



ABUNDANT LIFE TRES DIAS

September 2014 Newsletter
www.rockfordaltd.webs.com

WHAT??? You haven't signed up to help with the 2015 International Assembly being held in Rockford next July? See the link on the website for the form, or ask Anita.

The Holy Spirit's two by four:

I think I have whined to y'all before about the saga of my house. Listed with a realtor for six months (no offers). Then "for sale by owner" with an MLS listing for six months (no offers). So I thought, hmm, maybe I could refinance with a government HARP loan, since my home value has decreased so much (and my mortgage hasn't), to get my interest rate reduced.

So I applied with a bank in Rockford, paid the sizeable application fee, had the appraisal. And then the loan officer called to say gosh your current mortgage isn't eligible for a HARP refinance. I went to my current lender to see if they could do anything for me. Nope.



Then – *the following Sunday* – my pastor preached on Jeremiah 29. Yes, the best-known verses are "for I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord....." But Pastor Steve began with verse 4, where God tells the exiled Israelites to build houses, plant gardens, marry off their kids..... in other words, STAY PUT because He had big plans for them down the road. WHAM. That spiritual 2 x 4 hit me. Okay, Lord, I get it – You want me to stay put because You have a plan, and it involves this house. (If God had wanted it sold, it would have been.) So He has something else in mind. Your ways are higher than my ways, and Your thoughts higher than mine.

I would love to tell you that He majestically revealed the big plan already, but I can only repeat the two words the Holy Spirit whispered to me in another situation last year: "not yet." I can live with "not yet" (at least it's not "no"). It's encouraging when we hear testimonies of how God said "yes" to prayers, but I am hopeful that my testimony of *waiting* is still encouraging to you. If you haven't gotten a "yes," maybe He said "not yet." God gives promises.....not explanations. And, bottom line: I need to quit asking "why?" and just keep trusting Him.

.....Anita Rogers <<<
Your Communication Chair



Uncle Sam isn't the only one who wants YOU

- Do you have any experience fundraising?**
- Are you good with people?**
- Looking to join a new committee?**
- Would you like to assist in raising money to lower the cost of the weekends per person? (Including yourself)**
- Are you creative?**
- Are you a self-starter?**
- Are you a team player?**

If you answered 'yes' to one or more of these questions, then the new Fundraising Committee may be for you. If you are interested in helping raise funds for our ALTD Community in hopes of lowering expenses for the weekends, please contact Alison Soto at alisonsoto@hotmail.com or 847-651-2132.

Once a few people have shown interest, a meeting place and time will be determined to get the Fundraising Committee underway. Any and all help is welcomed and appreciated.

Hmmm - - running the following again, position still open...

Our community is still in need of someone to be God's hands and feet in the position of Weekend Chair. Has He been prompting you to respond? Contact our lay director Arnie Bryson (email on last page).

We encourage you to consider serving God by serving on Secretariat in this important position. Thank you for praying about it.

Reunion Groups

As we entered Summer, most of us were still working and doing our usual church activities. But it's also a time for adding-on LOTS of outdoor fun, enjoying family get-togethers, tailgating at baseball games, heading-out on that special vacation, while plugging-in a touch of relaxation.

However, I'm pleased to see that most Reunion Groups kept their scheduled gatherings (including mine). And, in fact a new Ladies' group was recently formed in Union Grove/Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin called "Beauty For Ashes". Way to go Mellissa Amelio, Jodi Linneman, Lynette Rasmusson and Marcia Fitzpatrick!!

As we move into Fall and Winter, this is a great time to revive, reconnect and revitalize your faith within the context of a Reunion Group. Remember those guys who live near you who might benefit from an accountability group of close Tres Dias friends? Remember those gals who live near you who might benefit from the encouragement and prayers of like-minded sisters in Christ?

As you back-off the activities accelerator from the Summer, think again about re-engaging your faith by forming a new Reunion Group this Fall. You'll NEVER regret it. In fact, it's something you'll treasure for years to come.

See you at The River for the September 19 Secuela!

Michael Dustman
Reunion Group Chair

Reminder: our community's Secretariat members are included on the last page,
with contact info.

Have you considered palanca for the upcoming weekends? Start with prayer - the online prayer scroll sign-up will start soon. We need practical stuff, too: painter's tape, batteries, etc. - email Dan Piecha for some ideas on what specifically. Money is always good, we can use that to buy crosses, Pilgrim guides, poster paper, etc. Put it on your calendar to come for sendoff, serenade and clausura on the appropriate nights (dates on the website's calendar). And also, small gifts - covered with prayer, of course - for the rollo room, beds, dining room. You start working on them, and I'll let you know who to contact, and how many we need, okay?

Send prayer requests, information, etc., to tresdiascommunication@gmail.com

A note from our ALTD
community Spiritual Director:

For so many people, autumn is an ending – summer flowers fade, the long days of bright sunshine dim, the green canopy of trees begins to fall and bare limbs mark the sky. But for church leaders, fall is a time of new beginnings. We pattern our programs after the school year and September is all about starting over again. New classes, new teachers, new mid-week programs, new sports teams – these we advertise and celebrate and pray that more people will participate this season.



As leaders in your own churches, you have a wonderful opportunity to renew and refresh your ministries – to commit to greater personal participation – to rededicate yourself to study and growth. Without you, the local church cannot exist and it certainly cannot grow. If you have let your devotional and study times be pushed aside by the excitement of summer activities and vacations, now – in the new beginning of autumn – you can start again to give time to growing closer to our Creator, to dedicating yourself to whole life discipleship to our Savior Jesus Christ, and to opening yourself to the guiding and energizing of the Holy Spirit. If you can do this for yourself, imagine the impact your personal growth as a church leader will have on your church.

