



SALVdC Newsletter

Volume 17. No. 4

www.soazviadecristo.org

December 2011

Reflections on VdC #30

Another wonderful weekend was spent in the presence and bathed in the love of Christ Jesus! Twenty participants experienced the unique unconditional love that is only possible through our loving God! As expressed at Clausura, this was an experimental weekend, and from the comments that are flying across the internet, the experiment was a resounding success!

For those of you who did not experience this weekend by being on team, we decided this year to shorten all of the talks to 20 minutes or less, and to include personal testimony in each talk. This led to more time for sharing at the tables, more/longer breaks, and more time to get to know each other! All points were made, all messages were understood, and the talks were dynamic! A second experimental, possibly temporary, change was to move Mananitas to Saturday evening and call it "Buenas Noches". This made for a rather hectic Saturday, with so many activities packed into one day. The cooks were meeting themselves coming and going! But the comments were all positive! It will fall on succeeding Rector (a)'s as to whether they use Mananitas, or Buenas Noches.

Attendance for both Buenas Noches and Clausura was encouraging! We had enough community in attendance to make the Sanctuary look full for both of these important celebrations. Thank-you Resurrection Lutheran Church for hosting our Reunion Ultreya on December 4th. See you all January 28th at Dove of Peace. De Colores and thanks be to God!

Dorothy J McLean

Ultreya

January 28, 2010

7pm

Dove of Peace Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting

I remember Ultryas where there were so many folks attending that you could hardly greet all of them! The lines for the pot luck were so long, and the food varieties so many, it was like dining in Heaven!

Have we gotten to busy, so complacent, that Ultreyas are "just another meeting I'm expected to attend"?

For those of us who still go to Ultreyas, the experience is bittersweet. We truly enjoy seeing our "extended family" and catching up with their lives, but we are in sorrow because so few of us made the choice to attend.

Family reunions are always fun and exciting – the bigger the family, the better! Our Via de Cristo family is more than 500 persons – what if we ALL came together at the Ultreyas? Wouldn't that be the most awesome experience?! As it is, usually less than 10% of us show up every other month to relive the joy and closeness with Christ that we experienced on our own weekends.

There is an Ultreya coming up on January 28th at Dove of Peace Lutheran Church. Can we make a commitment to ourselves and to our brothers and sisters in Christ to attend and share Christ's love with each other in a super fantastic "family reunion"? Invite those you group with, those you sponsored, those who sponsored you, your table partners that you haven't seen for a while – you get the idea – invite everyone you can think of, and organize car pools. Let's blow the doors off of Dove of Peace on January 28th!

Grouping

ARE YOU GROUPING?

It seems that we are talking more and more about grouping! It is mentioned at every Ultreya, is a requirement for serving in the Rollo Room on team, and is an important part of being a sponsor. Why such a focus on grouping? From the turnouts at Ultreyas, and the information on the grouping sheets that have been turned in, less than 10% of our Christoistas are grouping.

According to our training in Servant School, the reason for the weekends is not to have more weekends, but to build communities through grouping that can reach into the world we live in and evangelize it for our Lord, Jesus Christ!

To quote different areas of Servant School:

“The goal of the group reunion is growth in friendship, growth in study of the Bible, growth in apostolic action, and growth in commitment.”

“The weekend experience is designed to make the pilgrim/candidates want to be witnesses for Christ and to live a life of evangelism. We cannot discover our gifts or minister to others in a vacuum. Reunion groups are very important in helping us follow Jesus. The reunion group is supposed to be a place where we are held accountable for what we do, a place where we receive encouragement and support, and a place where we encourage and support the other members of the group. We review our piety, study, and action on a regular basis. Reunion groups are small, grace-filled communities, and we need to feel this grace regularly in order to spread that grace through the way we live our own lives. The group reunion is a tool used by the Holy Spirit to help us live a life of grace in our environments.”

“When group reunion is lived, it becomes a Christian community affecting the world. What should distinguish Christians from others is our love of Christ and the joy and optimism that comes from knowing Him.”

“Our society is not conditioned to Christian community. No matter how well intentioned and devoted a person might be, it will always be difficult living out the Christian faith without the help, support, and contact of other Christians. The work of the Via de Cristo is helping Christians to become effective apostles and grow as saints. Via de Cristo believes that small friendship/accountability groups are building blocks for vital Christian community and for perseverance in the Christian life.”

