

SONBEAM

Via de Cristo Newsletter

Volume 35, Issue #3

May - June 2015

“Main Street, USA”

It is 9:01 AM on any day here at a certain theme park in central Florida. There is a wave of people coming towards me --Hundreds of people of all walks of life. There are police officers, secretaries, garbage collectors, accountants, students, lawyers, chemists, gardeners, doctors, repairman, musicians, bankers, delivery people, nurses, truck drivers, engineers, builders, and artists.

Today, they're in disguise with their tank tops, shorts, running shoes, backpacks, sunglasses and ball caps. Most seem on a mission --with methodically planned-out agendas, with the look of determination on their faces.

As the “woosh” of the masses blows by me, I'm overcome with the sense of energy that is being suppressed by these people. It's like watching those videos of a tsunami rolling in; this pent-up energy has likely been built-up over weeks, months, sometimes years prior, in heavy anticipation of this day... this moment. The smell of sunscreen and coffee fills the air as I witness this daily phenomenon. I have to admit, it can catch you off guard if you're not ready for it.

The funny thing is that while parents are practically running others over with the stroller they are pushing, the child in the stroller is either hanging on for dear life or is oblivious to the pandemonium and looking wildly at everything passing by, innocent and awestruck.

There was a time when I remember being innocent and awestruck. Now, I feel as though I'm just on a mission, determined to accomplish my list of items and put check-marks in the little boxes.

What happened?

We need to stop every once and a while and be that little child again, slowing down and being awestruck at what God is doing in our lives.

For many, that experience has yet to happen. I look at the opportunity of attending a VdC weekend the same way. Slowing down (considerably) and just observing. “Taking it all in” instead of wooshing by in a blur and anxiously trying to complete the next item on the agenda. Letting Jesus take control, pushing the stroller for us, while we observe all that He has for us. When was the last time you let Jesus push your stroller?

I promise you, if you would just slow down a little, there are some awesome things He has to show you! I promise you, if you would make it a point to shorten your to-do list, you will witness and be a part of what we at a certain central Florida theme park call ‘magical moments’.

Weekends #64 are here! Please come out and support these phenomenal teams the Lord has put together. Be a part of something great in the lives of some innocent and awestruck babe-chicks this year as they witness God's grace poured out in a real and tangible way. And if you have kindled relationships over the past few months, won't you consider inviting someone to experience this magical moment for themselves? I promise you, they'll take home with them something a lot more powerful and meaningful than just pictures and an autograph book.

In His Service-

Michael Marquart

Lay Director Sonbeam Via de Cristo

SECRETARIAT SPEAKS

POST VDC, CHRISTY WILSON

Events:

5/2 - Ultreya and Team Commissioning - 5 p.m.

5/30- Post VdC tables - 4 p.m. & Ultreya - 5 p.m.

IMPORTANT REQUEST: I am still looking for a church or reunion group to host the next Ultreya in August, if you are interested, please contact me.

Reunion Groups: Are you currently in a Reunion Group? If not, then why? As Cursillitas, we are encouraged to find a reunion group so that we can deepen our Piety, Study, and Action as well as keep us accountable within our spiritual walk. The Group Reunion is a small group (3 to 6) of Cursillistas, which meet on a regular basis. The purpose of this meeting is to share with one another the growth that has taken place within each of us and: deepen friendships, help one another live according to the Gospel and bring Christ-like attitudes to our environments. This meeting of friends is at the core of the Via de Cristo Movement. From the very beginning, the founders of the Cursillo movement perceived the Group Reunion to be the means "to create and sustain small nuclei (groups) of Christians who act as leaven for the Gospel in their environments".

As we attempt to bring Christ into our various environments, we will sometimes become frustrated. The Group Reunion provides the continual support we need in order to persevere as a part of God's plan. To help spread the Kingdom, there is nothing, which can compare to the sharing of God's graces among friends. Are you sharing God's grace with others? Being in a reunion group allows us all the opportunity to share God's love and grace with our fellow brothers and sisters.

If you are not in a reunion group or are in a group that is seeking additional members, I encourage you to contact me, so that we can help find the best fit for you. GLYASDI.

EXTENDED PALANCA - DANA MARQUART

It's Friday and you are sitting at the table with strangers. You've had breakfast, gotten your name tag and now wondering why God called you to this weekend away from family, work and/or school.

