

THE COLORS OF TRES DIAS INTERNATIONAL



Summer/Fall 2011

Excitement Builds for Korean Assembly, 2012

“Brothers and sisters in Tres Dias, we cordially and formally invite you to attend the 2012 Annual Assembly in Seoul, Korea.”

This is how H.B. Park, president of the Korean Tres Dias Region Committee (TDKR) opened his invitation to next year’s Tres Dias Annual Assembly. Speaking through an interpreter at the close of the 32nd Assembly, July 10, in Belmont, NC, Mr. Park explained why the Assembly in Seoul and the media coverage it generates will be a blessing

to the Tres Dias movement in Korea. He closed by reminding his audience that Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, was once called “the Jerusalem in Korea” and expressed hope that Tres Dias might be one more force in bringing this divided nation together.

For the text of Mr. Park’s invitation, the story of how the TDKR came into existence, and an explanation of the role Tres Dias has played in the rapid growth of Korean Christianity, see pages 2 and 3.

Messengers from the King Carry this Medallion



The medallion shown at left is called a “MaPae,” and it has a special meaning in many Korean Tres Dias communities. This side of the medallion depicts five horses. For a look at the other side, and an explanation of what the medallion means, see page 8.

Survey Results Profile Community Needs and Strengths

The best way to find out what resources Tres Dias communities want and need is to ask. The International Secretariat Services Committee did just that earlier this year when it invited community leaders to complete a Community Needs and Strengths survey. The

results, from sixty two respondents, provide a snapshot of community vitality and point to those areas where communities would welcome help.

For a summary of the results, see page 5.

“The President’s
Forum”
Page 4

Workshops at the Thirty-Second Assembly provided creative ideas and practical advice for secuelas and sponsorship. See page 6.

The Invitation

Brothers and sisters in Tres Dias, we cordially and formally invite you to attend the 2012 Annual Assembly in Seoul, Korea. We pray that every one of you will attend and we hope to see you there.



Holding the Assembly in Korea will provide a great benefit to the Korean Tres Dias Region Committee (TDKR) and a great blessing to the Tres Dias movement in our country. Unfortunately, there are some communities in Korea that are not part of TDKR. By inviting the major news media to cover the event, we hope that more people will be aware of Tres Dias and will want to be a part of it.

As you all know, Korea is now divided into two parts, the North and South. We hope that through the Tres Dias movement, and the Assembly next year, we can bring hope and peace to those two nations. We pray that the Tres Dias movement will truly be another force to help bring us together, and that our Father God would bless us with that unity. In North Korea, the capital is Pyongyang, a city that was once called “the Jerusalem in Korea.” We hope that soon it will again become a Jerusalem, where we can all come to visit and worship together. —H.B. Park, President Korean Tres Dias Region Committee

Passing the Banner

Each Tres Dias Annual Assembly ends with a ritual in which the “communities banner” (the banner showing the growth of Tres Dias communities) is symbolically passed to the host for the next Assembly. Here, the audience applauds at the close of H.B. Park’s invitation. The banner for Mid Carolina Tres Dias, host for the thirty second Assembly, is at the left, the banner for the Tres Dias Region Committee at the right.



Planning for the Event

Accompanying Mr. Park at the Belmont Assembly were Bin Jang, spiritual director for the TDKR (left) and John (“Jay”) Chee of Irvine, CA (right). John is a member of the International Grace Movement Tres Dias; he serves as translator and will play a key role in planning next year’s assembly.

Putting the Korean Assembly in Perspective

By Don Bohl

When the Korean communities raised the idea of an Assembly in that country, two questions came to mind. Is such an event even possible? And if so, why Korea?

The answer to the first question is a resounding yes. Answering the second requires reflection on history and geography.

Tres Dias (the movement) and Korea (the nation) have a very special relationship. It was in Korea that Tres Dias began its international expansion, when graduates of the West Point Military Academy helped to establish the first community in that country in 1985. The 1980s saw a Christian revival sweep across the nation, and the number of Tres Dias communities grew alongside the growth in church attendance, helping to focus and channel the spirit of lay leadership and personal witness that has become the hallmark of Korean Christianity.

