



# THE COLORS OF TRES DIAS INTERNATIONAL

## Mid Carolinas Tres Dias Prepares to Host 32nd Annual Assembly

The residents of Belmont, NC, describe their city as the place “where Southern charm blossoms.” Tres Dias delegates will experience that charm firsthand when they travel to Belmont, nestled in the southern Piedmont region of North Carolina, for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Assembly, July 8 to 10.

An invitation to the Assembly, along with registration forms and information on travel and lodging, is now posted on the Tres Dias Web site. The Assembly will be hosted by the Mid Carolinas Tres Dias Community, and

those planning the event are anticipating not just the excitement of the Assembly, but also the opportunity to share their unique community with visitors.

Once the center of a thriving textile industry, Belmont has retained much of its old-fashioned charm—historic homes, brick sidewalks, antique street-lamps—in the midst of redevelopment. The Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, located on 380 acres along the banks of Lake Wylie, is a top tourist attraction.

Assembly activities begin Friday afternoon with Essen-

tials Training at 4:30, followed by a secuela and dinner at 7:00. The Saturday morning session opens with the traditional parade of banners and includes workshops on “Secuelas: Standing Room Only,” “Sponsorship: Fill up Your Weekends,” and “Technology: The Weekend and Beyond,” as well as the Presidential Round Table.

The afternoon session offers workshops on “Writing and Presenting Your Rollo” and “Tres Dias and the Pastor,” as well as an update on plans for the 2012 Korean Assembly.

### Inside this issue:

News from Emerging Communities 2

The President’s Forum 3

“Tres Dias—Simply an Encounter with Christ” by John McKinney 4

Prayers and Palanca From around the World 5

“How to Share Tres Dias with Others” by Mike Pennington 6

## The Banner—a History of Tres Dias, a Miniature Sermon

The banner at right is a familiar sight at annual Assemblies. Standing at the front of the assembly hall, the innermost box around the Tres Dias cross contains the names of the first seven communities: New Hampshire, Mid-Hudson, Central Connecticut, Fairfield County, Maine, Long Island and South Hudson. The intense sunburst at the center of the cross can be seen as echoing the opening for John’s Gospel—Christ, the true Light, the “light of life that gives light to every man.” The frames with names of other communities expand outward from that center, showing how the message of light and love spreads as each new community is formed.



To register for the Assembly, go to [www.tresdias.org](http://www.tresdias.org).

Click the Assembly & Secretariat link.

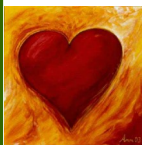
**Tres Dias has two governing bodies. To find out how to get involved in either, or both, see page 6.**

## News from Emerging Communities

### Heart of Texas and South Central Kentucky Hold First Weekends

It takes years prayer and planning to put the foundation in place, but two emerging communities, one in the Dallas/Fort Worth region, the other near Bowling Green, KY, celebrated their first weekends this spring. Both are now one step closer to becoming chartered communities.

The message on the Heart of Texas home page, reproduced at right, speaks for anyone who has even been involved in working to establish a new community. Indeed, anyone with the heart of a servant-leader and a love of the Lord can become involved. Call any of the contact persons listed below and say you would like to volunteer.



In the early months of the Spring of 2009 a group of men and women came together with a vision of a new Tres Dias community that could serve the southern portions of the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex and extend down into the Heart of Texas. These Christians from diverse backgrounds all shared three things.

One, that our love of God was to be our primary motivation, and serving our Lord and King through service to other Christians was to be the manifestation of that love. Two, we all loved Tres Dias, having served in a number of other Tres Dias communities throughout Texas, and indeed throughout the United States. And Three, we all agreed that there should be no personal agendas involved. This community belongs to Jesus Christ, not us.

This vision has grown in the living rooms of our servant-leaders throughout the last two years and we are now prepared to unleash the love of Christ on those Christians who find themselves living deep in the Heart of Texas.

