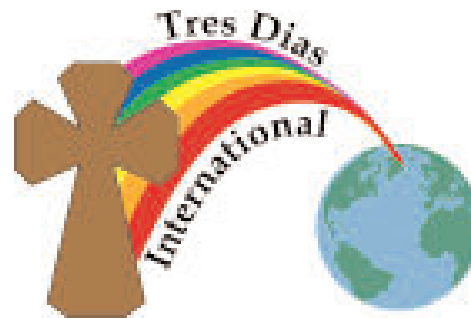


# The Colors of Tres Días International



Summer 2009

***Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news...."  
Here's the story of how one Texan answered the call***

*by Don Bohl*

***"One beautiful thing about working for Jesus—you're not responsible for results. You're just responsible for showing up. He shows you what to do from that point on."***

This is how Ray Skaggs, a Texan who once lived the good life as an executive in the oil and gas business, then lost everything and turned to truck driving to survive, describes the ministry that the Lord has guided him into.

Ray has been showing up in some unlikely places, not just at Central Texas and Rocky Mountain Tres Dias weekends, but also at weekends in Lima, Peru, and Guayaquil, Ecuador, with side-trips to Chiclayo, Arequipa, and Pucallpa, as well as remote villages along the headwaters of the Amazon River in the mountains east of Iquitos. For many of these trips, a case of 500 Bibles has gone with him.

Many of those who attended the March meeting of the Tres Dias International Secretariat had opportunity to sit down with Ray to hear his improbable story. Ray looks every bit the Texan, a short man in

his mid 60s with a lined, weathered face who speaks with a gentle southern drawl. There is tranquility in the voice and general demeanor that appears to come from a peace that passes understanding.

Ray explains that in a pivotal moment his life came when his daughter gave him a copy of Rick Warren's *Purpose Driven Life* on tape. This was in 2004, when he was working as a truck driver--a lifestyle markedly different from the earlier decades. Ray had lived all over the world. He had established a manufacturing business in the Philippines, set up a sales company in Japan, and covered the US and Canada as VP of sales and marketing for a major corporation.

Then, he lost everything. Broke and with nothing to eat, he signed on as a driver for a trucking company he had dealt with during his days as an executive.

"I started to listen to the tape," Ray says, "But I never got past the first chapter. I realized. It's not about me. It's about Him. Possessions own you; you don't own them. When you stop living for yourself, and you start living in Him, everything changes. The joy of doing everyday what God wants you to do is more valuable than anything you can imagine."

Tres Dias provided one opportunity for the "joy of doing." It was in the airport in Lima, Peru, on his way to support the emerging Tres Dias community in that city, that Ray happened to meet a young minister and his family traveling to their home in

## **Also in this issue:**

The President's Letter . . . . .	2
Community Newsletters and Websites . . .	3
Why Don't You Quit? . . . . .	4
Getting Our Attention . . . . .	4
Why Can't We All Just Get Along? . . . . .	5

Continued on page 6

## Letter from the President

In my last letter, I expressed my wish that others could experience the "greater community feeling" that has almost overwhelmed me as I traveled from community to community, both in the U.S. and abroad. Of course, we all think locally, concerned with the business of team selection, secretariat meetings, secuelas, and the like. We tend to forget that Tres Dias exists as a global organization that, along with others in the fourth day movement, use this three day "short course in Christianity" (Cursillo de Christiandad) to open the way for people to live the rest of their lives closer to Christ.

The editors have responded to my wish by drawing much of the content of this issue from the communities. As you read through the summary of innovations in community newsletters, you'll find echoes of how your secretariat uses electronic and print media to enrich the fourth-day lives of pescadores. (Perhaps you'll pick up some ideas for your newsletter or web site as well.) As you read through the meditations excerpted from the newsletters, you will likely nod in recognition—seeing your own experiences expressed by someone who is nominally a stranger, but truly a brother or sister in Christ.

As you read through Lori Claudio's opinion piece, you'll likely have a deeper appreciation for how the Spirit uses Tres Dias to call persons from all denominations to find a common denominator. We hope that the feature story on Ray Skaggs will give you a profound appreciation of how Tres Dias can give impetus to a ministry that transcends cultures. Along the way, you will also appreciate how powerfully and eloquently the Spirit can speak through Christian laymen.

