www.gmtd.org

## Meditation

by Marie Underwood GMTD Leaders Couple

#### **LESSONS LEARNED IN THE VALLEY**

This past year has been a tough one for almost everyone. The United States of America, the prosperous country of old, has changed and times are the most difficult most of us have ever seen. Declining income, higher living expenses, fewer jobs available, and credit card debt has affected most of us. As you look around in the city or town you live in, the fabric of your environment is changing. Businesses are closing, houses are being foreclosed and people are in need. While we have enjoyed many peak years, we are now clearly in a valley.

Yet, as Christians we know that is the midst of the valley God is at work. Without valleys, we have no peaks. And without peaks we have no valleys. It's natural that we love the peaks and mountaintop experiences, but it's in the valley where God does His best work. He captures our attention; He brings us closer to Himself; and He instructs us and chisels our character. What are the benefits of time in the valley?

First of all valleys are the training ground of our faith. Think of these people in the Bible whose faith grew in their valley experiences. Abraham was asked to leave everything familiar to him and go to an unfamiliar place. And then again when God asked him to sacrifice his son, Isaac? Was his faith not strengthened in these valley times? What about Joseph as his brothers sold him into slavery? And then as he was imprisoned? Then there is Job.

Now he lived to tell about a true valley experience. There is David, Moses, the children of Israel, Daniel, Peter, Stephen, Paul . The list goes on and on. All of these people in the Bible had times in the valley, but their faith grew and their character was molded.

In the valley we also learn humility. When things are going great, we tend to overattribute our successes to ourselves. In success there's often the danger that we forget the Lord and that apart from Him we can do nothing. Valleys correct our thinking and bring us to our knees. They remind us of our need for God and our utter dependence on Him. There is nothing like dwelling with Him in times of need.

Valley times force us to become more efficient. We learn how to do with less. Difficult times force us to make decisions that we should have made long ago. Valleys have a way of sharpening our focus. They cause us to evaluate our lives and weed out the unnecessary. We become better stewards of what we have.

Valleys measure our resolve. Will we follow Jesus no matter what the cost? How committed are we to His call on our lives? I love that Jesus was straight forward in this verse. John 16:33 says, "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world.". I'm not sure about you, but peace and trouble do not seem to go together.

Lastly tough times make us more aware that we are not in this alone. We start to realize

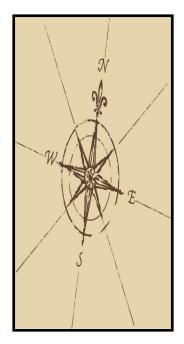


"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever."

Psalm 107:1

## Inside this issue:

Monthly Meditation	1
Rector Reports	2
Mark Your Calendar	3
GMTD Secretariat	4
Announcements and Reminders	4



Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:6

# Georgia Mountains Tres Dias #57 Men's Rector: David Nelson

To the Community of Georgia Mountain Tres Dias:

Time! Time for things to be Prayers. "Finished...!" Interruptions The fields were planted long

Your prayers were mani- fields are still white, but that will last!! fested the first Weekend of there are now more labor- Thank you all and may you It was Harvest ers thanks to you and your each be Blessed in Christ.

in marriage...Finished! New ago and others have tended Beginnings started... Four and watered. Just as countmen put to death the old less numbers of servants man and were "Born Again!" showered these men with Sixteen men finished with so much "Palanca" that they

old habits and are back needed an extra bag just to walking anew with Christ! carry it all, your "latter rain" The Harvest has come! The produced much fruit... fruit

David Nelson, Rector Men's GMTD #57

# Georgia Mountains Tres Dias #57 Women's Rector: Ella Sewell

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the house of the Lord for- led us beside those still wa-Georgia Mountain Tres Dias,

Yea, though I walk through credible. the valley of the shadow of of my life: and I will dwell in life will not be the same. He Rector #57

ever. Psalm 23

What a weekend!!! Our us, and our cups are running The Lord is my shepherd; I shepherd is so good. He over. shall not want. He makes truly led and guided every At this time, I would like to me to lie down in green pas- step that we took, from the thank the team for obeditures: He leadeth me beside very first phone call I re- ence, your love, the still waters. He re- ceived, from the heads prayers and all your hard storeth my soul: He leadeth meetings, through the train- work that made this team me in the paths of righteous- ing meetings and the team #57 a success. I could not ness for His name sake. meetings. They were in- have done this without each

death, I will fear no evil: for Then we have the weekend. Thou art with me; thy rod He really showed up and May the Lord bless you, and and thy staff they comfort showed out. We had 18 keep you before me in the presence when the call was given for you, And, give you "PEACE." of mine enemies; thou an- a closer walk with the Fanointest my head with oil: ther, all of the ladies stood You walk with eh King and my cup runneth over. up. It was wonderful. Yes, be a blessing.

Surely goodness and mercy God did a mighty work in all shall follow me all the days of our lives. I know that my Ella Sewell

ters. He restored our souls. He prepared a table before

of you. I love you all so

me. Thou preparest a table healings, two salvations, and May His face shine upon



The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name sake...

