

# The Colors of Tres Dias International



Fall 2008

## *Pescadores without Borders God's Plans, not Man's*

There is a wonderful improbability in it all--in the way God uses geography, connections between people, and what appear to be chance meetings to bring Tres Dias to new locations.

Consider, for example, how a couple's unanticipated short-term residence in Ottawa, Canada, opened the way for founding a new Tres Dias community in that city and set plans in motion for taking Tres Dias all the way to South Africa.

And then there's the story of how a man walking on a beach in Jamaica heard a voice from God saying, "I want you to bring Tres Dias to My people in Jamaica." It took a full year of running away from God, a Divine tap on the shoulder, and a chance meeting with a Jamaican pastor to convince the man that God really meant it.

Also, think about how the Abundant Life community's plans to extend Tres Dias to the Spanish-speaking community in Illinois led to establishing emerging communities—not in the US—but rather in Ecuador and Costa Rica, with a little help from Peru.

And what could be more improbable than a healthy and growing Tres Dias community in communist Cuba, where weekends have been held since 2002.

### **From South Africa to Ottawa and Back Again**

As members of the South African diplomatic corps, Aniki and Eddie Mienie have lived in Paris, Paraguay, Taiwan, Washington DC, and elsewhere, with periodic stays back in South Africa between assignments, before settling in Atlanta. It was there that the Mienies experienced Tres Dias, "Which changed our lives—completely!" Unexpectedly, they found themselves away from Atlanta for a short-term assignment in Ottawa. It was there that Aniki, after returning from a Costa Rica Tres Dias Weekend, knew that God was telling her that there had to be a Tres Dias in Ottawa.

Time was a problem, however. The couple's residence in Ottawa was limited. Did it make sense for the leaders to put a project like this in motion, then leave?

"God often shows that His time is not our time," Aniki says. "But He was really in a hurry with this little community." Aniki started networking and building support from the Tres Dias home office and Tres Dias communities in the fall of 2006. The first weekend took place less than a year later, in September of 2007 and, as of this issue, Ottawa Tres Dias is preparing for its third set of weekends.

For starters, the Mienies knew that there needed to be a "leaders couple" who loved Tres Dias as much as they did. Although there was no reunion group as such (the traditional starting point for an emerging community) the Mienies participated in other small groups with energetic Christians. They arranged for a couple from one of the groups, Doug Sprunt, the owner of a Christian bookstore, and his wife, Linda, to attend weekends in North Georgia. Aniki remembers calling Doug from Ottawa on her cell phone while he was standing in the lobby, immediately after the closing. "I asked, 'How was it?' He was almost speechless; all he could say was, 'Oh, My!' That was enough for me. I just

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## Letter from the President

As you read through the articles in this issue, you will see an obvious theme. The emphasis is on the ongoing growth of Tres Dias.

Having just served as vice president of membership, I can tell you that the growth of Tres Dias is real—and that Tres Dias has the potential to grow exponentially. The report, in our lead story, about the emerging community in Ottawa is only one example



of what is happening in our northern neighbor. I had the opportunity to serve on the first team for a community on the other end of Canada – Vancouver Island. During one of the meetings prior to the weekend, two of the

Canadian team members discussed two other places where Tres Dias should be welcomed. And the Canadians have already talked to Pescadores in the Northwest U.S. who are ready to help.

See how the Lord blesses and multiplies the blessing! Planting two communities in Canada can lead to multiple communities in Canada--and even South Africa. Tres Dias in Peru is helping to support other communities in South and Latin America. Kyiv Tres Dias has sponsored two new communities. And the growth of Tres Dias in Korea has been phenomenal.

With all of this excitement about international expansion, we can't forget to celebrate the new communities that are emerging within the US. All of these communities, domestic as well as foreign, need support of one kind or another. The report on Bill Furr's seminar (see page 6) provides valuable guidance for how a sponsor can help a new community (especially one within the US) build a firm foundation.

