

31st Annual Assembly

THE COLORS OF TRES DIAS INTERNATIONAL



Special Issue August 2010

Assembly Focuses on Growth, Service to Communities

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A lot happens at a Tres Dias Annual Assembly. Delegates elect new officers and members for the International Secretariat. They participate in workshops to share ideas for making their communities more effective. And they enjoy the fellowship of other pescadores as they praise God for the way Tres Dias has changed lives.

The host community for the 31st Annual Assembly, South East Texas Tres Dias, provided the kind of setting where fellowship could abound and the Lord's work be accomplished as an act of

praise. As Pam Belknap, Administrative Vice President and Chair for the Assembly proceedings put it, "We were warmly greeted in Christian love, serenaded with joyous praise music, and fed 'good ol' down home cookin'!"

She went on to point out that the blaze of banners from communities around the world told of how far the Tres Dias mission has reached, and the tables decorated with bluebonnets and sunflowers reminded delegates that they were in Texas, ready to continue that mission.

For approximately one-third of the 144 delegates and observers who traveled to the Houston suburb of Spring, TX, July 9-11, attendance at an Assembly was a first-time experience. Membership on the Secretariat's standing committees is open to anyone who wishes to join. Many of the newcomers *did* sign on for committee work, and several committee leaders commented on how well their skills and professional backgrounds aligned with projects underway.

As one committee chairman put it, "God, through his Holy Spirit, is

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The Banners Tell a Story

"When you see this, you know that God has no nationality, and you know how great is our God." This is how one delegate responded to the procession of banners that opened the 31st Annual Assembly.

The story starts with the Mid-Hudson Tres Dias Banner, shown (at left), where Tres Dias started in 1972. The message on that banner, "How wide and long and deep is the love of Christ" serves as preamble for the other banners. Indeed, that love has spread across the U.S and around the world, as the banners on this page and throughout this issue show.



Assembly Focuses on Growth, continued....

providing us with the needed “new blood” for our committee. I don’t see these young people as replacing or obsolescing us. Rather, we’re going forward, together, in Him.”

New members for the Services Committee, for example, are bringing deeper experience in database management, which will translate into better record keeping for the International Secretariat and, more importantly, improved communication with the communities.

A new member of the Membership Committee brings with him professional experience in helping organizations file for 501(c)3 status. In the months ahead, he will provide a model for emerging communities to use as they become chartered.

The Policy Committee launched a project aimed at supporting communities in the critical area of sponsorship. Again, new members, one an enthusiastic pre-weekend leader, will assist by helping to gather information from communities on “best practices” related to sponsorship.

Both areas—seeking 501(c)3 status and sponsorship—are critical for new and emerging communities. And Tres Dias appears to be entering a period of rapid growth. Membership Vice President Richard Thornhill reported that two communities, Central Texas and Sabine Creek, have received charters. Moreover, 25 emerging communities (nine of which are international) are currently on their way to satisfying the chartering requirements, and inquiries about start-ups are received each month.

To support emerging communities both at home and abroad, President Paul Weis announced the formation of a committee to build the Tres Dias fund. Monies in the fund can be disbursed to answer specific needs.

This year’s assembly featured workshops on sponsorship, telling clergy about Tres Dias, and starting new communities. The next issue of this newsletter will report on ideas from the workshops.

The Saturday evening Essentials training provided 78 pescadores with the certification needed to conduct the training in their local communities.

All of this happened in the context of the warm, spirit-filled hospitality provided by South East Texas Tres Dias community. A big Texas thank-you to all who organized the event.



Does Your Community Have a Banner for the Parade of Banners?

If not, here is a chance to praise God with colors and symbols. Many of the banners depict something distinctive about the community’s location or culture. Others use symbols to make a statement. The banner should be 30 by 60 inches. For more information, contact Pam Belknap, AdminVP@tresdias.org.