***For we are not proclaiming ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves because of Jesus... For all of this is for you, so that grace, extended through more and more people, may cause thanksgiving to overflow to God's glory. 2 Cor. 4:5,15***

### All Emerging Communities Need Prayers, Team Support

**Brazos Valley TD, Madisonville, Texas.** Men's #1, 8-11 September 2011; Women's #1, 15-19 September 2011. Contact: Jerry Buss - 936-855-2660; email: jnmbuss@valornet.com.

**Colorado Front Range, Denver.** Men's #2, 12-15 May 2011; Women's #2, 19-22 May 2011. Contact: John Green-719-487-7361; email: papa.green@comcast.net.

**Heart of Texas (HOT TD), Dallas.** Men's #2, 27-31 October 2011; Women's, 3-6 November 2011. Contact: Marvin Wrinkle - 214-364-4095; email: mimiwrinkle@hotmail.com.

**Kansas City TD.** Dates to be announced. Contact: Vic Luttrell - 479-925-0566; email: vicluttrell@hotmail.com.

**Lehigh Valley TD.** Men's #3, 12-15 May 2011; Women's #3, 19-22 May 2011. Contact: Curtis Wegfahrt- 610-882-0916; email: curtisweg@yahoo.com.

**New Orleans.** Dates to be announced. Contact: Patrick Park, email: ppark5960@yahoo.com.

**Northern California.** Men's #3, 13-16 October; Women's #3, 20-24 October 2011. Contact: Gwen Reid: reidgr00@charter.net.

**South Central Kentucky.** Dates for second weekends to be announced. Contact: Stephen Whobrey- 270-791-7389; email: Stephen.Whobrey@insightbb.com

**Southern New Jersey.** Dates to be announced. Contact: Brady McDaniel- 609-577-5848; email: BradyGoesWithGod@verizon.net.

**Treasure Coast, FL.** Probably in February 2012. Contact: Mike Bajis - 772-546-3386; email: csoque@comcast.net.

#### INTERNATIONAL

**Denmark TD.** Men's #3, 13-17 October 2011; Women's #3 - 20-24 October 2011. Contact: Tracy Skondin, email: tracyskondin@hotmail.com

**Lima, Peru.** Men's #8, 28-31 July 2011; Women's #4, 7 August 2011. Contact: Richard Thornhill - 214-316-3660; email: richone07@gmail.com

**Lviv, Ukraine.** Men's #4 - 14 -17 August (yes, starts on Sunday); Women's #4, 18-21 August. Contact: Richard Thornhill - 214-316-3660; email: richone07@gmail.com

**The Tres Dias experience is universal.** Here is how three recent pescadores described their weekends. Can you guess the location?

Answer on p.8.

*"There was a moment at the weekend when I was sitting in the dining hall watching the sixty five brothers from different churches and denomination, looking into each other's eyes, chattering and sharing their problems and pain with open hearts. I knew that Jesus was looking at us and enjoyed our genuine unity and love."*

*"I didn't worship God before. I simply went to the church... At the weekend I understood what it means to worship. He is my Heavenly Father. He sent His Son to die for my sin."*

*"At the weekend God lifted the curtain and showed a little bit of how Heaven will be. . . I was impressed that in spite of everything God loves me ... I will start another ministry for Him. The foundation of the service will be my love for God and the knowledge that I loved by God. "*

## President's Forum

**Q** You've said that you want the International Secretariat to serve as a resource for the communities. How do you know what resources the communities most want or need?

**A** Sometimes, the simplest way to get information is to just ask for it. We recently sent a survey to all community leaders, asking them to indicate how satisfied they were with different aspects of their programs. We asked, for example, what database the community used to keep membership records, and how satisfied they were with it. We asked if the community had a website, and, again, if they thought it was effective. We asked, straight out, how likely the community might be to ask for resources in such areas as sponsorship, reunion groups, and secuela attendance. And—this is important—we asked respondents to indicate areas where their communities had been especially successful. We called it a “Survey of Community Strengths and Needs.” It's a fitting title. Based on survey results, the Secretariat plans to develop workshops, manuals, and even consultation services to address the most important needs. Some of the material will come from studying community strengths—a “best practices” approach. In other words, we want the resources to flow both ways, from community to community as well as from the International Secretariat to the communities.

