May 2018

Meditation -

By Debbie Newcomer, Treasurer

May 10, 2018 many churches around the world celebrated that day as Ascension day. will certainly fellowship with them in heaven. The bible shares with us that after Jesus rose from the dead he spent forty days on earth in his resurrected, glorified body. During this time Jesus was continuing to encourage and teach his disciples. But on the 40th day he ascended into Heaven.

Acts verses 8 -9 tells us the following: ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Those were the last words Jesus spoke while here on earth. Since they were his final instructions don't you think they are extremely important.

William Arnot, a distinguished Scottish pastor in the last century, put the matter this way: "To every true Christian these two things may be said: You have need of Christ and Christ has need of you." He then adds this thought: "The simple fact that a Christian is on earth and not in heaven, is proof that there is something for him here to do; and if he is not doing it, the neglect shows either that he is not yet a Christian or that he is a Christian who grieves Christ." What is it that God left you on earth to do? Let me put the matter another way. What is it that we can do on earth that we can't do in heaven? We can sing on earth and we can sing in heaven. We can pray on earth and we can pray in heaven. We can fellow-

ship with other believers on earth and we But when you think about it, there is one main thing you can do on earth that you will never do in heaven: You can tell a lost person about Jesus Christ. There will be no sinners in heaven, so if you're going to tell them the Good News, you've got to do it while you're here on earth.

Just before he returned to heaven, Jesus explained to his disciples what they were to do after his departure. What he said to them, he also says to us. He left us on the earth that we might be his witnesses. In heaven there will be no witnesses because in heaven seeing is believing. There the Lamb will be the light and he will need no lesser lights, but in this dark world we are the only light he has. On earth we are his witnesses. He does not send angels to proclaim his name and he does not write the gospel in lightning across the skies. He uses people like us to convince other people like us to believe in him. We are God's witnesses-his evidence if you will-to convince an unbelieving world. We must do our part.

So in effect Christ's last direction to his disciples was to be a witness to the world. A lawyer will tell you his legalese definition of a "witness" is someone who attests to a fact, A witness has to have direct knowledge of those facts. No here say evidence is allowed.

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GMTD #80 Men's: May 24-27, 2018

Rector: Keith Canup

Send-off: Thurs., May 24 • 6:30 p.m. Serenade: Sat., May 26 • 6:30 p.m. Arrive at 5:30 p.m. Closing: Sun., May 27 • 5:00 p.m.

GMTD #80 Women's: May 31-June 3, 2018

Rector: Pam Barrett

Send-off: Thurs., May 31 • 6:30 p.m. Serenade: Sat., June 2 • 6:30 p.m. Arrive at 5:30 p.m. **Closing:** Sun., June 3 • 5:00 p.m.

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GMTD #80 - Men's May 24-27, 2018 Rector: Keith Canup

Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me. Isaiah 49:15-16

GMTD #80 Women's May 31-June3, 2018

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile." Jeremiah 29:12-14

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One who has seen or heard something" and "One who furnishes evidence."

A witness is someone who can say, "I know this is true." In a court of law a witness swears on a Bible and promises to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Witnesses tell the truth, and if they are good witnesses, that is all they do. A witness tells nothing less than the truth—and nothing more either. Surveys indicate that the vast majority of Biblebelieving Christians do not witness to others about their faith in Christ. Eighty-five percent never invite anyone to church, and 95 percent never win anyone to Christ.

Thankfully we are involved in a wonderful organization called Tres Dias where the beginning of our purpose statement reads as follows: The Georgia Mountains Tres Dias weekend is an opportunity for Christians to encounter Jesus Christ, to experience how other Christians live life and to receive a new vision of what it means to be a Christian. The objective of Georgia Mountains Tres Dias is to strengthen and extend the Body of Christ by bringing Christians to a closer, more personal walk with their Lord Jesus Christ and to encourage them to Christian leadership and Apostolic Action in their environments.

When my husband Jon served as rector on his Tres Dias weekend and his verse was Micah 6:8 about Walking Humbly with your God. I arrived at camp for send off Thursday night I saw the signs outside each of the dorm rooms with the men's names written on feet. I thought wow that's clever. Walking humbly I get it. Now I am not a hunter but I know that you can tell a lot by looking at footprints. Like what type of animal it is, how big it is, which direction it is traveling because footprints not only tell a story but they are part of your witness. I challenged the men that weekend to think about what kind of story, witness will your footprints tell? I offer you and myself the same challenge. Are you walking on solid ground? Are your footsteps going in the direction that leads to life for you and your family? Are some of those footprints tiptoes you hope no one sees? And who is following in your footprints? Because if we want your family and this country to be headed in the right direction, then it is going to take men and women who are walking in the right direction following Jesus because you are all leaders and you are being followed.

