



Via de Cristo of Ohio Newsletter
Affiliated with the National Lutheran Secretariat

De Colores!

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April 10, 2015

Sometimes our Faith Stories—yours and mine—are short, simple and sweet. Sometimes they are grand and stunning. Read on for one of those from Pastor Denise Sager. Then please send your story for all to share.

Journal Entry from Missionary without Borders, Denise Sager

South India, Feb 6, 12:10 AM:

In Bangalore, for several days we have been teaching leadership to church planters who travel as missionaries from the South of India to North India. Pastors are just too needed now to have to wait the number of years before they're graduated. There are at least 30,000 Indian Christians for every trained pastor!! So this lay pastoral program of two years (at most) gets more Indian Christian men and women into the field to lead ministry. At the leadership conference with church planters and Christian pastors, they seemed exactly like what we read in the Bible of the early church. They share the Gospel where it's never been heard before; they heal the sick, cast out demons, and face severe persecution with even death threats.

We spent time at the end of teaching each day with each of us individually laying on hands with prayer and anointing of men, women, and children. Using our hands is so powerful here with the caste system still in effect, with its accompanying belief that defilement can happen when one touches a lower caste person, 65% of the population! People display a deep desire for human touch. It is truly healing. Combined with prayer and praise, the combination is unstoppable!

Some of those gathered at the conference have come by bus over several days' time to meet here, and they are having a reunion with sisters and brothers in Christ. They are so moved to be with each other and to have freedom to worship. We sing together in strong voices and with drums. These Christian leaders sacrifice much for the Gospel, and we pray and praise long and often in between times of teaching and testimony. We speak of the sufficiency of Jesus for the suffering church. One of the church fathers, Tertullian, said that Christianity without suffering is not normal! Wherever there is true faithful Christianity, there is suffering. As long as we are in the world, we will have persecution and suffering,

Secretariat

- Lay Director**Warren (Butch) Seeley
(614) 332-1357 harleyrider751@ymail.com
- Asst. Lay Director** Chuck Fahnestock
(937) 238-6170 charles.fahnestock@wright.edu
- Secretary** Donna Gough
(614) 948-3833 goughdonna@aol.com
- Treasurer** Raleigh Sandy
(937) 885-1868 sandyjr@donet.com
- Spiritual Director** Pastor G. Karl Gaston
(614) 364-3110 jgaston550@yahoo.com
- coach** Butch Seeley
(614) 332-1357 harleyrider751@ymail.com
- Logistics Coordinator** Ken Riling
(419) 886-2437 kriling07@aol.com
- Fourth Day Shepherd** Dave Lann
(330) 296-6929 vdclann@yahoo.com
- Prayer Chain** Jane Koch
330-688-0581 prayersforvdc@gmail.com
- Music Adviser** Jen Briner
(614) 901-0896 jenbrinner@yahoo.com
- Palanca Cha** Sherryl Patterson
(740) 751-4057 dcsfp20@the-franklins.net
- Registrar** Kevin Hoch
(513) 931-8797 khoch@cinci.rr.com
- Documentation** Donna Gough
(614) 948-3833 goughdonna@aol.com
- Leaders' School** Fred Schneider
(513)-729-0945 fschneider@fuse.net
- Weekend Rector Development** Dick Brenneman
(740) 398-0945 dbbrenneman@embarqmail.com
- Technology Media Specialist** Christy Brill
(614) 899-7429 goosebrill@msn.com
- Newsletter Editor** Nancy Martin
(419) 886-4420 vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com
- Columbus Area Representative** open
- Northern Region Representative** Ken Riling
(419) 886-2437 kriling07@aol.com
- Southern Region Representative** Open

Contact Butch for info @ open positions.

Secretariat Meetings are held the third Saturday each month. You are welcome to attend. Contact any member for place and time of the monthly meeting.

God loves you and so do we!

Jesus taught. Christ is sufficient. His grace is sufficient. These words have deep meaning for all of us through this shared experience.