Today, Korean Christianity is often described in superlatives. This is a country with dozens of mega-churches, many with more than 10,000 members. (The largest, the Pentecostal Yoido Full Gospel Church, now claims a membership of one million members). Korea is second only to the US in the number of missionaries sent abroad. It is the country with the largest per capita percentage of Christians among nations on the Pacific Rim. In fact, Christians outnumber Buddhists: 29 percent of the population, vs. 23 percent, according to the 2005 Census.

Most Christians (almost 80 percent) attend church at least once a week, a study by the Pew Research Center found. Moreover, approximately one in three said they share their faith with nonbelievers at least once a year.

Tres Dias is, of course, only one light among many drawing people closer to Christ. Still, the Assembly is an acknowledgement, from the Korean communities, that Tres Dias has changed many lives and glorified God, as well as an invitation to celebrate a ministry that has united Christians from very different cultures.

More importantly, Tres Dias in Korea will continue, and even strengthen, as an instrument of faith as a result of the 2012 Assembly. Here's why.

Along with the growth in chartered Korean Tres Dias Communities came dozens of "shadow" communities. Operating half way around the world and on the other side of a language barrier, these groups used Tres Dias materials, but freely modified the Essentials. (Some estimates put the number of such communities at close to 100.)

In December of 2008, seven chartered communities signed a document creating the Tres Dias Korean Region Committee (TDKR). This subcommittee of the International Secretariat will host the Assembly. Representatives from Korean-speaking communities in New York and California are helping to coordinate planning, an experience that is injecting new vitality into their own programs. Speaking at the 32nd Annual Assembly, H.B. Park, president of TDKR, expressed the hope that the 2012 Assembly and the media coverage it generates will unify Tres Dias in Korea by helping the "shadow" communities see the benefits of seeking charters.

Mr. Park went on to recall that Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, was once known as the "Jerusalem of Korea." When Korea was divided into two nations following World War II, many of the Christians in the north fled southward, leaving a small remnant behind, and forming the nucleus for the rapid growth in the Christian faith that followed some three decades later in the south. Mr. Park sees the Assembly as adding to the dialogue with Christians in the North who are praying for unification of two Koreas.

Given the evangelistic spirit and missionary zeal among Koreans, as well as Korea's strategic position on the Pacific Rim, we only begin to imagine how the Lord will continue to use Tres Dias in that part of the world.

Finally, there is one compelling reason why Tres Dias should hold its Assembly in Korea.

The Lord would have us there.



President's Forum

As I began to prepare to write this year's Tres Dias Annual report, I went back and read previous President's reports starting back in 1984 with the first one printed. The words written by Dick Arnold, the 2nd president of what was then the National Secretariat, express my own thoughts also:

I continue to believe that one of the key strengths of Tres Dias lies in its ecumenical nature, and that God has and will continue to bless and use this Christian movement in His plan to strengthen and extend the Body of Christ. I am convinced that despite our human failings, God is in charge of this movement! He has taken threads of different color, different textures and different sizes, and woven us into a beautiful piece of cloth called Tres Dias. He has and will continue to direct and guide the growth of Tres Dias, not for the glorification of ourselves or Tres Dias itself, but rather to bring more and more Christians to a closer, more personal walk with their Lord Jesus Christ and encourage them to Christian leadership and Apostolic Action in their environments.

That says it all. Each subsequent report charts that growth. By 1984, the original nine communities had grown to 14. In 1996, the President's report praised the Lord for continued growth--41 chartered communities.

As with anything that grows, we had our growing pains, but by staying focused on the Lord and true to the calling of this ministry, we have been truly blessed. The wonderful servant leadership learned on the weekends carries through to all parts of Tres Dias, and dedicated volunteers have worked at every level to bring this movement to where it is today. On the International Secretariat level, individuals have served tirelessly, traveling at their own expense or with some help from their communities, to support communities around the world.

In the 1990s, the Assembly adopted three statements, the "Tres Dias Vision," "Purpose of Tres Dias," and the "Goals and Mission for International Tres Dias" to clarify our direction. In the early 2000s, a newly unified Tres Dias overcame some of the earlier human failings that nearly divided us. The drive to achieve a unity in the Lord continues at an international level,

with our ability to overcome a language barrier and reconnect with communities in Korea as one indicator of success.

The 2012 Annual Assembly will be held in Seoul, Korea. Rather than a single community acting as host, all the chartered Korean communities will host the event. This is being accomplished through coordination with the Tres Dias Korean Region Subcommittee (TDKR). That Assembly will mark my fourth trip



Paul Weis

to Seoul to visit. I was there for the signing of charter of TDKR. I have attended worship services and gotten a small glimpse of the concept of the nations coming together to honor the Lord.

