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the colors of Tres Dias International

SEPTEMBER 2021



“ HE SHALL
Cover
 YOU WITH HIS FEATHERS,
 And under His wings,
 you shall take *Refuge* ;
 His truth shall be your
Shield.”

PSALM 91:4

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President's Corner

By Jeff Mehl - President of Tres Dias International

As your new president, it makes sense to spend a few moments introducing myself. My name is Jeff Mehl, and my original weekend was Men's #76 in Mid-Hudson Tres Dias back in 1989 where I sat at the table of Los Sietes. (There's a story behind that table name that I'll share another time). My wife, Valerie, and I live in the Hamlet of Esopus located in upstate New York; about 2 hours north of New York City along the Hudson River (very rural with no sidewalks, lots of woods with deer and fox in the backyard, and even a woodchuck that I may shoot one of these days because he keeps digging holes under our shed!). Valerie and I attend the Goodwill Evangelical Presbyterian Church in New Paltz, NY. We have three grown kids, five grandchildren, a cat, and a Boston Terrier. Regarding grandkids, I have learned:

- 1) Grandkids are better than the originals, and
- 2) They are a solid reminder as to why it is good you did not murder your 14 year old!! LOL

My wife and I began attending our local Secretariat within a few years after attending our weekends and have been voting members ever since. I have served Mid-Hudson as a Rector, President, Vice-President, Chairman of the Communications Committee and I am currently a member of our Weekend Committee (a committee consisting of former rectors who manage all aspects

Valerie and I began attending International Secretariat meetings in 2002. I was immediately drawn to the Policy Committee, which I have served on just about the entire time. My most recent assignment was as Chairman of the Policy Committee; a position I held for about the past 7 or 8 years. At the Assembly of International Tres in July, I had the honor of being chosen as your President.

MY PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP: I am convinced that there is no room for authoritative leadership within Tres Dias. We are an organization founded on the principles of Servant-Leadership and that is what I intend to model. My role on the Policy Committee taught me that consensus must be the rule; that pushing for a vote that is “one more than half” is almost always a mistake, as is forcing one’s personal agenda. I also believe that the International Secretariat serves as the Board of Directors of the ministry and, therefore, they must be engaged in all issues related to the running of the ministry. And although it is not within the realm of International to dictate policy to communities at this level, I firmly believe that, in order to achieve the best outcomes, this leadership model should be followed by local communities as well. In other words, I view the role of President, in most cases, as a facilitator and consensus-maker as opposed to an authoritarian leader; trusting in the unity provided by the Holy Spirit to a group of leaders to come up with the correct decisions, rather than relying solely on my own imperfect opinions and judgements.

MOVING FORWARD: As I am just taking my first steps in this new role, I would like to share the vision and goals I have for our beloved ministry:

1) MY GUIDING THEME: “STAND FIRM!”

2) MY GUIDING SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 4:3: *“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions...”* (And we are certainly seeing an epidemic of itching spiritual ears, aren’t we?)

My primary focus over the next 3 years, besides putting out little fires as they will inevitably occur, will be to help the Secretariat be united to “Stand Firm” against efforts – by both inside and outside forces – to change and negatively impact the core mission of Tres Dias. We are all aware that Tres Dias is a microcosm of the Greater Church, so whatever forces impact the Church will most definitely impact our ministry. In my role as Chairman of the Policy Committee, it was very clearly driven home to me that there are forces constantly at work trying to draw us away from our clearly defined goals in an

In other words, my overall goal will be to “Stand Firm” and not give in to the forces that would deflect or divide us. It is critical that we avoid the temptation of secularism as we see it infecting the greater church. Based on that, I will commit to you that I will do everything in my power to maintain the integrity of the ministry!

My promise to you is that any decisions or agendas I push will be done thoughtfully, prayerfully, and with the goal of reaching consensus in making Tres Dias a beacon of light in a world where, all too often, certain segments of the Church seems to be falling into the trap of secularism.

This ministry has a solid foundation based on the vision of the Founders whose desire was to serve the Lord with this unique “tool” they called “The Tres Dias Method.” As we look back at the challenges many of our leaders have faced since then, we are in awe when we view the level of their faithfulness and the wisdom that resulted from it! My prayer is: “May those who come behind us find us faithful” as we face the many challenges ahead of us.

There is more that I will share with you in future newsletters. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions, comments, or concerns at president@tresdias.org.

De Colores!

