



The Abraco

Vermont Tres Dias Newsletter

November - December 2012

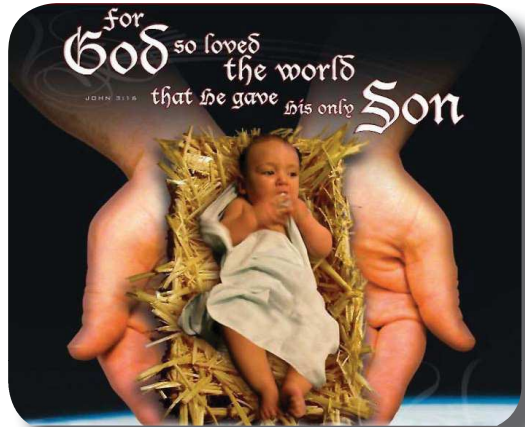
Visit www.vttresdias.org

Secuelas

December
No Secuela

January 19th
Green Mtn Chapel
Randolph

February 16th
TBA



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Luke 2:9-11

And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Presidents Letter



Dear
Community,

Well our Fall
w e e k e n d s
were a suc-
cess. We have 16 new Pesca-
dadores!!. Praise the Lord!!!.
As we come into the holi-
day season, I want to wish
all members of Tres Dias a
Merry Christmas and a Hap-
py New Year. As I think of
this holiday season, I think
of the most precious gift
we have all received, Jesus
Christ.

I ask we begin to pray for
our community, our nation,
and the world. My focus this
year for our community is to
reach out to those Pesca-
dores we haven't seen in
awhile, I am encouraging
you all to come to each Sec-
uala. Remember the reunion
group rollo?? Each of us are
busy, our plates are full (es-
pecially after Thanksgiving,
I'm sure they were over full)
but I ask we scrape some off
and fill it with a little Jesus.
Let's start to fill our church-
es at Secuala's with Pesca-
dores. This holiday season,
see if you can call someone
you haven't seen or heard

from for along time. Let this
be a gift to Jesus. We have
had several Pescadores
come back after being away
for some time, what a joy
it was to see some old dear
friends!!

I made a challenge at the
picnic this summer, and I
again challenge you all in
the new year coming up. Je-
sus has been stirring in my
heart for our community and
I pray often for Tres Dias
for the opening of hearts to
come back and enjoy the
fellowship we have all expe-
rienced, but mostly the love
our Heavenly Father brings
to us everyday. May the
Lord bless each family dur-
ing this season of our Lord.
Please feel free to call me.
802-276-2171

God Bless
Decolores

Mike Williams

Joy to
the
World

Reflections



Even in the Midst

by Bernadette Tracy

As another year is closing, looking back reflectively, I can tell you that humanly speaking, it has been a very difficult one. I found myself in the midst of not one but many mounting hardships. I will confess that I didn't always have the right attitude, was not always prayerful or trusting, and often lacked a patient, loving response to others.

I began though to move past the self absorption that difficulty tends to tempt one to wallow in. I started to see God's good intention towards me over the long haul. Moving past the "why me's" and "not again's" of self pity enabled me to develop a vulnerable trust in Father's control in the midst of the circumstances of my life. I found in His strength the ability to surrender the

tremendous struggles and with it transfer its full weight from my shoulders onto His.

Over time in the midst of these difficulties bitterness dissipated. Things began to fall into their rightful place. It wasn't that hardship ceased, but it became less important than people and relationships including the most important one- Jesus. Through His gentle leading I began to experience fear exchanged for faith, isolation for relationship, and anger for gratitude.

This past year has been one of great difficulty but more so of great blessing. As I battled daily to find God in the midst of my circumstance, He rose to the challenge in each moment and met me there. He amazed in His faithfulness, always surpassing any and all expectation. My heart moved closer to His. My thoughts began to look more like His as His Peace flooded my soul. Relationships moved away from self centeredness to being other centered. But of all, most precious to me was truly beginning

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to know The Lord Jesus Christ in the most intimate of ways. I experienced Job 42:5 – My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you. Jesus became more real to me than He has ever been. 1 Cor 13:12- For now we see through a glass darkly- so much deception was lifted as the light of His Truth filled me and I began to see Jesus and His life in me more clearly than ever.



