater diversity of community involvement than we have ever seen, but we would prosper by having more members from other countries and cultures.

The Tres Dias International Secretariat has 27 members and officers. We have five standing committees staffed by those officers and members and other volunteers. All total there are about 70 people involved. Would you consider asking God if He wants you to become a part of this great team?

We need people like you at International Tres Dias!

God Bless
Bruce Cato
President