

the colors of Tres Dias International

APRIL 2021



Behold!

HE MAKES ALL THINGS

New & Beautiful

“He makes all things
New”

REVELATION 21:5

“He makes all things
Beautiful
in His time.”

ECCLESIA TES 3:11

WITHIN THESE PAGES:

- 02** PRESIDENT'S CORNER
- 03** A WORD FROM OUR SD
- 04** NEW CREATION - NEW COVENANT
- 05** COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
- 06** COMMUNITY RESOURCES
- 07** TASTE OF TRES DIAS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



President's Corner

By Denny Farkas - President of Tres Dias International

When you mention “Tres Dias”, most Pescadores immediately think of “weekends.” This past year, however, has allowed us to focus on the real purpose of the weekend, that being, to prepare us for our 4th day. Along with that thought process, we just completed a leadership forum in February, with a focus on the different aspects of our 4th day.

In reflecting back, Proverbs 27:17 comes to mind, “Iron Sharpens Iron, so one man sharpens another.” Iron cannot sharpen itself but needs another piece of iron to accomplish the sharpening. The implication for us is that this cannot happen unless we live and serve in a community of other Christians. One individual cannot sharpen oneself!

Additionally, when you envision two pieces of iron grinding against one another, you would expect to see sparks to accomplish the desired result. For one person to sharpen another, the first needs to be open to accepting a trusting relationship, enabling another to see their weaknesses or struggles, and holding them accountable. The other needs to be willing to

engage in a loving and supportive interaction. In fact, this is a two-way street with both individuals wanting what is best for the other and an openness to accept what they heard.

Now more than ever, we need to follow Hebrews 10: 24 -25 "And let us consider how we may spur one another toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Work your 4th Day!

DeColores,

Denny

3



A Word from Our Spiritual Director

By Pastor John Milam - Spiritual Director, Tres Dias International

IT LOOKS GOOD, BUT IS IT?

Most everyone is familiar with the children's story of Snow White. She was given a beautiful red apple, that looked so delicious and it put her in a coma.

So many things may look good to eat, but are they? I mean isn't that how we got in to all the trouble in the first place? Adam, don't eat from that tree, but it looks so good for food, I want to eat it.

Today we are talking about eating, spiritually that is. The Bible says in Matthew 4:4 "But He answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

So if you haven't made the connection we are talking about doctrine, and more specifically, sound doctrine.

Why is sound doctrine so crucial?

Most churches or Christian organizations have doctrinal statements, written creeds filled with absolutes. Such documents pose a problem for people who view absolute statements with suspicion. Modern culture downplays the importance of doctrine or rejects it as divisive and insensitive, but does that mean that churches should adapt their theology or throw out creeds altogether? Does it make a difference what the church teaches? Biblically, yes, what the church teaches does matter. Sound doctrine is crucially important. Perhaps we should define sound. "solidly orthodox, conforming to biblical truth." Sound doctrine is teaching that agrees with the Bible.

Paul tells Titus to "teach what accords with sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1). Titus's teaching had to correspond with God's Word. The apostles were the pitch pipe through which God sounded the note to harmonize His church.

So, the main reason sound doctrine is important is that:

1. God directed us to teach it.

There are other, secondary, reasons such as the fact that our faith is centered on a specific message. The Bible defines this message explicitly: "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures ... he was buried ... [and] he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). This is the clear-cut news we are to share. Paul says it is "of

first importance." Change the message, and the basis of faith crumbles. Jesus warned us to build our lives on the immovable rock of His teaching, not on the shifting sands of man's philosophy (Matthew 7:24-27).

Another reason sound doctrine is important is that:

2. The gospel is a sacred trust.

We dare not tamper with God's communication to His children. We are the couriers of the message, not its editors. Jude was insistent that the church defend sound doctrine: "Contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3; see also Philippians 1:27).

To "contend" means to strenuously fight for something and to hold nothing back in the struggle. We should neither add to nor subtract from God's Word (Revelation 22:18-19).

We receive what has been entrusted to us and uphold it "as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 1:13).

Also, sound doctrine is important because:

3. What we believe has an impact on what we do.

There is a direct correlation between belief and behavior. There is a saying that "When you know better, you do better." A belief that you are invincible can easily lead to foolhardy behavior. In the same way, a man who rejects the idea of God and judgment will make very different choices than a man who fears God. 1 Timothy 1:9-10 lists sins like rebellion, murder, lying, and slave trading and concludes with "whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine." In other words, bad behavior is out of sync with true belief. Sound doctrine curbs corrupt conduct.

