



Amazed By Grace



Utah Via de Cristo Newsletter

OCTOBER 2011

VIA de CRISTO is based on the fundamentals of Christianity, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The focus is not on VIA de CRISTO itself, but on the environment of the community of believers. The objective of the movement is to inspire, challenge and equip people for Christian action in their homes, churches and communities.

Well, here we are once again, praying and preparing for another blessing of men and women who are seeking to deepen their relationship with our LORD in the upcoming Utah VDC weekends. The Rectors and teams have been busy in planning, rehearsing and going over the details that bring joy in the acts of service to not only the weekenders, but the 4th Day community as a whole. It seems that no matter what our busy schedules may entail in our daily lives, we set aside these days and rekindle our relationships to be able to build new ones. Through all the team members and angels, GOD seems to place HIS hand on each and every one of us to be HIS own hands and feet at work. Our GOD is an AWESOME GOD and forever shall HE reign in each and everyone who serves in HIS name. Praise be to GOD and to those who will be serving over the next two weekends.

GLYASDI

2011 Utah Via de Cristo Secretariat Members

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Secretariat News

Hello 4th Day Community,

During the September Secretariat meeting concerns were raised in regard to the difficulty of building teams for the last few weekends. As this situation was discussed the Secretariat felt that there were a few challenges that needed to be addressed. The community has fallen into an interesting pattern of response and sometimes even behavior. We are challenged with loving each other through our weak, sinful moments. We are challenged with the exercise of forgiveness. We are challenged with making time for service in our busy schedules. We are challenged with loving those around us enough to serve them. We are challenged to keep our Via de Cristo community active and alive in Christ.

A few points to consider:

- When receiving a call to work please respond in an appropriate amount of time, no matter what your answer is. Remember it is a conversation not a confrontation.
- New leadership is needed and encouraged, but the seasoned 4th dayers need to assist in the raising up of new leaders.
- An invitation to attend a weekend is not the responsibility of the clergy. It is the responsibility of 4th day members to invite others to attend a weekend.
- Not all will get called to work a weekend but if you or someone you know is available to work please contact someone on the Secretariat and give them your information. They will relay it to the correct people.
- Communication is one of the key components for the weekends to be successful. Yet, it is one of the biggest challenges we have. One way that we communicate is through the Prayer and Praise email that John Bradford sends out. John has approximately 450 of the Utah VDC email addresses, of those 25%-33% open and read their emails. When compared to the 1,250 4th day members in Utah only 12%-16% actually receive communication. We cannot be dependant on email, facebook or our website to communicate to everyone.
- Updating everyone's information is an enormous task. Please consider being proactive in updating your information. Give your information to a member of the Secretariat and they will forward on to the directory team. Also if you would like to be involved in updating the directory let a Secretariat member know.
- Working a weekend is not for everyone, not all 4th Day members return to work a Via de Cristo weekend. That does not mean that they don't support Via de Cristo, it simply means that God has directed them to serve and lead in other ministries.
- Another challenge the secretariat wishes to address is the division of churches and the effect it has had on the 4th day community. This topic is sensitive but does need to be discussed. Via de Cristo is a Lutheran movement but autonomous from any church body. The priorities are teaching the gospel of grace, assisting weekenders to influence their environments with the gospel, and encouraging a renewed personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

- Via de Cristo can be a place of healing. A Via de Cristo weekend is a place where we walk in as believers in Christ. It is a place where we can seek refuge in the arms of Jesus with the loving support of our brothers and sisters. All baptized believers are welcome. This is a place where segregation and cliques should not exist and where we serve each other as well as serving the weekenders. Working a weekend should be a snapshot of heaven. A place where God is glorified and we serve each other in a Christ like manner, a place where God would want to dwell and be pleased with His children's love for each other.

This letter has been written so that we may all pause and consider this ministry's goodness and our earthly responsibility towards it. The secretariat wishes for this ministry's continued growth. Via de Cristo is living Gods word through our actions in serving.

St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words."

Any comments regarding this letter or other concerns you may have please contact a Secretariat member.

Blessings,

Your 2011 Via de Cristo Secretariat.

Calling any/all 4th Day community members:

YOU can make a difference: *take time in prayer to see what direction GOD's plan of service may have for you.*

The Utah VDC Secretariat is a great opportunity to serve the community and participate in planning/development with other state movements. In the upcoming year (2012), some of our members will be completing their tenure. We will be praying over a number of people that will be contacted to answer GOD's call to service and be able to bring fresh ideas and energy to the Secretariat. We need to fill (2) three year terms and (1) two year term.

We also need lots of prayer as we start to search for the Spring 2012 weekend Rector & Rectora .



Report from the National Lutheran Secretariat 2011

I had the privilege of attending the meeting that was held in Charlotte North Carolina this past July. The meeting was for the purpose of conducting the business of the National Secretariat. Elections were held to fill positions on the national officers, Ed Bresti from the Colorado secretariat was elected president and will serve a two year term.

This year is the twenty five year anniversary of the first Lutheran cursillo so in tribute some of the founding spiritual directors talked about the early weekends. One interesting fact, Edgardo Bondelli (the spelling is my creation I can't take notes that fast), the founder of the Catholic cursillo movement in Spain in the stated that the whole purpose of the weekend is to get you into a renewal group. There were also a lot of small group workshops and regional meetings. A lot of good ideas came out of this and have been presented to our local secretariat. One thing more, there is now two delegates allowed from Utah.