My personal recognition of a unity that transcends cultures is especially strong every time I reflect on what is happening in our Korean communities. In December of 2007, I attended the second annual combined secuela of all the Korean communities. While most of those present did not even share the same language, we were a community. Tres Dias is experiencing tremendous and enthusiastic growth in Korea. One of the traditions on a Korean Tres Dias weekend is to present each pescador with a medallion known as a MaPae. That medallion has very special meaning, as Ed

Sliger, our brother from the English speaking community in Korea, explains (see box below).

Not only is Tres Dias a large international community, it is part of an even larger group of Christian fourth-day communities. I was reminded of this when I attended an annual meeting of the leaders of the larger fourth day communities in January. We shared what we have in common, having been brought closer to Christ by experiencing a program that came from the original Cursillo de Christiandad.

The model that Tres Dias follows is truly a remarkable tool of the Lord that He is using to further the Kingdom. It is raising awareness throughout the world, that through Christ all believers are united through time and eternity.

My prayer with each of you: Lord, thank you for the global Tres Dias community. In life, in death, we are united with all the body of Christ as citizens of Heaven.

In Christ,  
Paul Weis,  
President, Tres Dias International Secretariat

### **The MaPae Story**

*By Ed Sliger*

Here in Korea we have a very special mission cross. We call it a MaPae. The word "Ma" is a Chinese word for horse. In ancient times, both in China and Korea, when the King needed to send a representative on a special mission, he would issue a brass medallion for that representative to use for identification. On one side of the brass medallion would be a picture of one or more horses, to indicate the urgency of the mission that the representative was charged with by the King. One horse was the symbol of an important mission, but five horses meant "this person is on an urgent mission--do not delay this person--help in any way possible. He or she even has the power of life and death, in the King's name." On the other side of the brass medallion was the signature of the King.

On our Tres Dias MaPaes, one side has a picture of five horses to denote the importance and urgency of the mission that the pescador is asked to complete, and on the other side is the signature of our King, Jesus Christ. . . the cross! The cross is empty, symbolizing a risen savior, who is leading the way, challenging us to dedicate ourselves to Him and to live in expectation of His call for us.

We tell the pescadores, "Wear your medallion proudly and let it always remind you of God's love and your mission in life. Remember----CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU!"

## Community Newsletters and Websites Show We are One in the Spirit

---

To appreciate the spirit of unity and common purpose that binds Tres Dias communities together, try this exercise.

Set aside an hour for reading community websites and newsletters. Go to [www.tresdias.org](http://www.tresdias.org) and click on "Internet Sites," then browse at will. You might look at the sites in order, from Abundant Life Tres Dias, in Illinois, to Vermont Tres Dias. Or you might play global hopscotch, going from, say, Tres Dias South West of England to Moscow Tres Dias, then to one of the Korean communities, and then to Ottawa, Canada, before heading back to the U.S.

As you visit each site, take a moment to pray for the pescadores and candidates in that community. For each site written in a language you do not understand, praise God for love that transcends national cultures.

Along the way, you may well feel a profound fellowship with pescadores around the world. Much of the material will be familiar: messages from community presidents, rectors' reports, escuela announcements, team lists, and the like. We are one in the Spirit, one in the Lord, and one in Method, and each site adds to the evidence that the Tres Dias Method is a powerful force for bringing people closer to Christ.

Websites are important for managing day-to-day community business, but there's much more. Visitors will also marvel at how the Spirit has used the talents of Christian Web designers to make colors, shapes, music, and symbols speak the message of God's love.

Many communities publish their own newsletters, most of which are on-line even if print copies are sent through the mail. Earlier this year, our editors took a trip through the websites, paying special attention to the newsletters. We were interested in the kind of "news" that was being reported (secretariat meetings, cost breakdowns for weekends, etc.), but we were also looking for innovative journalism that enriched and supported the three phases of the Tres Dias Method. We were not disappointed. Here are a few examples of what we found.

The Middle Tennessee Tres Dias publication, *The Rooster Crows*, helps match up pescadores to form reunion groups. Those interested fill out a form (also available online) and indicate what kind of group they would like to join: singles, couples, men, women, etc.

The newsletters are rich in inspirational messages from both laymen and spiritual directors. Southeast Tennessee's *Pescadores' Praise* opens each issue with a message from one of the two community's spiritual directors. The Georgia Mountain Tres Dias *Pescadores' Progress* invites a different member of the local secretariat to write a meditation each month.

A recent issue of the Indie Tres Dias *News from the Community* presented poems written by candidates during their weekends. The Vermont Tres Dias newsletter, *Abraco* (Spanish for "a little hug"), encourages pescadores to submit meditations on what their weekends meant to them and how they are living their fourth day.