“The reunion group is the backbone of our Via de Cristo. We all know that the weekend would become just a beautiful memory, ‘a mountain top experience’ and would soon fade into the past if we did not continue the weekend process through group reunion, ultreyas, team and other weekend participation. The intent of the weekend is to encourage pilgrim/candidates to maintain a Christian walk on a daily basis. We hope to help them to find their niche in their own church and community. We want them to continue their encounter with Christ and to be leaders in carrying the banner of Christ. We feel the way to accomplish this is through small close-knit groups. God intended that we have fellowship; and, from the very beginning of the church, this has been an important part of Christianity. The goal of the reunion group is to encourage each other to grow in faith and to lead a life balanced in piety, study, and action.”

Grouping (continued)

GROUPING INFORMATION

As of October 31, 2011

Listed below are: area of town, when they meet, where they meet, name, phone number and email address of contact person. Also included is their ability to receive new members.

NNW – Every other Saturday morning at 9:00 in homes - Peggy Valley – 544 8012 – azvalley@comcast.net, full

NW – Tuesday evenings at 6:30 in homes – Laura Eskridge – 579 5720 – lle-skridge@hotmail.com – room for 1 or 2 more members

NW – Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 at Lord of Grace – Mary Murphy – 797 4954 – tim.murphy@comcast.net – open for new members

NW – Monday nights at 7:00 at Lord of Grace – Cindy Stein – 579 0083 – candmstein@comcast.net – open for new members

NW – Monday nights at 7:00 at Lord of Grace – Richard Krohn – 940 0504 – rnkrohn@peoplepc.com – open for new members

N – Monday afternoons at 5:30 at Grumpy's (Ina/Shannon) – Larry Paxton – 444 2519 – wildcatlarry@gmail.com – open for new members

SW – Saturday mornings at 7:00 at Mt. Zion – Dorothy McLean – 903 4666– Dorothy.J.Mclean@us.ui.com - full

SW – Monday or Tuesday mornings at 9:00 Mt. Zion – Dave Grieser – 883 6425 – de-grieser@hotmail.com – open for new members

SW – Monday at noon at Mt. Zion – Linda Robinson - 638 5827 – lindaslynx@comcast.net – open for new members

SW – Tuesday evenings at 5:00. at Mt. Zion – Rhonda Warner – 883 7138 - warner1of4@aol.com - open for new members

SW – Thursday afternoons at 1:30 at Sherie Bougie's home – Sherie Bougie – 578 9715 – slbougie@hotmail.com – open for new members

C – Monday mornings at 11:30 at Tom's Country Store (Glen and Tucson Blvd.) – Bill Wardell – 529 2629 – WLWDOC@aol.com – full

C – Saturday afternoons at 4:00 at Streams in the Desert – Sandy Holm – 271 6041 – smilinisheyes@cox.net – open for new members

C – Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 at homes or restaurant – Betty Whaples 721 4299 – no email address – open for new members

E – Monday evenings at 6:00 at Tanque Verde Lutheran Church – Dave Strong – 760 3075 – daveruns100s@msn.com – possibly open for new members

E – Friday mornings at 7:30 at Bob & Jerry's Restaurant on Speedway – Jim Kress – 721 7181 – tfdjim@cox.net – open for new members

E – Wednesday mornings at 6:30 at Biscuits (Kolb & Broadway) – Vivian Wilsdon – 886 7849 – vwilsdon@yahoo.com - open for new members

Our Community

NAME BADGES



An idea – let's all wear our Via de Cristo name badges on the first Sunday of each month to get our name more visible in our congregations? This may prompt some questions and spark peoples' interest.

December Ulltreya

On December 4th, RLC hosted our December Ulltreya. There were 63 people in attendance from 10 different Lutheran churches. A big thank you to all who braved the cold and made the long drive to attend. Our silent auction was a success as usual and thank you to all who donated items for auction. Pastor Tom led us in song and we enjoyed a video clip of the cooks from co-ed weekend #30. Thank you to Dave Strong for that entertaining clip.

Lynda Reeves headed up the VdC store and silent auction. Thank you Lynda. Food donations were collected for Abounding Grace food pantry. Most of all thank God for all of you and for all of our bountiful blessings. Melissa Eckelbarger

Gaslight Theater

Change of date: the new date is April 13th. The show is "The Three Musketeers."

Fry's Gift Card

Fry's gift cards give us a return of 3% once we spend at least \$2,000.

The gift cards must be "loaded" and used. If the cards are not used for 90 days they become dormant. If this happens, call Pam Tolliver at 623-907-4963, and she will make the card available for use again. If the card becomes de-magnitized, you will be reimbursed also by calling Pam. Each card has an initial face value of \$5.00 Any questions, call Virginia at 745-3052 or her cell 331-9313.