This is the first time an Annual Assembly will be held outside the United States, and we can only wonder if those representatives from the nine communities who came together for the first Assembly, thirty-two years ago, could have imagined such an event.

As we prepare for more growth, the international venue gives us a chance to step outside our national boundaries and examine ourselves and the "face of Tres Dias," as my predecessor described it. As we stand on the precipice of even greater growth of this ministry, in the US and abroad, it is important to look back and see where we came from and what got us this far. It is also good to look back and thank those who helped get us here.

I am looking forward to 2012 Annual Assembly in Korea. If there is any way you can attend, I highly recommend it. You will be blessed in fellowship with our Korean brothers and sisters. Praise God!

Note: Previous annual reports are accessible on the www.tresdias.org website as are many valuable resources. If you have not taken the time to visit the website recently, I recommend you do so.

Survey Results Show Community Needs and Strengths

The questionnaire developed by the International Secretariat listed ten critical aspects of a Tres Dias program and asked how likely they would be to ask for help in each area by checking a five-point scale (a 5 would mean “very likely”). Although sixty-two respondents may seem like a small sample, these leaders represent a majority of Tres Dias communities.

Four areas emerged as having slightly higher scores: improving secuela attendance, improving sponsorship, increasing local clergy involvement, and increasing small group activity.

The questionnaire also asked respondents if they would be willing to share information on their strengths in meeting challenges in each area. A task force will collect information (written policies as well as anecdotes and practical advice) from those respondents.

The Secretariat hopes to develop a variety of resources, including print and electronic resources, workshops, and consultation services drawing on both secretariat members and experts from the communities. Additional resources will come from the workshops held at the recent Assembly. (See page 6.)

Areas where respondents say they would welcome resources

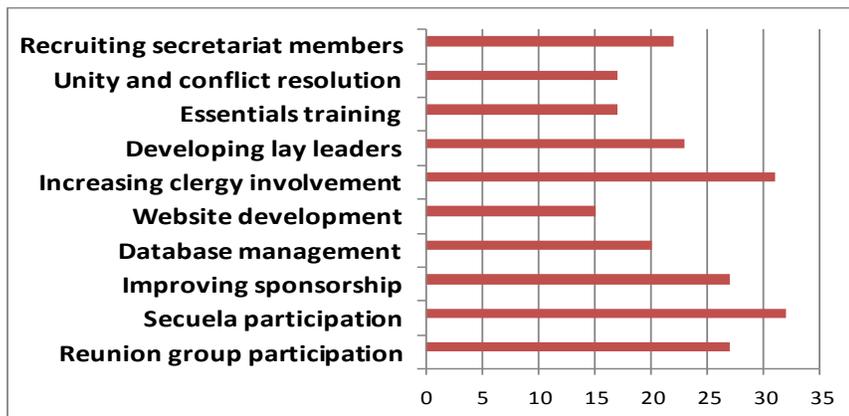
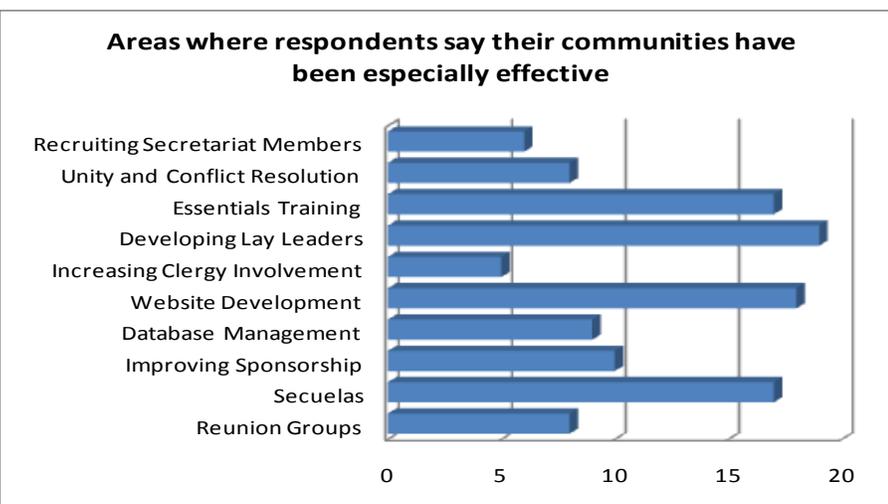


Chart shows the number of respondents indicating they would “likely” or “very likely” ask for help in each area.