Sound doctrine is also important because:

4. We must be able to distinguish truth from falsehood.

"Many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). Jesus said there are tares among the wheat and wolves among the flock (Matthew 13:25; Acts 20:29). The best way to spot a counterfeit is to be familiar with the real thing; to identify the lie, we must know the truth.

5. Sound doctrine is important because of its end.

Sound doctrine leads to life. "Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers" (1 Timothy 4:16). On the other hand, unsound doctrine leads to ruin. Jesus spoke of the "great crash" awaiting the one who builds his house on the sand (Matthew 7:27).

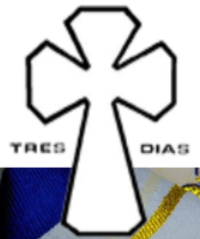
Jude wrote of false teachers whose condemnation was sealed. Their crime? Teaching unsound doctrine, specifically, changing "the grace of our God into a license for immorality" and rejecting Jesus Christ (Jude 1:4 NIV). Preaching another gospel ("which is really no gospel at all") brings down an anathema: "let him be eternally condemned!" (see Galatians 1:6-9 NIV).

Finally, sound doctrine is important because:

6. It encourages believers.

A pastor/a teacher/a believer "must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine" (Titus 1:9). Believers naturally "long for the pure spiritual milk" because they want to grow (1 Peter 2:2). Sound doctrine is that "pure milk," wholesome, unadulterated, and vital.

4



New Creation - New Covenant

By Neal Surasky - Newest Member to the Spiritual Advisory Committee

As a Jewish believer in Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, the Easter season is inextricably connected to one of my favorite holidays—Passover. I never understood the connection when I was a child. Easter was a Christian celebration of rabbits who laid eggs—the most delicious chocolate eggs! While Passover was a Jewish celebration of crackers and chocolate eggs have nothing to do with dry crackers, I left it at that.

Once I became a believer, that all changed. Passover became a celebration of God's faithfulness to His promise to deliver my ancestors out of bondage in Egypt, and Easter was a celebration of God's faithfulness to His promise to deliver us all from bondage to sin. There is a clear connection, Passover was a physical foreshadowing of what God would do spiritually through the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son. But there is a much deeper connection.

Passover is built upon the four promises of Exodus 6:6–7: "I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God." While most are familiar with the story, not as many know that the exodus from Egypt fulfilled these four "I will's."

The Lord told Israel, "I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians." There was more to that story, though, as the purpose of the freedom that God provided was to allow the people to worship Him. "Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness" (Exodus 7:16). The Hebrew word for service is the same as the word for worship; we worship through service. The Lord did that.

The Lord told Israel, "I will deliver you." Through the plagues, God not only brought Pharaoh to the place where he would let the Israelites go, Pharaoh was so frustrated that he kicked them out! The Nile turning to blood started it all, and it ended with the death of the firstborn. Through the blood and the death of the firstborn, the captor released his hold on the captive. The Lord did that.

The Lord told Israel, "I will redeem you." Something that is redeemed used to belong to someone else, who then pays a price to get it back. The Israelites slaughtered a lamb and painted its blood on the doorframes of their houses to keep them safe. That night, the price was paid when

all firstborn in Egypt were slain. It was a terrible price to pay, but not nearly as much as God would pay Himself to redeem us all. The Lord did that.

But the final goal of it all was the fourth “I will,” when God said, “I will take you for my people, and I will be your God.” Biblical history reveals how well that relationship went. It is for this reason that the Lord made a NEW covenant. In Jeremiah 31:31, God told the prophet that a day was coming when He would make a new covenant with Israel. “‘But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,’ declares the Lord, ‘I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people’” (Jeremiah 31:33).

If that last part looks familiar, it should. It is the fourth promise that God made at Passover that had yet to be realized. It is also the promise that Jesus had in mind at HIS Passover meal before He was betrayed to the Romans. Luke records the events this way: “And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, ‘This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood’” (Luke 22:19).

The Passover celebrated four cups to remember the four promises—two before the meal and two after the meal. In order, the first cup represented “I will bring you out.” The second cup represented “I will deliver you.” The third cup represented “I will redeem you.” The fourth cup represented “I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God.” If the first two were before dinner and the second two after the meal, the first cup after the meal would have been the cup of redemption.

