

El Tintero



November 2006

North Texas Lutheran Secretariat

El Tintero” is Spanish for “the inkwell.” Legend has it that Martin Luther threw an inkwell at Satan who tempted Luther while he was writing.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord . . .”

Cid Smith, Rector 70

Weekend 70 is nearly upon us and I remain in awe of God's mighty power and abundant grace. I have been so incredibly blessed to see the hand of God at work throughout our staff training. We are one team – one body with many parts, if you will. Each of us has been called for certain task with no single role better or more important than the other.

Someone asked me if we had any theme for this weekend. We don't have a stated theme as much as we have had a constant mindset. The mindset is one of finding joy in the simple fact that we each are serving Christ in anything and everything we do. We can and should find great joy in this service. This is what we are told in Bible, as it says in Colossians 3:23-24 - ***“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men...It is the Lord Christ you are serving”***.

It is often said that God does not call the equipped, He equips the called. I have certainly experienced this first hand. When called to serve as Rector for Weekend 70 I knew I was not equipped for the task at hand. What I also knew was that through prayer and meditation God would equip me with what I needed. One of the ways He has equipped me was by calling an incredible staff with servant hearts. We all know that God calls the staff, not the Rector – I just dialed the phone.

So, we approach Weekend 70 boldly, knowing that this is God's weekend. I have been humbled through this experience realizing that this is His weekend and that I must “Let go and let God.” I and this staff are merely instruments He is using to carry out His plan.

My heart overflows with joy and thanksgiving in anticipation of meeting our newest pilgrims and watching them grow in their relationship with Christ through the Via de Cristo Weekend.

God is good!

I leave you with one last thought from Acts 20:24 -

“I consider my life worth nothing to me if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me - the task of testifying to the Gospel of God's grace.”

God's peace to you all,

Cid Smith

BACK TO THE FUTURE WITH STAFF SCHOOL

This past July, Pastor Olin Knudsen, Tim Johnson, and I attended the National Via de Cristo meeting in Los Angeles, California. It was a well attended meeting held on the campus of Loyola Marymount University. As I attended the various workshops, including especially the meeting of the Lay Directors, it became apparent to me that the more successful movements had in place a solid system of training. They had Staff Schools, Sponsor Training, and Rector Training. It was affirmed to me that the more significant challenges were faced by those movements which had lowered the bar in order simply to encourage more people to staff a weekend or sponsor a participant. Those movements are now reaping the benefits of lowered expectations. With this in mind, I began to discuss the future of the North Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo and the idea of reestablishing Staff School and training in the areas we have let slide during the past several years.

As a result, the Secretariat approved a motion to establish a Staff Training School Review Committee under the leadership of our Training Director, Vickie Clark. After those who indicated an interest in participating in this effort were given a substantial amount of information to review, a meeting was held on October 15, 2006, at King of Glory, Fort Worth. Some of the recommendations for inclusion in training, which were presented to, and adopted by the Secretariat at its October 19th meeting were as follows:

- History: beginnings by Catholic Church; Lutheran; our Secretariat
- Chaining and philosophy
- Weekend logistics
- Table leadership
- Discussion of Cha position duties and responsibilities
- Role of music on the weekend
- Servant heart / attitude of staff all of which are of equal importance
- Rollo writing / giving practice rollos
- Sponsorship
- Love Team, all aspects: how to serve, Rector, etc.
- 4th day involvement; what it is; how to get connected

The adopted recommendations for implementation are that the staff school will be 2 days; twice a year. The dates for 2007 are February 10 and 24; and July 14 and 28. Times and locations are to be determined. Beginning with the first weekend in 2008, the staff will be drawn only from those who have participated in the 2007 and later staff schools. The staff school is for everyone and repeated every 3 years, unless one has served on staff within 3 years of their training; then the staff school repeat will be 5 years. Also adopted was the recommendation that pastors must attend the first day of staff school.

These recommendations were made and adopted after prayer and discussion. We have had good staffs and a great 4th day community. It is hoped that this action will enhance the weekend staffs, the Love Team, and the 4th day community through a better understanding of who we are as a Lutheran Via de Cristo, what we do, and how we do it.

Blessings to all,
Bruce Hanson
Lay Director



Via de Cristo #70

Thursday, November 9 to Sunday, November 12
Lake Sharon Christian Center, Corinth, Texas

Participants:

ANGELA BAKOWSKI	Ridgeview Presbyterian, FB	Sybil Shuck
TERESA BELL	Ridgeview Presbyterian, FB	April Martinez
CAROL BERRIDGE (f)	Immanuel, Killeen	Beverly Goldman & Suzie Mosier
ROBIN CHRISTIAN (f)	Immanuel, Killeen	Beverly Goldman
CAROL COURT	Calvary, Richland Hills	Georgeanne Falstrom
JERRY COURT	Calvary, Richland Hills	Georgeanne Falstrom
GARY HANNEMANN	Zion, McGregor	Olin Knudsen
STEPHANIE HANNEMANN	Zion, McGregor	Carolyn Knudsen
DAVID LILLARD	Zion, McGregor	Olin Knudsen
TAMMY LILLARD	Zion, McGregor	Lisa Marquis
DENISE MARLIN	Victory Hills Fellowship, NRH	Nancy Rodriguez
JEALAINIE MARPLE	Faith, Wichita Falls	Stephanie Mudge
LINN REEDER (m)	King of Glory Fellowship	Stephen Ayres
KATHY ROGERS	St. Paul, Farmer's Branch	Miles Holder
CYNTHIA SPARKS	Immanuel, Killeen	Beverly Goldman
GAROLYN SPARKS (f)	Grace, Abilene	Delores Nanny

