Looking Back to see Where You’re Going

By Milt Underwood
GMTD Secretariat - Chairman

That statement seems at first counterproductive, or as some of us country folk say it “that just ain’t right”, but humor me for a bit please. We were always told to look forward. You know the old saying, you can’t see where you’re going if you’re constantly looking backward. I am in full agreement with most of that statement, but when we’re talking about our direction forward as a Tres Dias Community in 2014 it would seem appropriate that we turn our eyes and our thoughts back to what has made us this wonderful Georgia Mountain’s Tres Dias Community that we are today.

I wonder how many of us have actually sat down lately and thought about who we are as a community and where we come from, what is our heritage and what is our identity today. Since being elected as your new Chairman for GMTD, these thoughts have been constantly in my heart and on my mind. Where did we come from? Have we duplicated and multiplied ourselves individually and as a community into exactly what we entered into Covenant with God and Tres Dias International to be? Intriguing questions to be sure, and I believe in order for us to set a true course in 2014 that we must pause a moment and consider our roots, our commitments we have made, and what God intended when these covenants were made.

Well let’s see, where did we come from as a community, or rather who to be exact? Well that is quite obvious isn’t it. We believe that Tres Dias is God ordained and used as a tool to strengthen us as Christians and as leaders in our church and our community. Tres Dias is God’s ministry, not ours, and should glorify only God, not any person. I could go on and on about all the great things Tres Dias is to us and how God uses it for His glory and purpose, but we know all of that so let’s move on. How were we formed? We agreed that in order to become a local charter of Tres Dias that we would adhere to the Essentials of Tres Dias International. By doing so we entered into a covenant relationship with Tres Dias International and more importantly, with God. God takes covenants very seriously, and so should we. So let’s look into that a little.

To understand what the Essential are we should start with the definition of Essential. My favorite is from Webster’s Children’s Dictionary, which for me is strangely appropriate and it says:

**Essential:**
1: forming or belonging to the essence

THE ESSENCE WOW. What if that Essence is CHRIST?
2: containing or having the character of an easily evaporated essence <essential oils>
3: important in the highest degree: NECESSARY

Let’s look at number 2 for a moment. ‘Having the character of an easily evaporated essence as in essential oils’. Most perfumes are made with essential oils aren’t they? Would they be able to even resemble what they’re designed to be without that essential oil, without that which is ESSENTIAL? I think not, and in my opinion they would be unrecognizable compared to what they were created to be.

Next let’s look at what I think is most intriguing which is the statement ‘EASILY EVAPORATED’, which leads us to what I believe is an amazing revelation, that something so crucial is also very fragile and subject to the conditions that surround it. If the proper conditions are maintained, then the Essentials will remain in their original and preferred state and accomplish exactly what they’re supposed to. However if the Essentials are placed in an environment that is not favorable for their existence, things such as outside pressures, and even additional ingredients being added effecting the ratio of the formula thus diluting or even evaporating some of the Essential Ingredients. This compromises their ability to perform as they were created to.

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Georgia Mountains Tres Dias #67

Men’s: February 20 - 23, 2014

Rector: Don Pruitt

But GOD demonstrated His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

Worship: Joe Johnston
Prof. Environment: James Maynard
Prof. Communication: Tony Clark
Prof. Ideal: Cindy Padgett
Asst. Head Cha: Michael Hall, Jr.
BUR: Jamie Dunkerly
Rover: Earnie Garrett
Worship: Chris Roberts
Float/Supply: Bill Cain
Tech Cha: Arch Campbell
Comm: Tony Clark
Prof. Ideal: Greg Morrow
Prof. Church: Jerry Pruitt
Prof. Piety: Jimmy Sewell
Prof. Study: Lester Miller
Prof. Action: Tim Price
Prof. Leaders: Phillip Hutchinson
Prof. Environment: James Maynard
Prof. CCIA: Joe Johnston
Prof. Reunion: Peter Ortiz

Prof. Silent: JJ Koch
Prof. Silent: Tim Pritchett
Prof. Silent: David Weaver
Prof. Silent: Scott Youngblood
Table: Jeremy Brunshaw
Table: Cleve Burch
Table: Brandon Espanza
Table: Jamie Wade
Table: Ricky Woody
Table: Larry Towns
Table: James Godbee
Chapel: Rick Casper
Chapel: David England
Chapel: Raymond Posey
Chapel: Keith Wilson
Palanca: Austin Jones
Palanca: Stephen Dacus
Head Prayer: Earl Humphries
Prayer: Lee Cantrell
Prayer: Brian Epps
Prayer: David Howard
Prayer: Zac Lathome
Prayer: Gordon Lonsberry
Head Dorm: Willie Nelson
Dorm: Toby Sherrill
Dorm: B.J. Smith
Dorm: Trey Smith
Dorm: Casey York
Dorm: Larry Mullinax
Dorm: Paul Moran
Dorm: Greg Blackwell
Dorm: Roy Carr
Dorm: Billy Ellis
Dorm: Jamie Kastner
Dorm: Cliff Gilland
Dorm: Ben Matheson
Dorm: Mark Mercer