For many communities outside the US, the need is often for financial support, and that need may con-

tinue for some time. Several years ago, Tres Dias created the Tres Dias Fund to allow us to help communities with this need. People can donate cash to this fund and designate the gift for a specific community.

As we enter a new phase of growth, there is a need to move into a new mode for raising and managing funds. For this reason, Tres Dias has affiliated itself with the National Christian Foundation (NCF), an organization that has been helping many Christian organizations for years. The advantage of giving thru the Tres Dias fund/NCF is that NCF will assure compliance with IRS rules for inclusion of your gift as a charitable contribution. They also will assure compliance with all government(s) rules and regulations before delivering money or gifts to foreign organizations. The US government is especially cautious about money going out of the US to possible terrorist organizations. NCF keeps up with and assures compliance.

While cash donations are always welcome, our relationship with NCF makes it possible for individuals to donate other items that help grow the fund. Stocks, real estate, almost anything you can imagine can be donated to the Tres Dias fund with NCF. As always, anything donated to the fund can be designated to help specific communities and needs. The Tres Dias Fund Committee will distribute the non-designated funds as needs arise.

Time, treasure and talents are all resources that the Lord has blessed us with. These are really tools to be used to advance His kingdom. As individuals and Tres Dias communities, we each make decisions on how to best use these resources.

Perhaps you are feeling called to bless this ministry but do not have the time or means to serve in other communities. Pray how the Lord can best use what you have.

In Christ,  
Paul Weis  
President, Tres Dias International Secretariat

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# **On Your Mark! Get Set! Grow!**

The resolution you see in the box was presented to the Tres Dias International Assembly on its 36th birthday--and every delegation present at the Assembly voted in the affirmative! In essence, the Resolution for Growth prayerfully challenges Tres Dias to dedicate the next 35 years to growing its ministry of love, grace and forgiveness from 70 communities to 500.

That challenge is not for the Tres Dias International Secretariat, even though the Secretariat plays an important role by providing information and guidance for starting a new community and eventually granting a charter, in addition to other services. The challenge, rather, rests with the communities—because local communities sponsor, nurture and help give birth to new communities.

Departing Tres Dias President Bruce Cato provided this advice to the Assembly: “If your community is struggling and has not sponsored a new community in several years, helping build a new community will revitalize yours.”

## **So how do you start?**

The process needs to begin with much prayer, planning, and more prayer. The first question would be “Where?” What city near your community or around the world could be blessed by Tres Dias? Do you know any Pescadores who are living in a location where there is no community? What city would God have you bless?

As you pray, consider that the original building block of Cursillo was a reunion group. The movement started with five young Catholic clergy and lay leaders who met for three years, praying over how to reignite the church. This group developed what became known as Cursillo de Cristiandad.

Helping to establish a reunion group in the new location provides the same kind of building block. The reunion group can grow into a steering committee and then into a functioning secretariat.

Pray for God to place the fire of desire to launch a new community deep in the hearts of strongly committed Pescadores who will not be easily discouraged. The path can be difficult, the delays can mount up, but God will bless the hearts of those who seek Him!

## *Resolution for Growth*

*The Tres Dias Ministry enters the 29th Annual Assembly with a servant hearted history of advancing the cause of Christ through our interdenominational, Bible based version of the Cursillo method, and Through the Blue Ribbon Committee, we have unified this God-honoring ministry made up of some seventy chartered Tres Dias communities around the world following the Essentials of our movement, and*

*Whereas the founders of this ministry had a vision of growth, and Whereas the launching of new Tres Dias communities is the responsibility of existing communities and their Pescadores to lovingly nurture new communities into existence, that*

*At the 29th Annual Assembly of the International Tres Dias, we do agree and affirm by this Resolution to dedicate the next 35 years to reaching the goal of 500 Tres Dias communities around the world, and*

*We pledge our chartered communities to lovingly find practical ways to positively move forward with the expansion of sharing God’s love, grace and forgiveness, and*

*We ask the Secretariat of the International Tres Dias to prayerfully lead us into this expansion to the glory of God and our Lord Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

# Travels to St. Petersburg, Russia with the Bormans, 2007

by Judy Borman

Well, it seemed far-fetched, to say the least! This was our first response when, in the fall of 2006 Eric and I received the “call” to participate in Tres Dias No. 10 of St. Petersburg, Russia. I had been in delicate health since 2005 (challenged by blood clots and vertigo), we did not have updated passports, and we wondered where the money would come from.

