



# The Abraco

Vermont Tres Dias Newsletter

March - April 2013

Visit [www.vttresdias.org](http://www.vttresdias.org)

## **Secuelas**

**March 16<sup>th</sup>**

***E. Randolph Baptist***

**April 20**

***Chelsea United Church***

**May 18<sup>th</sup>**

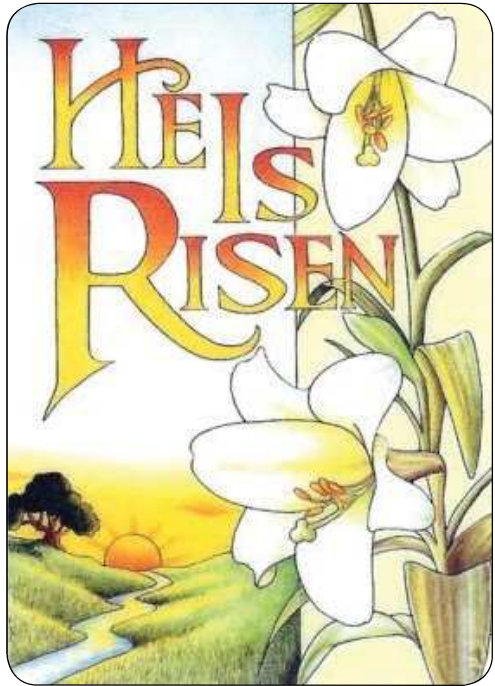
***Jericho Congregational***

**June 15<sup>th</sup>**

***Georgia Plain Baptist***

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*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you . . . (NKJV)*

*1 Peter 1:3-4*

## Presidents Letter



Dear  
Community,

James 1:2

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing”

As I read this scripture, I have to share what occurred during one of our recent snow storms. I spent almost 5 hours snow blowing but couldn't keep up with the snow because the wind was blowing so hard. Every time I made a pass and came back down through, the first pass was filled in already. I finally gave up. I had no idea who to call to come and bust through the 18 inches of wind blown snow.

I sat down to Facebook and stated it would be nice to have a truck with a plow on it. A little over an hour later, a truck pulled into our long driveway and started plowing !!! . My wife Jill said she

did not know who it was and neither did I. I found such joy when I realized that God had answered my prayer. Even in the little things in life, God is always there for us, no matter how small our needs are. Never give up on anything, because we have hope and that hope is in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

May you all find His hope. Continue prayer and meditation on God's word. It is with Him, all things are possible - even getting your driveway plowed.

I ask for prayer that God give us the rectors for the fall weekends. The calls have been made; just waiting for the answers. Please feel free to call me.  
802-276-2171

See you at the Secuela!!  
God Bless and Decolores

*Mike Williams*



## Reflections



### Real Love for Real Life

by Bernadette Tracy

We all seek it. Whether it is brought by our father's smiling delight after a long day of work, our mother's tender kiss in the midst of a bad dream, being counted as the very best friend of all friends, finding romantic love for the first time, or staring back into the face of an adoring infant who seems to say, "You are all I need."

It's been said, "All you need is love." And that, by all accounts carries some truth. But the love that the world offers is self seeking and self serving, always arriving with a "me first" attitude. As imperfect beings seeking love in various ways, it has taken us down many paths which have invariably left us empty and searching. In our striving to love, and even in the moments

when we have experienced love, we are faced with the reality that our love is often reflected out of a lifetime of hurts and fears. Our attempts to love are generally selfish and conditional. We miss the mark on giving until it hurts; giving until it personally costs us something. When love is raised to God's standard, we all fall flat on our face, despite the honesty of our efforts.

We have all heard of the God shaped vacuum that lives within each human



heart. And when we try to love others out of the depth of our own strength and human limitations, we realize how very different God's love is from our own. We recognize that we do not have what it takes to love in the way that God has demonstrated through His Son,

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and called us to as well. It truly is humanly impossible. That is why it is only His love that can fill the heart of every man, woman and child.

I recently read an article from Focus on the Family. The article discussed "anyway" love, pointing out how prone we are to view love through a "because of" lens. I love you because you love me. I love you because you meet a particular need in my life. I love you because... you can fill in the blank with your own reason. God does not operate out of "because of" love. He doesn't call us to love because others love us back. He calls us to love "anyway". He asks us to love when others have failed us and have trampled openly on our willing vulnerability. He asks us to love those who hate us, even those who are truly enemies of everything we hold dear, including the cross of Christ.

Loving others in the same way that God loves us is not beyond our grasp. It's as simple as asking, receiving

and choosing it as a moment to moment response to others. In our own strength it is humanly impossible, and without total reliance on God to live His life and display His love for others through us, we will always revert to "because of" love. God's love, His Perfect Love, always loves anyway. He loves us when we are obedient and when we are not. He loves us when we are full of praise and in the moments that we choose to grumble. He even loves us when we don't love Him back. It was "anyway" love that took Jesus to the cross. It is through "anyway" love that lives are transformed and others will be drawn to our Savior. In a world where love is so readily promised, but seldom delivered, a searching world is waiting. Show them God's love; real love for real life.