To make this all work, we need your help. If you are community president and have not completed the survey, please do so as soon as possible. If for some reason you did not receive the survey by e-mail, please send a request to [newsletter@tresdias.org](mailto:newsletter@tresdias.org). We'll see to it that you get a link.

We also asked the editor of this newsletter to do put emphasis on resources whenever possible. Personally, I am deeply touched every time I think about a weekend prayer vigil that draws on pescadores from fourth-day communities anywhere in the country, or anywhere in the world, for that matter. To date, not many Tres Dias communities use the 3-day Organizations Online Web site as a resource. I hope that will change after reading the story on page 5.

The story on page 6 calls attention to fourth-day materials available from the Supplies section of [Tresdias.org](http://Tresdias.org). Also, this issue reprints a truly excellent article, from the Spring 2009 issue, by Rev. Mike Pennington on how to tell others about Tres Dias.

**Q** Are we really going to Korea for the 2012 Assembly?

**A** By the grace of God, we are indeed! The 2012 Tres Dias Annual Assembly will be held in Seoul, Korea. A few years ago, the Membership Committee responded to the expansive growth of Tres Dias communities in Korea by establishing a special sub-committee to help with communications. Known as the Tres Dias Korean Region Sub-committee (TDKR), this body consists of two members appointed by each chartered Korean community. The Korean communities are working under the auspices of the TDKR to host the Assembly. So, start making plans now to attend. To witness what an amazing tool of the Kingdom Tres Dias has become, see what it has done in another country! I have been blessed to have visited there twice now. Although we did not share a common language, we felt like brothers and sisters because of the shared experience of Tres Dias.



Paul Weis

**Q** Tell us, what part of the upcoming Assembly (Belmont, NC, July 8-10) are you most looking forward to?

**A** Tough question. I usually always have more than one answer when asked to pick the best or my favorite anything, and that drives my son nuts when he asks me to pick the “best all-time whatever” in a sport. So, I have three answers. First, is simply meeting new brothers and sisters in Christ from the host community and new delegates and visitors from around the world. Second is hosting the President's Round Table on Saturday morning. It's a chance to interact with leaders of local communities. The other will be the special afternoon workshop on the 2012 Assembly. Those leading the workshop include Membership VP Richard Thornhill, members of the host Korean communities, members of Korean speaking communities in the US, and myself. We'll answer questions about local customs, possible tourist attractions, travel considerations. and anything else that comes up.

In Christ,  
Paul

The President's Forum is a regular feature. Send your questions for the next Forum to [newsletter@tresdias.org](mailto:newsletter@tresdias.org).

## Tres Dias—Simply an Encounter with Christ

By John McKinney

I want to share with you the essence of an email that I sent to a dear brother to encourage him and his community. He was concerned that the team was too small for the upcoming weekend.

Dear Brother,

As I write this, I am in San Antonio, TX , meeting with about a dozen leaders of the Fourth-Day Movements ... Lutheran, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Episcopal, and Tres Dias.

From our discussions here, I have come to understand, more than ever, why we need to concentrate more on the candidate. We need to make sure that each candidate knows God's love, understands who he or she is as a Christian, is able to love the self, and is filled with love for others. Wherever these pescadores find themselves after the weekend, they should "ferment Christianity," to use Eduardo Bonin's phrase. [Eduardo Bonin was one of the founders of Cursillo.]

It is important that the rollistas live the life they are witnessing. It is important that the candidates feel, "Wow! If that person can live the Christian life, so can I." If we put distractions in the weekend that pull candidates away from that central theme, we are weakening the effectiveness of Tres Dias in changing a person's attitude about self and what it means to live as a Christian.

The weekend must be a true ENCOUNTER with Christ. We must not put so much stuff in the weekend that the encounter is watered down ... so that the candidates remember the stuff and not the encounter.

We do not need a big team of palanca people who wear chicken hats and deliver stuff to the tables. We need team members who are good one-on-one witnesses, showing what it means to

- live in relationship with Jesus-Father-Holy Spirit (PIETY);
- grow in an understanding of who they are, of who God is, and of the love He has for them (STUDY);
- thrive as Christians in the environments where they are planted (ACTION).

