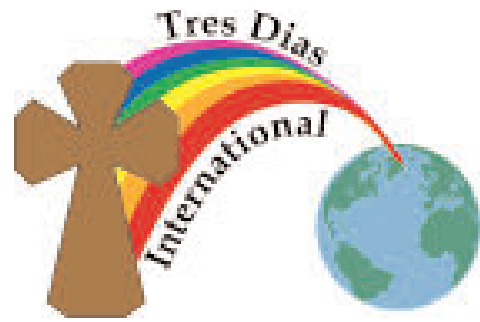


# The Colors of Tres Días International



Winter 2008

*Published three times a year, The Colors of Tres Dias International is the official newsletter of Tres Dias International. Staffed by volunteers dedicated to bringing information to all Tres Dias Communities. To submit requests, comments, or suggestions, please e-mail [newsletter@tresdias.org](mailto:newsletter@tresdias.org)*

## Letter from the President

Hello to everyone and De Colores!

When I was elected president a year and a half ago, I charged the International Secretariat to become more service oriented. We all wanted the Secretariat to become the best possible resource for our communities, and to do that, we needed to consider service not just to the mature and thriving communities, but also to the new communities and to those communities that were in the process of starting new communities.

Each of the standing committees has responded to the challenge.

The Executive Committee is studying the area of assessments to find a better method to determine "active membership." Currently, there is no standard measure. Many communities count every pescadore who participates in any event during the year. Other communities multiply the number of names on the mailing list by an arbitrary number. Others just guess. We would prefer to use a method that is easy, fair, and accurate. The number of votes each community has at the annual Assembly would also be adjusted, based on the new measure.

The Administration Committee is working to provide every community with an opportunity to host a Secretariat meeting in its area and thus become involved in the process of administering to the needs of the communities. It is really wonderful to hear when someone says, "I never knew that so much

went on at these meetings." When a meeting is held in your geographic area, join us so you can see first-hand how much is happening in Tres Dias.

Interestingly, we have been invited to hold a meeting in Korea and investigations are underway to determine if we can make that trip.

The Membership Committee is hard at work helping to build and charter new communities and is working with the Services Committee to refine the new community start-up kit. This kit will include print materials, an example 501(c)3 document, and other items to help get a new community off to a great start. We now have over 15 emerging communities in place and inquiries from many more.

The Policy Committee is constantly answering questions from various communities about whether a particular issue is proper or not. This is one of the most difficult things to judge, since denominations, cultures and language create such diverse groups. We always use the Essentials as the determining factor, and in areas where the Essentials do not address the issue in question, we try and extend as much grace as possible. We are not the Tres Dias Police, but we are often put in the position of making a ruling that adversely affects a community.

We ask for your prayers and for God's wisdom as we make these decisions so that the best interest of Tres Dias all around the world is served.

The Services Committee is in the process of going electronic. We hope to have most of our mate-

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# Smiling at Strangers—A Lesson in Hope

## A Message from Ukraine

*Editor's Note: The author spoke at the meeting of the International Secretariat held Chattanooga, TN, in March of 2007.*

My name is Valeria Semenova. I attended Kiev Tres Dias No.7, where I sat at the table of Ruth. I worship at House of Mercy Messianic church in Kiev, Ukraine. I am so blessed to be here!

First of all, I would love to thank y'all for making Tres Dias in Ukraine possible. Without your prayers and support, Ukrainian people would not have had the chance to experience Tres Dias (which really means a lot to us).

Ukraine went through so many negative things, like the First and Second World Wars, repression under Communism, and then the Soviet Union collapse. We fought for our independence, and now when we have it, life doesn't really seem any better than before. For so many Ukrainians, life leads to nowhere. People have lost hope. So many have just given



up, just got tired of trying and losing again. And unfortunately, so many foreign countries also gave up on us.

I really love my country, but there is one thing that frustrates me. People in the streets or in public transportation or other places almost never smile. If you smile to a stranger, most likely he will tell you who you are (not a flattering name) and where to go (and he's not going to send you to a good place).

One of the things that Tres Dias gave me was the desire to smile at people regardless of what they may tell you. Well, of course being nice to your friends and people in the

church was never a problem. But being nice to "those others"?

After my Tres Dias weekend, my whole thinking changed. People who served me on my weekend didn't love me because I deserved it or because I loved them – they didn't even know me! They simply wanted to bless me, to show me Jesus' love, and to tell

me that there is hope, there is forgiveness. And I realized that "those others" – those who couldn't smile—are people desperate for hope.

There were several Americans serving on my weekend. And this year I was in Peru to work Peru Tres Dias No. 1. It's amazing to see how people from different countries, with different cultures, languages, and skin color, worship the same God! If somebody tells me that God only loves Jewish people, or Germans, or Americans, I will say, "Well, that's not my God." My God loves all the people in the whole world, every tribe and nation.

And I believe that God's love, forgiveness, and hope on Tres Dias weekends is not only for one specific nation, but for the whole world.

Tres Dias means changed lives. What's interesting is that in Spanish (I love Spanish; I think it's going to be the language used in Heaven!) the word for "hope" is "esperanza," but there is also a verb "esperar" which means "to wait," "to look for." People in different countries like Ukraine, Peru, Russia,



**The Joy of the Lord**

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# Tres Dias Is On Its Way to a Navajo Reservation

The vision for bringing Tres Dias to the Navajo came to Mike Holmes some seven years ago, at a Central Arizona Tres Dias weekend. Since then, the vision has blossomed into a mission of love for the Navajo that flows beyond a Tres Dias ministry to include shipments of much-needed food and clothing to ease lives of hardship on the reservation.