*Bernadette*



## Fall Rectors

Fall Rectors have been asked and have said yes! We will have a husband and wife team this fall, David & Carolyn Satre. Start praying for them now as they will begin the process of lots of prayer, and reading up on what their responsibilities are. As you are praying for them, be in prayer for yourself. If they call you to be on team and you have already prayed, then you will know what your answer will be even before they call you.

## International TD Spotlight

by *Barbi Langdon*

In his heart, a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps. Proverbs 16:9.

Back in the Spring of 1993 my husband Ron and I made our Tres Dias weekends. It was at the time, a life changing experience for the both of us. Since then, we have been involved in our local Vermont community, in many different

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# Vermont TD Web Site

[www.vttresdias.org](http://www.vttresdias.org)

Visit the link, check it out. Get monthly information about Secuela sites, and maps for directions. Find PDF files of Brochures, Applications, and Sponsor forms. Send your feedback to [pj\\_smithers@comcast.net](mailto:pj_smithers@comcast.net) We would love to hear from you!!

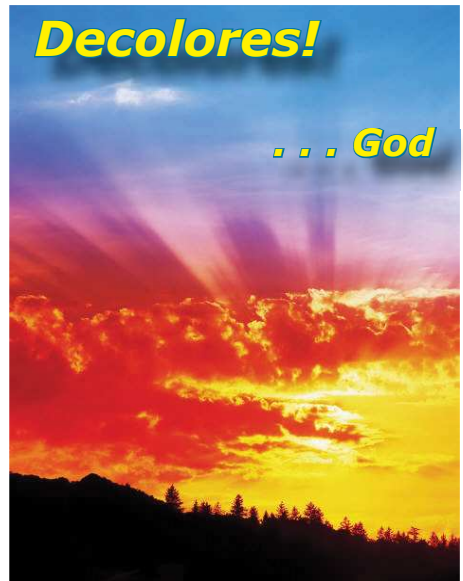
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capacities, and have been blessed to serve, whether it be on team, on a committee or holding an office on the Vermont Tres Dias Secretariat board.

In 2009 I traveled to Cleveland, Ohio, to attend a Tres Dias International Assembly. It again, was a life changing experience for me. I was in such awe of how this Tres Dias community that we are involved in, stretches far and wide. I have met some wonderful people and formed new friendships just as I have done in our local community. My husband Ron and I, are your Vermont delegates and we represent you, and your voice, each time we attend either a Secretariat meeting, which are held in March and October, and at the Assembly, which is held in July each year. I currently serve as a member on the Tres Dias International Secretariat, though my term expires in July. Ron and I have both served on committees and this past Secretariat in October, I was asked to be the Chair of the Policy Committee.

Pat Maynard, who had been

a Delegate for many years, and I will be traveling to Tennessee next month to attend the March Secretariat meeting held in Hendersonville, Tennessee. As with every meeting we have been to, we are expecting to be blessed and be a blessing in whatever way God would use us to do so.



We will be at the Vermont Secretariat in March and will be sharing with you all the "latest and greatest" news from International. There is so much more I would love to share with you about Tres Dias International, but I don't know that the Abraco holds enough space for me to do

so. If you ever have any questions and want to know more about it please ask myself, my husband Ron or Pat Maynard. We would be so happy to share with you. Better yet, try to attend a Tres Dias International Secretariat or Assembly with us. I honestly can say, this was not the course I had laid out

for myself but, as always, God's plan is much better than our own. Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve you while serving the Lord in this way.

God Bless,  
*Barbi Langdon*

### Why Is Sponsorship So Vital?

Imagine if you will:

- A pilgrim receives no palanca during the weekend except what the team provides;

- A pilgrim arrives on Thursday and the Rector is not aware he/she is coming;

- A pilgrim comes on a weekend expecting free time to sit outside to read the bible while enjoying the beauty of nature;

- A pilgrim has dietary restrictions that the team was not made aware of;

- A pilgrim arrives late on Thursday evening because the sponsor did not provide transportation;

- A pilgrim with emotional problems 'acts-out' during the weekend. When contacted, the sponsor states

that he feels the pilgrim "needed this encounter with God" to work out his 'issues'.

- A pilgrim has a problem or a special concern on a weekend. When the team suggests contacting the sponsor, the pilgrim says: "I don't really know him/her";

- A pilgrim has no support when attempting to start a Reunion Group following the weekend;

- A pilgrim has to go to their first Secuela alone;

- And the list goes on . . .

In fairness, mistakes can happen and we all forget things or occasionally over-commit. However, such issues do occur and they are troubling.