TIROSH is in PHOENIX

Even though Tucson has suspended Tirosh Weekends for the time being, there will be a Tirosh weekend in Phoenix that our youth could attend. The weekend is being held over Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend – January 14 – 16, 2012 at Christ Evangelical Church. If you are interested in having your youth attend, please contact Toni Joyce at Mt Zion, Vivian Wilsdon at TVLC, Virginia Reymer at Abounding Grace and Streams in the Desert, or Dorothy McLean at Mt Zion. We will see that an electronic application is sent to you.

Our Community Store

OUR VdC store is in its beginning stages of organization and will start by offering you products that will allow you to show your Via de Cristo / Lutheran Pride! Denim Shirts with our original embroidery design of Southern Arizona VdC logo are available to order and various styles of T shirts are available for immediate sale. Profits from the sale of shirts will be used to fund Via de Cristo weekends in Tucson to share the love of Jesus with future participants.

The VdC store will be available at all Ultreya gatherings. The popular Via de Cristo logo embroidered denim shirt (short or long sleeve) in Men's and Women's styles in a variety of sizes will be available to try on and to be ordered at the Ultreya. Embroidery will be done on your size and style of shirt once the order is placed and the shirt is paid for. So bring your potluck dish AND your checkbook.

Lutheran Chick t-shirts in white or pink, YMBALI t-shirts and the classic "Old Lutheran" T-shirt are currently offered in a variety of sizes. Lutheran Chick coffee mugs will, also, be available to purchase. Thanks for supporting our VdC organization with the purchase of these fun items. For any further information please contact Lynda Reeves at 235-7913 with your questions.

New to the VdC Store - = CHRISTIAN Book and CD EXCHANGE/SALE!!!

We all have many (if not dozens) of wonderful CHRISTIAN Books on our shelves. Perhaps we have read them once or maybe several times. They hold a special place in our hearts and in our understanding of our faith, but perhaps have held a place on our bookshelves for too long. It is time to share those good books with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Via de Cristo store will be accepting CHRISTIAN (only) books and CDs in good condition for resale throughout the year at Ultreyas and at the Week-ends. Please bring them beginning in October to the reunion Ultreya at Mt. Zion. We will have a table set up where the items can be displayed and re-sold. Prices will be kept low and all the profits will be returned immediately to the VdC coffers for use at the November Co-Ed Weekend. Who knows, you may find a volume or some music that you like even better than the ones that currently occupy the space on your shelves. Please bring donations and don't forget to come with a little extra cash to purchase a new source of inspiration!!!

Thanks for your participation in this new venture. For any further information please contact Lynda Reeves at 235-7913 with your questions.

National Lutheran Secretariat

NLS President's Report

My name is Ed Broestl and I worship at Faith Community Lutheran Church in Longmont, CO with my wife Diane. Diane and I have two grown sons, two wonderful daughters-in-law, and six grandchildren.

I entered the Cursillo community via Northern Virginia Walk to Emmaus #30 in May, 1989 where I sat at a rectangular table named Joy.

My Walk to Emmaus experience came as I was grappling with a decision to retire from the Air Force. Through my weekend, I came to know "the peace that passes all understanding." The community knew I was moving to Colorado later in 1989. They also knew there was not an Emmaus community in Colorado. They did everything they could to prepare me to start a Colorado community. God had other plans!

In the mid-1990's, a friend asked if I was familiar with Cursillo. We had a long conversation about starting a Lutheran expression in Colorado. The result - I was blessed to be part of the group that formed Colorado Via de Cristo. I attended my first NLS Annual Meeting in Milwaukee in 1998. The experience brought back so many memories of my Walk to Emmaus weekend.

I knew this was where I belonged. During the 2003 NLSAM, held in Columbus, OH, I discovered God calling me into Diaconal

Ministry. From January 2004 through June 2007, I completed the necessary course work at Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania and was consecrated as a Diaconal Minister in December 2008. In September 2007, I began full-time Christian ministry as the Parish Associate and later as a called Diaconal Minister at Faith Community Lutheran Church. This experience once again affirmed the saying we all have heard: "God doesn't call the equipped...He equips the called!"

I am honored to serve as the President of the National Lutheran Secretariat. God has wondrous things in store for your Board. I am excited to see exactly what and how it will all come together.

I humbly request the prayers of all those reading this—prayers that God will lead us (our affiliated secretariats, the Executive Board, and all those that will attend our weekends)! With your prayers, I am certain that what we do...what we say...and...how we relate to one another will be God pleasing.

May God empower and encourage each of us as we take God's love for all of creation, along with our love of the Lord, into the environments where God leads us.

God Loves You - and - so do I.

Ed Broestl,

NLS President

More from our NLS President

Grace, peace, and mercy from God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit I am humbled to be your President for these are truly exciting times.