Areas where respondents say their communities have been especially effective



Respondents could check more than one answer

The questionnaire also collected information on such matters as database and website management, secuela participation, announcement regarding emerging communities, and the like. The questionnaire and results are on line at <http://www.tresdias.org/Secretariat/Survey%202011/Survey%202011.htm>

Reports on the workshops at the 32ⁿ Annual Assembly

Getting Creative with Secuelas

It's a familiar sequence—food, praise songs, a fourth-day speaker, and small group discussion. That's the traditional format for a secuela, followed with minor twists by Tres Dias communities worldwide. But there's ample opportunity to improvise within that framework, as participants at the secuela workshop at the 32nd Annual Assembly revealed. When workshop leader Beverly Sadler opened the floor for discussion, participants poured out ideas on how they keep this part of the fourth-day program alive with fresh ideas. Here are some of the highlights.

Consider a prayer secuela. Participants write anonymous prayer requests on slips of paper at the beginning of the evening. Instead of small groups discussing a

specific question at the end of the evening, each group receives a set of prayer requests. They meet as they would for a table chapel on a weekend to pray for those requests. As a variation, simply substitute table chapels, as used on weekends, for the group discussion.

One community holds "camping secuelas." The serious campers set up for the weekend on Friday night, and non-campers join them for a Saturday evening secuela.

Why limit a secuela to an evening event? One community holds an occasional lunch time secuela on Saturdays.

Continued, page 7

Tools for Effective Sponsorship

By Skip Massey

It was my first time at a Tres Dias International Assembly, I was excited to see a seminar entitled, "Sponsorship - Fill Up Your Weekends!"

I am a member of the Birmingham Tres Dias Community, and although we are effective in ministering to the needs of our candidates, we struggle with many of the same problems as other communities. During our local Secretariat meetings, we often discuss sponsorship and the challenges it presents.

The workshop leader, Barbara Parker, from the Mid Carolinas Tres Dias, described her community's efforts to fill their weekends. One of the community's tools is "A Guide to Sponsorship" booklet that is given to each candidate as they leave the weekend, and another tool is a PowerPoint presentation used to train pescadores in sponsorship during their Tres Dias School. Both of these tools encourage pescadores to sponsor candidates,

reinforcing the concept of "No Candidates - No Weekend!"

The training offered to pescadores answers the questions of who to sponsor and who not to sponsor; it outlines the responsibilities of the sponsor and explains the three phases of sponsorship. The little booklet is a handy pocket reference for answering questions. It contains the Tres Dias Statement of Belief, helpful in reassuring potential candidates that Tres Dias is biblically based. If the potential candidate presses for information about the talks, the titles are listed in the booklet.

On a personal note, my wife, Tressa, and I both enjoyed this Assembly. We were very impressed with the International Secretariat's obsession with serving the communities of Tres Dias while we enjoyed the hospitality and food of Mid Carolinas Tres Dias.

Secuelas, Continued

Who says a secuela should be limited to one community? In one instance, three communities united for a grand “regional” secuela.

Some communities hold “Victory Secuelas.” These are specifically for pescadores who have recently completed weekends; sometimes, these are scheduled after a set of men’s and women’s weekends so that couples can celebrate the “victory” together. The fourth-day talks might be by couples.

Should secuelas be “open” (visitors welcome) or “closed”? Some communities do both, by, for example, making a July picnic and a September pot luck open, and all other secuelas closed.

For open secuelas, be careful to reduce the use of Tres Dias vocabulary (“pescador,” “mananita,” etc.), one workshop participant said. Also, those leading the small groups should be sensitive to visitors who do not want to speak up (don’t go around the table asking each person to contribute).

