

# The Taste

Newsletter for the  
**Taste of Grace VIA DE CRISTO**  
Community

www.tasteofgrace.com

## Taste of Grace VDC Secretariat attends NLS Annual Meeting in Ohio

Eight members of the Taste of Grace Via De Cristo Secretariat took off on a road trip this summer. Why, you ask! To attend the National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting.

This year the Annual Meeting was held on July 24-27<sup>th</sup>, in Columbus, Ohio. Housing and meals were at Capital University and daily worship and other activities were held at Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

The hosts teams which were VDC of Ohio and Good News VDC of Michigan, had everything organized and ready for the participants when check-in began on Thursday morning.

The entire time was scheduled with a variety of worship services, food, talks, food, songs, food and lots of other activities. Does this sound familiar? To us "first timers," attending the Annual Meeting was like attending a weekend all over again. We quickly bonded with the many other Brothers and Sisters in Christ who shared the same enthusiasm and commitment to VDC and sharing God's grace - how awesome!!!

Each of the Taste of Grace participants tried to mix & mingle and attend different activities so we could

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### *Taste of Grace Via de Cristo* **Continuing Ed Class & Ultreya**

**Date:** Sunday, Sept. 14, 2003

**Time:** Continuing Ed 1:00 p.m.  
Worship 4:15 p.m.  
Potluck 5:45 p.m.

**Place:** Shepherd of the Hill  
Lockport, IL  
Directions to church on pg. 4

**Our Theme will be:**

**Christ's GRACE is the Heart of it all!**

*"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*

- 2 Corinthians 12:9

Continuing Ed is required for anyone planning to serve on a VDC weekend.

Ultreya - Bring a dish to share...beverages, plates and silverware will be provided. Babysitting will be offered during worship service.

## From the Lay Director

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

- Colossians 3:23-24

Dear Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Community,

If you are serving on team for Taste of Grace #2, on the secretariat, serenading, praying or dropping in to help out, remember at all times that you are working for the Lord and please do whatever you're doing in love and with a servant's heart.

In case you haven't heard, even if you aren't working on team, we would love to have you come by the site for a few hours to pray in the palanca chapel or help out with the many chores to be done each day. There will be signs up at camp directing you where to go. If you need directions to the camp check out their website - [www.manitoqua.org](http://www.manitoqua.org).

As I write this, there are still lots of free spaces available for our autumn weekends. If you are thinking about sponsoring someone and haven't yet spoken to them please speak to God before speaking to them. If you have someone who already wants to attend, please complete the sponsorship form and mail to Harry Benner as soon as you can. Harry's address is: 100 Glenwood Lane, Morris, IL 0450

Pilgrim applications can be downloaded from our Taste of Grace website - [www.tasteofgrace.com](http://www.tasteofgrace.com).

Please keep the pilgrims and the teams in your prayers over the next few weeks.

God loves you and so do I.

Simon Prior  
Lay Director  
Taste of Grace VDC

***"For even the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."***

- Mark 10:45

## ANNUAL MEETING

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compare notes and bring home as much valuable information as possible.

Here is a quick overview of some of the events of this year's Annual Meeting.

Worship Services were held daily and ranged from contemporary to traditional with communion, wonderful messages and sharing of the peace (of course).

Just like our VDC weekends, prayer support was abundant over the weekend. In the prayer chapel a list was posted of names and times of everyone that was praying for the weekend. A basket was also placed in the chapel for prayer requests from the community.

"Music on the Weekend" and "Leadership Training" were two of the workshops made available. A Newsletter/Communication committee and several breakout groups were also attended by members of Taste of Grace. One of the most valuable parts of the weekend were the resources made available and the informal sharing that was done with other VDC communities.

The weekend was filled with music (during worship, a Friday night performance by a Christian group and yes, even a Saturday night serenade followed later that evening by a wonderful sing-a-long); palanca (what fun to receive samples from other communities); daily newsletters (from the NLS staff on previous days events) and even a group photo of first time participants. Special palanca was given to everyone by the Good News VDC community. A song "Christ's Grace - the Heart of it All" was written by their musicians and taught to everyone so we could bring it back and teach to our community. Keep an ear for it at future Ultreyas.

As Lay Director for Taste of Grace, Simon Prior was the "delegate" representing our secretariat during the business meeting portion of the weekend, which included election of officers, long range planning information and outreach.

Check out the photos on the National VDC website at [www.viadecristo.org/annualmeeting/2003.htm](http://www.viadecristo.org/annualmeeting/2003.htm). Next year the Annual Meeting will be held in Tennessee.

## Food for Thought from our Spiritual Director

### "A.S.A.P."

Grace and peace to all of you.