Jeff Mehl

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*a word from our
Spiritual Director*

Tres Dias International

WARRIORS ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Whether we admit it, like it, or accept it or not, if we are believers then we are warriors for the Lord. We are fighting like countless have fought before us. Granted, the geography of the battlefield is somewhat different. But make no mistake about it we are still called to fight.

We are in a spiritual battle everyday of our lives. We are battling every day for our families, for our own minds and hearts, for our friends and fellow believers, and for the lost and dying around us. We are men and women of war. We are part of the army of the Lord God almighty. We have been handed down a mandate to “set at liberty, by the power and the Spirit and the blood of the Lamb, those who have been made captive”. But hear me well, a warrior for the Lord cannot go forth and conquer unless they have first been conquered by the Spirit of God. If we want to be a mighty warrior for the Lord, we must allow Him to conquer us in the secret place. Your greatest strength as a warrior for God is in your total surrender and vulnerability to the Lord. You win with your hands up. You win on your knees. You gain your power for victory as you become weak so that in your weakness His strength is made perfect. It is “not by power and not by might, but by my Spirit says the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6) The battles before us can seem very intimidating if we look at them from a fleshly perspective. The spiritual forces we fight seem to be giants standing in front of us. So let us remember the lesson of David as he battled his giant.

To David, it did not matter how big his enemy was, it did not matter how mighty he looked or what kind of armor he was wearing or how heavy his sword was, because he knew that on the inside he was not in covenant with God almighty. David knew that he was standing on covenant land and that Goliath had no right to stand there and he could not occupy God’s promise. What Goliath lacked under all his façade disqualified him to stand on God’s land. David knew that his covenant and his circumcision qualified him to defeat Goliath because he had the promise of God. That ground had been reserved for those of covenant.

We need to start assessing our enemy from the inside out. Stop being afraid of the giants in your land. Stop being intimidated by the growl of the enemy. The world looks on the outside, but God looks on the inside. Stop looking from the outside and start understanding that these worldly/ungodly giants that you are allowing to cause you to fear, to doubt, and to taunt you are not in covenant

spiritual back in the power of the Holy Ghost and let faith arise in you and say “who is this uncircumcised Philistine”?

That is why David stripped himself of Saul’s armor. He knew that victory is determined by what is in the heart not what is on the flesh.

The battles that you have fought on the sheep’s field with the bear and the lion have prepared you for the Goliaths that will try to come. You do not need Saul’s armor. You do not need a sword or a shield. You just need to strip down your covenantal might that God has clothed you in and grab your sling and your shepherd’s rod and get ready to watch what God is going to do in you and for you. Are you ready for some Victory in your life?

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*community
Connections*

COVID Update

By Jeff Mehl, President TDI

We have received many inquiries from community leaders wanting to know whether or not they should conduct weekends this Fall; primarily related to the Delta variant of COVID.

Our guidance has not changed since last June when we posted an [communique](#) on the website, advising:

2. We recommend utilizing an “acknowledgement” form so participants can formally acknowledge the potential risk of COVID or other infectious diseases and agree to “hold harmless” the community, the facility, and others involved in the weekend or event, in case of infection.

3. It is recommended that a set of published guidelines is provided that outlines mitigating efforts being made to prevent the spread of COVID or other infections.

4. Finally, the safety of all participants must be the highest priority of the decision-making concerning whether or not to conduct weekends.

Since Tres Dias International covers communities throughout the United States and around the world, it is not equipped to provide specific guidance for individual communities since the professional and political guidance varies greatly from area to area. The best TDI can do is provide the above principles as guidelines. Of course, if any doubt remains then the prudent decision would be to postpone the weekends in the interest of safety.

IMPORTANT: Fourth Day activities are now more important than ever to keep the community involved and united. Using the same criteria as above, communities should do their best to continue holding Secuelas, Reunion Groups, training, etc. And let us be sure to keep the Tres Dias leadership (local and international), our Pescadores and potential candidates in prayer as these challenges are worked!

Assembly 2021

By Valerie Mehl, Assembly Planning Team Mid- Hudson Tres Dias

Mid-Hudson Tres Dias hosted the 42nd Assembly of Tres Dias Secretariats as a virtual meeting on July 17, 2021. There were 86 registered attendees although a few joined in late. Mid-Hudson became the sponsoring community when another community had to withdraw in March. It was an honor and privilege to put together the agenda, Assembly packet, musicians, and prayer team in such a short time frame.

The Assembly packet contained two very special palanca items:

1- One from an active member from the original Tres Dias weekend #1 back in 1972 and,

that each person was covered in prayer before and during the meeting.

