



North Florida Tres Dias Newsletter



Upcoming Weekends

FALL

Men's #53  
October 8-11, 2015  
John Blackwell, Rector

Women's #53  
October 22-25, 2015  
Cathy Corredor, Rector

SPRING

Men's #54  
April 7-10, 2016  
Bruce King, Rector

Women's #54  
April 21-24, 2016  
Paula Marshall, Rector

Please attend if you have never attended a PO and are planning to serve on the upcoming weekend, or if you have not attended PO in the past 2 years, it's time to come back and review. It is vital for us to not stray from the essentials. A couple hours of your time is all it takes. No Children please



SPONSORSHIP

Wow! The weekends are getting close! Team meetings are in full swing, building bonds, planning how to love on the candidates. Another step in this process is sponsoring. Has God placed someone on your heart? Do you know someone who loves the Lord and would love to spend a weekend basking in His love? Then please sponsor them. We are sending out reservation forms now. We especially need men, single and couples, so please don't hesitate. You will need time for them to be confirmed for the weekend, to get their letters together, to pray, to plan on how you will continue to bless them in their 4th days. Remember, Tres Dias is not about saving someone, it's about growing leaders. Sponsorship is not about numbers, it is a real responsibility to the candidate, their family and our Father. We look forward to hearing from you.

DeColores! Terry and Rossie Tullis, Pre-weekend couple

From The Upcoming Rector's Heart...



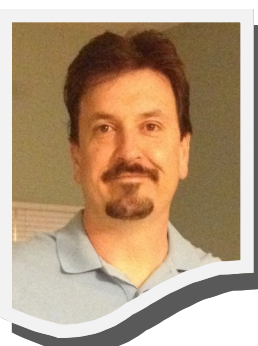
Immersed in Mercy ~ Titus 3:4-8. "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. ..."

Because of Jesus we can confidently approach God's throne of grace and receive mercy and grace when we are having a difficult time. The Lord is merciful and compassionate toward us. He is slow to get angry and is filled with love toward us! He isn't merciful toward us because he has to, He is merciful toward us because He enjoys it, just like we do toward our own children.

Mercy triumphs over judgment! We do not get what we deserve! We can take refuge in the shadow of His wings until the disaster has passed. His faithful love never ends! His mercy toward us never ends! He is totally faithful. Every day His mercy starts over again. It never runs out! Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new life and we have an eternal hope because Jesus was raised from the dead and sits at His right hand, constantly interceding for us! Raise your hands to Him and cry out for His mercy! He delights to show you mercy, son and daughter. What a privilege to be Christ's hands in action serving the candidates! Join us in praying for the women the Lord will bring on this weekend and praying for the team, that all we do will be out of agape love, living out God's mercy toward the candidates and each other. Getting our hair wet! Immersed in His tender mercy!

Cathy Corredor, Rector of NFTD Women's Weekend #53

Almost 2 months ago I lost my sister through very tragic circumstances. My sister took her own life after a car accident in which alcohol was involved. Although the details are not important I would have to say it was one of the most devastating periods of my life. All of us at one time have had to go through incredibly tough struggles and hardships that may make us question the pain, suffering and God's purpose in our lives. And this was one of mine.



The accident happened just after the July 4th weekend near Jackson Mississippi. My little brother asked if I could come out immediately as he wanted me there ASAP, so my wife and I drove out after a few hours notice. We stayed in Mississippi for six days and on the sixth day the funeral was held. As I type this I can honestly say I would never want anyone, anyone to go through what my family went through in that week. I did not think it was possible to feel that much fear, rage, grief and desolation in that short amount of time. It was the first time in my life that I was so distraught I lost my mind for about 10 minutes and destroyed a room in a fit of rage and despair. I say all this not to model good behavior, but to be completely transparent on what many of us go through in our lives.

It is no exaggeration to say that Jesus kept me whole and sane through that week. I would also go so far as to say there was almost a "magical covering" over me that week that allowed me to ease others pain and to help with the ordeal that we were living through. The power and the force of His love was enabled through this community and body of believers. **So you can think of this rector's letter as a thank you note :)**

My wife and I, through the power of your prayer and no less than 400 texts and emails over that week were held up and able to let God's light shine, protect our families, and ease the burden on our loved ones. I will say that again, it was this community's prayer and love that got us through that week.

**God wants and loves for believers to dwell in union and in community.**

These verses are examples:

*Psalm 133:1* "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"

*Galatians 6:2* "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

*First Thessalonians 5:14* "And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all."

In Thessalonians 5:14 my wife and I were absolutely the fainthearted and the weak, and you showed us patience.

In Galatians you bore our burden, fulfilled the law of Christ, and all of this was done because our community dwells in unity :)

Why is community so important, especially among us believers? I can say as true living testimony that we definitely and desperately need each other and that we are much stronger together than we are individually. It is one of the greatest strengths that we can share in the truth of God's word and for me and many others it increases our faith exponentially. When we bear one another's burdens, we lighten their load by sharing their sorrow. When we have a burden, as believers, the last thing we need to do is to isolate ourselves. Isolation makes the person experiencing the sorrow and the grief to have too much to bear on their own.

I am writing this letter to encourage, to help, and to lift up someone else that is going through a struggle or hardship and I want to show that I am a living testimony to the power of a community that is focused on God's love and will. I am also writing to continue further this amazing community that we share in the hopes that it never decays or dies, and that we all remember to constantly seek and imitate our Lord's love and unbelievable desire to help each other.

John Blackwell, Rector Men's Weekend #53