President's Forum

Q *You've been called to serve as President of the International Secretariat for another term. What is your vision for the Secretariat, in the next two years and beyond?*

A I see the Secretariat developing into a service center, a resource center, and an aid for Tres Dias communities. Over the next two years we plan to continue the efforts to communicate with each community; to make each community aware of us as a resource; and to pass on helpful information. I see the Secretariat becoming a focal point for connecting communities with each other so that they can help each other. For example, if a community needs a spiritual director for a weekend, the Secretariat should be able to provide a connection to other communities that might have spiritual directors available to travel. The same is true for a new community needing team members or financial aid. Say that someone has a friend or relative that does not live near them and they would like to sponsor that person for a weekend in a different community. Again, the Secretariat should be able to help provide the connections. Our "tools" are improving. Our central database helps with communications. We are creating "help sheets" on such things as sponsorship, obtaining 501 (c)3 status, and community start up check lists. Our Services Committee is developing an on-line tool to help someone locate the nearest Tres Dias community from any point in the US. [See editor's note, page 6.]

Q *We're seeing significant growth in the number of foreign communities, often in locations where the community needs financial support. Where will the funds come from to provide this support?*

A Several years ago, we set up the Tres Dias Fund so that people could donate money to aid communities. While helpful in some specific cases, the fund has been a relatively little-used resource. More recently, we have set up an account with the National Christian Foundation, established a committee within the Secretariat to oversee the disbursement of the funds, and made provision for an endowment to provide seed money. We are a ministry that

people would likely deem worthy of supporting and we need to make them aware of how that can be done. For example, people need to be aware of the ability, through NCF, to set up planned giving, including annuities and other assets. Financial support from the fund would not be intended just for international communities, but for any community in need. We are also working to get materials translated for international communities.

With the ability to store and transmit electronically, we no longer need to print and stockpile material. Now the concerns are the time, talent and effort to translate it. We need people to do the work. Any volunteers?

Q *Last January, you attended the meeting of Fourth Day Community leaders. Who was there? What did you talk about?*

A This gathering is very informal and usually includes the President and Executive Director of the larger Fourth Day communities. Attending this year were Kairos Prison Ministry, National Episcopal Cursillo, Via De Cristo (Lutheran), Walk to Emmaus (Methodist), Catholic Cursillo, Presbyterian Cursillo, and Tres Dias. The purpose is to discuss common problems and solutions within each of our movements, to seek ways to be supportive of one another, and especially to work to keep the Fourth Day Movement true to its origin. We all share the same issues, growth pains, and joys, as well as the same ministry – creating Christian leaders. One of the things that all have dealt with is the "clutter" or "fluff" that can get attached to the weekends. The biggest thing I learned from the meeting was a further expansion of what I learned from serving on Tres Dias International. This tool of the Lord that we know as the Fourth Day Movement is truly inspired by the Holy Spirit and designed to grow the kingdom.



Paul Weis

The President's Forum is a regular feature in this publication. This month's questions were taken from the "live" forum at the Annual Assembly. Send your questions for the next Forum to newsletter@tresdias.org.

Election Results from the 31st Annual Assembly

To provide for administrative continuity, terms of office for the various positions overlap. The election rules are written to ensure that officers and members come from the greatest possible number of communities. Officers and members do not serve as representatives of their communities, however, but rather represent Tres Dias as a whole.

Officers Elected at the July 2010 Assembly

President	Paul Weis	Abundant Life Tres Dias
Executive VP	Bill Boyd	Mid Carolinas Tres Dias
Membership VP	Richard Thornhill	North Texas Tres Dias
Financial Secretary	Sue Loveland	Mid Hudson Tres Dias

Officers Whose Terms Will Expire in 2011

Administrative VP	Pamela Belknap	Tres Dias of Cleveland
Secretary	Marcy Myers	Mid Carolinas Tres Dias
Treasurer	Jeff Mentz	Mid Hudson Tres Dias

