



# ABUNDANT LIFE TRES DIAS

**April 2015 Newsletter**

[www.rockfordaltd.webs.com](http://www.rockfordaltd.webs.com)

Weekend #32 is almost upon us. You still have a few days to submit your candidate applications. Also, let's fill the online prayer scroll for both the men's and women's weekend.

How exciting that representatives from 102 Tres Dias Communities will be coming to Rockford July 10-12. NITD and ALTD Tres Dias Communities have the honor of sharing the joy of hosting the 36th Annual Tres Dias International Assembly and we plan to welcome our brothers and sisters with our very best midwestern hospitality!

I am looking for several people to help with Palanca. We will be handing out palanca bags to the representatives and will need palanca for these bags. We are expecting and praying that every state that has a community will send at least one delegate. We know that the Ukraine and Korea are each sending a delegate.

If you or your reunion group are interested in praying, sharing little gifts as symbols which represent your praying or want to help fill the bags, please call Linda Mensching, Head Palanca person, at [815-761-1212](tel:815-761-1212). I will make arrangements for pick up or delivery by July 1, 2015. The count is 150 pieces for each palanca. Some ideas: individual wrapped pieces of candies (homemade is great), couple of cookies in a baggie, bookmarks or candy bars. We don't need to go crazy but just your typical palanca items we give on the weekends. **We will also accept monetary donations to purchase palanca if that works better for you, your reunion group, or church.** We will be getting Fisher's Potato chips and will have water available for everyone during the weekend.

*Thank you for your servanthood and prayers to make this a great learning experience for the representatives. May they take back to their communities only good memories and information to change peoples' lives and give God all the glory. Linda Mensching*

(See the last page for a message from our ALTD Palanca Chairs.)

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Send prayer requests, information, etc., to [tresdiascommunication@gmail.com](mailto:tresdiascommunication@gmail.com)

# Easter Story Cookies

1 cup whole pecans      pinch of salt   1 teaspoon vinegar   1 cup sugar   3 egg whites

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees before beginning the recipe.

Place the pecans in a sandwich bag with locking top and let the children break them into small pieces with a wooden spoon. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, he was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19: 1-3

Put the vinegar in a mixing bowl and let each child smell it. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, the soldiers offered him vinegar to drink. Read John 19: 28-30

Add egg whites to the vinegar. Explain that eggs represent life and Jesus gave his life to give us life. Read John 10: 10-11

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it. Add a pinch to the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27

So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Discuss this; then add the sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because he loves us. He wants us to know and belong to him. Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16

Beat with a mixer on high for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:13

Fold in the broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons on the cookie sheets that have been covered by wax paper. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27: 57-60

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven off. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27: 65-66

Go to bed. Explain that the children may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16: 20, 22

On Easter morning, gather together, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bit. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28: 1-9

*(provided by Pastor Gretchen Hammeke, our community's head spiritual director)*

## *Women's Weekend No. 32 .....*

***“This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love, that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross...” Those are the beginning lyrics for our weekend song, and so clearly verbalize the awe and wonder of the sacrifice Jesus made for us. For you. For me. But that sacrifice is not the final gift Christ has for us – He is coming back, and in the meantime, He will never leave us nor forsake us.***

***Hebrews 10:23 (NASB) says “let us hold fast the confession of our hope, without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” We cherish that hope, that assurance, not only for Christ’s return, but for strength and comfort and peace.....all the fruit of the Spirit.....during our lives on earth. To enjoy ourselves, and to share with others.***

***Epecially if you are not on team for either the men’s or women’s weekend, please participate in the weekends by attending sendoff, serenade and secuela for both weekends. Your prayers are solicited, your palanca welcomed, and your presence desired. Details of times for all events will be circulated via email from the Communication Chair closer to mid-April.***

***De Colores – Anita Rogers, Rectora, and Dianna Peacock, Head Cha***

## *Men's Weekend No. 32 .....*

### **Proverbs 27:17 (the Voice translation)**

***“In the same way that iron sharpens iron, a person sharpens the character of his friend.”***

We are just a short time away from the Men's and Women's ALTD Weekend 32. Our weekend verse declares how important it is for the men of God to stay together and sharpen each other to be men of integrity and character.

So, I encourage you to assemble and send our sisters in Christ into an amazing weekend with our Lord Jesus Christ at Inspiration Center, Walworth, WI, on Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup> (**7:00pm**) and come back to Serenade on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Let us fill the room with men to surround our sisters in love!

Randy Rasmusson, ALTD 32 Rector 262-770-9398; Chad Smits, ALTD 32 Head Cha 312-515-8088



A couple of snapshots from our final team formation meeting March 28 at Calvary Lutheran Church.



## 36<sup>th</sup> Tres Dias International Assembly Hosted by ALTD and NITD July 10-12, 2015



We are gearing up and getting ready to host the annual assembly.

We are offering a special local ALTD and NITD registration rate to attend the Assembly, just \$20 and that includes all materials and meals! Register at

[www.tresdias.org](http://www.tresdias.org)

You are welcome to come and observe anything during the weekend, but you will really benefit if you participate and fellowship with others. On Friday afternoon there is an informal meeting with the President of Tres Dias - this is a great time to ask questions and hear what is going on with other communities. We will have a Christian coffeehouse with live music Friday evening, and Essentials Training. Saturday is a very full day with the business meeting, procession of community banners, workshops, and we are looking for a huge turn-out at Secuela Saturday night!