The Long Island newsletter, *Long Island Sound for Jesus*, provides a link to the community's online store ([www.cafepress.com/TresDias](http://www.cafepress.com/TresDias)), where pescadores can order shirts, hats, coffee mugs, mouse pads, canvas bags, and note cards with the LITD lighthouse emblem. Profits from the sales go to support scholarships for candidates or "for whatever needs may arise."

To build excitement about secuelas, some newsletters include stories promoting upcoming fourth-day speakers. A few hints about the speaker's walk with the Lord can make people eager to hear the rest of the story.

What new pescador wouldn't want to join in with some "rockin worship" along with skits and other fun? That's how North Florida entices community members to attend its "Pescador Orientation Sessions" (otherwise known as "essentials training").

Humor is also part of the joy of faith. Reverent jokes on biblical themes are common. The Fairfield County *Upper Room* includes "joyful cartoons with a Christian Message," by Mike Waters, available at [www.joyfultoons.com](http://www.joyfultoons.com). (There is no charge for use of the cartoon; Waters asks only that users tell him how they have used his work.)

Middle Tennessee challenges readers with bible quizzes available from [www.Biblequizes.org.uk](http://www.Biblequizes.org.uk).

Tres Dias of Fairfield County is currently running a survey, similar to the kind of market research done in the private sector. The newsletter directs readers to an online questionnaire, where they share information on how Tres Dias has changed their lives and suggest ways to improve sponsorship, weekend support, and fourth-day activities.

Without doubt, however, some of the best reading is from the personal witnesses and editorial material published in the newsletters. Three examples follow.

**Has your community done something interesting or creative with your website or in your newsletter? Has one of your pescadores written a personal story or editorial that deserves wider readership? If so, tell us about it so that we can consider making it a part of the next issue of this newsletter. -DB**

# Why Don't You Quit?

*By Dick Moltz*

I get asked sometimes why I don't quit doing Tres Dias weekends. Surely I have done enough. Why not quit?

I was at a weekend in Colorado a few years ago. There was this big guy there. Sloppy looking and dirty. Kind of a jerk. Arrogant. Hair wasn't combed and shirt hanging out. Kept stepping in front of the overhead projector to block the words to the songs and walked out of the Rollo room during talks. Talked while they were giving talks and wouldn't participate during table discussions. I wanted to take him home. I would have personally put him in my car and taken him if I had had a car there. I actually disliked the guy. On Friday night someone made the mistake of taking some time with him. He washed the nasty guy's feet. He sat up there in that chapel and just broke down and cried like a little baby. On Saturday morning he came into the Rollo room clean, hair combed and a big smile on his face. It was a policeman who had washed his feet and this guy had spent much of his adult life in prison and hated cops.

This guy died yesterday. He was 59. What if someone hadn't asked him to come to Tres Dias.

It's that time of year... Everyone has lost money during the past several months. Work is slow and the economy is bad. The outlook is grim. The weather is depressing and the days are slow. It's hard, some mornings, to get out of bed. Possibly your spouse is a little hard to get along with and maybe, just maybe, you had some unkind thoughts during the past few months. I urge all of us to remember what we are about.

Two of my reunion brothers reminded me the other day that I may just be standing before Jesus on Judgment Day and He may just look over at me and say, "By the way, Dick. This one is going in because of what you did. Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

Please don't ever quit, folks. Don't ever quit! They need us—and we still need them!

Love to all,  
Dick

*Excerpted and condensed from the January 2009 issue of Pescadores Progress, a publication of Georgia Mountains Tres Dias. Used by permission of the author.*

# Getting Our Attention

*By Joe Mayeux*

What does it take for God to get our attention? If He speaks gently to your heart and you know it's Him, do you respond? Or does He have to get in front of you and wave His hands to get you to notice Him? Does He have to shake us with a near miss to wake us out of our slumber? Or as a last resort, does He have to allow a catastrophic event to let us know that He is God and He rules the universe?

The Lord is letting the world know that without Him things will fall apart. Many of us are fearful of those things that are happening in our nation and around the world, but God's people can be assured that He will bring us through the most difficult of times. God is opening the door for the good news of Jesus to be brought to a world that is hopeless. God's promise in Ps. 46:1-3 is "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling."

Jesus Christ is our strength, our refuge, our very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear. Encourage one another with these words.