I don't know about you, but I am in the habit of using the acronym ASAP from time to time when I communicate with colleagues and church ministry team leaders. Most of us recognize it as an abbreviation for 'as soon as possible.' And in the hectic, frenetic pace at which we all tend to live, as soon as possible often seems like its not soon enough.

I received the following in an e-mail forward this week. It puts a whole new perspective on the habit of ASAP-ing.

There's work to do, deadlines to meet;  
You've got no time to spare,  
But as you hurry and scurry-  
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

In the midst of family chaos,  
"Quality time" is rare.  
Do your best; let God do the rest.  
ASAP - Always Say A Prayer

It may seem like your worries  
Are more than you can bear.  
Slow down and take a breather-  
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

God knows how stressful life is;  
He wants to ease our cares,  
And He'll respond to all your needs  
A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.



In faith, hope  
and love --keep on ASAP-ing to the Lord!

+Pastor Kathy

## Prayer times available for fall weekend 72 Hour Prayer Scroll

(see page 12)

Prayer (palanca) is the strength of the Via de Cristo weekend. Gods grace is granted to prayer and God's grace is essential in bringing the world to Jesus.

Sign up now -  
call Amy Prior at: 815-8341385  
or send email to: amyprior1@aol.com

Be sure to check out our  
*Prayer Vigil Resource* at [www.tasteofgrace.com](http://www.tasteofgrace.com)

## Praying the PSALMS

Prayer in the Psalms is not merely about our speech to God. The Psalms make clear that prayer is a conversation with the Living God. It shares the following characteristics of human conversation:

1. It expresses our heart to God (and therefore it contains the full range of human emotion and experience: praise, joy, desperation, loneliness, abandonment, longing, pleading, etc.)
2. It expresses God's heart to us (promise, victory, judgment, value, command, etc.).
3. It expresses our conversation with our own souls (encouraging blessing, endurance, hope, faith).

### 5 suggestions for praying the Psalms

by Erick Hulstrand. as printed in  
The Lutheran, Dec. 1997

1. Read the psalm slowly, a phrase at a time. Not every phrase will strike you at the moment. If not, simply move on.
2. When a particular phrase speaks to you, stay there. Always stay where there's fruit. Repeat the phrase several times. Pause and reflect. What thoughts and feelings does this move in you? What is the Lord showing you?

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## From our Rectora

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Summer is almost over and I think I sat on my hammock in the yard two times. Time goes so fast. We have one more team meeting to prepare for the up coming womens T.O.G.#2 on October 2nd-October 5th. The theme for our team meetings is Ephesians 5:14. Paul tells us that it's the light,(of God), that makes everything visible. This is why it is said, "Wake up O sleeper rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you."

Please keep us in your prayers. Don't forget to show your support and let Christ shine through each of you by signing up for a prayer scroll time and sending palanca. We would love to have a large turn out for the pilgrims at send off, serenade and clusura. Through these actions Christ can truely shine.

G.L.Y.andS.D.I,

Your Rectora,  
LaDonna Strakis  
Taste of Grace VDC Women's #2

## TASTE OF GRACE VIA DE CRISTO Continuing Ed Class

Learn more about the dynamics of a VDC weekend, hear about the history of VDC and find out about the many behind the scene roles that keep the weekend flowing.

When: Sunday, Sept. 14, 2003  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Shepherd of the Hill Church  
Lockport, IL

Who: Anyone who has not  
previously attended a  
Continuing Ed class.

Please contact Loretta Volker, Leaders  
Chairperson, at 815-875-1330 or  
email: rhvolker@msn.com to pre-register.

Pre-registration is not required but will insure  
adequate supplies and handouts for all participants.

## From our Rector

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war; and a time for peace. "

This familiar passage is the first 8 verses of Ecclesiastes chapter 3. The changing season from summer to fall reminded me of this passage in scripture. Some of the harvest from this spring's planting has already been plucked, but most of the harvest is just approaching the time when it needs to be plucked up. There is a season for every matter under the sun. God calls His own home to Him in His own time, but those who don't know Him get winnowed out and cast into the fire.

We are in the final preparation for demonstrating what living in Christian love and community can really look like. The harvest feast is being prepared. Have we invited anyone to it?

The men of Taste of Grace team #2 will be ready to serve. Have you done your part? Pray for the team. Pray for the candidates, and pray for those who you have yet to ask.

God love you and so do I.

Larry Herrman  
Rector, Taste of Grace VDC Men's #2

### DIRECTIONS TO SHEPHERD OF THE HILL CHURCH -

I-80 to Lockport. Exit at Briggs and head North. Stay on Briggs until it dead ends into Division. Go right on Division and take to Read Street. Turn left on Read. Take Read to 7<sup>th</sup>. Turn left on 7<sup>th</sup> and the church will be on the right. The church is approximately 5-6 miles from I-80.