Jesus assured us in John 16:33 that in this world we would have trouble. I am sure that many of you are in the midst of trouble even now. But He went on to say that His Peace would be with us through it. My prayer is that as you look to the Lord you will become aware of His Peace as you realize His heart for you and experience His love and faithfulness on a deeper, more in-

timate level. That you will experience the cry of Job as you press onward to the moment when you shall see Him face to face and in full confidence rejoice, knowing that He who began a good work in you has completed it; you indeed have finished well.



Christmas Prayer

by Robert Louis Stevenson

“Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake, Amen!”

New Pescadores



Jason and Holly Jarvis	Braintree	VT
Don and Darlene Jones	Randolph Center	VT
Steve Fernandez	Northfield	VT
Gregory Smithers	Cambridge	VT
Tim Cameron	Randolph	VT
Armando Winters	Randolph	VT
Tom Walker	Thetford	VT
Dean Stanley	Thetford	VT
Marilyn Lambert	Randolph Center,	VT
Terri Kenison	No. Pomfret	VT
Pam Buyvid	Randolph Center	VT
Lillian Flint	Randolph	VT
Marie Utton	Randolph	VT
Karen Warner	Randolph	VT

Vermont TD Web Site

www.vttresdias.org

Visit the link, check it out. Monthly information about Secuela sites, and maps for directions. PDF files of Brochures, Applications, and Sponsor forms. Send your feedback to pj_smithers@comcast.net We would love to hear from you!!

Howard VanDine, a long-time pescadore and Spiritual Director on several weekends passed away on November 24th. Please keep his wife Jan and the family in prayer.



Emmanuel - God is with us

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."- Matthew 1:23

"God has entrusted his last, deepest and most beautiful word to the world, in the Word made flesh. This Word says: I love you world, man and woman. I am there. I am with you. I am your life. I am your time. I weep your tears. I am your joy. Do not be afraid. When you do not know how to go any further, I am with you. I am in your anguish, because I suffered it myself. I am in your need and your death, because today I began to live and to die with you. I am your life. I promise you: for you, too, life is waiting. For you, too, the gates will open."



A Fire in Vermont

Anton Wellbrock, from Mid-Hudson Tres Dias, Vermont's mentor community, was also our first men's Rector in 1982. Anton gives an account of his view of the events that led to the seeding and growth of VTD. Read from his book *A Fire in Vermont* on the VTD web site, www.vttresdias.org.

The following is an excerpt from the introduction:

"So many good things happened in a positive way as we put together and held the first Vermont weekend. It was clear the Lord was present. He was far more present than I had ever been conscious of before. And I have a need, an urge

to write about the impact of that presence."

The second reason I'm writing this is that I believe the Vermont community needs it. The weekend caught on in Vermont – in Randolph. The community in Randolph grew rapidly to almost one hundred people in three years. It will continue to grow. As it does, new members will not have been exposed to the growing pains and blessings of that first weekend. They may well come to take for granted the working of our Lord in their midst.

(Read the entire book on the web site)



Anton Wellbrock
Rector, Vermont
Men's Tres Dias
#1



VERMONT #1 - 4/82

What is Palanca?

Palanca is a Spanish word that means "lever." Just as a lever enables a person to move something which is beyond normal strength, palanca, as used in Tres Dias, empowers the accomplishment of things which would not be possible without the Grace of God.

Bear in mind that letters themselves are not palanca! Letters are merely the vehicle to convey the actual palanca being done at that time. In other words, the effort, thoughts and prayers that go into the letters are actually the palanca, not the letters themselves.