There's no doubt that a Navajo weekend will happen soon: A bishop for the Church of God, with 53 Navajo pastors under his stewardship, wants Tres Dias to come to the reservation. Momentum built this past September, when 10 Navajo pastors attended Tres Dias in Colorado.

The story starts in 2001 when Mike, a member of North Georgia Tres Dias, volunteered to be on team to help with the budding Arizona community. Elmer Miron, a Hopi Indian on the weekend, told Mike that he had a word from God, that He was going to place Tres Dias on the reservation to minister to Native Americans. Mike had already felt the same calling, and the vision was formed. This led to a meeting on the Navajo reservation with the bishop from the Church of God, Doug Cline. After much urging, Cline attended a weekend in Cedaredge, Co., in March of 2007. Attendance by some Navajo pastors followed shortly thereafter.

As Mike puts it, "Doug had his socks blown off by the Holy Spirit. We call each other regularly, and all he can talk about is his Tres Dias experience."

Mike sees the involvement from Cline and the pastors as "the spark that will ignite Navajos and other Native Americans to attend weekends—to become a major force for Christ in the Western United States."

Moreover, the facilities for the weekend are ready and waiting: a campground in Gallop, New Mexico, owned by the Church of God. True, the team and candidates may not fill the campground (dormitory space and cooking facilities for 160 participants) or the meeting hall (which could hold 1,500). But then again, they might.

But there's more to the story. After seeing the hardships on the reservation, Mike's vision expanded. Yes, there are spiritual needs, but also very practical needs for food and clothing. Mike now makes two trips per year, driving 1,800 miles from Georgia to New Mexico to deliver supplies. This past November, the truck was filled with six pallets of food (each 4' by 4' by 8'), 800 blankets, 1,000 bibles, 50 boxes of clothing, and eight tables.

The Navajo nation is a matriarchal society, and 30 of the 53 pastors are women. One of the women, her husband and her son met the truck to help unpack. "She told me she and her family hadn't eaten for two days."

The eight tables were a special request from one of the pastors. The new request is for pulpits—obviously needed for church services. Mike is busy calling churches to find out if any recent renovations have left unused pulpits lying around. He hopes that they will be on the next truckload.

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## Meeting Schedule

\* Mar 14-16, 2008, Secretariat, Trinity Valley Tres Dias, Gun Barrel, Texas.

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

\* Oct 24-26, 2008, Secretariat, Tres Dias of Maine

*Please go to web site for registration information. Trinity Valley is currently taking reservations.*

# *Tres Dias Establishes Korean Regional Committee*



A meeting held in Seoul, Korea, this past December marked the beginning of a new era of unity and growth for Tres Dias in that country. Speaking at a joint secuela held by six chartered Korea-speaking communities, Vice President of Membership Paul Weis and Ken Kessler, chair of the ad hoc committee on international communities, presented documents that established a new administrative division. Known as the Tres Dias Korean Region Committee (TDKR), this group will work with Membership to support established and emerging Korean communities.

The new committee is already well on its way to dismantling geographical and language walls that have kept Korean communities operating in virtual isolation from the International Secretariat as well as from each other. Weiss sees the action as “another step in the growth of Tres Dias worldwide.”

The need an administrative presence in Korea became evident several years ago, when then Membership Vice President Judi LeMasurier led a group from her committee to Korea to reestablish communications with local Tres Dias communities. Included in this group were Joan and John Green, who attended Tres Dias weekends in Korea. A follow up visit was made by a group including the Greens and Terry and Faye Gilbreath.

Many problems were soon evident, consequences of rapid growth and communication failures, the study groups found. A number of recently formed communities were operating without official charters; others were departing from the TD essentials. A decision on how to deal with the non-conforming groups had to be made. Those communities that wished to

retain practices in violation of the Essentials were given a blessings to continue current practices, but without using the Tres Dias name, logo, or materials.

Seven Korean communities affirmed their adherence to the Essentials of Tres Dias and their desire to become properly chartered. Prior to this, each of the communities kept relatively to itself. As a result of their meetings with the Secretariat study groups, the six communities formed an impromptu group, consisting of two members from each community, to aid in their communication with TDI and with each other. The group also proposed the idea of a combined secuela at least once a year.

This past summer, three members of this group attended the annual assembly in Poughkeepsie, NY, where they expressed a desire to help the unchartered communities go through the chartering process and bring practices in line with the Essentials. Each of the representatives attended the Essentials Workshop and was certified to teach the Essentials.

One of the problems, the Korean representatives reported, was that some of these unchartered communities had been around for a long time and could not see why they would need to be sponsored by some other community—especially if they had been operating longer than the possible sponsor.

Discussions at the assembly led to the concept of the Tres Dias Korean Region Committee. Specifically, the TDKR would be charged with two purposes: to recommend communities in Korea for charter and re-charter, and to ensure that each community follows the Essentials of Tres Dias. Using the model of the impromptu group, this committee will consist of two members from each chartered community. The committee will also act as a communications portal, keeping all the communities in touch with TDI and with each other.

The joint secuela in December brought the plans to fruition. After playing a recorded greeting from Bruce Cato, President TDI, Paul Weis and Ken Kessler presented the formal documentation to establish the TDKR—along with the new two-year charters for each community represented.



Gyeongbok Palace - Seoul Korea  
By laszlo-photo on Flickr