*The next Taste of Grace VDC Continuing Ed class will be offered in November.*

## Best Loved "PSALMS"

Taste of Grace Via de Cristo has chosen a scripture verse from the Psalms to represent their mission for outreach.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him." - Psalm 34:-8.

For this issue of "The Taste" we have asked the secretariat members to tell us about their favorite scripture from the Psalms. Here is what some of them told us:

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*Kathy, Spiritual Director* - My favorite psalm is 121. (see page 9)

*Harry, Pre-Weekend:* I have found it impossible to have a favorite verse or chapter in the book of Psalms. The book provides so many examples of lives, joys and sorrows. As I try to read portions of Psalms each day I find it meets my daily needs for the days challenges.

*Donna, Communications:* Psalm 139 gives me comfort and strength, especially verse 14- " I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. " And vs. 23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

## PRAYING THE PSALMS

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3. Stay with this phrase. Let the psalm put your feeling into words. Express it honestly: Yell at God. Complain about your friend. Cry out against injustice. Give praise.

4. Move on when you feel the Spirit has moved on. Repeat this process as phrases stand out for you. Don't feel you must go through the whole psalm. The purpose is not to "cover the psalm" but to meet God.

5. When you feel that your time with the psalm is over, respond to God in whatever way is appropriate. It might be praise, questioning or just "Amen."

## Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Secretariat

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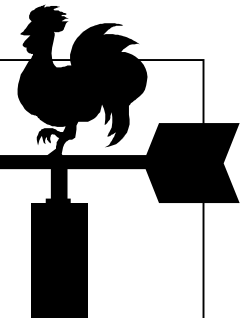
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Check out our  
WEBSITE

[www.tasteofgrace.com](http://www.tasteofgrace.com)



## "NEEDS LIST" for Fall Weekends

- Snacks
- Bottled Water
- Pop
- Boxes of Kleenex
- Flashlights
- Unscented Candles
- White Poster Board
- Banner Stands
- Music Stands

If you'd like to donate any of the above items, please contact Tim Mulder at: (630) 820-8777

or send an email to: [praisingpenguin@aol.com](mailto:praisingpenguin@aol.com)



## FALL PALANCA

A lady recently being baptized was asked by a co-worker what it was like to be a Christian.

She replied, "It's like being a pumpkin.

God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes off the dirt you may have gotten from the other pumpkins. Then he cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.

Passed on from one of God's pumpkins to another.

- AMY PRIOR, Palanca Chair

*A palanca letter is more than a friendship message or "good wishes," it is a promise of prayer and sacrifice.*

## Palanca - prayers and letters needed for fall weekends

† *Lord help me to give abundantly,  
someone is learning to receive*

True palanca is intense prayer and sacrifice on the part of the outside community for the community being formed in the Three-Day weekend.

Time slots are still available for our 72 Hour Prayer Scroll (see page 12). To sign up for a time slot, contact Amy Prior at 815-834-1385.

If you would like to provide any palanca for the upcoming weekends, here's the approx. count .

Pilgrims Only: 30	Rollo Room: 50
Team Only: 40	Everyone: 70

*Head Palanca Cha for Men's TOG #2:*  
Ed Walter 815-254-0198

*Head Palanca Cha for Women's TOG #2:*  
Donna Weaver 815-942-4882

When ADDRESSING PALANCA LETTERS, please use the following guidelines:

In the upper right hand corner of the envelope use one of the following entries: husband, wife, son, daughter, sponsor, friend or community (see below).

After you have all the envelopes addressed, please separate the team into one pile and the pilgrims into another with each pile in alphabetical order by last name. This will be a great help to the Palanca team.

Palanca can be dropped off at an Ultreya, Send-off or Serenade, or given to any team member coming to the weekend.

*relationship to candidate*

**INDIVIDUALS FIRST & LAST NAME**  
*pilgrim or team*

## Calendar of Events

### Taste of Grace VDC Ultreya

Sunday, Sept. 14, 2003  
Shepherd of the Hill, Lockport, IL  
4:15 p.m. Worship  
5:45 p.m. Potluck

Sunday, Nov. 9, 2003  
Location TBD  
3:30 p.m. Worship  
5:00 p.m. Potluck

### Continuing Ed Training

Sunday, Sept. 14, 2003 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Shepherd of the Hill, Lockport,, IL

### Taste of Grace VDC Fall 2003 Weekends

September 25 - 28 - Men's Weekend #2  
October 2 - 5 - Women's Weekend #2  
Palanca: Amy Prior 815-834-1385 or email-  
amyprior1@aol.com

### Taste of Grace VDC 2004 Weekends

April 22 - 25 - Men's Weekend #3  
April 29 - May 2 - Women's Weekend #3  
Sept. 30 - October 3- Men's Weekend #4  
October 7 - 10 - Women's Weekend #4