Georgia Mountains Tres Dias #67

Women’s: February 27 - March 2, 2014

Rector: Robin Prince

Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

Isaiah 43:1 (NKJV)

Asst. Head Cha: Debbie Newcomer
BUR: Elaine Doering
Rover: Ernest Garrett
Worship: Chris Roberts
Float/Supply: Bill Cain
Tech Cha: Arch Campbell
Comm: Tony Clark
Prof. Ideal: Cindy Padgett
Prof. Silent: JJ Koch
Prof. Silent: Tim Pritchett
Prof. Silent: David Weaver
Prof. Silent: Scott Youngblood
Table: Jeremy Brunshaw
Table: Cleve Burch
Table: Brandon Espanza
Table: Jamie Wade
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Dorm: Billy Ellis
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Dorm: Cliff Gilland
Dorm: Ben Matheson
Dorm: Mark Mercer

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Looking Back to see Where You're Going Continued

On a GMTD weekend, we actually have two weekends within THE WEEKEND don't we? A men’s and a women’s weekend. Now for all of us who have attended the serenades of the different weekends, we realized very quickly that the two weekends differ vastly by appearance, with a Women’s weekend being catered to what appeals to and ministers to a Woman and the Men’s weekend doing the same. The weekends appear different to the eye but the mission and message of the weekends are the same. To help us understand, let’s apply the above ESSENTIALS OR ESSENCE to both weekends with something as simple as a coke and its world famous secret recipe and two glasses. Let’s pour a regular coke into two glasses, one being a plain old glass (no other way to say it), and the other being a beautiful crystal goblet. Even though one of them is much more extravagant, the same coke is held inside both of them, and the same pleasing flavor comes from them both no matter the appearance.

That’s pretty much a description of the men’s and women’s weekends. They look different from an appearance standpoint, but they both are the same “Original Recipe” so they both taste the same so to speak. Now let’s say we add a lot of extra “harmless” ingredients and fillers, you know to just change the color or appearance of the coke just a bit because it might be more appealing or better this way. What happens is when you add ingredients to the original recipe, it no longer exist as “The Original Recipe”. If we add enough of those extras, we do so to the point to where it actually crowds out The Essential Ingredient or Essentials (maybe evaporates them a little) and it then changes the flavor of the coke when all we wanted to do was “make it better”.

What we actually did was to change the recipe of the coke. (I think they actually did that a few years ago, and what were those results?) I am sure you’re asking yourselves, where is he going with this? Well here you go, and these comments are directed at us all, men and women, because we all have done this in one way or another. We have come so far as a community since GMTD #1, and even since Joan and I experienced our weekend of GMTD #8 back in the fall of 1995. Each weekend that followed has been a wonderful experience for both team and candidates alike, with each Rector bringing the vision that God has given to them to life on the weekend, and each cha who serves bringing a little bit of all of the other weekends they have served on with them as well. This is a good thing because our experience that we gain from serving always prepares us for the next time we are called to serve. But what has happened little by little over the years and many weekends is that we have added a little coloring here and a little and in some cases a lot of filler there and before we even knew it, many times have changed the recipe of what God intended Tres Dias to be. We have even at times changed it to the point that we even left out elements of the Essentials purposely that we thought weren’t that important, or maybe we ran short of time, etc. We may have not even known they were ESSENTIAL but they were. I encourage us all to look up the many definitions of Essential, and you will see that none of them allow for the possibility of any part of The Essential being optional. It’s really a human thing and I have been guilty of it, and so have we all. We see something that inspires us or possibly a way that something was done on a past weekend, and we want to copy it or adapt that to a future weekend. The problem and the real danger is that all of the little add ins, and changes, and take a ways though individually small, when added in totality can add up to a community that can be off target of where God intended for them to be, and just possibly God is calling us all, and I mean all Tres Dias communities, back to His basics.

I would like to remind us all that The Script works, and God has built in plenty of time for Him to move because He ordained Tres Dias and all that it contains. I guess what I am saying is that God doesn’t need our help friends. He only needs us to be obedient, and He will do the rest. Remember that coke tastes the same no matter if it’s in a plain glass or a crystal goblet because it stays true to the same Essential ‘Original Recipe’. However, you can pour that same coke into the fanciest glass and if you add to the recipe or take away one of those Essential ingredients it just isn’t coke anymore is it, and though because it may have happened slowly we may not even notice the taste change all that much because we have gotten used to it, but one thing I do know. God knows what the recipe is, and what its supposed to taste like. He created it and He expects us to follow His recipe to the letter.