As Jesus took the cup after the meal—the cup of redemption—He made three connections for His disciples. He connected redemption to the new covenant, and He told them that His blood would ratify it. The new covenant is that covenant from Jeremiah, in which God said, “I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more” (Jeremiah 31:34), and through which God would fulfill the promise that He made in Exodus to take them to be His people. But in remembering the third cup, which honors the redemptive blood of the lamb, Jesus also connected the lamb to the new covenant that would take away the sin of the world.

The blood that Messiah shed as He gave it voluntarily to redeem us is now painted on the doorframes of our hearts to ensure that death will pass over us. Every time we participate in communion, we are brought back to that moment when God promised to take us as His people

and, through His Son, fulfilled the promise made at Passover. John declared prophetically, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29) when he saw Jesus approaching. This was the third-cup connection that Jesus was making at His last Passover supper before He suffered, died, and rose again.

In rising, He put into effect the new covenant. Behold, He made the covenant new. He also made each one of us a new creature (2 Corinthians 2:17), and ushers us into a new relationship with God the Father. One day, all of creation will experience the same kind of redemption, when a new heaven and a new earth arrive. Until then, for those who have put their trust and faith in Jesus, we can rest in the Paul’s reassurance that, through Jesus, “Behold, new things have come” (2 Corinthians 2:17).

De Colores!

5



*community
Connection*

Real Life Change Happens in Small Groups

By Jan Coleman, Northern California Tres Dias

It began in the early 1940's, after the Spanish Civil war. The first stirrings of a revival, when a group of young men in Majorca, Spain met and prayed about how they could bring the light of Christ into a darkened world.

Most of us know little about the war that ripped apart Spain, but it left a devastated and divided country with a church that had little impact or influence.

To renew and rededicate themselves, the men planned to walk the 500-mile journey across Northern Spain, known as the Way of St. James, a popular pilgrimage since the Middle Ages.

To prepare, they developed workshops on the fundamentals of Christianity, which became Cursillo, "Little courses in Christianity."

Something new in the life of the Church was born. Finally, in 1948, this group, along with 700,000 young people, completed the journey.

Tres Dias has its roots in the Cursillo movement that swept across Spain. It all started with a "reunion" group. Our own Tres Dias weekend is also a pilgrimage, a journey into an unknown place in search of something new --- an insight, a revelation, personal transformation. We left the weekend with deeper understanding. We saw Christ's love with different eyes. We knew that nothing would ever be quite the same again.

Sunday afternoon we heard the Reunion Group Rollo, a powerful testimony that real life change happens in circles, not in rows at church. It starts with a handful of people who find each other and are united by the experience of Tres Dias.

It's no secret we are a divided country, and our Christian worldview is facing assaults on many fronts. What an opportunity, to become an Acts-driven people where we meet in small groups to grow in our piety, study and action. And we don't have to walk 500 miles to be renewed together.

You may be in a reunion group now or maybe yours fizzled out in 2020. Maybe you would like to be in one, but haven't found the right fit. Maybe someone suggested you start one. You think to yourself: "I'm not sure I'm right for this. I don't have the skills."

Here's the good news, (and you've heard it in the Leaders Rollo): God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called. Remember Moses who rattled off excuses, Esther who

needed a nudge from her uncle, Jonah who flat out ran away, and Gideon who was a nervous wreck. Acts 4:13 tells us that after three years with Jesus, Peter and John were "unschooled, ordinary men." Yet, they had the right hearts, and God used them to change the world.

Years ago, I found myself the reluctant leader of a small group of single-again women who needed a safe, grace-filled space to connect. We all had our issues: past wounds, wayward children, not-so-wise choices, but we all desired to live a life that honored the Lord.

Here's what I discovered about leading a small group: People aren't looking for perfect; they're looking for real. A small group leader is not a teacher doling out facts and opinions. We are simply facilitators. Webster's defines it as: Someone who helps bring about an outcome.

The main goal is to be authentic, to help generate honest discussion that leads to deeper sharing, centered on growing our faith and processing the truths about God. It has more to do with heart, than skills. It's about creating a spiritual family. About being available to invest in others' lives.

Most of these women are still in my life today. Some are remarried, others still single, but we all look back on that time together as a powerful vehicle for our spiritual growth. It was messy at times, but working through it bonded us to each other and to a God who will turn a mess into a ministry.