Check out [www.viadecristo.org/palanca](http://www.viadecristo.org/palanca) for other VDC weekend dates and contact information

### Secretariat Meetings

Sept. 14 - Time: following Ultreya  
Location: Shepherd of the Hill  
Sept. 28 - Time: 4:00 p.m.  
Location TBD

## From our Menu

### PIETY STUDY ACTION

Each issue of "The Taste" features an article based on the Via De Cristo "tripod". In this issue of "The Taste" we have been talking about the Psalms. Taste of Grace Via de Cristo is grounded in Psalm 34, verse 8 What a wonderful book of the Bible to use as our foundation.

I have just finished reading the book, "a shepherd looks at Psalm 23" by Phillip Keller. This book does a wonderful job of breaking down each part of David's poem and applying it to today's world. Beginning with THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, God the Father is described as "the author – the originator of all that exists.," God the Son, "the artisan – the creator of all that exists." and God the Holy Spirit, "the agent who presents these facts to both our mind and spiritual understanding so that they become real and relative to us" through I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOR EVER, where the author states "The sheep is so deeply satisfied with the flock to which it belongs, with the ownership of this particular shepherd that it has no wish to change whatever."

This book provides a light hearted, easy reading look at just one of the wonderful Psalms we have available to us as we read God's word.

Now let's try to apply our look at the Psalms to our "tripod":

Study: There is an abundance of information available to us in the Psalms. To get deeper in to the Psalms check out your local Christian bookstore for Bible Study guides on the Psalms.

Piety: The Book of Psalms is a wonderful source for prayer. Be sure to read the article titled "Praying the Psalms."

Action: The Psalms can give us a basis to use when comforting others or as opening /closing prayers for church meetings or Bible study groups.

As I was preparing to write this article, I was reminded how Psalm 100 tells us to "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands." Many of our praise songs also are based in scripture from this book of the Bible.

So, pick up your Bible, check out the Psalms and remember to "taste and see that the Lord IS good!"

God Loves You and So Do I...

Donna Weaver  
Living Water VDC #22

## PRAYERS & PRAISES

- ❖ We pray for Taste of Grace Men's and Women's Weekend #2... the secretariat, the rector, and rectora for continued guidance and direction, team members for a servant's heart, sponsors as they bring others to Christ & pilgrims as they make a commitment to grow in their relationship with Christ.
- ❖ We pray that you are with those who are enlarging your territory, Lord. Especially the new Via de Cristo secretariats with upcoming first weekends, including Prairie Sonshine VDC, River's Edge VDC and A Light in the Desert Via de Cristo.
- ❖ Dear God, Your child, Mary Ruedin, who is 5 years old was just diagnosed with juvenile diabetes. We pray for the doctors to find the most appropriate treatment and let Mary respond quickly to the treatment.
- ❖ Lord, please be with high school sweethearts whose relationships are now transitioning into a long distance one due to college choices.
- ❖ Teacher of all, We ask that you be with the students and teachers here on earth as they return to their classrooms to start another school year.
- ❖ Ultimate Healer, please be with all those fighting cancer. Be with the patient for healing, with the medical profession for wisdom and with loved ones for comfort--be specifically with Vera and Anne.
- ❖ Father of all, please be with your children who have been introduced to you and have drifted away or deny you -- specifically with Bob, Eddie, Leno and Jeff.
- ❖ Thank you Lord, for the cool breezes, the refreshing rain, the colorful butterflies and for all of creation you provide for wonderment and beauty.
- ❖ Loving Savior, please be with our struggling congregations, Abundant Life Lutheran Church, Peace Lutheran Church and St. Luke's Lutheran Church.
- ❖ Father of all, please be with young adults out on their own for the first time. May their hearts and minds seek your wisdom before making any decisions. Be with us as their parents and help us to be ever mindful of the fact that they were in your care long before they were ever in our care and that in your faithfulness, power and love you care for them much better than we do.
- ❖ Our prayers continue for the cursillistas from Taste of Grace #1 as they continue their 4<sup>th</sup> day journey. May they remember the mountaintop as they work in the hills and valleys.
- ❖ We continue to keep the family of Rosa Ochoa in our prayers, especially our Brother in Christ, Jorge.
- ❖ Gracious Lord, thank you for those you place in our lives, for our marriage partners, our reunion brothers & sisters and all others that help shape us into who you would like for us to become.
- ❖ Thank you, Lord for a successful surgery and the relatively painless recovery. Thank you for the ability to eat chocolate and cheese again! (Michele Koniewicz)
- ❖ Lord, please be with your children whom you are calling to attend the upcoming fall weekends. Be also with the teams you've formed, that they are able to be Christ's hands, heart and ears to the pilgrims attending.
- ❖ Prayers of concern for a friend, Glenn, whose father has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and only has a few months here on earth. Grant Glenn and all his family peace, love and understanding.
- ❖ Please pray for God to guide the doctor and his team when my wife Sharon has surgery on September 29. Also that the recovery goes well. (Harry Benner)