While listening to another talk, something touches your heart. You come to find out that there have been many people praying JUST FOR YOU! Not only are your sponsor and your Pastor praying, but also those serving you this weekend and many in the community. Then the speaker reads just a few letters out of a huge stack from brothers and sisters around the world praying JUST FOR YOU! People you don't even know... praying!

As we walk our fourth day, let us return the favor and lift others on their weekends near and far. Please join us on the prayer line and pray weekly for our brothers and sisters from FL to Australia.

MEMBER AT LARGE - KATHERINA CROWDER

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12.*

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, it is in great joy that I write to you. I want to praise our Lord and Savior for His mercy and grace in times of tribulation. The past three years have been an emotional roller coaster for me and my family. Lots of loss and anguish. But everyday our hope is made new in the Lord. Each day we have one more reason to rejoice in his healing power and abundant provisions for each of us. God is good and faithful for all eternity. How very comforting to know! So often we find God in the pit of our despair. We find Him when we look up for someone to rescue us from that pit. Truth is that only His hand can save, and for that I am thankful. I rejoice in knowing that He saved a wretch like me...over and over again. Amazing Grace how sweet the sound!

Now I am starting fresh out of the gate once again. I am on fire for God and I have my eyes on the prize. I am seeking God's will for my life. I am looking to root myself where He needs me and serve Him all the days of my life. He is the master of my life and the strength to carry on. Life is sweet and we should cherish each day with those we love and hold dear. In case I haven't told you lately, YOU matter to me. YOU make a difference in my life. I am thankful for YOU and who you are in HIM. I look forward to the upcoming weekends and serving with you around camp, and doing our Father's work. We are blessed to be called His children. It is an honor to serve our community. *God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or imagine! Ephesians 3:20*

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SECRETARIAT SPEAKS (continued)

SECRETARY, LYNN CONLEN

At our last Secretariat meeting, we discussed "4th Day" and Reunion Groups. I was feeling quite smug as I was one of those fortunate people whose sponsor got me involved in a group soon after my weekend and I have been attending the "Tuesday Trekkers" Reunion Group for more than a decade now. I was OK! Then the discussion veered to the sponsor responsibility of making certain your candidate became a part of a reunion group. Oops! I did a quick count of my candidates and the ones I knew belonging to a group and the ones I wasn't sure of. I wasn't so smug now! I wasn't even batting 50%. So I have put on my agenda to touch base with each of my candidates to talk about reunion groups. I know I won't move them all to action, but hopefully one or two will take the step to connect.

So I encourage each of you -

- If you don't belong to a reunion group, contact your sponsor or Christy Wilson, Post VdC Chair, for information about joining one in your area;
- If you are a sponsor and don't attend a group, consider organizing one with your candidates that aren't in a reunion group;
- And finally, if you are a sponsor and are active in a group, contact your candidates to see how they are doing, and if necessary, help them to become a vibrant participant in what you so much enjoy.

PURCHASING, JERRY BROWN

Purchasing ready to go forward as soon as the weekends are officially a "go". It is imperative that we get the proper number of men and women by the cutoff date which is before this newsletter will be published and or mailed. Blessings to all, Jerry <((((>

COMMUNICATIONS - SUE MILLER-CINELLI

I am so gratified by the response of so many in writing inspiring articles and reports for the newsletter. Keep them coming. We are so fortunate to be a part of an ecumenical movement where the Body of Christ comes together outside of the local church walls. We have much to learn from one another. "...we are many members, but all one body!"

**"For I am not
ashamed of
the gospel,
because it is
the power of
God that
brings
salvation
to everyone
who believes:
first to the Jew,
then to the
Gentile."**

Romans 1:16 NIV

Words from the Spiritual Director

“Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, ‘All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’ ” Amen. Matthew 28:16-20

Beloved, we are into the holy days of Resurrection, the culmination of God’s plan for the ages. Jesus came, not only to redeem our souls, but to give us purpose for living. We are to serve the living God, but not in our own strength, cleverness, or purpose. We are to know, understand and complete His will for us just as Jesus completed His Father’s will. It is not our plan or devices that matter but what the Father has planned for us in the lives of others. We were not saved to relax or amuse ourselves but to serve His purpose.

The Way of Christ is to do the Father’s will! As we rejoice over so great a salvation we must remind ourselves it is not only for our enjoyment but also for our employment! We have so much joy to share because of God’s love and sacrifice on our behalf.