Psalm 23

# Meditation (continued)

## Continued from Page I

that there are others who are going through similar struggles. We learn to appreciate and value each other; and we see the need for each other's partnership, prayers and friendship. We need each other.

I don't know where you are right now. Many of us are in the midst of a valley. Maybe you are facing financial trouble, health issues, loss of job, trouble with children, having to take care of aging parents, stress in your marriage, business decline, etc. If so, then hold on to all the promises of God's word. He is Faithful. He will direct your paths. He is our Shepherd and in the valley He is with us. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is the Overcomer. He is our Hope and Peace. He makes a way when there seems to be no way. He will never leave or forsake us. He is our

Light and in Him there is no darkness. He is wisdom. If anyone lacks wisdom, ask Him. Search His word for an answer. He is our Anchor in the storm. He is our Strength to face each new day!

If you are not in the midst of a valley, then Praise God! However, you have a responsibility to those that are. Reach out a hand and help. Offer to pray; or offer to help meet a need. We are all the body of Christ and together we are a witness to this lost and dying world. Now, more than ever, our world needs hope. Let's show them where hope is found.

Romans 15:13 – "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit".

De Colores,

Marie Underwood



# Mark Your Calendar! Christmas Secuela

# Save the Date!



Saturday, December 4
6:00 pm
Freedom Tabernacle
Cumming, GA



## **©**HRISTMAS S\*ECUELA

Saturday, December 4

Freedom Tabernacle

Cumming, GA

2160 Freedom Parkway

Cumming, GA 30041

(770) 887-4679

Just east of 400 between

Exits 16 and 17

www.FreedomTabernacle.org

Ham and Turkey will be provided.

Bring your favorite Christmas dish, dressing, gravy or dessert, enough to serve at least 10 people.

Sponsors: If you have sponsored candidates and have never brought them to a Secuela, please plan to bring them this time or make arrangements for someone else to bring them.

\*\*Please arrive early\*\*
The secuela will begin promptly at 6:00 pm

Page 3

GMTD Secretariat Members	
Don VanLandingham	706-273-3347
John Rhodes	770-904-3144
Dale Underwood	706-499-3841
Brien & Gloria Thompson	706-865-3176
Marie Underwood	706-778-5180
Charles Holcomb	706-778-9180
Ricky & Kathy Pruitt	706-499-4850
Rollie & Merlyn Bevers	770-888-0835
Don & Melanie Pruitt	706-864-0374
Keith & Rhonda Andrews	706-776-6607
Pam Layfield	678-313-0832
Linda Alexander	678-201-5550
Randall & Donna Adams	706-754-9294
Cindy Stavely	706-778-0663
Greg Ryan	706-308-2256
Michael & Jennifer Waldrip	706-344-2836
Ron Gailey	706-878-6686
	John RhodesDale UnderwoodBrien & Gloria ThompsonMarie UnderwoodCharles HolcombRicky & Kathy PruittRollie & Merlyn BeversDon & Melanie PruittKeith & Rhonda AndrewsPam LayfieldLinda AlexanderRandall & Donna AdamsCindy StavelyGreg RyanMichael & Jennifer Waldrip

Find e-mail contact info at www.gmtd.org



NON-PROFIT STANDARD MAIL US POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #100 ELLIJAY, GA

#### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Return Address Service: GMTD Newsletter 9815 Waldrip Road Gainesville, GA 30506

To unsubscribe, please notify us at the address above or michael.waldrip@gmail.com.

## Announcements & Reminders

**GMTD SECRETARIAT** meets the first Friday evening of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 3, 2010 at 7 p.m. at Cleveland Community Church.

**GMTD** Applications may be downloaded at www.gmtd.org. Please mail to GMTD Pre-Weekend Couple, Ricky & Kathy Pruitt, 355 O'Kelly Rd., Clarkesville, GA 30523

#### GMTD weekend fees are \$110.

**PALANCA GUIDELINES** – (Please be advised that 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, 75-77 for team. Team members may receive individual bed palanca. Palanca for specific candidates will be placed in their Sunday bags.

**Kitchen Palanca** – 117 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 PESCADORE'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.

## **UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO!** If

your address, phone number or e-mail has changed, please notify GMTD Database Mgr., Linda Alexander, at: records-database-manager@gmtd.readyhosting.com, or 678-201-5550, or go to www.gmtd.org/PescadoreUpdateForm. The database is confi-

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

### Bless a teenager— sponsor them to Vida

**Nueva!** "Vida Nueva" means "new life" in Spanish. Georgia Mountains Vida Nueva is for teens age 15-20. For GMVN applications, contact Andy & Courtney Morgan, P.O. Box 1984, Ellijay, GA 30540, 706-636-1896 or 706-889-3884. www.georgiamountainvn.org.

#### **REMINDERS FROM THE SECRE-**

TARIAT: 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.

## Upcoming 2011 Weekend

Georgia Mtns. Tres Dias #58

Men's: Feb. 17- 20, 2011 Rector, Fletcher Holliday

Women's: Feb. 24-27, 2011 Rector, Tammy Teasley

Interested in serving on a Tres Dias Team? Come to the next Secuela and sign up! To serve in Jamaica, Cuba, Canada or TDCC, contact Ron Gailey at regailey@gmail.com