*And all God's children say "Amen."*

## First Continuing Ed Successful

Abundant Life in Plainfield was the location for Taste of Grace VDC's first Continuing Education Class and Spring Ultreya which was held on July

Nine participants attended the class which was the first training class for our Taste of Grace community. Simon Prior, Lay Director offered words of welcome and opened the class with a prayer. Speakers included members from the secretariat. And participants learned more about the dynamics of the weekend through a video facilitated by Ed Kutay. Our next Continuing Ed class will be held in September (see article on front page).

That same afternoon over 30 people attended the Spring Ultreya which followed the training class. Lisa Blood started the afternoon off with a very moving 4<sup>th</sup> day talk, which was also a farewell to the Taste of Grace community. Lisa will be moving away to go to school at Lincoln Christian College in Lincoln, IL. Even though Lisa will be finding a new home with Heart of IL VDC I'm sure she would love hearing from you. You can email her at: [ljblood1015@hotmail.com](mailto:ljblood1015@hotmail.com)

Lisa has requested prayer from the community for this transition in her life. She says, "My VDC weekend confirmed God's call to me to enter into Christian community. Believe me, this is not because I am holy or special. I feel very small and inadequate as I try to follow this call. I will be trying to complete a BA degree in general ministry, along with a certificate for teaching English to foreign students, to prepare myself to serve wherever God may be calling me. The ministry of Via de Cristo has radically changed my life in a relatively short time. I am grateful for all that God has done through each one of you."

Lisa will be missed, but we wish her the best in her pursuit of "God's Plan" for her life.



*Future Ultreya's will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each odd month (Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., Nov.). Times will be 3:30 p.m. Worship and 5:00 Potluck.*

## PSALM 121

A pilgrim song  
I look up to the mountains; does my strength  
come from mountains?  
No, my strength comes from GOD,  
Who made heaven, and earth, and  
mountains.

He won't let you stumble,  
your Guardian God won't fall asleep.  
Not on your life! Israel's  
Guardian will never doze or sleep.

GOD's your Guardian,  
right at your side to protect you--  
Shielding you from sunstroke,  
sheltering you from moonstroke.

GOD guards you from every evil,  
he guards your very life.  
He guards you when you leave and when you  
return,  
he guards you now, he guards you always.

*(This particular translation is from "The Message" a translation by Eugene Peterson.)*

## 3 Short & Funnies 😊

### **Q: What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?**

A: Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury.

A: David's Triumph was heard throughout the land.

A: Honda... because the apostles were all in one Accord.

### **Q: Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?**

A: Pharaoh's daughter - she went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

### **Q: How can you make God laugh?**

A: Tell Him your plans for the future.

If you would like to submit a joke  
send an e-mail to Donna Weaver at  
[donna\\_a\\_weaver@hotmail.com](mailto:donna_a_weaver@hotmail.com)



## WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD



Did you know that there are 3 new Via de Cristo movements which will soon be hosting their first weekend? Can you believe it, we're not the new kids on the block anymore! Here is the info in case you would like to send some palanca letters or sign up to pray for their weekends.

### PRAIRIE SONSHINE VIA DE CRISTO

Check NLS website for dates of weekends.

Palanca: Stacy Thomas  
1800 Mound Road  
Jacksonville, IL 62650

### RIVERS EDGE VIA DE CRISTO

Men's Weekend will be Nov. 6-9, 2003

Women's Weekend will be Nov. 13-16, 2003

Palanca: Deidre Anderson  
12723 Partridge Run Drive  
Florissant, MO 63033  
deidreandersson@sbcglobal.net

### A LIGHT IN THE DESERT VIA DE CRISTO

Check NLS website for dates of weekends.

Palanca: Carol Larson  
296 Fancrest Street  
Henderson, NV 89052  
munseylarson@earthlink.net

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*DIEVS TECI MIL, UN ES ARI*  
that means "God loves you and so do I"

Did you know that a Via de Cristo weekend was recently held in Latvia?

In July Latvian Via de Cristo held their 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend. The most current figures I read were 8 men and 12 women attended. The teams consisted of approx. 28 men and 36 women.

The verses for the weekends were:

Mens – John 14:6  
Womens - Matthew 6:33

How awesome is the width and depth of God's Grace!