The spring of 2007 brought us more positive attitudes when we realized that we had been squirreling away vacation money, \$10 per week, for many years and had never touched it. Well, here we were! It was time to crack the piggy bank for the Lord!

I continued to worry about my health, until one night when Rev. Clarice Thousand came to our home for supper after a Tres Dias weekend. She announced, “Judy, God wants you to go to St. Petersburg!” If you had the privilege of knowing Rev. Clarice, famous for her 15-minute prayers, you would know that I sat up and listened. Within a month, Rev. Clarice joined the Lord in Heaven. I carried her spirit in my heart as I served Pescadores in the dining room of Tres Dias No.10 of St. Petersburg.

To involve the greater Tres Dias community, I started knitting “rainbow dishcloths” as both mission awareness and as a fund-raiser. I mailed out 30 blessed dishcloths and received many prayers and green donations. I carried those prayers in my heart throughout the trip. We also received donations from a group in Tennessee, and those funds, along with the money saved and raised, more than covered our travel, food, lodging, and weekend costs! We left half the money behind so that Tres Dias of Russia could carry on the work of our Lord.

What palanca to take? The tracts we had asked our local Bible store to order never arrived. But then, one week before we were to leave, we were in the store looking for lighter weight Bibles. To our delight, the shopkeeper found a long-forgotten package of tracts on the back counter behind the cash register. They were titled “Who is this Jesus,” written in Cyrillic no less! And she gave them to us! What a God thing!

I worried about customs, about carrying religious artifacts and literature. Eric had his study rollo to carry, and we had our Bibles, palanca prayers to go along with 48 pillow packets of coffee, 40 hand-knit rainbow dishcloths, bookmark prayers in Russian, and packs of jellybeans with a prayer based on the colors of the beans.

Eric calmed my fears by saying, “If God wants us to bring this palanca, He will clear the way.”

Well, I still played “the chicken” and made sure the religious tracts were packed in Eric’s suitcase. But what would the customs officials think of our coffee, bookmarks, dishcloths, and jellybeans? Would they think we were going to a flea market?

Again, God had a plan. The wait at Customs was long, so long that there was no staff to check our bags, and our suitcases were never opened. After waiting patiently behind the glass wall, Pescador Victor whisked us away to the suburbs of St. Petersburg, settled us in our room, and waved “Goodbye.”

The next morning, we sat and waited outside in the overgrown courtyard of a 1960s center now owned and operated as a Korean Christian School. We looked up at the tall fir trees and watched the Russian crows with their grey jackets. We prayed Thanksgiving for our safe travels and amazement that God had brought us all these miles.

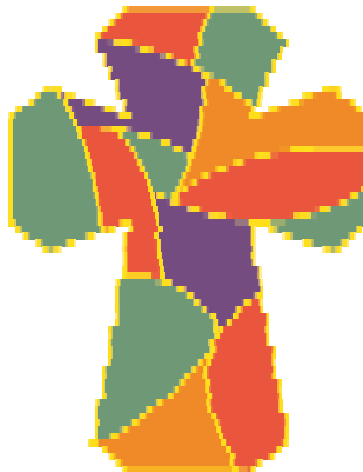
As supper time came round, our Russian hosts, Anna, Andrei, and their daughter Dasha, as well as the eight other Americans, came bearing Kentucky Fried Chicken, Russian breads, fresh fruit, tea, and Russian chocolates. Such a feast and

moment for rejoicing and praising the Lord! This was our first Russian Grace!

The next day, the American women—with the direction of Nina (head kitchen cha) and three other Russian women—prepared the Welcome Feast for the men’s weekend. We chopped and chopped the ingredients for many salads which Nina mixed and plated. The dining room was transformed into a banquet room with a beautiful buffet for the men. Wilson Burton appeared dressed in a suit, carrying a walking staff with a mountain ram’s horn as the crook of the staff.