The Assembly itself was a full but enjoyable day with some praise music, keynote address, special music, and prayer as well as the business of Tres Dias. The Assembly was complete with the results of proxy votes and election results. It concluded with the induction of the newly elected Secretariat officers and members. Upon conclusion of the Assembly, the first Secretariat meeting of the new fiscal year led by our incoming president along with officers and Secretariat members was held.

The newly elected officers/ Members are as follows:

President – Jeff Mehl

Membership

VP – Bill Shoemaker

Financial Secretary – Gordon Arent

Member - Kevin LeMay

Member – Carl Narber, Jr.

Member – Paul Markowitz

Member – Valerie Mehl

Member - Tammy Jaso

Member – Eric Borman (filling unexpired 1 yr. term)

Much of the work of Tres Dias is done by the Secretariat throughout the year at the committee level. Please consider joining the Secretariat meetings to see what committees are trying to accomplish in order to serve and assist local communities. There is a virtual meeting on October 2, 2021 that all are welcome to attend. Details to register will be sent to community leaders and can also be found on the website.

It is incredibly important for all chartered communities to participate in the operations of the International Secretariat. This includes nominating Pescadores to serve as Secretariat members, as well as making sure that each community participates in the annual census/survey and proxy votes/elections. It is important for everyone's voice to be heard via the local Secretariats as part of the greater Tres Dias community!

The leader of each community receives many emails per year. It is important that all this information be presented to the local Secretariat members; it is easier to understand what the emails contain when each community has someone who attends Tres Dia International meetings on a regular basis and can report directly to their local Secretariat. Tres Dias needs qualified, thinking,

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meeting! What a great collaboration of experience, ideas, and input that would be!

If your community is approached about hosting a Secretariat meeting or an Assembly, please think about it carefully and commit to doing it. There is a complete and great packet to help you with each stage of the preparation process.

It is the hope of the Secretariat of Tres Dias International to see many communities represented at the upcoming Secretariat meetings (Spring & Fall) and at the next Assembly in July 2022.

God bless you all in your work for the Lord!



Paying it Forward

An Out of the Box Model for Funding Weekends

The Northern Virginia Tres Dias Community adopted a funding model of “paying it forward” in the Summer of 2019. “Project Blessing” is the new vision for NVTD. This innovative approach moves completely away from candidate and team fees to one of ongoing and recurring donations. All fees for the weekend are fully funded.

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contributions from the Community! This beautiful blessing allows the NVTD Community to "pay it forward" for others yet to come.

The NVTD Board believes this is a more faithful way to financially steward the Community. Moving away from the transactional approach of paying fees is so much easier. The NVTD treasurer stated, "Our mission and calling is so much bigger than only participating financially when sponsoring or serving. There are so many people yet to experience what each of us experienced on our Weekend. The best is yet to come with participation in Project Blessing! "

The NVTD community was eight months into their fiscal year and they had generated enough funds to cover the facility fees and overhead expenses for at least a year and a half into the future when the final decision was made to completely move to this funding model. They asked the community to consider setting up a monthly/quarterly/annual donation to Project Blessing to help defray the cost of Weekends and overhead each year.

As a true walk of faith, knowing that God is faithful and provides all needs, this community is breaking the mold. For example, a pescadore who may have paid \$500/year for serving and sponsoring, would instead consider a monthly contribution of approximately \$40 a month to Project Blessing. Some would be able to commit to more. There is no need for additional fundraising.

Moving into this new financial model has been very exciting!! NVTD has fully adopted Project Blessing's stewardship-based model going forward. This community has changed the approach to faithful stewardship as they pay it forward!

The donation levels NVTD adopted are:

- Faith level - \$25/mo
- Hope level - \$50/mo
- Love level - \$100+/mo.

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community Resources

An "Essential" Resource

By Mike Shellman, Acting Policy Committee Chair

Orange County Tres Dias

Every organization, whether large or small, has a set of operating procedures that unite their various components, have brought them to where they are today, and in many ways define who they are and why. The Tres Dias Essentials are just that type of document. They are the glue that ties all of the Tres Dias communities together and defines who they are. But like any set of operating procedures, in order to remain both current and relevant, they need to be taught, passed forward, re-taught, explained, and in some cases even modified. One of many services that the International Secretariat provides for the member communities of Tres Dias is a process of reviewing and teaching the Essentials along with a further explanation of just why they are, in fact, ESSENTIAL.