Pictures can be seen on their website at:  
[www.ltn.lv/~vdc/vdc\\_thisnthat.html](http://www.ltn.lv/~vdc/vdc_thisnthat.html)

We have had a request for palanca letters from Kairos Prison Ministry. Their Weekend #17 will be held Sept. 25-28.

Here are the guidelines for Kairos Palanca: To personalize the letters, you can address them to My Brother in Christ.... My Brother in blue ... or Dear Friend. You can include your home church name or the group you represent (i.e. Cursillo, Tres Dias, Via de Cristo, etc...). If a group of people will be signing a single poster, they can sign their full name with a short word of encouragement. If your folks plan on writing to each of the participants, I would caution you not to include any information that would allow the residents to mail directly back to you. The important thing is the expression of Christ's love, through His church. Attribution is unnecessary. Having your people sign with just their first name and their hometown would be great.

Letters from Sunday School children are extremely effective in reaching the hearts of these men. I can't count the number of men, some thought to be hardened and absolutely without conscience, who have said that a letter from a child touched their heart or even made them cry. That is easy to understand as almost 75% of the men who enter prison are abandoned by their families.

If you can get letters from children, have them address the letters "Dear Friend" or just leave the address off. Tell the children to say something uplifting about God's love for the person to whom they are writing but let them be creative in how they express it. Coloring of the pictures is always appreciated. The notes should be signed with the child's first name and age but no other identifying information should be contained.

Stickers are not allowed in any notes to the residents. In all cases, do not place the letters in sealed envelopes. All the letters to the residents must be screened by the prison staff to ensure that nothing that is prohibited comes in through these letters. If you place the letters in envelopes, please leave them unsealed. After the staff reviews the letters, the team will seal them. Receiving a sealed letter is a special event for the residents and we try to make as many special moments as possible during the weekend.

Palanca: Chuck Bradley  
4626 Tamworth Drive  
Palm Harbor, FL 34685

# Upcoming Taste of Grace VDC Weekends

## MEN'S Team - Sept. 25-28

Rector	Larry Herrman
Head Cha	Gary Herrman
Ideal	David Hullinger
Laity	Tim Mulder
Piety	Steve Biehler
Study	Jim Hansen
Action	Greg Bickus
Leaders	Simon Prior
Environment	Tim Stone
CCIA	Merle Polson
Music Chas	- Open -
Chapel Chas	Al Ashby
	Bob Deverick
Palanca Chas	Ed Walter
	Dave Little
Kitchen Chas	Kevin Scruggs
	John Bradford
Outside Cha/Kitchen	Mike Hamilton
Table Chas	Gary Stentis
	Terry Phillips
	Joe Clarr
Utility Chas	Steve Peterson
	Henry Garza
Prayer Warriors	Charisse Jesiolowski
	Mary Wooden
	Mary Herrman
	Merv Polson
	Jim Scruggs
	Dale Heinkle
Spiritual Directors	Pastor Kim Peterson
	Pastor Trudi Peterson
4 <sup>th</sup> Day Speakers	TBD

### PILGRIMS

Harvey John Bolton	Shepherd of the Hill
Reno Gerald Caneva	Shepherd of the Hill
Robert J. Bordenaro	Shepherd of the Hill



*"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him."*

- Psalm 34:8

## WOMEN'S Team – Oct. 2-5

Rectora	LaDonna Strakis
Head Cha	Sue Scruggs
Inside Cha	Cindy Penzenik
Ideal	Janeen Tietjens
Laity	Teri Lucke
Piety	Debbie Herrman
Study	Cheryl Barnett
Action	Judi Nickels
Leaders	Joanne Hefner
Environment	Mary Lee Twidell
CCIA	Laurie Anderson
Silent Professor	Jan Curry
	Amy Peterson
Music Chas	Bev Hansen
	Karen Peterson
Chapel Chas	Traci Little
	Kimberly Phillips
	Carolyn Clark
	Jane Taylor
Palanca Chas	Donna Weaver
	Barbara Leiter
	Karen Effner
Kitchen Chas	Michele Koniewicz
	Pam Sagebiel
	Dorothy Bentel
	Kathy Bryant
	Deborah Claar
	Tina Hamilton
Outside Cha	Amy Prior
Table Chas	Lynn Lyon
	Jennifer Thomas
	Louise Thompson
Utility Chas	Cheryl Lovell
	Anita Kube
Prayer Warriors	Peggy Ashby
	Nancy Errio-O'Connor
	Anne Faber
	Anne Gronbach
	Judy McCoy
	Phyllis Miller
	Fran Mulder
	Kaye Pearson
Spiritual Directors	Pastor Kathy Flores
	Pastor Craig Sagebiel
4 <sup>th</sup> Day Speakers	Amy & Simon Prior