Secretariat Members Elected at the July 2010 Assembly

Chuck Allen	(2012)	Trinity Valley Tres Dias
Julie Bohl	(2012)	Fairfield County Tres Dias
Beau Bruce	(2011)	North Georgia Tres Dias
Harry Davis	(2012)	Southeast Tennessee Tres Dias
Steve DeCillis	(2012)	Long Island Tres Dias
Denver Henderson	(2012)	Music City Tres Dias
Judith LeMasurier	(2012)	Central Connecticut Tres Dias
Barbara Langdon	(2012)	Vermont Tres Dias
Heather Rankel	(2012)	South East Texas Tres Dias
Wendy Taylor	(2012)	Central Arizona Tres Dias

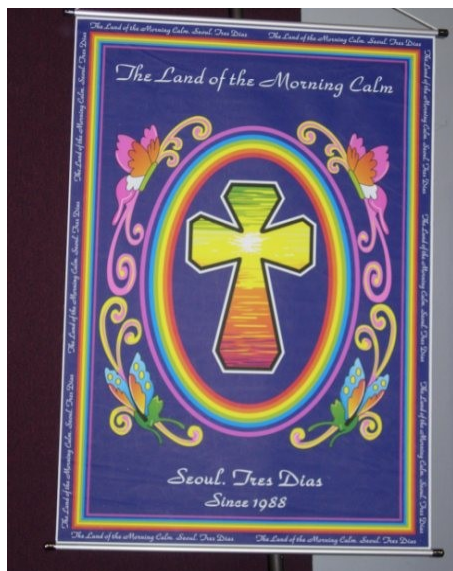
Members Whose Terms Will Expire in 2011

Brenda Aldridge	Mid Carolinas Tres Dias
Eric Borman	RIMA Tres Dias
Carolyn Davis	Southeast Tennessee Tres Dias
Ned Heffington	Birmingham Tres Dias
Steve Ferrell	Chattahoochee Valley Tres Dias
Charles Ligon	Trinity Valley Tres Dias
Tom Morrison	Music City Tres Dias
Jeannie Norwood	New Hampshire Tres Dias
Lauren Thunem	Fairfield County Tres Dias

Alternative Delegate

Mike Holmes	North Georgia Tres Dias
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Banners from around the World



Seoul, Korea



Russia



Kyiv, Ukraine

The Annual Assembly, Past and Future

The First Annual Assembly: Poughkeepsie, NY, 1980

By John McKinney

Back then, we sang praise songs accompanied by acoustical guitars. We made presentations with slide projectors; we had no worry about a cell phone ringing in the middle of a meeting.

Although communication devices and music have changed since that first Annual Assembly in 1980, the heart of the matter... how we worship our Lord... has not changed. I saw the same loving attendees, then and now, and I hear the words of “Amazing Grace” sung with the same gusto.

Let me give you some background. In the spring of 1979, with the encouragement of the Mid-Hudson secretariat, we formed an ad hoc “national secretariat.” It was almost like our Lord had trained us to start the organization. Interestingly, all of us worked for IBM; had excellent educational, organizational and business experience; and most importantly, a strong commitment to our Lord. We drafted the Constitution and Essentials. The communities were invited to refine the documents.

There were only about 50 delegates and observers at the first Assembly in 1980, representing nine communities. The food was limited, there was no parade of community banners (that tradition started later), and there was no air conditioning.

Our most important business in 1980 was to organize ourselves by ratifying the Tres Dias Constitution and Bylaws

and The Essentials of Tres Dias. We started calling ourselves international about 1985. Remarkably, not much has changed! The delegates attended instructional workshops and breakout sessions, very much as they do now. Later the Secretariat met and conducted committee business.

At this year’s Assembly, I had the honor of hosting a “history” session with Dave McManigal. Dave was the principal instrument that our Lord used to start Tres Dias. He also served as rector for the first weekend in 1972. Someone asked Dave, “Did you ever imagine what Tres Dias would become today?”... an international movement with about 100 budding, emerging and chartered communities. Dave didn’t miss a beat, answering with an emphatic “No.”