Then I realized our preparation was finished. The welcoming committee walked a mile to the local train station to greet the candidates and some of the team. All who helped prepare the feast disappeared to add to the surprise of the Welcome Banquet.

On one afternoon we walked 40 minutes to the local shopping center to help outfit one of the ladies who was still awaiting her luggage. This was a sight, as my walking staff had been taken away in Berlin by security, but did not arrive in St. Petersburg. My sisters in Christ found



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cried and cried; I knew that this was God's community, and that He was just using us to build the community."

Linda had an equally moving candidate weekend, and everything began to fall into place in a manner that Aniki describes as miraculous. Georgia Mountain Tres Dias agreed to serve as the sponsor and assigned a liaison to work with the Ottawa steering committee. To develop local team members for the first weekends, the steering committee sent candidates to weekends in Vermont, Virginia, and Georgia. Although there were fewer than 20 Ottawa Pescadores for those first weekends, growth has been vibrant and the community is now approximately 80 members strong.

Improbable as it may sound, Aniki and Eddie Mienie are discovering that there are other Tres Dias people in the Atlanta area who have connections with South Africa or who know Pescadores living in that country. There is no doubt in the Mienies will be making a return visit to their home country, carrying a gift that will be a blessing to many.

### **A Jamaican Love Story**

The story starts in 1992, when Scott Pitts and his wife Carol went to Jamaica for their anniversary. They fell in love with the place and the people, and have returned to the island almost every year since. It was five years ago when Scott was walking on the beach and heard the voice mentioned earlier.

"I didn't even tell my wife about the voice," Scott says, "I ran from God for a solid year, thinking it was my flesh talking, and not God." The next year, almost to the day, he was on the same beach in Negril when, as Scott tells it, "God tapped me on the shoulder and said, 'Are you going to do what I asked you to do?'"

Scott returned home to pray about it, and about six months later happened to meet a Jamaican pastor in a restaurant four miles from his house. The pastor responded to Scott's description of Tres Dias by saying that it was exactly his "heart's cry" for the people he loved. The pastor, Lawerance James, remains a close friend and serves as spiritual director for the Jamaican secretariat.

In Scott's mind, the meeting with Pastor James was the confirmation of God's direction and a starting point for everything that followed. Jamaica Tres Dias held its first weekends in the fall of 2006, the second in the Fall of 2007, the third in September of 2008. The community will be filing for charter in October.

The emerging community will be on solid ground, literally as well as financially, the result of what Scott sees as another vision from God. The secretariat discovered a dilapidated camp, built in 1965, owned by the Jamaican Baptist Union. Scott approached the owners and worked out creative financing for its use. For every US dollar invested in rehabilitating the camp, Jamaica Tres Dias will receive the equivalent of one US dollar in camp-use credit. With a 72 : 1 exchange ratio between Jamaican

and US dollars, the arrangement gives Jamaica Tres Dias the freedom to put on weekends without the kind of financial encumbrances that often inhibit growth of off-shore communities.

### **Connecting More Dots—Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Peru**

As Ed Caputo of Abundant Life Tres Dias describes it, "It all started so sweetly. God simply gave us a vision for the Hispanic people in our community." There was no way for Ed or anyone else to anticipate that one of the pastors attending the Spanish weekend would be so excited about Tres Dias that he would tell a close friend, a pastor in Costa Rica, about the experience. This set the planning in motion, and with Northern Illinois Tres Dias as sponsor, Costa Rica held its first weekends in June 2007.

Nor was there any way for Ed, when that Spanish Tres Dias was held in Illinois, to anticipate that he would someday be serving on weekends in Costa Rica and Peru with a Ecuadorian pastor who would ask to bring Tres Dias to Ecuador. Again, Northern Illinois served as the sponsor. A dozen Pescadores from Peru Tres Dias served on team for Ecuador No. 1. There are potentially clashing cultural differences between the two countries, underscored with intense rivalry in soccer. "It was a wonderful blending of cultures," Ed says, "and Tres Dias was instrumental in bridging differences and helping people experience the common denominator of Christ's love." (For more on Peru Tres Dias, see the Spring/Summer issue of this newsletter.)