### PILGRIMS

Sharon Thomas	Moraine Valley Church
Patricia Ann Haaksma	Living Hope Lutheran
Stacie Walters	No Church Listed

*IMPORTANT WEEKEND INFO FOR TASTE OF GRACE VDC #2***Sendoff:** Thursday Night 7:00 p.m.**Serenade:** Saturday Night  
6:00 p.m. Communion Service for Serenaders  
6:30 p.m. Practice  
7:00 p.m. Serenade**Closura:** Sunday Afternoon 4:00 p.m.*ALL ABOVE ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD AT CAMP MANITOQUA & CHILD CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE*For directions to Camp go to [www.manitoqua.org](http://www.manitoqua.org) - or - [www.tasteofgrace.com/weekend.htm](http://www.tasteofgrace.com/weekend.htm)

## 72 Hour Prayer Scroll

As you know, the palanca of prayer is the most important aspect of the Via de Cristo weekend. And this is where we need you help! Taste of Grace still has many slots that need to be filled as we prepare to get ready to have our second men's and women's weekends this autumn. We are need of prayer support and we are asking that the any and all pray for our upcoming weekends.

Please check the times and see what you can do to help us out! To sign up - I can be reached at 815-8341385 or send email to: [amyprior1@aol.com](mailto:amyprior1@aol.com). Thank you!

In Christ's Service. Amy Prior. Palanca Chair

### MEN'S WEEKEND

THURSDAY, Sept. 25, 2003

8.30pm

FRIDAY, Sept. 26, 2003

12.30am, 1am, 1.30am, 2am, 2.30am, 3am,  
3.30am, 4am, 4.30am, 10.30am, 11am,  
11.30am, 12pm, 12.30pm, 1pm, 1.30pm,  
2pm, 2.30pm, 3pm, 3.30pm, 4pm, 4.30pm,  
5pm, 5.30pm, 6pm, 6.30pm, 7pm, 7.30pm,  
8pm, 8.30pm, 10pm

SATURDAY, Sept. 27, 2003

12.30am, 1am, 1.30am, 2am, 2.30am, 3am,  
4am, 4.30am, 5am, 10.30am, 11am,  
11.30am, 12pm, 12.30pm, 1pm, 1.30pm,  
2.30pm, 3pm, 3.30 pm, 4.30 pm, 5pm,  
5.30pm, 6pm, 6.30pm, 7pm, 7.30pm, 8pm,  
8.30pm, 9pm

SUNDAY, September 28, 2003

12.30am, 1am, 1.30am, 2am, 2.30am, 3am,  
3.30am, 4am, 4.30am, 5am, 9am, 10am,  
10.30am, 11am, 11.30am, 12pm, 12.30pm,  
2pm, 2.30pm, 3pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 5pm,  
5.30pm, 6pm, 6.30pm

### WOMEN'S WEEKEND

THURSDAY, Oct. 2, 2003

7pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 11pm, 11.30 pm

FRIDAY, Oct. 3, 2003

1am, 1.30am, 2am, 2.30am, 3am, 3.30am, 4am,  
4.30am, 5am, 7am, 8.30am, 9.30am, 10.30am, 11am,  
11.30am, 12pm, 12.30pm, 1pm, 1.30pm, 2pm, 2.30pm,  
3pm, 3.30pm, 4pm, 4.30pm, 5pm, 5.30pm, 6pm,  
6.30pm, 7pm, 7.30pm, 8pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm, 10pm,  
10.30pm, 11pm, 11.30pm

SATURDAY, Oct. 4, 2003

1am, 1.30 am, 2.30am, 3am, 3.30am, 4am, 4.30am,  
5am, 6.30am, 7am, 7.30am, 8am, 8.30am, 9.30am,  
10am, 10.30am, 11am, 11.30am, 12pm, 12.30pm, 1pm,  
1.30pm, 2pm, 3pm, 3.30pm, 4pm, 4.30pm, 5pm,  
5.30pm, 6pm, 6.30pm, 7pm, 7.30pm, 8pm, 8.30pm,  
9.30pm, 1-pm, 10.30pm, 11pm, 11.30pm

SUNDAY, October 5, 2003

12.30am, 1am, 1.30am, 2am, 2.30am, 3am, 3.30am,  
4am, 4.30am, 5.30am, 6.30am, 7am, 7.30am, 8am,  
8.30am, 9am, 9.30am, 10am, 10.30am, 11am, 11.30am,  
12.30pm, 1pm, 1.30pm, 2pm, 2.30pm, 3pm, 3.30pm,  
4.30pm, 5pm, 5.30pm, 6pm, 6.30pm

## Taste of Grace VDC Secretariat Report

*Taste of Grace VDC will be given the community updates in each issue of "The Taste" based on the latest secretariat meetings. The following report was from the meeting held August 24, 2003*

**SECRETARY:** Minutes from last meeting were read and approved.

**TREASURER:** Duties still in transition between Amy Prior and Lenny Koniewicz. Camp has been paid for fall weekends. An audit will be scheduled before year-end.