When the Indian Christian leaders declare in their native languages what the Lord Jesus is accomplishing through them, the translators are often so moved as to have to stop speaking to gasp and then immediately give praise to God for what they have just heard uttered, and must now find words in English to explain in translation to us! Such is their immediate response to the miracle they hear! When we hear of the miracles, we are all so moved. Here are notes from a few of their personal witnesses which sound like first century Christians, only located today in India.

One Indian man, a former devotee of a guru (“god-man”), thought Christianity was a foreign religion with a foreign god. Someone witnessed to him that when he was in difficulty, just to remember the name of Jesus. When his daughter became quite ill, he grew heart sick and thought to drink poison and end his own life. Some women were praying for him. Another time he was implicated in a false accusation. Though several life experiences, he came to know Jesus Christ and trusted him more. Today as a baptized Christian leader, he works in four different villages as an evangelist. He established two worship centers with sixty people. He can read and testify about Jesus since accepting him, despite a low level of education. Once, in a Brahmin (highest class in the Hindu caste system) village, they surrounded him when he was testifying about Jesus and beat him with sticks. A girl between 8 and 9 years of age was brought to him, blind from birth. He was told to heal her or face immediate death. He called on the power of the Lord and used aloud the name of Jesus to proclaim healing on the girl. The girl could miraculously see for the first time. The Brahmin Hindus continued to threaten his life, but the family of the girl defended him and he was safe from danger. (There was no dry eye in that room when he quietly spoke this testimony. There were often tears of joy among us, likely in heaven, too.)

Upper class Brahmin men may wear a thin pony tail (Choti) over the top of their other hair. One young Christian Indian evangelist demonstrated this custom. He is Brahmin and wears a Choti, citing that he is like the evangelist Paul, who became all things to all people. Upper class Brahmins often live in North India and do not tolerate Christians. This young man fearlessly goes into those places and preaches aloud in crowds. “Who is he? What is he doing?” he hears the people say. They see his Choti and say, “Oh, he is one of us. Well, he is not bothering anyone. Let him do what he is doing.” God is healing the sick and freeing the demon-possessed people. Families are seeing these miracles and trusting in the true God. This young man works in five different villages. He is discipling 5 different people to come and also to preach the Gospel. He has two churches and every day offers prayers in a different village. [In north India, in the city of Agra, I attended a worship service in which he baptized several people in a baptismal pool with another young



Via de Cristo of Ohio is now on Facebook!

We hope you will “like” our new Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/viadecristooh> !

Get on the Web – Ohio Via de Cristo
www.vdcoho.org

National Via de Cristo Website
www.viadecristo.org

Kairos Website www.kairosohio.org

(Our VdCOhio.org website is now up and running!)

ULTREYA NEWS

Ultreya in north-east Ohio are usually the third Saturday of each month, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kent, at 4:30 pm at 600 S. Water Street, and potluck will be included. For more information, please call Dave Lann, 330-296-6929, or Pr. Doug Fidler, 330-673-5445.

Cincinnati Ultreya are usually the first Saturday of each month at 4:30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Healthy. Address is 1553 Kinney Avenue, Cincinnati 45231. For questions, please call Kevin Hoch, 513-931-8797.

Bellville Ultreya will be the second Sundays of January, April, July and October at 3:00pm, at St. Paul Lutheran

Christian partner in the Gospel. There was much joy in welcoming the new Christians into the congregation! The signing was so loud and heartfelt that the music and praises carried freely in the air, witnessing to the power of Christ throughout the poor neighborhood.]

Formerly Hindu, but now a fearless Christian leader, Pastor Navratan Singh shared the need for a larger place to assemble the believers. So they are finding land in a slum and building a church. They are doing baptisms in the River Ganges; such is the need for believers to be adopted into the family of Christians. [We met him again in Agra, northwest India. His 12-year-old son Ruben was playing keyboards and drums for an amazing worship service, plus conducting a large group of singing and dancing children from a Christian after-school program. Pastor Singh’s other son, Justin Paul aged 18, led worship and I learned has been accepted at Christ for the Nations, where he will live and learn through this evangelizing training program based out of Dallas, Texas. He is only months older than our son Andrew. I offered that we will be his family in America. Pastor Singh was visibly grateful for this news when translated, and he smiles and praises our Lord Jesus.]

These Christians are fearless, claiming the power of Jesus and being equipped with the Holy Spirit’s gifts to share the Gospel with others, especially in the low caste neighborhoods. They share that Jesus is the true way. Broken families, worshiping many gods, turn to Christ through powerful door-to-door sharing of the Gospel, with praying and telling about Jesus. Hundreds and thousands of people have been reached in North India. The harvest is plentiful. Laborers needed!

Look for Part II from Pastor Denise in the May VdC Newsletter.

Please share YOUR Faith Story—humble or frightening or comforting or surprising or moving—in our Newsletter. See the address on right.

Church, 48 Church Street, Bellville 44813. Worship and Holy Communion are followed by Potluck, table service and drinks provided. Call Ken and Josie Riling with questions, 419-886-2437, or Paul and Vicky Sakala, 419-884-1573.

This month, the North Dayton Ultreya will not be held. However, the North Dayton Ultreyas are usually the third Saturdays of every month, so the next one will be May 16 at 7pm at the United Christian Church, 8611 Hoke Rd, Clayton, OH 45315. (Bring snack to share.) For Questions, please call Wes Scoates at [937 533-7605](tel:9375337605).

Please share with us any information you have about an Ultreya near you. Send the information about any 4th Day Group Ultreyas to vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com or to Editor Nancy Martin at 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813 or 419-886-4420.

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Men’s Weekend #74 April 23-26, 2015, Columbus Rector Kevin Hoch</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Women’s Weekend #78 May 14-17, 2015, Columbus Rector Lisa Bacu</p> |
| <p>Clergy Experience #2 is Monday – Thursday, October 5 – 8, 2015 at St. Peter and Paul Retreat Center. Rector Chuck Fahnstock</p> | <p>Co-ed Weekend is coming Thursday – Sunday, October 22-25, 2015 at Camp Mowana in Mansfield. Rector Dave Lann</p> |

A Message from the Rector of Women's Weekend #76

Happy Easter!!! I am rector for the upcoming Women's Weekend in May and I want to greet all of you this spring. Our weekend will be held May 14-17 and we are eager to serve God. If you know of any women who are planning to attend the retreat, please be sure to get the paperwork turned in quickly. Our team is small but mighty so far. Our theme this spring comes from Psalm 27:8: **"When You said, 'Seek My face', my heart said to You 'Your face, O Lord, I shall seek.'" Seeking our King is one way to fulfill our life goals of Piety, Study and Apostolic Action. Jesus is constantly seeking us and He will never give up on us. We simply need to be tuned in to His voice. He wants to have a conversation with us if only we learn to seek Him and recognize His voice. As a team we are relying on God to turn this weekend experience into a lifelong journey of seeking His face, not only for the pilgrims He calls, but also for us as a Community. We will continue to pray for all of you and we appreciate your prayers and support for all of us.**

Lisa (Burrows) Bacu
Women's VdC #33

From the Rector of Men's Weekend # 74

The Men's Weekend is getting closer! The men who have heeded God's call to be on the Team have met several times to prepare and are eager to serve the Pilgrims in Jesus' name. God has spoken to many of you to suggest the person(s) you should ask to attend the Weekend. Listen! But then follow through, pray for them, extend the invitation and fill out the application forms* and get them to me by scanning them into an email to khoch@cinci.rr.com or by US Mail to Via de Cristo, PO Box 53081, Cincinnati, OH 45253.

Being a prayer warrior for the Weekend is a joy-filled experience for so many in the VdC Community, and often for Christians who are outside our Ohio VdC Community. We're grateful for the prayers of all of you. Perhaps a team member will ask you to sign up for times on the 72 Hour Prayer Palanca. If not, you're welcome to contact Palanca Cha Jim Caldwell at jtcfms@aol.com or 614-818-3975 to choose times, or to choose one from an emailed update.

We members of the Team for Men's Weekend #74 ask now for your prayers for us, for the Pilgrims whose names we know and for the Pilgrims whose applications are not yet received. Pray that God will reach through us to bring these men into closer communion with Him so that Christ can count on them just as He counts on us!

**Peace and God's Blessings.
Kevin Hoch**

*** If you need application forms or have any questions about the registration process, just let me know. My e-mail is khoch@cinci.rr.com and phone is 513-931-8797. Please mail completed application forms to me at 22691 Altura Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45239 or to the VdC post office box. (I'm also the VdC Registrar in addition to being this Weekend's Rector.) Forms were also attached with March's Newsletter. God's Blessings - Kevin**

Men's Via de Cristo Weekend #74 Team

| Name | Position | Church |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Pastor Doug Pretorius | Spiritual Director | St. Paul Lutheran – Bellville |
| Pastor Jay Jackson | Spiritual Director | Grace Lutheran - Columbus |
| Jim Caldwell | Ideal / Palanca Cha / 4 th Day | Living Word - Galena |
| Paul Sakala | Laity | St. Paul Lutheran - Bellville |
| Dick Brenneman | Piety | St. Paul Lutheran - Bellville |
| Sandy Mueller | Study | Northside Fellowship-Westerville |
| Sean Quinn | Apostolic Action / Head Cha | Trinity Lutheran - Mt. Healthy |
| Norbert Peiker | Leaders | St. Paul Lutheran - Bellville |
| Open | Environments/Chapel Cha | |
| Kevin Hoch | GR & U / Rector / CCA | Trinity Lutheran - Mt. Healthy |
| Gayle Kanz | Rollo Room Cha | St. Paul - Bellville |
| Dennis Meyer | Rollo Room Cha | Trinity Lutheran – Mt. Healthy |
| Tony Starn | Rollo Room Cha | Hosanna Lutheran - Pataskala |
| Fred Mabry | Head Kitchen Cha | White Oak Christian - Ross |
| Carl Isley | Kitchen Cha | Citi Church - Bellville |
| Lester Bigelow | Kitchen Cha | St. Paul Lutheran - Clyde |
| John Dagg | Kitchen Cha | St. Paul Lutheran - Clyde |
| Brian Peters | Music Cha | Messiah Lutheran - Reynoldsburg |
| Brian McAllister | Gopher Cha / Kitchen Cha | Grace Fellowship - Pickerington |

Pilgrims for Men's Weekend #74

| Name | Church | Sponsor |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Don Lewis | Xenon – Columbus | Jim Wise |
| Duane Gallaway | Clay Memorial Lutheran – Mansfield | Dick Brenneman |
| Dick Bibart | Christ Lutheran – Bexley | David Gruenberg |
| JJ Osco | St. Stephen Martin Lutheran - Canton | Jeff and Lisa Brooks |
| Rick Humphreys | | |
| Rick Baumgarner | | |
| Terry Trego | | |

| Thursday and Friday, April 23 and 24, 2014 | Saturday, April 25 | Sunday, April 26 |
|--|--|--|
| Thursday--Pilgrims arrive at Cum Cristo Retreat Center in Columbus at 7:00 pm Send-Off at 7:30 pm | Study 9:10 AM Sacraments 10:35 AM Apostolic Action 2:05 PM Obstacles to Grace 3:30 PM Leaders 5:00 PM | Gather in Kitchen QUIETLY!! Wake-Up Serenade 6:00 AM Environment 9:10 AM Life in Grace 10:15 AM CCA 11:45 AM Group Reunion and Ultreya 1:30 PM 4 th Day 2:30 PM |
| Friday Ideal 9:55 AM Habitual Grace 11:10 AM Laity 1:55 PM Actual Grace 3:10 PM Piety 5:10 PM | Serenade Practice 5:30 PM (Linden Lutheran Church, 1230 Oakland Park Ave., Columbus 43224) Serenade 6:40PM | Clausura (Messiah Lutheran Church, 1200 S.Waggoner Rd., Reynoldsburg) 5:15 PM |