Find a good book to guide your development. Commit to more time with your Bible. Find time to be alone with God. *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.* 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-19

And share the Good News of Jesus Christ! Be one who builds up the local church. Invite someone to the next weekend and keep the leadership movement growing – the church is the hope of the world. Tres Dias stands with you to develop Christian leaders. Together we can grow in our spiritual lives and demonstrate our love and work to carry out the mission of our churches for the Glory of God the Father (from the Tres Dias Vision).

So breathe in the fresh air of fall and the power of the Holy Spirit and discover a time of renewal and recommitment – *for the one who was seated on the throne said, “See I am making all things new”.* Revelation 21:5

Save the dates NOW!!!

ALTD and NITD are hosting the 36th Annual Assembly of Tres Dias International in Rockford at Westminster Presbyterian Church July 10 – 12, 2015.



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There are 102 Tres Dias communities from all over the world invited to attend; 72 in the US and Canada, 30 world-wide. Generally 100-150 delegates and guests attend the Assembly, although at the July Assembly in Georgia there were 42 delegates and 51 observers (93 present), with 35 communities represented.

Please consider how you may be part of this exciting honor to host the International Assembly of Tres Dias July 10-12, 2015. We will need Spiritual Directors, musicians, cooks, 4th Day Speakers, tech chas, greeters, name tag makers, palanca, prayer, and people to transport/host people in their homes.

Delegates start arriving Thursday afternoon/evening, Friday's schedule is low key with an open forum with the President of Tres Dias, and Essentials Training that evening. Saturday is the big day from early morning through Sequela. Sunday morning is a board meeting with breakfast, followed by attending worship at 11:00 at Westminster.

This is a great opportunity to meet and get to know others from all over the country and all over the world who have had their life radically changed from attending a Tres Dias weekend! Paul and Karen Weis are co-chairs for the 36th Assembly, and we will be organizing heads for the following committees:

1. Registration/Administration (Registrar, Recording Secretary, Treasurer)
2. Facilities (Westminster)
3. Entertainment/Special Events (area attractions, group rates)
4. Music (Sequela Saturday night, annual meeting)
5. Food/Kitchen (meals, snacks)
6. Hospitality (servers, greeters, helpers on site)
7. Housing (hotel/motel, private homes)
8. Transportation (from hotels to Westminster, from airports to Rockford area hotels/homes)
9. Palanca (gift bags, small items)
10. Prayer (prayer chapel, prayer requests, prayer for the event)

Tom Miller will head up the effort to encourage all communities to send one delegate, as well as seek financial sponsorships to bring a delegate to the Assembly from overseas if they are unable to afford to attend. If it is not possible to send a delegate from each community, we would like ALTD/NITD people to sign up to represent that community and agree to pray for that community. Consider what you could do for our brothers and sisters in Kiev and L'viv, Ukraine, Peru, Germany, Montego Bay, Cuba, or South Korea.

We have received seven responses from people interested in serving on committees with the first request. **The communities of ALTD and NITD are needed to come out in full force to make this 36th Assembly a success.** We don't have to reinvent the wheel; there are already very good guidelines and instructions for each hosting community to follow, it won't take you that much time and effort to participate. (See the website, www.rockfordaltd.webs.com, on the "Applications / Documents" page, for a link to the sign-up sheet.)

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Monthly committee head meetings will be held at Westminster in Rockford on the third Monday of each month beginning Sept. 15 through the end of June at 7:00 pm. Activity will definitely pick up about two weeks before the Assembly, but *the ground work needs to be laid now.*

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can be involved in hosting the 36th annual assembly. We look forward to serving and working beside our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Paul & Karen Weis
(815) 636-0840 (home)
paulweisguy@comcast.net
karenweis@comcast.net

ALTD men's weekend #31: November 6 - 9, 2014;
Inspiration Center; Benny Iler, Rector
ALTD owmen's weekend #31: November 13-16, 2014;
Inspiration Center; Judy Piecha, Rectora

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Team AND candidate applications available on the website

Standard reminders from other Secretariat members:

- # Please pray for, and invite, candidates. We would LOVE to have a full slate of 30 men and 30 women this fall.
- # If you know someone who isn't getting the ALTD emails, please ask them to contact Anita Rogers; we may have an incorrect email, or they may need to adjust their spam filters.
- # Cash donations can be made online through the website; they are tax deductible.
- # If you found the three deliberate typos, give yourself a pat on the back for reading so carefully!

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ALTD SECRETARIAT MEMBERS

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--|
| Arnie Bryson | Lay Director | ambryson@charter.net |
| Gretchen Hammeke | Spiritual Director | hammekewi@att.net |
| Karen Weis | Leaders Chair | karenweis@comcast.net |
| You?? | Weekend Chair | |
| Kevin Busker | Treasurer | fkbusker@comcast.net |
| Terri Weber | Pre-Weekend Chair | theresarose3@charter.net |
| Dan* & Judy Piecha | Palanca Chair | danpiecha@pga.com judypiecha@charter.net |
| Todd & Vicki Hunt | Post-Weekend Chair | olman1963@yahoo.com vixter82009@yahoo.com |
| Alison Soto | Secretary | furniture1tech@gmail.com alisonsoto@hotmail.com |
| Michael Dustman | Reunion Chair | kmdust@genevaonline.com |
| Anita Rogers | Communication Chair | tresdiascommunication@gmail.com justanita1010@yahoo.com |

***Please note, this is a corrected email for Dan Piecha**

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