### **Finding the Joy of the Lord in an Unlikely Place**

Some of the most touching stories of how God uses Tres Dias come from inside communist countries. True, there's an element of apprehension for those who carry God's word into a place where the government is suspicious of all religious activity and restricts religious practices. But, as Linda VanLandingham, who has made five trips to support Tres Dias in Cuba explains (paraphrasing Galatians 5:22), "We're not allowed to hand out religious tracts on the street, but there's no law against love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and faithfulness."

Linda admits that she was somewhat afraid when she made her first trip to Cuba in 2002. "Now, I'm excited as soon as the plane hits the ground in Havana," she reports, "And my eyes fill with tears because of the hardships I know the Cubans must endure. But those who have been saved have a faith that is far beyond me—and a joy that is hard to describe."

Evidence of the hardships is very visible. Linda recalls the first Cuban weekend, when she and the other women were cleaning the men's rooms after their weekend. She found a large piece of bread under one of the pillows. She says it broke her heart to realize how much this bread meant for the Pescador, and how much those of us from the US take food and other necessities of life for granted. As evidence of how much Tres Dias means to the Cubans, Linda describes how, on several occa-

# **New Community Development**

## **Laying a Strong Foundation**

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“How can we get Tres Dias started in our community?” It’s a question often asked by Pescadores who have been transformed by the grace of God on their Tres Dias weekend, but who find themselves geographically distant from the place where the change took place. It is from that question that a new journey begins—with prayer for guidance and for wisdom on how to build a foundation for a new community.

Tres Dias of North Georgia (TDNG) has been used by God to assist in establishing 25 new communities since 1983. The wisdom condensed from these experiences is likely to be applied elsewhere, thanks to information presented July 11, 2008, during the “Sponsoring New Communities” workshop at the 29th Annual Assembly, in Alpharetta, GA. Workshop leader (and current chairman of TDNG) Bill Furr laid out “the principles, the practices, the policy, and the procedure” that North Georgia uses to nurture an emerging community, emphasizing that “From a biblical principle flows actual practice, and practice is established by policy and set procedures.”

It can’t be done quickly, according to Bill. It takes three- to five-years of leadership development and liaison work, guided by a formal agreement (see summary below) between the North Georgia Secretariat and the steering committee in the emerging community.

Bill opened the workshop by establishing the essential ideal of Tres Dias,

“To inspire and motivate Christian leaders to actively support their local church and live out the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ...”

In the area of practices, Bill emphasized that fourth-day activities (secuelas and reunion groups) provide “the essence of support” for Pescadores following the weekend. This is a primary component that makes Tres Dias different from other retreats. Moreover, the framework to support vibrant and effective fourth- day activities must be in place before a community can begin to focus on planning the first weekend.

The foundation work begins with the new community recruiting a group of Pescadores referred to as “Founders,” individuals who will commit to spending on average of two or more hours per week to develop the new Tres Dias community over

a period of three (and for some, up to five) years. To develop the Founders group—ideally, 60 Pescadores--TDNG allocates six candidate slots on each weekend for people from the emerging community. This continues until 30 men and 30 women have become Pescadores.

When the first 30 Founders have made commitments, the emerging community is ready to establish a steering committee. The TDNG secretariat then signs a formal sponsorship agreement. Once the steering committee is fully functional and the 60 Founders are actively working, the community is ready to schedule its first weekend. This generally takes about two years.

Bill noted that this system of foundation-building before a first weekend has been very successful. In working with emerging communities outside the U.S. some things are modified but the principles remain the same.

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### **Summary of the Tres Dias of North Georgia Sponsorship Agreement**

The formal agreement establishes the relationship between Tres Dias-North Georgia (TDNG) and communities that express interest in forming a Tres Dias chapter in their area. The document is in two parts, the “Prerequisites” and the “Agreement” proper.