*Originally published in the Birmingham Tres Dias DeColores News. Joe Mayeux is head spiritual director for that community.*



## **To our readers...a request for help**

Do you have a story to tell about how Tres Dias has helped to develop lay leaders for your congregation? If so, tell us about it. Our staff is planning to develop an article on this theme for a future issue of The Colors of Tres Dias International and we need your help. Send your anecdotes to [newsletter@tresdias.org](mailto:newsletter@tresdias.org) or simply give us your contact information and we will interview you to get the story.

*The Colors of Tres Dias International* is published three times a year by the Services Committee of the Tres Dias International Secretariat, Paul Markowitz, chairman. Don L. Bohl serves as editor, Wilson Burton as contributing editor, Rosann Miloscia as artistic director and production editor, and Ned Heffington, proof-reader. To submit comments, requests, or suggestions please e-mail [newsletter@tresdias.org](mailto:newsletter@tresdias.org). Tres Dias communities are hereby given permission to reproduce material contained herein in their local newsletters, so long as the content and intention of the material is not changed.

# Why Can't We All Just Get Along?

## ***Celebrating those things we have in common, and respecting those that are different***

*By Lori Claudio*

*Once upon a time, there was Cursillo. It started as a Roman Catholic movement, and that was good. As more Protestants attended the Cursillo, and the differences between the Catholics and the Protestants started to become an issue, it became clear that a Protestant version of Cursillo needed to be created. And so Tres Dias was born. We are not rivals! Certainly not! We are sisters.*

One of the great things about Tres Dias is that it is *interdenominational*. That means that all Christian denominations are welcomed to participate. It also means that nondenominational and independent churches are welcomed. One big happy Christ-filled family, right? Well...not always.

As siblings in a real family have their different opinions and perspectives, so do the different sibling churches in Christ's family. Whether we are talking about Holy Communion or Holy Living, we will have differences that can get our blood boiling. So how do we all get along?

Jesus said, "All will know you are my disciples by the love you show to one another" (to paraphrase John 13:35). Our attitude towards each other is the key. We need to *celebrate those things we have in common, and respect those which are different*. When we attend a Tres Dias event, we are asked to have three attitudes:

**Idealism:** an attitude that great things are possible.

**Dedication:** a spirit of openness to God and what He is asking of us, and a willingness to participate in the happenings of the weekend.

**Charity:** a willingness to accept each other as we are, to have concern for each other, to listen and try to understand each other even though our opinions, attitudes, and beliefs may be different.

This attitude of love (charity) is the key to getting along in Tres Dias. It is how we can celebrate what we have in common, and show respect for those things that are different.

What's in common? How about the creeds (the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed) that many of us proclaim each Sunday in our own churches? Better yet, how about the Tres Dias Statement of Belief, which we read through each time we do Essentials training?

How do we respect the differences? Hm...that's harder, especially since we are each convinced that we are *right*. But as Dr. Phil says, "You can either be right [about something that's really not very important], or you can be happy." I vote for happy!

### **No Trash Talk, Please**

Whether we are "just kidding" or totally serious in our criticism, we risk offending a precious brother or sister when we don't show respect for other perspectives. We

should feel free to share our opinion, but not in a way that forces it on anyone—and certainly not in a way that belittles someone else's opinion. If you are on the receiving end of such insensitive behavior, please don't get offended. Just understand that they need to grow up too.

So let's stop all the Lutheran jokes, the Baptist riddles, the Catholic bashing, and the Pentecostal mocking. Be sensitive to others, but thick-skinned when it comes to hearing comments about your own group. Have a reverent sense of humor!

### **Let Your Love Show**

If you are not from a liturgical church, follow the written liturgy anyway without griping. If you prefer wine and wafers for Communion, take the pita and juice without complaining. If you don't believe in \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank with your favorite pet peeve), and you hear someone say they do, why not just ignore it? If you have to respond to something you think is plain wrong, wrap your reaction with love, not righteousness. After all, you are not here to correct them; you are here to love them. Their church can take care of correcting any errors in its ranks. Just show love and tolerance, and pray for them. The Holy Spirit is at work in their lives, and yours too. Let Him do His work.

### **Remember the Rainbow**

We are united by our common bond: that Jesus Christ is Lord." So remember the rainbow. One color does not a rainbow make. What if the red decided not to participate because the orange clashed with it? Or the purple was offended because it was called violet? Or the indigo felt slighted because it is oft times left out? How absurd! The Apostle Paul likened the Church to Christ's Body. The Body is one, but made up of many parts. The eye and the ear can't go to war, and the hand can't compete with the foot. That's equally absurd!