Types of Palanca: **PERSONAL, GENERAL, SERVICE**

PERSONAL PALANCA: performed on behalf of individual pilgrims and team members, frequently demonstrated in personal notes that are meant only for the recipient.

A brief note of encouragement; reassurance that God will meet the pilgrim right where he or she is. Add an encouraging scripture (reminding of God's promises, etc). Let them know you are praying for them (and do it!).

You can include small items such as cards, bookmarks, pins, etc. Do not refer to special events that happen over the weekend. Your palanca may not be delivered when you expect, so you wouldn't want to spoil the surprise.

Do not refer to home or family. It's important to maintain the focus and sequestered nature of the weekend. Do not talk about how you felt on your weekend. The pilgrim may be having a very different experience.

GENERAL PALANCA: This is palanca performed on the weekend in general, most frequently demonstrated in letters or posters that are addressed to the team and pilgrims, often accompanied by small gift items or tokens.

The letter should be addressed to the team and pilgrims on a particular weekend. It should include the actual palanca that you will be providing to the weekend - such as:

A gift of prayer. Let them know you will be praying for them. Perhaps you will pray for the weekend everytime you have to stop at a red light, or something like that. They should know it. (And be sure to honor your commitment).
A gift of sacrifice: perhaps something that you are giving to the weekend. Let them know the spiritual significance of the item. Try to include an encouraging scripture. Using the theme scripture of the weekend helps to promote the unity of the weekend. The letter shouldn't be too long or complex as it's meaning may be lost.

This IS where you can refer to your own weekend ("I sat where you are sitting...") If possible, include small tokens for the team and pilgrims. The items should have some spiritual significance and can be as simple as some chocolate or as complex as craft items that you and your Reunion Group made. Remember it's the thought, prayer and service that's important, not the actual item itself. Posters with brief notes signed by individuals in your church or Reunion Group are an excellent form of general palanca. General palanca is also provided in other ways:

You may provide palanca bags for the weekend; decorated aprons for the auxiliaries; the rollo candle; supplies for communion; break food; candy for the tables; or flowers for the dining room or rollo room.

SERVICE PALANCA: This palanca is service performed before or during the weekend, often behind the scenes and without specific recognition. For instance: assisting in the preparation and breaking-down of the Agape; running errands to obtain supplies during the weekend; serving meals to the team and pilgrim (aka: Kitchen Palanca); or serving as a cook's helper.

Remember, Palanca is a lever - Let's Use It!!

New Songbooks

Last year, the Vermont Tres Dias Secretariat voted to replace our existing songbooks with a newer, more contemporary version. Songbooks previously provided through International Tres Dias are no longer available. VTD ob-

The logo for the Vermont Tres Dias Songbook features a green outline of the state of Vermont. Inside the outline, there is a stylized orange and yellow cross. To the right of the outline, the words "Vermont Tres Dias Songbook" are written in a green, serif font, stacked vertically.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. — Psalm 100:4

tained a CCLI license in order to compile it's own edition. Input from a number of past music directors resulted in a book that retained about 50 of the songs from the previous version as well as over 50 of some more recent Christian praise and worship songs.

Many of the songs from the original edition were rela-

tively unknown. The more common and better known songs were saved in order to keep with time-honored traditions.

The project should yield about 200 songbooks at a cost of nearly \$300. Contributions have accounted for nearly half of the expense so far. Anyone wishing to help with the costs may send a check to the treasurer:

Eva Ciampaglia
64 School St Ext.
Northfield, VT 05663

The new songbooks were in place for the past fall weekend and November secuela. Thanks to everyone that contributed with both finances and suggestions.





Clip & Save

Secretariat at 5:30 PM Secuelas at 6:30 PM

December

Mery Christmas!!

January

Green Mtn Gospel Chapel,
Randolph, Vermont

February

TBA

(Maps and directions may be found on the web site)



Carpool to Secuela . . . its great fun and fellowship



Decolores!

Vermont Tres Dias

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