Being Christian is more important than *doing* Christian, because being in Christ comes first.

*Only by being Christian can we ferment God's love.*

Do you know that in the 1950s, two Spanish airmen from Majorca, Spain, were here in San Antonio. They heard that a priest from Majorca was in Waco, TX. They went to Waco , where the three shared stories about their Cursillo experiences.

They decided that they should help people in the USA know how a weekend encounter with Christ could change lives!

The *three* of them did all! *Three* people chose candidates, put on the weekend, and started reunion groups and Ultreas (Secuelas)! *Three* people started a moment that has helped thousands on the way to a new understanding of God's love and how to live as Christians.

That is how Cursillo started in the USA. The Holy Spirit birthed Tres Dias out of that!

Don't worry about a small team. Be concerned that you have a team of good witnesses, witnesses willing to live where they are planted, witnesses who do not claim to be Super-Christians, but who show that they are real, normal people leading normal lives, with Piety, Study and Action as their guides.

Jesus started with 12. He did not create an organization with committees, capital campaigns, and rule books about the "right way" to worship. We did that in our denominations. Put all those things aside. The weekends must concentrate on the candidate and his or her encounter with Christ.

Your brother in Christ,  
John



John McKinney was the first president of the National Secretariat and currently serves as Executive Director for Tres Dias.

## Prayers and Palanca from around the World

Perhaps we could call it “cloud palanca,” this ability to use a remote computer, floating somewhere in Internet cyberspace, to set up a prayer vigil and request letter palanca.

For many communities, weekend prayer vigils are a tradition. Candidates can't help but feel blessed to know that someone is praying for them, every minute, day and night, throughout the weekend. When they can be told that the prayers are not just from the community, but from individuals throughout the US and even from foreign locations, the candidates often respond with awe and even disbelief—until the truth of the news (“all these people are praying for me”) sinks deeper into their hearts.

The Internet site **3 Day Weekends Online** ([www.3dayol.org](http://www.3dayol.org)) makes this kind of national and international spiritual connectedness possible. The home page states that “This web site is dedicated to the many 3-day weekends occurring around the world.” (Although Tres Dias refers to itself as part of “the fourth-day movement,” the term “three-day movement” is also common.) Unconfirmed estimates put the number of such organizations at more than 80. Many of these are small, localized groups, but all descended from that first *cursillo de Christianidad* in Majorca and share the same DNA, a set sequence of talks about living the Christian life. The section of 3 Day Weekends Online labeled “3-Day Movements” lists 23 of the best known organizations, including prison ministries and ministries for youth.

To visualize this expansive development, visit that section labeled “Cursillo History.” A genealogical chart (family tree) diagrams the Catholic Cursillo's expansion into the US, Germany, Austria, and Canada during the 1960s, simultaneously diversifying to include youth and prison ministries. The chart shows that the Lutheran and Episcopal churches were the first to sponsor denomination-specific Cursillo weekends, and Tres Dias pioneered non-denominational weekends.

To get a sense of the current diversity of organizations using this Web site, visit the Prayer Vigil listings. For a typical Thursday to Sunday in the spring or fall, between 30 and 50 communities request vigils. Some of the names you will recognize as sister organizations: Walk to Emmaus, Episcopal Cursillo, and Vida Nueva, for example. Others you may not know: Way of Christ, Encounter the Cross, Decolores Ministry, to name a few.

To date, only a handful of Tres Dias communities are using the resources available from 3 Day Weekends Online. That is likely to change as more communities become aware of the site.

Keeping up with the growth and diversity of 3-day organizations is a monumental task, and it's no surprise that parts of 3 Day Weekends Online are under construction and that there are gaps in the listings of organizations and locations. Still, this site is one more tool for showing candidates they are surrounded by a community of love that reflects the divine Love that nourishes us all.