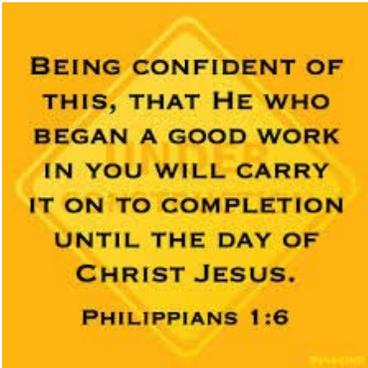
Notice the reaction of some of the disciples. Some doubted, have you ever had doubts about what you were to do, or if you had the ability to do what you felt God would have you do? Notice Jesus’ reaction to their doubt. He said, **“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth”!** We may doubt our abilities but we must never doubt God’s ability. He created the world from nothing and Jesus has made a way for our redemption, something we could never do, ever!

It is not our strength, abilities or imagination that will ever carry the day, only God’s will. God’s power and strength can accomplish what He has determined in our lives. We are to be His witnesses! We are to pray and work and see what He will accomplish in and through our lives. It is not about us, it is all about Him for His glory. Doubt yourself, but never doubt that He will accomplish His will in us. The resurrection was only the beginning. Jesus has redeemed us and called us to be conformed to His image to complete the Father’s plan for the glory of Jesus Christ.

It is ours to pray and do His will for the sake of those who need Christ. Let us forsake our plans and follow Jesus and enjoy His presence and glory in our lives until He comes!

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:” Philippians 1:3-6

God loves you, and so do I!
Pastor Dick White



BEING CONFIDENT OF
THIS, THAT HE WHO
BEGAN A GOOD WORK
IN YOU WILL CARRY
IT ON TO COMPLETION
UNTIL THE DAY OF
CHRIST JESUS.
PHILIPPIANS 1:6



SONBEAM

MEN'S VIA DE CRISTO #64

May 14th – May 17th

God has assembled a great team for His weekend and is continuing to knit them together to serve Him and the candidates on VDC men's weekend #64. We have had several very good team meetings, including an awesome time of worship and prayer as we heard four Rollos on Saturday, March 28.

God has used our time together to draw the team closer together. We can really see God's hand at work as He continues to show up during our time together.

Please continue your prayers for both the Men's and Women's team as we continue to prepare for the weekends.

Do you remember what an awesome gift it was for you when you had those 72 hours set aside for a time with God on your weekend? I certainly remember my weekend and it profoundly changed my life. With the deadline for candidates rapidly approaching, now is the time to speak to that friend that God has laid on your heart and invite them to be a candidate on this weekend.

In His Strength,
John Odom, Rector

WOMEN'S VIA de CRISTO #64 May 21st – May 24th

Over the past few months I have moments of questioning why God called me to be Rectora. He has continued to remind me I am part of His bigger plan for Women's VDC #64.

Many have asked how to pray for the weekend. I offer the following as a beginning...

- The team would be a unified body
- God's leading for candidate sponsors
- Health for team, candidates & families
- To be open to all God has for us by being part of the weekend.
- Team members to utilize their training well
- VDC family turnout to work behind the scenes
- May all be the hands and feet of Christ in whatever role He has for us.

I am grateful for the dedicated core team God has assembled: Debbie Carter; Lynn Conlen; Karen Emerson; Sheri Meilus; Linda Rice; Christy Wilson & Pastor Gary Kindle.

Pray about how you can share the joy from your weekend with the weekend #64 candidates.. Whether opening, serenade, letters, serving a meal, welcoming them to the community at closing or the post Ultreya. This all makes a difference.

Your prayers, love & words of encouragement have been blessed me. God used you to carry me thru the months of planning, and I am confident they will carry me through the weekend as well. God loves you and so do I.



Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

**“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
Hebrews 11**

What Faith Is Not

Faith is not religion. Many times people say "We have our faith". What they mean is this: "We have our religious ideas and doctrines, our traditions, our ways of doing things passed down through the generations. Don't you try to change them!" This is not the Biblical idea of faith.

Faith is not mental assent. It is not agreeing with your mind, "Yes that is true." Many professing Christians believe mentally that the Bible is the Word of God, but this faith does not change the way they live. It is not a faith that can save. James 2:14 says *"My brothers, what profit is it if a man says he has faith and does not have works?"* Can faith save him? Even demons have that kind of faith. They know and believe that God exists - and tremble. [See James 2:19] They have no loving confidence in God.

Faith is not a way to manipulate God. It is not a power by which we make God do what WE want when otherwise He would be unwilling to do that thing. It is not a kind of magic through which we make God into our servant!