Don't you just love it when someone is elected to an office, or running for an office, says: "These are truly exciting times!" Well, of course they are—for them - because they are starting a new journey.

But, what about for the organization or constituency? Times when only time will tell how exciting it might get! I believe and know that God is doing mighty things through His people and through the gifts and talents He has given His church. Our three day weekends, our spiritual renewals, are a reminder of our continual walk with God and an opportunity for us to discover anew, or reminded again of God's unfailing love.

Our recent annual meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina was amazing! Again, don't you just love it when someone says a meeting was amazing! Except it truly was because once again we witnessed God touching lives. The Host Committee and their team did a fantastic job making us feel welcome and taking care of us during our time on the campus of Queens University of Charlotte. The Executive Board prepared a won-

derful program providing insight into where we have been (it was the 25th Anniversary of Via de Cristo) and how that history prepares us for the future. Through it all, God was present: in worship services, in forums, in small group activities, and in gatherings of people: large and small.

Several "threads" ran through the annual meeting. God's love for His people was ever-present. One I found very telling was relationship. We all know there are three important things in real estate: location - location - location. I was once again reminded that there three words vital to ministry: relationship—relationship - relationship.

Our first relationship is with God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Thank you Lord for being part of our lives and for being part of every Via de Cristo activity. The second relationship is with our family: physical and spiritual. As we more fully grasp God's love for us, we come to love those relatives that may not be so easy to love and our brothers and sisters in Christ that may not appear to be so easy to love.

The third relationship as we grow in God is our ability to take love and grace into the places and spaces where we find ourselves.

NLS President's Report, cont...

Often times that is difficult - but - we trust God has gone before us. Thank you Lord for your assurance.

Thanks to the Host Committee and the past NLS Executive Board for a wonderful reminder of how much God has prepared us for our coming journey. I am confident in God's promise that He will never leave us

or forsake us. Through this promise we can be certain that God loves us.

Blessings -

Ed Broestl,

NLS President

NLS President's Report

National Lutheran Secretariat 2012

COME TO THE LAND "WHERE THE COLUMBINES GROW"

Even as we are reminiscing about the Southern hospitality that greeted us in Charlotte, NC, your Colorado brothers and sisters are busy creating a big western HOWDY for you at Regis University in Denver.

Those of you who were in Charlotte saw the slide show of things to see and do in Colorado before and after the 2012 annual meeting. We hope that you are putting your plans together to visit our beautiful state.

The theme verse for 2012 is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19: "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."

We ask for your continued prayers as the 4th Day members of Via de Cristo of the Rockies and Colorado Via de Cristo prepare to host you all (meet and greet you).

We are brainstorming about offering exotic foods (Rocky Mountain Oysters) and exciting events (a cattle drive), but rest assured that the only thing we can guarantee is that the tea will not be sweetened! We hope to see you next year "Where the Columbines Grow".

God loves you and so do I,

Carol McGill

2012 Host Committee Chair

National Spiritual Director's Report

Listen, God is calling.....

The story goes that a woman was waiting at the airport and decided to go and buy herself a package of cookies. She came back to her seat and there was a man next to her reading the paper. She began to eat her cookies and every time she ate one, the man next to her ate one! She was fuming mad! How dare he, she thought.

But sure enough each time she reached for a cookie, so did he until they got to the last cookie. The man took that cookie and broke it in two and gave it to the woman. He didn't say anything but just continued to read his paper. She grabbed her things and huffed off really mad at that guy. How could someone be so rude she thought!

She boarded her plane and was getting settled into her seat. She reached into her purse....and there on top of her things sat her own bag of cookies! She had been eating the gentleman's cookies!! Wow, what a story.

Put yourself in their place... would you have been as patient as that guy? When it comes to cookies I'm not very eager to share!

This past week while I was surfing channels on the TV I came across a show called "Boiling Points!" They intentionally try to make people mad in various situations (a

little like candid camera) and if they can hold their temper they win \$100. It is very funny to watch people and how they react to situations in public.

How about you and me? Are you patient? Can you wait very well? How about as it relates to God calling you? Can you be patient while God works on your heart to receive and hear God's call in your life??

Have faith today, friends, that God has a call for you to "come" and follow the Lord. Come and give money or food donations to help the poor, ***come and serve on a weekend and sponsor pilgrims!*** Or come and bring clothing or donations..... come and follow me and I will lead you! Don't look down at the waves or the wind, look up to Jesus Christ who has given his life for you and me! That's worth listening for the call...and having faith in God that it will all work out. So....have a cookie and relax, God's in charge!

Pastor Doug Givan,

National Spiritual Director

Spiritual Director's Report