### **Benefit of attending this 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly: Encouragement!**

Assembly verse: Hebrews 10:24, 25: Now let us consider how to stimulate one another, to love and good deeds, not forsaking the our assembling together, as is the habit of some, but *encouraging one another*, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

*The Sock Monkey is our Assembly mascot, named "Encouragement," made by Linda Mensching.*

*Come, be encouraged!*

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## New Weekend Chair



Bob & Kathy McGregor are looking forward to serving as Weekend Chairs. Some information about us: we both attended ALTD 30. We have 2 grown children, who both reside in MI. God has called us to ALTD to serve. Kathy has the "long range vision" and I'm the "tell me what you want and I'll make it happen" person. One point to remember about Kathy, she is very detailed and keeps me on task every day. We are new to the leadership team of ALTD so if you have any tips on how we can do our job, please drop us a line or talk to us at a training.

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## REUNION GROUP ENCOURAGEMENT –

As we approach the April 2015 Men's and Women's Retreat Weekends, I would like to point out 3 trends that are significantly driving a downtrend for participation in Reunion Groups.

First, many of you who have been involved in Tres Dias for years or sponsor/influence new Pescadores are not involved in Reunion Groups. I'm not here to chastise anyone for that! But because of that fact, many of you are reluctant to help Pescadores to connect into one because you might feel a little hypocritical. It's time to stop that thinking! You're probably the very same people who have now risen to leadership positions in your churches. You know that one person can't participate in EVERY ministry the church offers, but you probably encourage others to find their ministry/serving niche. ***Please take that stance with the new Pescadores when it comes to joining/forming a Reunion Group!*** It's an excellent "first-step" ministry! And even though I hold a couple leadership positions at The River, I'm still in that "first-step" ministry after 13-1/2 years....

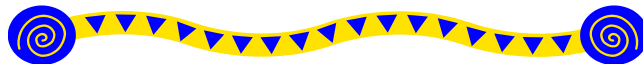
Secondly, most of the active groups we have out there are "closed". They achieve a chemistry level where they don't want to admit newbies. I'm not downplaying chemistry, but if you're not bringing in another member or two every 2-3 years, you've probably become too "comfortable". The Disciples didn't just hang around Jerusalem with their group after Christ's Ascension....they opened up and reached out to the world. My own Reunion Group has benefited by the new personalities, new friendships and spiritual needs of new members who occasionally come on-board. And the dynamics of the group are still God-directed!

Lastly....and probably the most difficult obstacle to the formation (and build-up) of Reunion Groups, is the impact of social media. Many of the younger Pescadores need to be made VERY aware that spiritual exchanges with other Tres Dias friends on Facebook is **not** a substitute for face-to-face engagement in a Reunion Group. You're not going to "go deep" by texting or tossing-up cool quotes or a poster on FB. There is a **huge** experiential difference between the two....but we're not doing a good job of addressing that....so let's start!

Michael Dustman  
Secretariat Reunion Chair

**P.S.** Anyone currently designated as the "head" of a Reunion Group, would you please email me with an updated roster, meeting time/day and location, just to verify what's in my records? Also please advise if you've started a Reunion Group in the last 4 months. Much appreciated!

Contact: [kmdust@genevaonline.com](mailto:kmdust@genevaonline.com)



Please keep our Nominating Committee in your prayers. We have several positions opening June 1, and these wonderful folks are working hard, finding God's choice for the new Secretariat members.

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## *Message from our ALTD Palanca Chair -*

As most of you know sign up is available online for the Prayer Vigils for both of the ALTD Spring Weekends. But did you know you can also sign up for the Prayer Vigils for other communities around the world? Yes, you can, and it is very simple to sign up. All you have to do is go to [www.3dayol.org](http://www.3dayol.org) from your home computer or mobile device. Once there just click the button for "Prayer Vigil Listings" and you will see the dates of upcoming weekends for other communities. From there pick a community you would like to pray for and sign up. While you're on the website don't forget to sign up to pray for the ALTD Weekends, spots are still open.

Both Judy and I pray that this Easter Season is filled with the Grace and Blessing of our Lord for each and every member of the Tres Dias Community.

GLYASDW  
Dan & Judy Piecha  
ALTD Palanca Chair



ALTD SECRETARIAT MEMBERS		
Arnie Bryson	Lay Director	<a href="mailto:ambryson@charter.net">ambryson@charter.net</a>
Gretchen Hammeke	Spiritual Director	<a href="mailto:hammekewi@att.net">hammekewi@att.net</a>
Karen Weis	Leaders Chair	<a href="mailto:karenweis@comcast.net">karenweis@comcast.net</a>
Bob & Kathy McGregor	Weekend Chair	taking office June 1, 2015
Kevin Busker	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:tkbusker@comcast.net">tkbusker@comcast.net</a>
Terri Weber	Pre-Weekend Chair	<a href="mailto:theresarose3@charter.net">theresarose3@charter.net</a>
Dan & Judy Piecha	Palanca Chair	<a href="mailto:danpiecha@pga.com">danpiecha@pga.com</a> <a href="mailto:judypiecha@charter.net">judypiecha@charter.net</a>
Todd & Vicki Hunt	Post-Weekend Chair	<a href="mailto:olman1963@yahoo.com">olman1963@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:vixter82009@yahoo.com">vixter82009@yahoo.com</a>
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