The proof is in the pudding so to speak. For all who have served on other Tres Dias weekends out of the country like Cuba, Russia, and Jamaica to name a few. Palanca normally consists of what can be brought over in your bags, and there’s not this wonderful facility like we have at the Camp of Colors, or all the ways we’re able to decorate and make the weekends more appealing. Don’t get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with that. But with every other thing lacking, the one thing that never fails is God working His plan for His glory in the lives of all involved. He does that when we’re obedient and keep the Main Thing the Main Thing. He has shown that His Tres Dias is always refreshing to those who partake of His Original Recipe, the Original Recipe that we agreed to follow.

So moving forward my message to all of our Tres Dias community is to look back to where we started and recommit ourselves one and all to the principles that God laid out for us in establishing our Charter of Georgia Mountain’s Tres Dias. Commit to learning the Essentials, By Laws, and Policy and Practices of GMTD. You can find them on our website at www.gmtd.org. Learn them and commit to applying them whether were called to be a Rector, in a Heads Position, or however you’re serving on the weekend. No one position is more important than any other on the weekend. We must all be committed to maintaining the recipe that God has given for His weekends, and how we conduct ourselves as a community. It’s easy really, because after all we know what “The Real Thing” tastes like don’t we?

De Colores

Upcoming Weekends

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Announcements & Reminders

GMTD SECRETARIAT: The next secretariat meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 7, 2014 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at North Grove Hall in Dahlonega, GA.

GMTD Applications may be downloaded at www.gmtd.org. Please mail to:

GMTD Pre-Weekend Couple
George & Gail Drake
2638 Waters Edge Drive
Gainesville, GA 30534

When sending, please include $10.00 application fee. Please call Gail at 770-318-4851 or 770-718-1052 H.

GMTD weekend fees are $110.

PALANCA GUIDELINES – (Burning CDs of copyrighted music is a violation of copyright laws, and burned CD’s of copyrighted music cannot be accepted as palanca.)

Table Palanca – 6 tables, minimum of 65 individual items.

Bed Palanca – 45 for candidates, 80 for team. Team members may receive individual bed palanca. Palanca for specific candidates will be placed in their Sunday bags.

Kitchen Palanca – 125 place settings.

Oven Palanca – Please drop off at the Palanca room, not the kitchen.

Palanca Letters – Write the candidate’s name on the letter and in the left upper corner write who the letter is from: sponsor, husband, wife, friend, etc. Letters from family and friends need to be at the camp no later than Saturday night. The earlier the better.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE PESCADERE’S PROGRESS at www.gmtd.org. To receive your Pescadore’s Progress in the U.S. mail, please send your name and address to the return address at the top of this page.

SPONSORS Please remember to stay with your candidate until they have been completely checked in during their weekend and all information and fees have been provided.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO! If your address, phone number or e-mail has changed, please notify GMTD Database Manager, Lisa Mitchell at: records-database-manager@gmtd.readyhosting.com, or 770-842-5423, or go to www.gmtd.org/PescadoreUpdateForm.

The database is confidential and for GMTD use only to contact sponsors, team members, rector nominees, secretariat nominees, and for general GMTD purposes.

REMINDE RSD FROM THE SEC R ET ARIA T: Weekend rosters are confidential and are not to be used for solicitations or anything other than Tres Dias. The Secretariat would also like to remind you that it is inappropriate to bring children to send-off, closing, serenade or secuelas. Further, only those that have attended a recognized 3-day weekend may attend Tres Dias functions. We appreciate your understanding and compliance with these Tres Dias requirements.

Vida Nueva is a weekend retreat for young men and women ages 15-20. Vida Nueva is Spanish for “New Life” and like the Tres Dias, VN weekends are intended as an encounter with Jesus Christ. The weekends are similar to the structure of a Tres Dias weekend with certain changes to make it more relevant for teens. VN weekends begin on Friday evening and end on Sunday evening. The cost to sponsor someone on a VN weekend is $80. If you have a teenager who you would like to sponsor, you can download an application at the web-site www.gmvi.net. A group of teens who have made a Vida Nueva weekend recently put together a video to tell what VN has meant to them. The video can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DNV99f2Hko. Georgia Mountains VN currently holds two sets of weekends a year, one in the fall and one in the spring. The next set of weekends are April 4 - 6, 2014 for the Young Women and April 11 - 13, 2014 for the Young Men.