It was a moment to stop and reflect, with humility and amazement, at what the Lord has accomplished.

John McKinney was the first president of the Secretariat and currently serves as Executive Director for Tres Dias



Looking Forward: Seoul, Korea in 2012

When the invitation was first issued, the idea of holding the 33rd Annual Assembly in Seoul, Korea, seemed both improbable and impractical. The practical issues are on their way to being solved, and Membership VP Richard Thornhill announced plans to travel to Seoul in October for the next round of planning.

The idea isn’t as improbable as it sounds, given the history. The first Tres Dias weekends were held in the Mid Hudson Community, close to the West Point Military Academy. The cadets who attended weekends took Tres Dias with them as they deployed. The first Korean community (English speaking) was chartered in 1984, and a remarkable proliferation of Korean-speaking communities soon followed. Because of the language barrier, these communities operated in virtual isolation from the International Secretariat. In 2007, the International Secretariat formed the Tres Dias Korean Regional Committee (TDKR). The committee consists of two representatives from each of seven communities and has responsibility for recommending new communities for chartering and for assuring adherence to the essentials.

A Note from the Editor

The Services Committee has been publishing *The Colors of Tres Dias International* for three years now, and we've enjoyed the experience, but—to be perfectly honest—we're not sure how many readers we have! Aside from comments from fellow members of the International Secretariat, we've had very little response. In fact, the e-mail link, newsletter@tresdias.org has been virtually unused.

So, when you've finished reading this, please do us the favor of sending a short message to newsletter@tresdias.org. It can be as brief as “we read this issue” or even shorter—just a “hello.”

We're hoping that the new question and answer column, “The President's Forum,” will interest and attract readers. To make that work, however, we need questions from you for Paul Weis to answer. Your question might be something simple: a question about Tres Dias traditions, for example. Or it might be the kind of question that challenges us all to reflect more deeply on the Tres Dias program and mission.

In addition to news from the International Secretariat, this newsletter publishes resource material for the communities and devotional writings. We are always looking for inspiring, lay-written material related to the Tres Dias experience. If, for example, you recently heard an exceptional fourth day talk, consider encouraging the speaker to send us a manuscript.

One final note: In his “Forum,” Paul refers to an online tool that will help someone locate the nearest Tres Dias community from anywhere in the US. The “Community Locator” is now up and running on the Tres Dias home page. Simply type in city and state for any location in the US, and a map will appear providing directions to the nearest community.

I look forward to hearing from you.

De Colores

Don L. Bohl

Needed: Pescadores Willing to Travel

A number of new and emerging communities have issued standing invitations for pescadores from other communities to support their weekends in the fall of 2010 and spring of 2011. Please help these communities by circulating this announcement at your local secretariat meetings or secuelas. For specific dates and contact information, see the WEEKENDS link at TresDias.org.

To issue a similar invitation in a future issue, send a message to newsletter@tresdias.org.

Colorado Front Range, sponsored by Music City Tres Dias (Oct.'10)

Denmark Tres Dias, sponsored by Germany Tres Dias (Oct'10)

Brazos Valley Tres Dias, now will wait until Fall 2011

Heart of Texas TD, probably sponsored by Sabine Creek. (Mar'11)

Lviv, Ukraine, sponsored by Kyiv (Sept. '10)

Orange County TD (CA), sponsored by Central Arizona

Peru Tres Dias, sponsored by Trinity Valley

Northern California Tres Dias, sponsored by Birmingham Tres Dias

Southern New Jersey, sponsored by Northern NJ

If you have an interest in any of these locations or additional ones, please inform Richard Thornhill, Vice President of Membership at MembershipVP@TresDias.org

The Colors of Tres Dias International is published three times a year by the Services Committee of the Tres Dias International Secretariat. Don L. Bohl serves as editor. Ned Heffington chairs the Services Committee and serves as proofreader. Special thanks to Pam Strickland for helping to design and compose this issue.