In my present group, only two of us originally went through a Tres Dias weekend. Eventually, all six of the other women said yes to the invitation and all have come back to serve. We take turns doing devotionals and leading discussions.

Facilitating a small group is an amazing way to make a difference with your own life. We grow when plucked out of our comfort zones. Start by gathering a few like-minded people, make a game plan, and sit back and see how the Lord works.

Community Spotlight - Big Sky Mountain

By Millie Martire



When the Name Big Sky Tres Dias is said, what comes to mind? For me it was the vision of beautiful mountains, majestic views, and stunning sunsets. And from the picture I received for this article that is just the image. For our very first Tres Dias Community Spotlight, we will be learning a bit more about Big Sky Tres Dias in the beautiful state of Montana.

Big Sky Tres Dias covers an exceptionally large area on the eastern and western front of the Rockies from the city of Havre near the Canadian Border to the cities of Helena, Bozeman, and Livingston.

They conduct one men's weekend and one women's weekend per year taking place each spring. The men's weekends run with about 8 candidates and 22 team members. The women's weekends go with 12 candidates and 45 team members. The essentials are followed along with some extras to include a unique homemade gift exchange that takes place around the campfire on Saturday night. Sunday morning the community and team wake up the candidates in song and proclaiming, "Christ is risen, the tomb is empty!" Rollos are given in a tent. Each weekend has two spiritual directors. The community only has two spiritual directors and since weekends are only once a year, they look forward to serving and do not miss it.

The pre-weekend phase consists of 3 combined team meetings either preceded or followed by a Secretariat meeting and also include essentials training before the men and women separate to conduct their planning meetings. Due to the small team size, team members fill various positions. The Rectors are responsible for setting the schedule and the Vice Rectors are responsible for running the weekend and keeping it on time. The closings are open and are attended by the candidate's family and friends.

The post weekend phase consists of a Victory Secuela after the weekends. Since the community is spread out over such a large area they take advantage of meeting with reunion groups and conducting Secuelas around the same time as team meetings.

The Secretariat consists of 4 elected officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary). All community members are automatically considered voting members of the Secretariat after their first year. Secretariat meetings are usually held before or after team meetings. Again, this is due to the large area covered and the travel time for the community.

The last victory Secuela was conducted on July 4, 2019 and consisted of an overnight stay at Fort Benton on the Missouri River. Fort Benton is as far as steamships could go north on the Missouri river from St. Louis. Great food, fellowship, and fireworks were enjoyed.

During COVID not much activity has taken place, but they are looking forward to scheduling their first virtual Secuela in the coming months and look forward to starting weekends next Spring.

Thank you to community president Paul Kroeger for the interview and willingness to share his wonderful community with us.



Sunrise over the Crazy Mountains in Livingston, MT.

Invitation to the 2021 Annual Assembly of TDI

We would like to invite you to join us for the 42nd Assembly which will be held on Saturday, July 17th. This will be a virtual meeting.

Mid-Hudson Tres Dias, the founding community established in 1972, will be our virtual host. The theme this year will be “Stand Firm!” The Greater Church is facing challenges from both within and without, including compromise and political correctness as well as a pandemic. Since Tres Dias is a reflection of the Church, we believe our ministry needs to stand strong in the faith and true to the Scriptures as we face some of our most profound challenges in our 49 year history.

Our scripture:

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:10 & 13

Link to register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TDIAssembly2021>





community Resources

News from the Membership Committee: TDI Brochure Now Available!

As you tell a friend you would like to sponsor about Tres Dias, you do your best to explain this amazing experience and try and answer all their questions.

But do you ever wish you could hand them an amazing and informational brochure to take home and ponder?

Now, there is one. Originally created by Tres Dias North Georgia the TDI Membership Committee realized the potential value and asked for a version TDI could use for every Community. The TDNG Community graciously provided one.

We believe this brochure is a valuable, easy to read and understand tool that explains what Tres Dias is---three days seeking God and listening to His voice in your heart---. This tri-fold, high

quality full color brochure is eye-catching and inspiring. It shares a bit of history and includes a page on what happens on a weekend, how it is bathed in prayer and relies on the Holy Spirit for guidance.

On the FAQ page, your prospective candidate/pilgrim will see that Tres Dias focuses on God's unqualified love for each of us through grace, with the goal of coming away from the weekend with a refreshed and empowered relationship with God, through Christ.

On the backside is a spot where you can provide a label with your community contact information. The great news is that the brochures are available for sale at \$1 each, plus shipping.