So we too need to embrace our Catholic sibs, our Baptist sibs, Lutheran, Reformed, Presbyterian, Methodist, Quaker...you don't really expect me to name them all, do you? Embrace those who are active in Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis, Vida Nueva, or whatever. They are our brothers and sisters, co-laborers in Christ's kingdom, not our competition. Tres Dias should be the place where all of Christ's Body can come together and play nice. Let's do our part to make it so.

For some readers, this column may open up a can of worms—a squiggly one. All comments are welcome...just be respectful, please.

*This article was originally published in the May 2009 issue of Long Island Sound for Jesus. Used by permission of the author. Send comments to [newsletter@tresdias.org](mailto:newsletter@tresdias.org).*

Arequipa, some 70 miles south of Lima. Memories of the meeting lingered. Back in the states driving an 18-wheeler, Ray happened to talk with another trucker in Montebello, CA, who told him about a man in Omaha who had some free Spanish literature. When Ray drove through Omaha, the man met him in a parking lot and brought him cases of materials—not only brochures for new believers and for those who had fallen away from the faith, but also cases of New Testaments.

On his next trip to Peru, Ray showed samples of the literature to the young minister from Arequipa. This was exactly what his church, and others in that city, needed to support their ministries. A shipment of 500 Bibles, thanks to connection with the man from Omaha, was on its way.

Ray's travels have what one fellow pescador describes as a "ripple effect." The chance meeting with the minister from Arequipa was the first of many. Each trip to Peru and subsequent trips to Ecuador widened the circle of people he met, and who would be blessed with Spanish New Testaments.

As Ray describes it, "Wherever I go, that's where a door opens, and I meet someone who invites me to go somewhere. I go, not knowing anybody, and leave knowing a lot of people, and miraculous things happen."

For pure adventure, nothing tops the trip, in November of 2008, downriver from Iquitos, a city of approximately 500,000 in the Peruvian rainforest 600 miles from Lima. The city is reachable only by plane or boat. From that point Ray, along with Pastor Cesar Campos and fellow pescadores Stephanie and Sean McLaughlin, launched a four-day boat ride down the headwaters of the Amazon, delivering Bibles and other literature to seven churches along the way.

At each stopping point, the embankment was filled with villagers—especially children—eager to welcome the visitors. "As we traveled," Ray recalls, "I realized there were maybe 150 children for every 40 adults—60 to 70 percent of the population was under 25 years old." Those children tugged at Ray's heart, reminding him of a survey he had read stating that eight out of ten people had received Christ before age 20.

The ministry to those children continues, administered by a five-person board in Lima. Ray has arranged

to provide one-half of the funds needed for each initiative to bring literature, Bibles, and coloring books to the seven churches along the river.

The Amazon odyssey is even more astonishing, in view of the fact that Ray organized and pushed the trip to completion shortly after recovering from a near fatal automobile accident.

There are dozens of such stories to tell. The most power are those stories in which he describes how foolish he felt ministering in a country where he did not even understand the language, only to feel his self-reproach evaporate when someone looked at the case of New Testaments and exclaimed, "I've been praying for these to come."

As Stephanie McLaughlin explains, "I am amazed that when I walk with him down the street or in a church in South America, how many people are drawn to Ray. He has a smile for everyone, and that smile is contagious! He doesn't speak Spanish and yet can communicate God's love to each of them as he talks... . The people in the villages respect him, are excited to see him coming and they can't wait to get a hug, especially the children."

When Ray attends the next meeting of the International Secretariat, he will have even more stories to tell. For example, he can talk about his meeting, in June, with 30 pastors from the rural areas around Chiclayo, or about the pastor who has 84 rural churches that all need New Testaments, or about events in Ucraina, where 110 people said they had prayed and received Jesus. He'll add, however, that the stories he tells (like the story published here) aren't about him. It's about a loving God and His Son, Jesus.

As we finish preparing the story for publication, Ray is back in Iquitos.

--DB

*For Stephanie McLaughlin's pictures and commentary on the first trip to the river villages, see her blog at [http://trinitysangels.typepad.com/trinitys\\_angels/](http://trinitysangels.typepad.com/trinitys_angels/), December 2008 entries.*

.....  
**Upcoming Meetings**

- July 10-12, 2009** International Assy & Secretariat    Tres Dias of Cleveland    Cleveland, OH
- Oct 16-18, 2009** International Secretariat    Tres Dias of New Hampshire
- Mar 12-14, 2010** International Secretariat    Abundant Life Tres Dias/Northern Illinois Tres Dias