The Prerequisites specify that the new community will form a steering committee of Pescadores in its geographic area and that it will draft a formal letter requesting sponsorship from TDNG, among other provisions.

The Agreement itself outlines the kind of support TDNG will provide. For example, the TDNG chairman (or his appointee) will serve as an official liaison to the new community. The appointee will chair the committee of current or former TDNG secretariat members to serve as a “shadow” secretariat for the new community. Members of the shadow secretariat will consult with and advise their counterparts on the emerging community secretariat, as needed.

Moreover, TDNG will provide appropriate team members, including spiritual directors, as needed for the first five or six weekends and will assist in selecting former TDNG rectors to serve as the first rectors for the new community.

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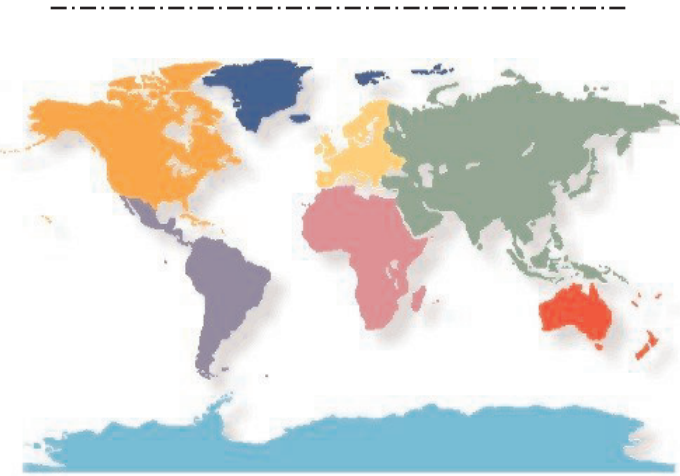
sions, people who had to travel long distances for the weekend were willing to sleep on lawn chairs until it was time for the weekend to begin.

### Seeing More than the Tourist Sees

Clearly, the future growth of Tres Dias depends, in part, on people who are willing to embark on the spiritual journey that comes from serving abroad. As Ed Caputo explains it, "The kinds of relationship that are built between Christians on a weekend help us to see things that are beyond what the tourist sees. You see the beauty of the country, but you also experience the passion of the people—for their country, for the Lord. The ability to bridge the cultures and experience the commonality is a source of joy—and just plain fun! People are hungry for community; surely Tres Dias is a way to fill that need."

We might add that, when the community has Christ as its center, it's a community that extends beyond borders and that lasts throughout time and into eternity.

*If you would like to personally support one of the emerging communities outside the US, you can do so by participating on a weekend. Watch [www.tresdias.org](http://www.tresdias.org) for announcements of upcoming service opportunities.*



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**Sponsorship Agreement...**

The new community must be able to supply at least one-third of the members for a team before holding a weekend. It must agree to use the TDNG model and use only materials (weekend schedule, rector's script, etc.) supplied by TDNG, and to follow Tres Dias Essentials.

Once the secretariat is formed and first weekends are scheduled, the emerging community must promptly enter into the process of applying to the Tres Dias International Secretariat for a charter.

*The editors express their thanks to Bill Furr for his assistance in preparing this story.*

me a crooked stick, and it served the purpose of keeping me balanced! The sight of an old lady with a crooked walking stick attracted attention and gave Anna an opportunity to witness to the sales ladies as to why these American women were here. The sales people were very nice to us, and even allowed us to bring one shirt from a shop to match it with pants of another shop. Even though our Russian language skill was sparse (how about next to none), the Lord gave us His Love to shine through.

Some things are different in the Russian Tres Dias. For example, those who present rollos are "professors" and the weekend is a "seminar." Also, the Russian Pescadores place strong value on fellowship and teamwork—just a little different point of view and a good lesson to learn.