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Bear in mind that sponsorship is the backbone of Tres Dias. The "Essentials of Tres Dias" require that the pilgrim be sponsored for participation in all phases of the Tres Dias movement, not just the weekend. The purpose of this writing is to reinforce the importance of the role of sponsor. For instance:

**TRES DIAS IS NOT FOR EVERYONE!**

- This is not the place for the unchurched to "find the Lord".
- This is not for people with uncontrolled emotional problems. (The team is not equipped for psychological counseling)
- It IS for those who desire a closer walk with the Lord - whatever their starting point is!
- The commitment of sponsorship begins before the weekend, and lasts for at least 6 months following the weekend.

**PRIOR TO THE WEEKEND:**

- Decide how well you know the person. What is your purpose for sponsoring?
- Have you prayed for guid-

ance in determining who to sponsor? (Keep in mind the fact that though you had a wonderful weekend, it is no assurance someone else will).

- Do you know the pilgrim's spouse? Will you be able to sponsor him/her also?
- Will you be able to commit to supporting the pilgrim's family during the weekend. This can include baby sitting, helping to run errands, possibly even mowing the lawn or shoveling snow, etc. Deciding on this level of commitment ahead of time makes it easier to follow-through when the time comes.
- Call any Pescadores that you know and advise them that your pilgrim will be on the weekend and needs palanca. You can also agree to send palanca to their pilgrim.
- Answer any questions your pilgrim may have. You don't have to give away the surprises, but you do have to answer his/her questions honestly.
- Submit the application at least 2 weeks prior to the weekend and be sure to note any dietary restrictions or other physical needs.



- Late applications can be accepted when there are mitigating circumstances, but they should be infrequent.

- Be sure your phone number is accurate so you can be reached during the weekend in case there's a problem.

- Pray for the pilgrim as the weekend approaches.

**DURING THE WEEKEND:**

- Provide transportation to the facility on Thursday afternoon.

- Drop your palanca off as early in the weekend as possible. (If you're not sure that your pilgrim will have enough palanca, write some more!!). Since such a high volume of palanca is received on Sunday morning, pilgrims often don't have the time to read it until after the weekend. The earlier in the weekend that palanca is delivered, the better.

- Help your pilgrim carry belongings to his/her bedroom.

- Plan to stay for the sponsor's prayer time following the opening ceremonies.

- Pray throughout the weekend.

- If you volunteer to serve

meals during the weekend, your contact with your pilgrim should be very casual. It's important not to break the sequestered nature of the weekend by bringing news from home. A simple "hello" is better than "How's it going?"

- Be sure to come for the Mananita on Sunday morning. HOWEVER, on the wife's weekend, it's more important for her husband to be there than you, so do whatever you can to enable the husband to attend (such as babysitting).

- Plan to attend the closing

- Help your pilgrim to carry his/her belongings to your car and provide transportation home.

- Although not a requirement, it is suggested that you take your pilgrim to lunch to enable him/her to discuss the experience. This is especially important for the male pilgrims since they will be limited in what they can freely share with their wives.

- Offer to hold the husband's palanca bag until his wife attends her weekend. This way they can read their palanca together.

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## **FOLLOWING THE WEEKEND:**

- Pray for the new Pescadore and his/her family. It's not uncommon for them to experience a spiritual attack following a weekend.

- Make contact with the new Pescadore during the week to see how his/her 4th Day is going.

- Plan to take the new Pescadore to the weekend reunion.

- Plan to take the new Pescadore to at least one or two other secuelas and introduce him to your friends. Although you may know many in the community, the new Pescadore will not, and it can be an intimidating experience.

- Plan to bring the new Pescadore to one of the next weekends to serve meals, participate in the mananita, and attend the closing. Involving them in future weekends gives them the opportunity to bless others as they have been blessed, which is even more satisfying.

- Show him/her how to write palanca and where to drop it off.

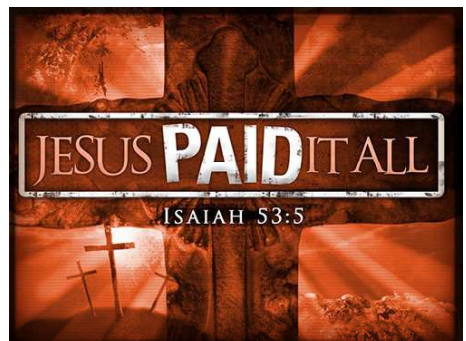
- Be sure to advise your

new Pescadore that he/she can sponsor after 6 months.

- Most important: Help the new Pescadore to either join an existing Reunion Group or to start one of his/her own.

- Bring new Pescadores to a Secretariat meeting.

In other words, the Tres Dias movement continues from Sponsor-to-Sponsor. It's your job to make certain that your pilgrim has a full understanding of the dynamics of Tres Dias so that they, themselves, can become effective sponsors.





# Clip & Save

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

- |          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| March 16 | E. Randolph Baptist Church |
| April 20 | Chelsea United Church      |
| May 18   | Jericho Congregational     |
| June 15  | Georgia Plain Baptist      |

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

**Carpool to Secuela . . . its great fun and fellowship**



# Decolores!

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