Menu of links from the 3 Day Weekends Online home page

[Palanca List](#)

[Register Weekend](#)

[3 Day Movements](#)

[Communities](#)

[Tutorials](#)

[E-Mail Lists](#)

[Cursillo History](#)

[4th Day Historian](#)

[Cooks Buttons](#)

[Prayer Vigil](#)

If you are reading this publication on a computer connected to the Internet, these links are “live.” Why not visit the site now.

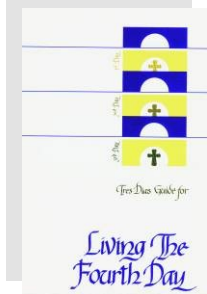
## Adding Value to the Fourth Day Package

That package that new pescadores take with them holds more than just memories. A printed roster with team and candidates' mail and e-mail addresses, lists of active reunion groups, dates for secuelas and secretariat meetings, perhaps a copy of the community newsletter—these are the kinds of “levers” that will support the candidate throughout the fourth day.

Materials available from the Supplies section of the Tres Dias website can give the fourth-day package even more spiritual energy. Here are some samples, and nothing costs more than one dollar.

*The Tres Dias Guide for Living the Fourth Day* was written to answer three questions: What actually happened during the three days? How and Why does

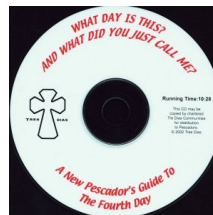
everything fit together the way it does? Where do I go from here? The 16-page book refreshes memory of the weekend with capsule summaries of the rollos and meditations, along with explanations of how the ideas and themes



relate and build. The latter sections provide information on fourth day activities and on how Tres Dias is organized at the local and national levels.

*What Day Is This? And What Did You Just Call Me?* This delightful audio CD was produced by a voice over professional as palanca for Tres Dias. Indeed, you may recognize the gravelly voice from radio commercials, but you will also hear overtones of a deeply felt joy as the narrator takes listeners from that moment of post weekend confusion (“What did I just experience?”) into the anticipation of reliving some of that spiritual excitement at secuelas and in reunion groups. Can the new pescador repeat the weekend experience? No, the narrator explains, but he or she can start making plans now to serve on a team sometime in the future.

A *De Colores* bumper sticker adds color to the package and helps pescadores spot others who are living the



fourth day. Those who display the stickers often find themselves greeted with a friendly “De Colores” from complete strangers in a parking lot, or even when stopped at a traffic light.

The miniature foldout card outlining the format for a reunion group meeting is often handed out during the Fourth Day rollo. If not, it should be part of the package.



Tres Dias is an international organization, and there is a pressing need for pescadores to become involved beyond the local secretariat. The fourth-day package can help build excitement about serving at the national and international levels. The information, printed below, can be reproduced and added to the package.

Perhaps include a list of all Tres Dias communities, taken from the Tres Dias Web site, or reprint the Google map of Tres Dias locations worldwide (see Fall 2010 issue of this newsletter). Also provide dates and locations for International Secretariat and Assembly meetings.

And consider including a copy of this newsletter.

## Tres Dias Has Two Governing Bodies... Is God Calling You to Serve?

**The International Secretariat (the Board)** has 7 officers and 20 members. Elected by the Assembly, these individuals make up a board of directors responsible for the day-to-day business of Tres Dias, for upholding the integrity of the organization and for providing services and resources for all the Tres Dias communities. Each person on the board serves as a chair or member of one of five major committees. The International Secretariat meets in October, in March, and following the Assembly in July, but its work is done year-round. Certain points of business (for example finance or any changes to the by-laws or constitution) must be submitted for proxy vote to the Assembly. *Although board members are elected, any pescador who attends an Assembly is welcomed and encouraged to join one of the standing committees as a working member.*

**The Assembly of Tres Dias Secretariats** comprises all the chartered Tres Dias secretariats worldwide. They nominate and elect the officers and members of the Tres Dias International Secretariat and must approve certain recommendations proposed by the board. Voting is from all communities by proxy. Each community is allowed a proportional number of delegates and votes depending on the number of “active members” they report. The Assembly meets once a year to worship, pray, learn and to share concerns and best practices, and to conduct any necessary business. *Any Pescador is welcome and encouraged to attend the Assembly meeting and participate in all the activities and workshops.*

## How to Share Tres Dias with Others

Mike Pennington

*Editor's Note: This article was originally published in the Spring 2009 issue of this newsletter.*

After experiencing a Tres Dias weekend, we feel so full and so free that we want to share everything about the weekend with others. But then comes the dilemma. What do we say?