Staff:

Rector	Cid Smith	Ideal	Hattie Hammer
Observing Rector	Doug Guinn	Laity	Ashley Mekala
Spiritual Director	Pastor Olin Knudsen	Piety	Keith Hauptmann
Spiritual Director	Pastor Mel Hammer	Study	Lynn Sullivan
Spiritual Director	Pastor Ernie Barr	Action	Gerald Stout
Rector's Cha	Alice Allison	Leaders	Robert Rodriguez
Food Cha	Helen Mayo	Evangelism	Janet Thorp
Food Cha	Christine Bingaman	CCIA	Kelli Ettelbrick
Music Cha	Janet Thorp	Fourth Day	Tim Johnson
Palanca Cha	Carey Newton	Table Leader	Tom Wiese
Palanca Cha	Evelyn Blanton	Table Leader	Sandra Gass
Love Team Rector	Laura Huddleston		

Via de Cristo #70 - Weekend Calendar

November

8	Wed 6:30 pm	Setup for Weekend at Lake Sharon; Food and Palanca Drop Off
9	Thu 6:45 pm	Via de Cristo #70 Begins
11	Sat 1:30 pm	Love Team Visitation
12	Sun 6:00 am	Arrive For Wakeup
12	Sun 6:30 am	Wakeup Begins
12	Sun 2:30 pm	Clausura Setup
12	Sun 3:30 pm	Clausura Begins
12	Sun 5:30 pm	Takedown & Cleanup
12	Sun Evening	Homecoming, Various Locations

PALANCA NOTES! - From Lilly Gholston

It's time to get your palanca ready. You know, the daily prayers for the participants, by name, especially on their weekend. Also hand written love notes to them. Remember the notes and letters speaking of God's love and blessings? These letters don't have to be long, but every one is special. Now it's your turn to spread the joy to these new brothers and sisters in Via de Cristo.

Gracemats are another form of palanca. It's a way of giving a message to the weekend without actually being there. Gracemats can speak of God and His caring; they can reinforce the rollos to those who may need another reminder. Send them to the retreat on Thursday if you can't get them to me before then.

Another good form of palanca would be greeting them at the Sunday morning wake-up with singing and smiles. Or welcoming them into the fourth day with great rejoicing at the Clausura.

Think of the warm wonderful feeling you got on your weekend. You can pass it on to the new set of brothers and sisters. I know I always get that warm joyous feeling at wakeup and closings. I am always so happy to see my wonderful Via de Cristo brothers and sisters. I think you will enjoy the special feeling again, too.

If you live out of the DDFWW area (that's Dallas, Denton, Fort Worth, Waco area) and need to mail your palanca, it should be sent in time to get to me by Friday, November 10. Send it to Lilly Gholston, 401 Campbell, Denton TX, 76209

Directions to Lake Sharon Christian Center

Directions from I-35E Going North

- Take Exit 458 Swisher Road and turn left at the light onto Swisher Road
- Proceed past Albertsons and the new WalMart Super Center
- Stay on Swisher until you reach Oakmont Dr and turn right.
- Lake Sharon entrance is approximately 1/2 mile from Swisher Rd on Oakmont Dr.

Watch for signs to assist you provided by Lake Sharon Christian Center

Physical Address is 2650 Oakmont Dr

Directions from I-35E Going South

- Take Exit 460 S Corinth Street and turn right (a 45 degree turn) at the stop sign
- Proceed to the next Stop Sign which is Meadow Oaks and turn right
- After the curve take the first right onto Lake Sharon Road
- Proceed on Lake Sharon Road till you reach Oakmont Dr and turn left at the Stop Sign
- Entrance into Lake Sharon is on the right (2650 Oakmont Dr.)

Watch for signs to assist you provided by Lake Sharon Christian Center



Calling All 4th Day !!

We need YOU!! Another weekend is upon us and we need to see your smiling faces. Weekend 70 is almost here so mark those dates Nov. 9 -12th. Again, I ask each of you to take a trip down memory lane and think about what it meant to you when you heard people singing to you while you were visiting the Love Team Chapel, or how touched you were when you stumbled up to the dining hall at the crack of dawn Sunday morning and saw all these people there to sing just for YOU, and what about when you entered into Clausura and again saw all these people there just for YOU.

This is a Lay led movement. It does not happen or sustain itself without our involvement – all of us. We have a responsibility to give back to these participants what we received when we went through our weekend. Take the opportunity to reconnect with some of your fellow 4th Day – ride together out to Lake Sharon for Wake Up and then go have breakfast together and fellowship.