I was not used to the decorating that went on during the women's weekend. Oh my! The dining room was decorated for a different theme for each meal, to tie into the rollos. Our second-floor room across the parking lot provided a view into the chapel. Each night I would watch the Chapel Angels use Scotch Tape (called "Scotch") and straight pins to transform satin and silky cloth into beautiful Spirit-filled art. The Russian Pescadores are very thrifty, and they wash and reuse many of the decorating props, a valuable lesson on "being green" for the USA.

Our experiences in St. Petersburg, "the Venice of the North," were touching and heartfelt. After our lifetimes of being separated by governments, God made it possible for Eric and me to share His Love with the Russian people. I believe that the angels in Heaven sing in Russian!

*Red is for the blood He gave  
Green is for the grass He made  
Orange is for the edge of night  
White is for His grace and righteousness  
Purple is for His hours of sorrow  
Pink is for a new tomorrow*

*A bag of jelly beans so  
colorful and sweet is a  
prayer, a promise, and a  
special treat.*

DeColores,  
Judy and Eric Borman

# *Ukraine: Praising God where Praise Was Once Forbidden*

The setting is a Young Pioneer camp, some 50 weathered cabins and meeting halls set in a forest of gigantic pines, 40 kilometers from downtown Kyiv, Ukraine. If we could turn time backward and step into the campground on a summer morning during the 1970s, we would likely hear children citing the daily pledge. I, a Young Pioneer of the Soviet Union, in the presence of my comrades solemnly promise: To love my Soviet Motherland passionately. To live, learn and struggle as the great Lenin bade us and as the Communist Party teaches us.

Today, the Pescadores of Kyiv Tres Dias, in the presence of their brothers or sisters in Christ, use the same setting to sing praises to their Lord and Savior. Ukrainians have music in their soul—the very language is musical—and visitors from the States who hear “Amazing Grace” sung in Ukrainian often say that they feel transformed, as if they were standing on holy ground.

As Valeria Semenova from the Kyiv community says, “It’s unbelievable and incredible to even think about the fact that in the room where children used to be trained to become Pioneers and to serve the party in the “proper” Communist way—now we have a chapel or rollo room. Where the Red Party was exulted, now the name of God is proclaimed. Of course, the conditions are not the best, but we are so very thankful to God for what we have. He has blessed us with amazing weekends starting from 1999. Since that time He has been blessing us even more and more!”

Christianity’s roots reach deep into Ukraine’s past. Legend says that St. Andrew traveled along the Dnieper River in the first century, and history affirms that the conversion of Prince Vladimir in the tenth century led to the spread of Christianity from Kyiv throughout the Kivan-Rus regions that are now part of Russia.



When Valeria talks about how God has blessed the community “even more,” she is referring, in part, to the way Kyiv is being led to spread Tres Dias to other locations in Ukraine. Kyiv Tres Dias sponsored the first weekends in Rivne, a city of approximately 250,000 in north-western Ukraine, about 300 kilometers from Kyiv. Kyiv supported the first three weekends by sending team members. But, for its fourth weekend, Rivne Tres Dias was on its own, supplying team members and rectors from its own community.

With God’s guidance, the Kyiv community is looking even further west: to Lviv, a city 70 kilometers from the Polish border, famous for its blend of Renaissance and Baroque architecture from the thirteenth century. A couple long active with the Kyiv community, Oles and Lyudmila Bon, come from Lviv and want to bring the blessing of Tres Dias back to their far western region of the nation.

Valeria describes the Rivne community as Kyiv’s “baby” and says that Kyiv is “pregnant again” with plans for Lviv. She speaks for the Kyiv community in expressing excitement about the future. “Isn’t it something! We already have rectors (Oles and Lyudmila), a team, a place to hold the weekend, and funds to hold it! God is great! The most important is that we already have candidates (20 men and 20 women) waiting to receive their blessing in October 2008.”

For the many Americans who lovingly supported the Ukrainian communities with personal service and financial contributions, the news from Lviv truly is a sign that God is great. The Lord has multiplied their work, spreading the blessing of Tres Dias westward.

The men’s weekend is scheduled for October 14-17, the women’s for October 21-24.