Here's how it goes, on occasion: "I just went on a Tres Dias weekend. It was great and you need to go, too." Actually, we realize that wasn't the best wording, but that's how we, in our enthusiasm, sometimes blurt it out. They respond, "Ok, what is it?" We then panic and say, "I can't tell you."

Why do we stumble that way? Perhaps it's because the question reminds us of all the special moments on a weekend that are . . . well . . . indescribable, and we don't want to spoil the surprises. In reality, "I can't tell you" is the worst response we could give; it implies that there are secrets. Remember, there are no secrets in Tres Dias. Consider this, too: Since the other person doesn't know about the surprises, they won't be asking about them! Trust me: You can tell them about virtually everything that went on during a weekend and you won't spoil anything! It is God that shows up on a weekend. He is the one that blesses and transforms, not the surprises.

So how should we tell people about Tres Dias? First of all, don't say they "need" to go. The word "need" indicates some kind of lack on their part. You might say, "I was amazingly blessed. In fact, I have never felt more blessed, and I want God to bless you in the same way He blessed me." Another thought you could add is, "I want to share God's love with you by sponsoring you to attend a Tres Dias weekend."

If they ask, "What's it all about," here are some ideas to help you know what to say:

"Well, it's three days where we take time for fellowship with other Christians and learn more about Jesus, God's grace,

and the Christian life. We sing, eat, pray, and worship. Have I mentioned the food is great? We listen to "talks" on various topics and testimonies by other people just like us. We discuss the talks in small groups."

Sometime in this conversation, the other person will likely say, "Sounds like an ordinary retreat to me. What's the big deal?" You can respond with, "Well, I believe what makes it so special is all the prayer that covers the weekend. It's amazing how many people are praying. Also the whole atmosphere of the weekend is one of love and servanthood, like nothing I've ever seen.



People I didn't know loved and served me just because of the love of Jesus."

"I still don't get it," your listener might say. "What's the big deal?" This is when you can respond with, "Well, it's kinda like trying to describe the taste of watermelon (or chocolate, etc.); you just can't do it. A Tres Dias weekend is something that has to be experienced. You just have to be there. Words alone are not adequate."

Then let it alone. Let God work. It's not your job to push, convince or pester. Let God do His work. He knows the right time for them to attend a Tres Dias weekend. Sometime you could also say, "Now, you know me, right? Do you trust me?"

Do you believe I'd want to invite you to attend something that would be harmful to you?" They should answer no to that, but again don't push or pester. I didn't go the first time I was invited and you probably didn't either.

One final thought, not about inviting someone to attend, but about how you adapt to fourth day living. Don't get frustrated when what happened on your weekend doesn't happen at church on Sunday. It's not going to happen. Remember, it took three days away from distractions for God to get your attention and work in your life the way He did. It took two or three CHAs (northerners call them "auxiliaries") serving and loving each candidate to create the dynamic of a weekend. Your job is to live a transformed life and transform your environments one person at a time. Also, get in a reunion group and attend secuelas. That's where the Tres Dias dynamic is refreshed. Then you are prepared and strengthened for continued service in your world.

Remember "Be Palanca"; be the lever moving people from where they are to where God wants them to be.

### How to Tell Your Pastor about Tres Dias

With a heart of love, you desire for your pastor to experience the blessing of a Tres Dias weekend. So how do you approach him? Inviting a pastor to attend Tres Dias or explaining it to him is a special process. Since I'm a minister, let me tell you how we respond and what we respond to.