The message of Christ is of course about His death and resurrection and the amazing love that God has for us. About a creator who loves

us so much that he sent his son to die in our place.

I don't have to tell you that it is without a doubt NOT about what we do. Nor is this life in Christ is a list of Do's and Don'ts since our righteousness is just filthy rags. But as a witness and a leader with others following how can my life be an effective witness for Christ in a lost world. We have all heard the quote, your life may be the only Bible someone with ever read. It can be intimidating thought, that everywhere you go and every time you open your mouth whether you mean it or not you're witnessing about Jesus. God gave a clue to how we can do this in Acts, when he told the disciples to stay put and not go anywhere yet. Because he knew that 10 days later he would send the Holy Spirit to them Listen again to the words of Jesus in Acts 1:8 as he imparts this truth to his followers: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

The power of our witness is the Holy spirit, it is the Spirit who transforms a life and a transformed life is evident to all. The validity of our witness will be shown in how we live our lives and Philippians 2:14-15 sets this goal for us "that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world. If we are to be an effective Christian witness will should live their life in the power of the Holy Spirit and daily practice submitting ourselves to God, moment by moment, repenting when we mess up and refocusing on what God would have us do. We model this behavior in our our lives through submission and obedience to Christ. If we do that our lives can bear a powerful witness and we can expect to equip others to this same life of obedience.

Hebrews 12:1 also talks about witnesses and it gives us a promise to remember that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. I want to challenge you to not only thank God for some of the great witnesses in your life but to encourage YOU to become a witness for a world that is dying to see them.

De Colores!

Debbie Newcomer

Tres Dias Teams

Interested in serving on a Tres Dias team?

Go to <u>www.gmtd.org</u> or come to the next Secuela to sign up!



UPCOMING WEEKENDS

<u>GMTD #81</u> Men: Sept 20-23, 2018 Women: Sept 27-30, 2018

<u>GMTD #82</u> Men: Feb7-10, 2019 Women: Feb 14-17, 2019



Announcements & Reminders

GMTD SECRETARIAT

The next secretariat meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 3, 2018 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at United Community Bank in Dahlonega, GA.

GMTD APPLICATIONS

GMTD applications may be downloaded at <u>www.gmtd.org</u>. Please mail to:

> GMTD Pre-Weekend Couple Kevin & Holly Salisbury 3910 Argentite Way Cumming, GA 30040

Please call Holly at 770-876-4059 or email at hksalisbury@gmail.com with any questions.

GMTD weekend **fee is \$110** per person.

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 of65 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.

PESCADORE'S PROGRESS

Subscribe to the Pescadore's Progress at <u>www.gmtd.org</u>. To receive your Pescadore's Progress in the U.S. mail, please send your name, address and weekend attended to:

> Monica Epps 241 Arbor Hills Road North Talking Rock, GA 30175

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 email has changed, please notify GMTD Database Manager, Anthony Franklin at: 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.

REMINDERS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

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 sendoff, closing, serenade, or secuelas. We appreciate your understanding and compliance with these Tres Dias requirements.

GMTD Secretariat Members

Chairman	Fletcher Holliday	8
Database	Anthony Franklin	9
Database (In Training)	Greg Purcell	7
Food Supply	Debbie Turco770-656-7378	8
	Raymond & Donna Posey 706-973-075'	
Leaders-A	Kevin & Mickey Hill	1
Leaders-B	Randall & Cindy Hallford 706-768-459	9
Leaders-B (In Training)	Rick & Mary Martinez	9
Newsletter	Monica Epps	5
Palanca	Glen & Donna Nix	1
Pre-Weekend	Kevin & Holly Salisbury	9
Secretary	Layne Frantz	7
Spiritual Director	Ron Glaze	6
	Jon & Debbie Newcomer	
Treasurer (In Training)	Brian & Diana Cartwright 706-244-417.	3
Webmaster	Brad Whitener	0
Weekend	Trey & Kenia Smith678-936-021	3
Weekend (In Training)	Chris & Chrissy Owenby	5
Worship Director	Todd Pealock	1

Georgia Mountains Vida Nueva

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.gmvn.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 <u>www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DNV99f2Hko</u>. Georgia Mountains VN currently holds two sets of weekends a year, one in the spring and one in the fall. The next set of weekends are March 16-18, 2018 for the Young Women and March 23-25 for the Young Men.