GLYASDI: Rich Jones (Policy/Procedures) 2011 Via de Cristo Secretariat



Servant Training
Saturday, November 12, 2011
9:00 a.m. until noon
Grace Lutheran Church
835 North Main, Bountiful, Utah

The Utah Via De Cristo makes this opportunity available annually so that you may:

1. Pray and Fellowship while enjoying a light brunch
2. Renew connections with others who desire a fuller understanding
3. Hear more about the expectations of a sponsor
4. Make a connection to a new or existing renewal group
5. Become acquainted with the guidelines for speaking at an Ultreya
6. Find out who our church liaisons are and what they do
7. See evidences of progression that are frequently missed
8. Learn more about your secretariat
9. Gain some understanding of what is involved in servicing on a team

If you have not attended a servant training in the past or if you desire a refresher, please mark your calendars then RSVP to:

Mary Kartak, Training Coordinator for Utah Via De Cristo
Applejack11@hotmail.com or 801-540-2396

Pastor's Corner
Growing in Christ:
A Brief Meditation on 1 Corinthians 3

Those of you who have been at team training for the upcoming Via de Cristo weekends, already know that I have been doing a lot of thinking (and talking) about Christian maturity. God willing, my talking is not in that condescending, “grow up” way that immaturity is often belittled by those who “think themselves mature.” Rather I pray that I speak as one longing for the fullness of Christ and as one who is praying to eat that same solid food which our Father longs to feed us all.

There is a deeper reason for this focus. It is because Christian maturity is the aim of the *cursillo* movement, and indeed of the Christian life. We are a movement for bringing Christians, like ourselves, to a deeper, more focused faith in Christ via piety, study and action. Our movement is a modern answer to the longing articulated by St Paul in 1 Corinthians 3: “And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh.” We *cursillistas* are another tool that God would use to bring his Word to bear on the lives of people in need of new life!

Indeed this is what it means for us to be Christian leaders, for such leaders are simply growing and maturing Christians. The writer to the Hebrews makes this connection explicit when he writes: “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food . . . But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.” (Hebrews 5:12 & 14.) For teachers are, by definition, leaders.

Yet it is a funny thing about maturity. It isn't something that we can create in and of ourselves - or as parents, in our children. The best we can do is provide “nutrients” to support the necessary development. Or to return to St Paul (1 Cor 3:6-7), “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, *but only God who gives the growth.*” (Italics are mine.) Maturity, the growth, is given by God and all that Paul, or Apollos, or anyone else on earth, can do is plant, feed and water. Paul reinforces this point in verses 10 to 15 via a second analogy of the builder who builds on a foundation of Jesus Christ. There is no usable building without a foundation, just as there is no new life without Christ.

However, we can - and do - stunt that desired growth, in ourselves and in others, by indulging our human frailties. Indeed it is such growth-stunting indulgence that Paul is lamenting and confronting in this text! Yet the surest way to avoid that indulgence is to return our focus to Christ. Indeed this is precisely the point of Paul's observation at verse 16: “Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?” You are God's home and indeed are under God's protection (vs 17). If we live with our focus there, we will see ourselves in God's presence (as we always are) and we will see the growth taking place in our lives.

To bring the point home, Paul reminds us that we have no wisdom without God. He does this by mocking our human wisdom and the collective wisdom of human leaders in verses 18 to 21. At wisdom that is not only ineffective, but unnecessary because in Christ all things belong to us (vs 21). This is true what ever the threat or opportunity, in this life and the next! Why? Because we belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God (vs 23). What better security is there? And that is where our focus belongs, where our life is hid with Christ in God (Col 3:3).

Pastor Neil

[ATTENTION ALL PRAYER WARRIORS!](#)

Prayer IS Palanca!

With joy and commitment, the Palanca Sisters of Weekend #35 (Fall 2006) began a Prayer Renewal group focused on praying for weekends, community needs, and personal requests. We meet in the Good Shepherd Prayer chapel 7:30-9:00 p.m. the first Monday of each month (except holidays). All are welcome to join us **October 3, November 7, December 5.**

Help us give Palanca to Via de Cristo all year long!!!



If you would like to receive email reminders or submit a prayer request, contact Cathy Ricci 801.557.2032 or cathy@riccifamily.com

"It's not about the church, it's not about the pastor, it's about the Christ."

From An Invitation to Pray & Worship, Journey to a Deeper Faith by John Tesh

Mark Your Calendar!

IMPORTANT Upcoming Events

2011 Utah VDC Fall Weekends

Men's #51: October 6-9: Rector (Dave Morse)

Women's #52: October 12-16 Rectora (Annie Layton)

October Secretariat Meeting

October 20, 2011

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

2500 E 3900 S

Holladay, UT 84124-1896

7-9 PM



Stay connected. With technology and gadgets today, there are so many ways to keep informed as to what's going on. People – Places – Events can all be found by using any of the following ways

Utah VDC Website: www.utahvdc.org

National VDC Website: www.viadecristo.org

FaceBook Page: Utah VDC

Prayer Request & Praise Report: John Bradford

email: joab@xmission.com

Prayer Meetings/Groups: Cathy Ricci

email: cathy@riccifamily.com

Church Life Humor

The Old Pastor Just Wanted To Go Like Jesus Did

An old preacher was dying. He sent a message for his doctor and his lawyer, both church members, to come to his home. When they arrived, they were ushered up to his bedroom. As they entered the room the preacher held out his hands and motioned for them to sit, one on each side of his bed. The preacher grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled and stared at the ceiling.

For a time, no one said anything. Both the doctor and lawyer were touched and flattered that the preacher would ask them to be with him during his final moments. They were also puzzled; the preacher had never given them any indication that he particularly liked either of them. They both remembered his many long, uncomfortable sermons about greed, covetousness and avaricious behavior that made them squirm in their seats.

Finally, the doctor said, "Preacher, why did you ask us to come?" The old preacher mustered up his strength, then said weakly, "Jesus died between two thieves; and that's how I want to go."



Cost of a Sermon

One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour.

"Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."