To impress your pastor, be the best church member that he has. Do you want to encourage him to attend a weekend? Then live a transformed life in front of him. Show him that attending Tres Dias makes you more faithful in worship and service than ever before. When he asks for people to show up for

or to support something, be the first to volunteer or to arrive. Faithfully give the tithe to your church. Nothing impresses church leaders like faithful giving. Your pastor may be very open to attending when he sees the difference it made in you.

Remember the position he's in. Pastors have to be very careful what they endorse. Some of them have heard rumors about Tres Dias – that it is a secret society or that people who get involved in Tres Dias are less active in church.

The reality is that your pastor may never attend. He is incredibly busy. Some pastors get only two weeks' vacation a year, and he may have good reasons for not using one of those vacation Sundays for Tres Dias. Even if he doesn't attend, he will support your involvement if you are faithful to him, to the church, and to the Lord Jesus Christ. Please, never, ever criticize your pastor for not attending or not getting involved in Tres Dias.

Concerning faithfulness to the church, never let Tres Dias become a substitute for your church. Even though your church may not have the atmosphere or be as exciting as a weekend, the church is where the hurting people are, and it's where God has called you to serve. Yes, I know something special happens on a weekend that we wish could happen at church, but that's not reality. It's also true that Tres Dias can become addicting – some have let it become so – and have greatly damaged

the reputation of Tres Dias in the process. Is that what Tres Dias teaches? No. We teach that Tres Dias prepares you for greater service in your church. Remember the talks: The Church, Sacred Moments, Christian Community in Action, etc. Remember as well, that Jesus died for the church, not for Tres Dias. If you let Tres Dias become your church, then you have just confirmed that the rumor some hear is true. Please don't do it.

*“To impress your pastor, be the best church member that he has. . . . live a transformed life in front of him. Show him that attending Tres Dias makes you more faithful in worship and service than ever before.*”

I encourage you serve on Tres Dias weekends, but be balanced. Serving on one or two a year seems about right to me. That way you have plenty of time to both serve in your church and minister to people through Tres Dias. This is my personal opinion and encouragement, spoken by someone that loves both the church and Tres Dias.

Another vital word: I encourage you to never use your tithe money to pay team fees or to make palanca. In my opinion, you are in disobedience to the Lord and His word if you do that. You see, everything I've said in this article is based on what I've heard pastors say. Yes, I've had pastors say, “I dread Tres Dias weekends coming up because I

know the church giving will go down and so many of my members are going to disappear for those weekends.” I personally know pastors that will have nothing to do with Tres Dias because Tres Dias participants from their church have hurt them with words, actions, and negative attitudes. That should never happen, even if you disagree with him.

Pescadores and pescadoras (“fishers of men,” regardless of our gender), let's make the opposite true! Let's love, worship, serve, and give like never before. Let's honor and encourage our pastors. Remember, they're human, too. It may be your encouragement that carries them through and enables them to win the battles that they face. Make it your goal to always be an encouragement to your pastor.

Finally, if your pastor has questions, I'd love to talk to him. I also have written two articles that describe my involvement in Tres Dias. One is “Why I Serve in Tres Dias” and the other is an “Open Letter” to anyone, but especially pastors and church leaders, who may have questions about Tres Dias. In it I explain in some detail what Tres Dias is all about. Just email me and request the articles at [bba.dom@comcast.net](mailto:bba.dom@comcast.net)

*Mike Pennington currently serves as director of missions for the Bledsoe Baptist Association in Gallatin, TN. Previously, he served as a missionary in Venezuela for twelve years with the International Mission Board, SBC.*

**Tres Dias communities have permission and are encouraged to reproduce and distribute this article in newsletters and workshops, or as a supplement to Essentials training. Please give credit to Mike Pennington as author.**



*The Colors of Tres Dias International is published three or more times a year by the Services Committee of the Tres Dias International Secretariat. Don L. Bohl serves as editor and staff writer, Wendy Taylor as associate editor. Ned Heffington chairs the Services Committee and serves as proofreader. Send comments and suggestions to [newsletter@tresdias.org](mailto:newsletter@tresdias.org).*

*Visit the Tres Dias Web site at [www.tresdias.org](http://www.tresdias.org).*