In an on-going effort to do just that, long-standing members of the International Secretariat, Jeff Mehl (newly elected TDI President and former TDI Policy Chair) and his wife, Valerie Mehl (current TDI Secretariat Member and TDI Policy Committee member), have designed a somewhat entertaining and very informational series of videos on the Essentials and have made them available as a free resource on the Tres Dias International website. These videos have been approved by the International Secretariat for internal training by communities at team meetings, Secuelas, and general community training

The video series consists of nine relatively short video segments that can be viewed in one sitting or in multiple sessions and are accompanied by additional resources that include a self-pretest, a self-posttest, and hand-outs for convenient references. The segments include in-depth explanations for aspects of the Essentials that some might find confusing, as well as providing the reasons as to “why” something is an Organizational Essential.

I have had the privilege of watching this video series and I give it a hearty four-star recommendation. It is very worthy of the time it takes to watch. It is recommended for use by anyone, from the most seasoned Tres Dias veteran to newest class of Pescadores. While I think you will enjoy the video, even more importantly, you will definitely learn more about the Essentials than you knew coming in.

Another resource that is a part of the video presentation that has been approved for community use is the document titled “Key-points and Take-aways of the Rollos and Meditations.” This can be found on the Tres Dias website and is an excellent resource for writing and critiquing rollos and meditations.

De Colores!

Tech Corner: Tech Soup

Did you know that non-profit organizations who have received 501c3 tax exempt status are eligible to receive significantly reduced pricing on software and computer hardware/accessories? Check out www.TechSoup.org. Once your local Tres Dias community is validated, you are eligible for free licensing from Microsoft Office365 ([Microsoft Discount Program](#)), significantly reduced pricing on Intuit QuickBooks, Zoom, Norton, Adobe Acrobat Pro, and many other programs. They also offer networking hardware, mobile hotspots, routers, computers – all the things you need to improve the tech of your community!

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announcements

What do you know about Tres Dias International?

Join our Virtual Fall Meeting on October 2, 2021 to find out!

Theme: IMMOVABLE

“So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.”

1 Corinthians 15:58 LT

What is the agenda? Welcome at 9:00 AM ET - with a short time of worship, prayer, and a devotional. General Secretariat meeting Break Committee meetings - There are five committees to choose from. Lunch Committee meetings continue General Secretariat meeting – Committee Reports, Motions, etc. Adjourn – approx. 5:00 PM ET

What do the committees do?

ADMINISTRATION- This committee is responsible for scheduling the meetings and acts as the liaison with the host communities. Also responsible to send out the Annual Census and Survey yearly and oversee Nominations and Elections. **COMMUNICATIONS-** Produces and distributes the newsletter. Prints, distributes, and sets cost for Tres Dias items for sale. Oversees the website and social media. Maintains archive of historical and important data.

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Constitution and By-Laws. MEMBERSHIP- Primary function is to charter local secretariats, develop communities, support Pescadores in areas not covered by a local secretariat, and propose for approval any additions or modification to qualifications for chartering. POLICY- Handles all matters relative to Pre-weekend, Weekend, 4th Day, and Essentials. Proposes all policy for the Tres Dias movement. Has a Clergy Advisory Board as a subcommittee. Acts a Supreme Court of Tres Dias.

SPECIAL ESSENTIALS TRAINING- Friday, Oct 1, 2021 at 8:00 PM ET

TO REGISTER for the Essentials Training on Friday, 10/01 and/or the Secretariat meeting on 10/02 please use this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SECRETARIAToct2021> (The link will also be on tresdias.org website under About -> Secretariat Meetings)

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*taste of
Tres Dias International*

[Blueberry Muffins](#)

Susan Kenna-Farkas, Lehigh Valley Tres Dias

[Easy Sweet Potato Casserole](#)

Fruit Salad

Dennis Matthews, Con Dios Tres Dias

Communities Needed to Host TDI Secretariat Meetings

We are in need of communities willing to host one of our TDI Secretariat Meetings or Annual Assembly. *If your community would consider hosting one of these meetings, please contact Frank Yarbrough at fmy430@gmail.com.*

The Communications Committee of Tres Dias International needs YOUR help!

Do you want to be involved in TDI, but did not have the time to commit to an elected office? Well we have a place just for you. Our communications committee is in need of people with a heart for service that are able to join our monthly meetings and give input in the areas of Website design, Newsletter design and content, or other technical issues. We would love to have you join us! *If you are interested, please contact communications@tresdias.org.*

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM
YOU & YOUR *community!*

TOPIC IDEAS INCLUDE:

- FUN FACTS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY
- THINGS YOUR COMMUNITY DOES WELL
- FAVORITE RECIPES AMONG YOUR COMMUNITY
- ARTICLES OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Please submit your articles to:
communications@tresdias.org

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