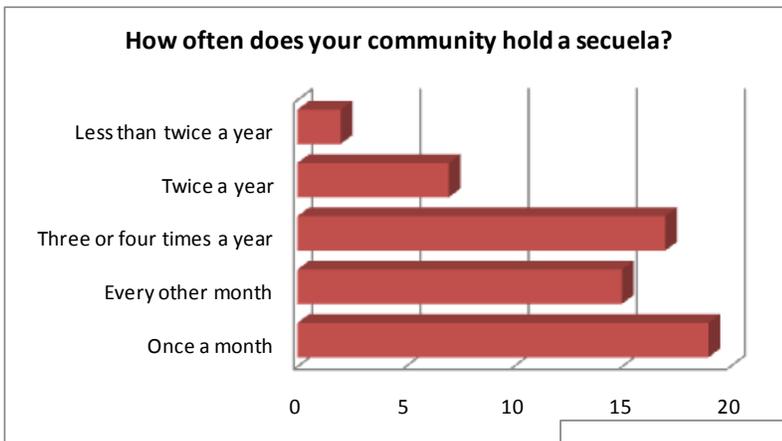
Open secuelas serve as an aid to sponsorship, participants noted. For some, open reunion groups serve the same purpose.

Instead of putting total responsibility for the secuela on a host congregation, one participant reported that his community created a position of “Music Director” on the local secretariat. This officer puts together the band for each secuela.

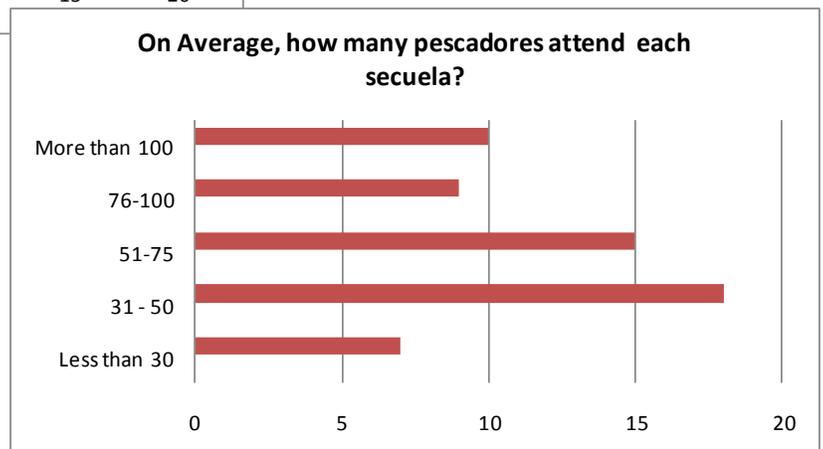
Another participant noted that the fourth-day speaker doesn’t need to come from the host congregation. The local secretariat can keep a list of potential speakers, again making it easier for the host congregation.

Participants agreed to share printed materials, such as guidelines for host congregations and instructions for fourth day speakers. The International Secretariat will collect and collate these materials for wider circulation.

For resources currently available to communities, see SUPPLIES at www.tresdias.org/.



What respondents to the “Strengths and needs” survey said about secuelas



Wearing this medallion means that you bring an important message from the King

Edwin Sligar

Here in Korea we have a very special mission cross. We call it a MaPae. The word "Ma" is a Chinese word for horse. In ancient times, both in China and Korea, when the King needed to send a representative on a special mission, he would issue a brass medallion of some design for that representative to use for identification. On one side of the brass medallion would be a picture of one or more horses, to indicate the urgency of the mission that the representative was charged with by the King. One horse was the symbol of an important mission, but five horses meant "this person was on an urgent mission—do not delay this person—help in any way possible—he/she even has the power of life and death, in the King's name. On the other side of the brass medallion was the signature of the King.

On our Tres Dias MaPaes, one side has a picture of 5 horses to denote the importance and urgency of the mission that the pescador is asked to complete and on the other side of the medallion is the signature of our KING, JESUS CHRIST the cross.

The cross is empty, symbolizing a risen savior, who is leading the way, challenging us to dedicate ourselves to HIM and to live in expectation of HIS call for us. Wear your medallion proudly and let it always remind you of God's love and your mission in life. Remember—Christ is counting on you!



Tres Dias communities have permission and are encouraged to post this newsletter on their community Web sites and to reproduce and distribute this newsletter at secretariat meetings and secuelas.



The Colors of Tres Dias International is published two or more times a year by the Services Committee of the Tres Dias International Secretariat. Don L. Bohl serves as editor and staff writer, Wendy Taylor as associate editor. Ned Heffington chairs the Services Committee and serves as proofreader. Send comments and suggestions to newsletter@tresdias.org/.

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