As a reminder, here are the many activities that the 4th Day should be a part of –

Saturday at 1:30 Love Team Visitation – 4th gather in the 4th Day room in the Love Team dorm and sing behind closed doors to the participants during their visitation.

Sunday at 6:00 AM – WAKE UP – 4th Day gathers in the dining hall to sing to the participants on their “birth day”.

Sunday at 3:30 PM –Clausura – Final worship service of the weekend. 4th Day worships with the Participants

I look forward to seeing you all at any or all of these activities. God's peace to you all.

Sincerely, Cid Smith, Post Weekend Representative

INTERESTED IN SERVING? - PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Date of Birth _____ M _____ F _____

Home Phone (required) _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Church: _____ City: _____ Phone: _____

Please check all weekends you could serve: April _____ August _____ November _____

Your Weekend Information: Community _____ Number _____ Date _____

Will you serve on a music team? Sing? _____ Play an instrument? _____

Cut out and send completed form to:

Vickie Clark, Via de Cristo Training Director
2100 Oak Hill Road, Fort Worth, TX 76112
training@ntls.org

AFTER THE WORSHIP ENDS, THE SERVICE BEGINS

Dear 4th Day Community,

A Via de Cristo weekend is to remind us of several things including God's amazing grace, how to share God's love in our daily environments, to understand what our apostolic action is to be and most of all how being part of a larger community holds us all up to be able to do all these things.

Each one of us has experienced our own weekend as a participant. Many of us have served as staff on weekends since. All of us know these weekends cannot happen without prayer, staff training, many weeks or months of preparation and then the actual labor to make it happen. It becomes a matter of logistics to make everything flow as it should.

For weekend #70 the staff has spent four weekends in training, rollos have been written, food has been prepared, palanca has been given, leaders have lead the staff in activities for team building. That part of the weekend is ready.

Now it is your turn to participate in weekend #70. There are many needs which require attention. First we will need a team to meet the Rector and the CHAs to set up on Wednesday evening November 8 at 6:30. We need people who will help set up tables, the living room, the chapel, the sound system, the palanca room, bedrooms for the Spiritual Directors and the dining room. There is much to be done on Wednesday, but many hands make lighter work, plus it is more fun.

On Sunday afternoon we need to prepare for Clausura. The staff and participants leave the building at 2:30. At that time the 4th day is needed to get in to take down the rollo room; it becomes the sanctuary. We need rows and rows (and rows) of chairs for participants and lots of 4th day attendees. While some of you are setting up the sanctuary with chairs, the altar and the area for the musicians, others can be taking down the chapel, putting away the LBW, taking down beds in the SD rooms and storing away those things which will not be used during Clausura.

After the worship ends, the service begins. Our work is not over when the chairs are put away. If the boxes with seat cushions, hymnals, table cloths, artwork supplies and all the items it takes to make the weekend happen have not been stowed away someone has to stay to do these things. Again, many hands make lighter work and again, it is more fun!

For weekend #70 many of the people who normally come out to do set up and take down are serving on staff. This means that they will not be available to help on Sunday afternoon with Clausura setup; **you are much needed.** They will also be very tired from a long, yet incredible, weekend and not have as much energy for take down; **you are much needed.** Additionally, many of the people who have been coming out to do these things are no longer coming. Is it just not as much fun when the same people do it all every time? We each have many commitments to our time; can you commit to doing one part of what it takes to make the logistics of a weekend happen? Please, please prayerfully consider adding this service to your action plan for your month of November or for your week of November 5 – 12; **YOU ARE NEEDED.** Many hands make lighter, more fun work.

The worship ends and the service begins.

Blessings,
Alice Allison
Weekend Rep
Logistics Coordinator
and
Rectors CHA weekend #70

SPONSORING 101

When the worship ends the service begins. That sentence was coined by Vickie Clark and Suzanne Guinn at the last Grand Ultreya, but everyone agreed that it was a word from God. We first used it in reference to cleanup and take-down at Clausura. When the worship and praise part of the afternoon is over, the CHA (Christ Hands in Action) part or Service if you will begins.

It is much the same with sponsoring. The worship and glory part is the Weekend and Palanca. The CHA and Service is part is the year of mentoring that follows. This includes taking your new participant to Small Group meetings weekly and Ultreya meetings when they are scheduled. Remember it is also the sponsor's job to carpool with new participants to Wakeup and Clausura.

The joy we found on our Weekend can only be kept alive if we keep our friendship with Jesus alive. Consistently meeting in Small Groups is a good way to maintain that friendship, but new participants won't know that unless, YOU, the Fourth Day model this activity for them.

How long has it been since you met weekly with a small group? For most of you, that is too long!

Bless as much as you can,

Vickie Clark,
Training Director



Our registrar, Kathleen Talafuse, has moved. Here's her contact information.

Kathleen Talafuse, Registrar
715 Eringlen Lane
Highland Village, TX 75077
Home Phone: 972-317-7187
Email: talafusekl@verizon.net

Please use this address when sending in applications.

Questions About Via de Cristo???

Visit our Website at <http://www.ntls.org>

El Tintero

North Texas Lutheran Secretariat
7633 Castillo Road
Fort Worth, TX 76112

To: