



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

De Colores!

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November 15, 2017

A Message from VdC Ohio Lay Director Warren (Butch) Seeley

(Presented at the Texas via de Cristo "Back to the Mountain" event but read by someone else in Butch's absence)

Good morning! My name is Warren (Butch) Seeley and I attended Men's Ohio Via de Cristo number 28 where I sat at the table of Matthew. Thank you for allowing me to share with you today. The name of this sharing is "Get out of the boat."

We heard from Pastor Mark about our mountain top experience, Wendy talked to us about building disciples, Steve shared about cultivating friendships, Ellick explained you are not alone, and Jason spoke to walking in the valley. Now let's talk a little bit about getting out of the boat.

You all know the story. Jesus perceived the crowd was going to take him by force to make Him king, so He departs by Himself alone to pray. His disciples are sent before Him to Bethsaida and when evening comes, they find themselves in the middle of the sea and a storm comes up. They are straining at rowing for the wind is against them. The disciples are afraid of the storm. Jesus walks out to them on the water; the disciples are fearful for they think it's a ghost. The disciples are afraid of what they perceive to be a ghost, afraid of a miraculous demonstration, because Jesus is walking on water.

Jesus speaks to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I, do not be afraid."

Be of good cheer! It is I. Do not be afraid.

The first thing we notice in this part of the story is that the disciples were obedient. Jesus told them to go on ahead, they obeyed Him. They also had chosen to follow Jesus; that is to say, they were disciples. So hence, before we can get out of the boat, we must first get into it.

Building disciples, introducing Jesus to our environments. Christianizing our environments, the places where we invest the times of our lives. How do we do it? By bringing Christ into our environments, by prayer, by making a friend, being a friend, and introducing our friend to Jesus. Through group reunion (our accountability groups) we can work through what is our apostolic action, our apostolic action plan until we meet again. Before we get out of the boat, we have to get into the boat. We enthusiastically invite others to get into the boat. Jesus had a plan. By the grace of God, we follow His plan.

Be of good cheer! It is I. Do not be afraid.

Be of good cheer!

The evil one, the world, cannot steal your salvation. But attacking and taking your joy, your good cheer, now that's another story. Did you ever notice how hard it is to be of "good cheer" in the storms of life? The Creator of the universe knows you by name, calls you His, and never leaves you.....let that sink in. That is something to be of good cheer about. God's always in the mix, God's got this.

It is I.

I think Jesus is saying, it is I, I AM, I am the same God who parted the sea, I am God, I am here, and the seas will obey my command again. Sensing, believing God is there, in the storms of life, your storms of life, is not easy. But the Holy scriptures tell us time and time again, He will never leave us. He's not a part-time God.

Do not be afraid.

He tells His disciples do not be afraid. Yeah, right, Jesus. The wind and waves are swamping the boat. You are walking on the water. We haven't seen that. Heck, we thought you were a ghost.

Do not be afraid is easier said than done. What is it that you fear? Some of our fears are legitimate. Don't touch a hot stove burner (you'll get a burn). Don't drive through high water with your car (you could drown). However, there is a difference between worry and fear.

Scientists put a pike fish in a large aquarium and the fish swam around freely. They put small minnows in the same tank. What do you think the pike did? He ate them! After a few days, they put a smaller clear round cylinder into the tank. They then dumped the minnows into the round clear cylinder instead of the entire tank water. What do think happened? The pike attempted to eat the minnows, unsuccessfully. Each time he attempted he struck the round clear cylinder-- no food and a sore snout. A few days later, the scientists lifted out the clear round cylinder. Now the minnows swam around in the tank, even touching the pike. What do you think the pike did? He did nothing, he starved to death. This story illustrates the pike syndrome: **False Evidence Appearing Real**. Sometimes the fears we have appear to be real and it is false evidence.

Do not be afraid.

Jesus speaks these words with authority. So, Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water". So He said, "Come" And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid. Beginning to sink he cried out, saying "Lord save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshipped Him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Come.

Jesus called to Peter, "Come." I think Jesus is constantly calling us, Come. Fellowship with me, know me, be with me. Fellowship with the King of Kings, Lord of Lords. During a storm or in the calm, going to Jesus during these times is an intentional act on our part. Peter was intentional about stepping out of the boat, an act of faith.

Ed Kaufman was a man of fellowship. He was up early praying and talking with God. When my wife Wendy and I would go visit her parents, I would always greet Ed in the morning, his Bible open, and sometimes he was in prayer. He came to Jesus in the calm and during the storms of life. He knew the Creator of the universe was always in the mix. He could step out of the boat with confidence; if he faltered because of high winds or waves, he knew that the Lord would save him. Ed was intentional about his time with God. He told me that was time he spent building his faith and trust.

Come.

Death can be a fearful thing. I'm not delivering this talk today in person because my father in law, Ed Kaufman, went to be with the Lord, Tuesday morning at 7:35 am. I was there with my wife Wendy and my sister-in-law when he drew his last breath. Ed was unconscious until he opened his blue eyes and looked up with a countenance of peace before he drew his last breath. I will never forget it as I believe it was his final witness to the glory of God. Jesus reached out to Ed just like He did Peter, I got you, I've got you.

I don't know what you face, I don't know what your friends face. I can only say Jesus has you, step out of the boat, encourage your friends, "Be of good cheer! It is I. Do not be afraid."

God loves you and so do I

UPCOMING EVENTS

Co-Ed Weekend #3 May 3-6, 2018 at St. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark
Rector Sharon Gsellman and Head Cha Bob Gsellman (330-688-4965)

Clergy Experience #3 Monday October 1-Thursaday October 4, 2018
St. Peter and St. Paul Retreat Center, Newark

Rector Dick Brenneman (740-398-4664) and Lead Spiritual Director Pr. Doug Pretorius
Invite some Pastors to introduce them to Via de Cristo methodology and to love on them and show them Grace.

Further information for ALL of these will be in upcoming Newsletters

If you would like to be part of a Team, contact the Rector or Lay Director Butch Seeley (514-332-1357)

We Need Your Garage Sale Items!

Since becoming a more mobile organization, we have discovered that we are in need of a few items that are not always available at the different facilities we have been using. Rather than going out and purchasing these items, we realized that an individual or church may have gently used items lying around that they would be willing to donate. Items for which we are looking include:

- **More Bells** (non-breakable, please)—Sadly, the Mallorca bell has been misplaced. Currently we have a small brass bell but it is not very loud. Plus, we used to supplement our bell supply by the numerous ones at the Cum Cristo Center in Columbus where we held so many of our Weekends. Most of the retreat centers we use now do not have extraneous bells lying around for us to borrow. (Qty. = 6)
- **Music Stands** (sturdy but collapsible preferred)—Some of our music chas bring their own but we would like to have a couple on hand so that we can leave them in the areas where they will be used most during the Weekend—the Rollo Room & Chapel. (Qty.= 2)
- **Easels** (sturdy but collapsible preferred)—Again we used to borrow the heavy wooden one at the Center in Columbus. Some of the facilities we have used the past few years have had ones we could borrow but not all of them do. This would be extremely beneficial for displaying signs for the Legs of the Tripod (Piety, Study and Action) as well as other visuals during presentations. (Qty. = 3)
- **Dry Erase Boards & Markers** (no bigger than 6'x4' but larger than 2'x3')—Gone are the days of chalkboards all around the Rollo Room. Although most teams use “fill-in the blank” write-down forms now, there are still times when the Rector, Professors, or Spiritual Directors would like to write or draw on a board. (Qty. = 2-3)
- **6' Foldable Tables** (lightweight but sturdy that fold in half for easier storage)—It may seem like most Retreat Centers would have enough tables for our needs but sadly that is not the case. Sometimes provided tables are too bulky to move to where we actually need them. For example, at Avon, we need extra tables in the loft to create the Palanca area but are unable to move the provided tables up there. (Qty. = 2)
- **Communion Cup Trays** (any style)—Although Common Cup Communion has been the norm over the years, many SDs are starting to use a pouring chalice with individual communion cups. Although standard food trays or plates have been used in the past, communion cup trays would be more convenient. (Qty. = 2)
- **Coffee Carafes** (table-side carafes like food servers use)—Again, you may think these would be available at all Retreat Centers but places like St Leonard's, which is mostly used for youth events, don't find them a necessity. (Qty. = 5)

If you or your church can donate any of the above items, please contact Christine Brill (email: goosebrill@msn.com or cell: 614-579-8586) and she will arrange for items to be picked up.

Editor's note: The goal of Via de Cristo is to strengthen people of faith and to equip people of faith to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in their environments. That takes on many forms! Most Cursillistas (that means people who've been on a VdC Weekend as Pilgrims) become more active in their churches; many start new groups such as for Bible study or teaching children or serving their community; some boldly witness to strangers on the street or in a store; some become Christian mentors to family members or co-workers. They stay connected to VdC through Reunion Groups and/or Ultreyas. Some become very active as Team members or Secretariat members. Some stay connected with the website, on Facebook or reading the Newsletter. Most value their connection by prayer.

I don't know all the possible ways that Christ is counting on you and you on Him. But I would love to hear your version, to share with others in the VdC Community. Contact me at vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com or 419-886-4420 or 4025 Andrews Rd., Bellville, 44813. Nancy Martin, Editor

For assistance to find or form a Reunion Group for your Pilgrim—or yourself—contact Fourth Day shepherd Dave Lann, vdclann@yahoo.com or 330-296-6929. He can look in the VdC Archive for names of people in your area and give you their most recent contact information. But some of the info in the Archive is out of date. If you know people who haven't received a Newsletter or heard from a VdC friend in a while, please send their new contact information to **Secretariat Webmaster and Data Collector Christine Brill** (goosebrill@msn.com or 614-579-8586), or **Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin** (vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com or 419-886-4420).

A Message from VdC Ohio Music Adviser Jen Briner

Dear Easter-People Friends,

In the last newsletter I let you know that some new, more current, Weekend music was in the works. I am pleased to let you know that recommendations to the Secretariat were made and we have developed a roster of songs that music chas can add to the Weekend songbook! Each song comes with Rollo suggestions for the Professors and printable chord and lyric sheets for music chas. The music list is below. Listen for them in your churches or on the radio and, as always, make a joyful noise!

1. We Believe (Matthew Hooper/Ritchie Fike/Travis Ryan)
2. Cornerstone (Jonas Myrin/Reuben Morgan/Eric Liljero/William Bradbury)
3. Hosanna (Praise is Rising)- (Paul Baloché/Brenton Brown)
4. Amazing Grace-My Chains Are Gone (Chris Tomlin/John Newton/Louie Giglio)
5. My Hope is in You (April Geesbreght)
6. Reign in Us (Tim Newfield/Jon Newfield/Ben Glover)
7. Lord I Need You (Jesse Reeves/Kristian Stanfill/Matt Maher/Christy Nockels/Daniel Carson)
8. He Knows My Name (Tommy Walker)
9. Beautiful One (Tim Hughes)
10. Jesus Messiah (Daniel Carson/Chris Tomlin/Ed Cash/Jesse Reeves)
11. Revelation Song (Jennie Lee Riddle)
12. Your Name (Paul Balouche/Glenn Packlam)
13. Forever (Chris Tomlin)
14. One Thing Remains (Brian Johnson/Jeremy Riddle/Christa Gifford)
15. In Christ Alone (Keith Getty/Stuart Townsend)
16. Mighty to Save (Reuben Morgan/Ben Fielding)
17. 1000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)- (Jonas Myrin/Matt Redman)
18. Jesus Thank You (Pat Sczebel)
19. At the Cross (Love Ran Red)- (Chris Tomlin/Ed Cash/Matt Armstrong/Jonas Myrin/Matt Redman)
20. Made to Worship (Chris Tomlin/Stephan Conley Sharp/Ed Cash)
21. All is Well (Johnny Parks/Claire Hamilton)
22. The Only Name (Yours Will Be)- (Benji Cowart)
23. Amen (Because He Lives)- (Chris Tomlin/Daniel Carson/Ed Cash/Gloria)
24. The Heart of Worship (Matt Redman)
25. Good Good Father (Anthony Brown/Pat Barrett)
26. God of Wonders (Marc Byrd/Steve Hindalong)
27. Holy and Anointed One (John Barnett)
28. I Exult Thee (Pete Sanchez Jr)
29. I Will Change Your Name (DJ Butler)
30. I Surrender All (Judson Wheeler Van DeVenter/Winfield Scott Weeden)
31. Psalm 19 (Terry Butler)
32. Wonderful Merciful Savior (Dawn Rodgers/Eric Wyse)
33. These Three Days (Jennifer Briner)

This makes me excited for the next weekend! Anyone else??!!
 God loves you and so do I,
 Jen Briner

VdC Prayer Chain is prayingforvdc@gmail.com or by phone at 419-884-1573. Vicky Sakala is Prayer Chain Cha.

If you know someone from the Via de Cristo Community who has changed their street address or email address or telephone number, or does not get the VdC Newsletter but would like to, please send the new information to Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin at 419-886-4420 or vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com or 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813.



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

Utreya News

Cincinnati Area

The next Cincinnati area Utreya will be Saturday, **January 6, 2018** at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Healthy. Address is 1553 Kinney Avenue, Cincinnati 45231. Please call Kevin Hoch, 513-931-8797, for the time. **We are asking folks to invite someone who has not attended a weekend before so that we can answer questions they may have about the weekend.**

Cincinnati area Utreyas are usually the first Saturday of each month.

Stow Area Utreya

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 3725 Kent Road, will host an Utreya in the spring of 2018.

There will be worship, Holy Communion, a short talk and discussion.

Dinner and child care are provided, but please bring your Song Book, Pilgrim's Guide and name tag.

For questions, call Jane Koch, 330-688-0581, or Cathy Doering, 330-239-0027.

Bellville Area Utreyas

Bellville Utreyas will be the second Sundays of January, April, July and October **at 3:00pm** at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church Street, Bellville 44813.

There will be Worship, Holy Communion, and Potluck with table service and drinks provided.

Call Ken & Josie Riling, 419-886-2437, or Paul & Vicky Sakala, 419-884-1573 for questions.

Parma/Cleveland Area

The next Utreya will be in the spring of 2018 in the Chapel of Divinity Lutheran Church, 11877 Blossom Avenue, Parma Heights, 44130. We have a small group Bible Study led by Pastor Doug Gunkelman and Holy Communion with Potluck to follow. Bring a dish to share. Meat will be provided. All are invited. See future Newsletters for information.

Call Leslie Crowe at leslie.crowe@aol.com, 440-263-4552 or Judy Junker at JudyJunkmail@aol.com, 440-537-0867 with any questions. God loves you and so do we.

North Dayton Utreyas are usually the third Saturdays of every month 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.

COLUMBUS ULTREYA

On **Saturday, December 9 from 5:30pm-8:30pm**, there will be an Utreya at All Shepherds Lutheran Church, 6580 Columbus Pike [RT 23], Lewis Center, Ohio. 43035. They will have quarterly Utreyas in 2018.

For more information contact Warren [614.332.1357](tel:614.332.1357) or Wendy [614.332.1352](tel:614.332.1352) Seeley.

KENT Area Utreyas

Utreyas in the **Akron-Kent area** of Ohio are often the third Saturday of a month at Trinity Lutheran Church, 600 S. Water Street at 4:30 pm. There will be Worship with Holy Communion, a topic for discussion, and potluck will follow with table service and drinks provided. For more information, please call Dave Lann, 330-296-6929, or Pr. Doug Fidler, 330-673-5445.

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly. II Corinthians 9:8

(There is Thanksgiving, as in T-Day, and there is thanksgiving, as in every day. May you have every blessing God desires for you for T-day and every day, and the Holy Spirit's inspiration to express your gratitude for both.)

The Way of Saint James – El Camino de Santiago de Compostela

It's a pilgrimage walk in northwest Spain that has existed since around the 9th century, but has greatly increased in popularity since the 1980s such that over a quarter million people now make the walk each year. They are mostly spiritual pilgrims but some go just for the exercise or the scenery. There are multiple routes which begin all over Europe but join in three main routes through Portugal and Spain and converge at the Cathedral of Santiago.

The cathedral is said to be the burial place of the Apostle St. James the Greater, son of Zebedee. Santiago (his Spanish name) had come to spread the Gospel throughout the Iberian Peninsula but had returned to Jerusalem and was martyred by beheading in 44 AD. Legend has that his body was returned to the area now known as Spain, and at his burial place a shrine was built which has evolved into a beautiful Cathedral de Santiago de Compostela, as large as a city block.

I tell you this because Paul and I had the extraordinary privilege of walking 117.3 km of The Way for 9 days in early October, along with four friends. My pilgrimage made alive for me the stunning beauty God has created on this Earth, the temporal home he has given us. Of course I saw incredible scenery as we walked, with delicate wildflowers at our feet, vast rich green fields beside us, old growth forests towering over our heads, rippling streams under the Roman-built bridges we crossed, and often cows sharing our path. I petted a sheep, held a "conversation" with a goat and watched cute kittens romp. We walked beside and through many farms whose houses and barns were stone, perhaps centuries old. The farmers we passed and the other pilgrims who passed us all wished us "buen camino."

The greater beauty God gave me on this walk was the people we encountered. I talked with a 12 year old boy, walking with his school group, who told me about his visit to Cincinnati; a 90-ish woman and her daughter who both carried huge backpacks with their clothes, bedrolls, etc.; a couple walking with their boxer which had boots on all four paws; and a young woman who had been walking over a month to cover 800+ km. There were kind people who had small cafes along the route, providing welcome drinks, snacks and toilets. Pointing and smiling served as communication; we heard multiple languages from the people around us. We also encountered tables in people's yards with fresh fruit, cookies, coffee cake and bottled water, a small box with a slit on the top for donations, and a sign saying "help yourself" in Spanish and English. Each day at a café stop, we six had prayer devotions using the Acts account of St. Paul's travels to spread the Gospel. I wondered how many folks around us listened in.

We found a memorial plaque for a man who'd had a heart attack and died at that spot in 1985. The words praised God for the friends who had sent him on the pilgrimage and those who had accompanied him, giving him his dream trip. We came across several makeshift crosses where pilgrims had left notes and mementos—scarves, shoes, rosaries, photos, little stones. There were cruceros, large stone crosses with carvings portraying St. James, which were hundreds of years old, and we went into many small chapels equally old where we could share prayer.

At the end of our walk in Santiago, we went to noon mass on Sunday with over 1,000 others, pilgrims and townspeople. Paul and I understood maybe 10 words of the Galician dialect of Spanish, but we knew exactly where we were during the service. We Christians know the sound and rhythm of the confession, the kyrie, the lessons and psalm and gospel, the litany of prayers, and the words of institution for the Holy Communion. I will say I didn't get much out of the homily, but it was powerful to know that so many people speaking several languages could join in worshipping the one Holy God.

And then came another of His blessings when I was struck by God's infinity through the examples around me. We were six people among a few hundred that we'd see along the trail, at the cafes along the way, at the hotels or b&b's where we'd stay and then thousands in the villages or cities where we'd finish each day's portion of the walk. I thought about the fact that we weren't even as big as a drop in the bucket of all the humans on earth now or all the others God has created so far and will create in the future. As far as our eyes could see at any one moment—miles at times—was not even a drop in that bucket of God's creation of land and sea on earth and of God's creation of all space. Our infinite God has created it all and continues to create. Even more awesome to me is that He knows everything, always, about all of it and that He keeps all of it in His care!

What are the other blessings God has given me from this pilgrimage on The Way? I don't yet know. As with so many of His blessings to me in my life, He reveals them over time in little surprises of memories or connections with people or insights I didn't understand right away. Does He do that for you too, surprising you with the recognition of His blessing long after the experience happened?

Praise to Holy God for who He is! Thanks to our Triune God for all He has done and will do!! Praise and thanks to Father Creator, Jesus Redeemer and Holy Spirit Sanctifier/Inspiration!!!

God loves you and so do I.

Nancy Martin, Women's Weekend #54, table of Naomi

In Memoriam

Please join us as we remember the below Via de Cristo of Ohio members who recently entered their 5th Day.

Karen Schneider

(April 1, 1938—June 12, 2017)

Marilyn Smith

(June 3, 1933—April 6, 2017)

Mary Voelker

(Feb 20, 1956—March 22, 2017)

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.

~2 Timothy 4:7 NASB

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

~Matthew 5:4 NRSV

If you know of a Cursillista who has recently entered the Church Triumphant, please let Christine Brill know so that we can honor their memory as well as update our records.

Secretariat

Lay Director Warren Seeley (614) 332-1357 harleyrider751@gmail.com	Logistics Coordinator Mark Ludrosky (330) 882-4244 mludrosky1@neo.rr.com	Rector/Weekend Orient Dick Brenneman (740) 398-0945 dbbrenneman@gmail.com
Asst. Lay Director Christy Brill (614) 899-7429 goosebrill@msn.com	Fourth Day Shepherd Dave Lann (330) 296-6929 vdclann@yahoo.com	Technology Media Specialist . . . Christy Brill (614) 899-7429 goosebrill@msn.com
Secretary Kevin Hoch (513) 931-8797 khoch@cinci.rr.com	Prayer Chain Vicky Sakala 419-884-1573 prayingforvdc@gmail.com	Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin (419) 886-4420 vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com
Treasurer Raleigh Sandy (937) 885-1868 sandyjr@donet.com	Music Adviser Jen Briner (614) 901-0896 jenbriner@yahoo.com	Contact Lay Director Warren "Butch" Seeley with your interest in serving on Secretariat.
Spiritual Director Pastor G. Karl Gaston (614) 364-3110 jgaston550@yahoo.com	Palanca Cha Sherry Patterson (740) 262-0563 dcspf20@the-franklins.net	Contact 4 th Day Shepherd Dave Lann to reach people in your area of Ohio to encourage them for Reunion Groups and Ultreyas.
coach Butch Seeley (614) 332-1357 harleyrider751@gmail.com	Registrar Kevin Hoch (513) 931-8797 khoch@cinci.rr.co	

Secretariat meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month. You are welcome to attend. Contact Lay Direct Butch Seeley for the place of each meeting. For 2017, they will be in person at 10am in March, May, July, September and November. They will be by conference call at 10am in February, April, June, August and October.