A great ice breaker for introducing friends to Tres Dias. You will definitely want to keep a few in your car when you meet your friends for coffee or for those God-appointments that come when you least expect them.

If you are interested in purchasing them, please send an email with the quantity desired and your information to communications@tresdias.org. Someone will contact you to place your order.



Image: Open Inside

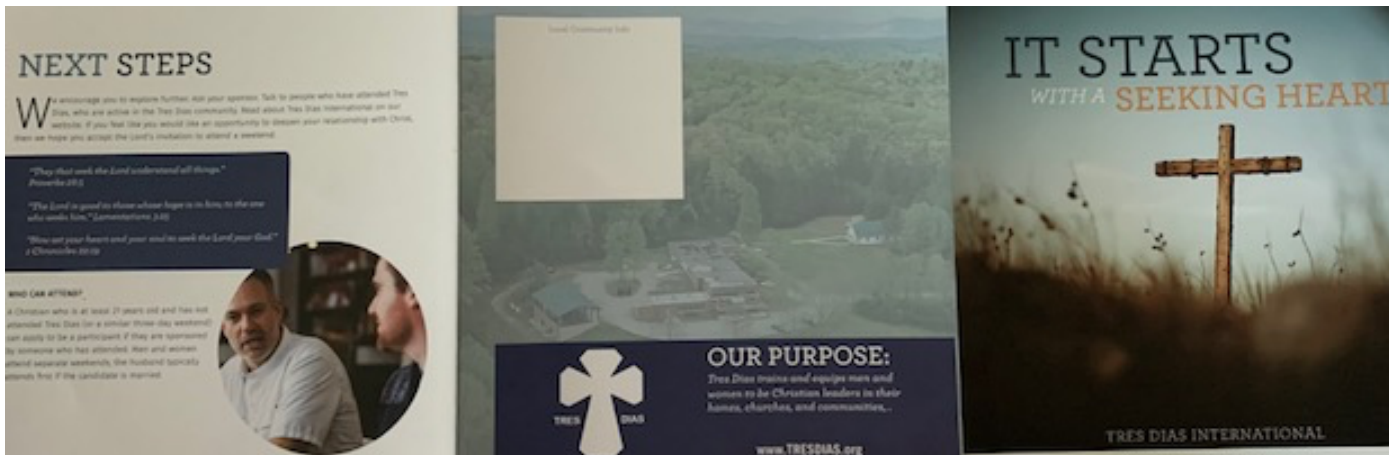


Image: Open Back

Help Wanted: International TD Communities

We are seeking financial help to pay the TDI assessments for these struggling communities. It is easy to forget that we have communities out there who struggle to cover their costs. In many countries like Peru, Cuba, the Ukraine and Russia, the door to economic prosperity is not open like it is for us.

Peru's political system is facing a serious crisis. The country was ravaged by COVID 19, and many Peruvians remain mired in poverty. Russia (we have a Moscow community that just held a weekend) has one of the highest levels of persecutions faced by Christians, and a person works a month to earn just \$652. The Ukraine ranks high in the world's prosperity ranking with an average of \$800 a month, which compared to Cuba, at \$85, seems like a fortune.

Yet, so many are eager to sacrifice their time, talents and treasures and safety to attend a Tres Dias weekend or be part of a team.

One takeaway for those of us who have served in these communities, we come away in awe of the changed lives, and a vow to ourselves to never take for granted the freedoms and opportunities we have in America. We are witness to what can be done with so very little resources, and it's astonishing.

God is doing a mighty work in these international communities, but they need our help. First, we can partner in prayer for the ministry to thrive. They will appreciate our palanca letters to let them know we are cheering them on as they continue the Lord's work.

For those of you that would like to bless these communities financially, your generosity will greatly be appreciated.

If God lays on your heart to partner with us, please contact Frank Yarbrough at fmy430@gmail.com for information about specific needs in various TDI International Communities. All donations will be handled through the Tres Dias Fund.

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!



taste of
Tres Dias International

[Apricot-glazed Crockpot Ham](#)

Jan Coleman, Northern California Tres Dias

[Easter Pineapple Bake](#)

Susan Kenna-Farkas, Lehigh Valley Tres Dias

[Pecan Ice Cream Roll with Caramel Nut Sauce](#)

Sue Arent, RIMA Tres Dias

[Pretzel Salad](#)

Sarah Odoms, Treasure Valley 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.*

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

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

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