**PRE-WEEKEND:** Pilgrim applications received from 3 men and 3 women.

**WEEKEND:** No report given.

**POST-WEEKEND:** Next Ultreya scheduled for Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> at Shepherd of the Hill, Lockport. 4<sup>th</sup> Day Speaker will Mike Hamilton and Secretariat Members will give reports from NLS Annual Meeting

**PROPERTY:** Inventory has been completed. Tim Mulder has been asked to compile a "Needs List" to distribute to community.

**PALANCA:** Letters requesting palanca have been sent out to other communities. A palanca letter that can be downloaded by other communities will be added to our website. Palanca letters are being sent out to other communities, and we need to follow through on the prayer behind the letters. Prayer scroll still has openings, times will be emailed to community. Kairos solicited personal palanca.

**MUSIC:** A music committee was appointed in lieu of a music chairperson due to volume of work. New songbooks and serenade song cards will be ready for our fall weekends. Serenade books donated to us by Living Water VDC will be passed along to Rivers Edge VDC for their first weekends.

**OUTREACH:** Letters have been sent to 32 churches with TOG brochure. Follow up calls will be done. Pastor Kathy has sent letters to churches also and she will follow up. Letters have been sent to radio stations which included a radio spot and TOG brochure.

**LEADERS:** 9 participants attended first continuing ed class. Next class will be held on September 14<sup>th</sup> prior to Ultreya. Agenda for class is being reviewed by secretariat.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** "Christ is counting on you" letters were sent to all TOG #1 pilgrims. A few responses have been received. Next newsletter will be out prior to weekend and will include team/ pilgrim lists and send-off, serenade and clousura information.

**NEXT MEETING:** September 14th

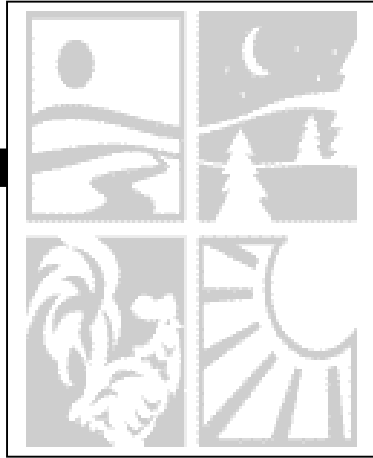
### "Potluck and Prayers" Taste of Grace Via de Cristo **COOKBOOK**

The cookbooks are still in the works.  
No definite date on their availability  
at this time\*?#!  
We will keep you posted!

## Did you know?

- Psalm 118 is the middle chapter of the entire Bible. The Bible has 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118.
- Psalm 117 is the shortest chapter in the Bible
- Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible,
- The central verse in the middle of the entire Bible is Psalm 118:8. "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man."

## Reunion Groups



If you belong to a reunion group we need to hear from you. We would like to compile the following information:

- day, time & place your group meets
- names of people In your Reunion Group and their original VDC weekend each person attended.

Send to: Cheryl Lovell,  
Post-Weekend Chairperson

Email: clovell @morrishospital.org

or Mail : 2605 Canyon Drive  
Plainfield, IL 60544

Also, if you don't belong to a reunion group yet, contact Cheryl at (815) 254-3614 to see if there is a group in your area or someone else that might be looking to join a group!

All newsletter items, prayer concerns and praises can be e-mailed to me at:

**donna\_a\_weaver@hotmail.com**

or: Donna Weaver  
829 E. Chapin  
Morris, IL 60450

**Oct. 10th is the deadline  
for Fall newsletter items.**

## Message from the Editor

I hope you have enjoyed this issue of "The Taste." Each month we strive to meet the needs of our Taste of Grace Via de Cristo community by offering you the most current 4<sup>th</sup> day community information along with articles that will strengthen your daily walk.

This issue has been devoted to the Book of Psalms. As you study the word of our Lord, may you find peace, joy, love and comfort in His word.

Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Men's and Women's Weekends #2 are quickly approaching. While praying for the weekends, may we all reflect on how Via de Cristo has touched our lives and pray that each pilgrim will also be touched in a very special way.

To those on the teams for weekend #2, remember we are instructed in Psalm 100 to ... "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." Rejoice and be happy, grace-filled servants.

Christ's grace poured out in the company of our brothers and sisters in Christ not only expands His territory but instills in each of us a desire to continue to share the Grace we so bountifully receive.

In closing, I would like to use Psalm 51:10-12.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and up hold me with your free spirit."



*Shalom,*

Donna Weaver, Editor