A Message from VdC Ohio Music Advisor Jen Briner

The song, "Every Morning is Easter Morning", has tested the limits of my Google-ing ability! I really wanted to give you the background on this song for the April newsletter but it is not known. I do know that it was composed in 1972 by Richard Avery and Don Marsh. During their partnership they have written and published over 150 songs for Hope Publishing Company. Although Don Marsh passed away in 2010, Richard Avery is living in retirement in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

If there is something I've learned from Via de Cristo, it's that we must live every day as "Easter People", never forgetting or failing to share "who" and "whose" we are! So, maybe the background of why they wrote the song isn't as important as what the song teaches us. I've printed the words below.

Every morning is Easter morning
 From now on
 Every day's resurrection day
 The past is over and gone
 Good-bye guilt good-bye fear
 Good riddance
 Hello Lord hello sun
 I am one of the Easter people
 My new life has begun
 Daily news is so bad
 It seems the Good News
 Seldom gets heard
 Get it straight from the Easter people
 God's in charge spread the word
 Yesterday I was bored and lonely
 But today look and see
 I belong to the Easter people
 Life's exciting to me
 Every morning is Easter morning
 Every morning is Easter morning
 Every morning is Easter morning
 From now on
 (ccli# 59098)

HE IS RISEN! (and all the Lutherans say, HE IS RISEN INDEED!)

GLYASDI.
 Jen Briner

National Via de Cristo Gathering 2015

Thursday, July 23 through Sunday, July 26, 2015 at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill.

'The theme for this year's gathering will be: "Gather at the River: Centered in Christ "

Via de Cristo/Curcillo/Kairos/Chrysalis/Emmaus Weekends around the USA

Secretariat Palanca Cha Sherryl Patterson shares the news of these Weekends so that you may consider praying for them as you do for our Weekends

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|--|---|--|
| <p>Florida Gold Coast VdC Women's #90 April 16-19</p> <p>Prarie Sonshine VdC – Central Illinois Men's #17 April 9-12</p> <p>Vineyard Via de Cristo Men's #27 April 16-19 Women1s #27 April 30-May 3</p> <p>Rainbow VdC Men's – April 16-19 Women's – April 23-26</p> <p>Eastern North Carolina VdC Mixed #90 Weekend – April 16-19</p> | <p>Lutheran VdC of Minnesota Men - April 16-19 South Women - April 23-26 Section Men - April 30-May 3 North Women - May 7-10 Section</p> <p>Utah VdC Men's #65 April 16-19 Women's #66 April 23-26</p> <p>West Virginia Chrysalis Girls - April 17-19 Boys – April23-26</p> | <p>Tennessee VdC Mixed – April 22-26 Men's - April 16-19 Women's - April 23-26</p> <p>Ohio Good News VdC Men - April 23-26 Women – April 30- May 3</p> <p>Washington State Co-ed -- April 23-26</p> <p>West Virginia Emmaus Men – April 23-26 Women – April 30-May 3</p> |
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If you know someone who has changed their street address or email address or telephone number, please send the new information to Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin at vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com or 419-886-4420 or 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813.

If you know someone who does not get the VdC Ohio Newsletter but would like to, please send the contact information to Nancy.



Via de Cristo of Ohio is now on Facebook!

We hope you will "like" our new Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/viadecristooh> !

Get on the Web – Ohio Via de Cristo www.vdcoho.org
National Via de Cristo Website www.viadecristo.org
Kairos Website www.kairosohio.org

(Our VdCOhio.org website is now up and running!)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 9:10