Faith is not hope, nor positive desire. Hope is good, and relates to the future. Faith, however, takes the promise as done NOW. Many people have hope and are anxiously looking for results, but they lack the settled confidence and present assurance which faith has.

What Faith Is

In the general sense of the word, to have faith is to believe in something or someone, to fully trust, to be so confident that you base your actions on what you believe. To have faith is to be fully convinced of the truthfulness and reliability of that in which you believe. Faith in God then, is having the kind of trust and confidence in God and in Christ that leads you to commit your whole self to Him as Savior (Justifier, Cleanser, Healer, Deliverer) and Lord (Master, King). ***"Faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see."*** (Heb. 11:1 NIV)

Faith is a spiritual substance. When you have this spiritual substance in you, it communicates to you a certain inner knowing that the thing you are hoping for is certainly established, even before you see any material evidence that it has happened.

Faith is a spiritual force. Faith in God is a response to God's Word which moves God to act. Jesus said in Mark 11:23, ***"For assuredly I say to you, whoever SAYS to this mountain, 'Be removed and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but BELIEVES that those things he SAYS will be done, he will HAVE whatever he SAYS."*** Words mixed with the real, pure faith can and will move mountains or any other problem that we face.

Faith in God must be from the heart. It is not merely intellectual. It is spiritual. ***"For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*** (Romans 10:10)

Faith causes you to know in your heart before you see with your eyes. ***"For we walk by faith, not by sight."*** (2 Cor. 5:7) Some say, "Seeing is believing." However, once you see the thing hoped for already existing in the natural order, faith is not needed. **Hope is a condition for faith.** Hope is "a positive unwavering expectation of good". Hope is for the mind (1 Thess. 5:8; Heb. 6:19), an anchor for the soul. It keeps us in the place where we can believe, but it is not in itself "faith". Yet, without hope there are no "things hoped for", and therefore there cannot be faith. Through faith we can know we have the answer to our prayer before we see anything change in the natural order (1 John 5:14, 15). Jesus said, ***"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."*** (Mark 11:24). God expects us, even commands us, to believe that our petitions are answered by God **AT THE MOMENT WE MAKE THEM.** We must believe that the response is immediately sent WHEN we pray. Faith is

(Continued from last page)

like the confirmation slip in our hearts that the goods are on the way. We have that confirmation slip instantly from God. We sense it in our hearts. The manifestation of those goods, the answer received, comes later, as long as we are patient and do not throw away our confidence. (Heb.10:35-39; 6:12)

Living faith always has corresponding actions. We speak and act according to what we really believe. The heroes of faith like Abraham were considered men of faith because they believed God and acted accordingly. They acted on their faith. (Heb. 11:17-38, James 2:21-23). To live in faith means to do and say what you believe is God's Truth, without doubting.

Faith is a rest. It is compatible with inner peace. It is not "trying to believe". To say that you are "trying to believe" God is to say that you don't believe Him. The man who is "trying to believe" may be sincere, but he does not have faith in that area yet.

Hebrews 11:1 defines and describes the grace of faith in 2 parts:

1. **It is the substance of things hoped for.** Faith and hope go together; and the same things that are the object of our hope are the object of our faith. It is a firm persuasion and expectation that God will perform all that he has promised to us in Christ; and this persuasion is so strong that it gives the soul an assurance of possession and present completion of those things, gives them a subsistence in the soul, by the first-fruits and foretastes of them: so that believers in the exercise of faith *are filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory*. Christ dwells in the soul by faith, and the soul is filled with the fullness of God, as far as his present measure will admit; he experiences a substantial reality in the objects of faith.
2. **It is the evidence of things not seen.** Faith demonstrates to the mind's eye the reality of those things that cannot be discerned by our physical eyes. Faith is the firm assent of the soul to the divine revelation and every part of it, and there sets its seal that God is true. It is a full approval of all that God has revealed as holy, just, and good; it helps the soul to make application of all to itself with suitable affections and endeavors; and so is designed to serve the believer instead of sight, and to be to the soul all that the senses are to the body. That faith is not opinion or fancy, which does not realize invisible things to the soul, and excite the soul to act agreeably to the nature and importance of them.

This kind of Faith does not come without a fight. Our faith is under constant attack from the world, the flesh and the devil. Therefore, it is essential to be covered and protected with the whole armor of God, as Paul describes in Ephesians 6:11-18.

"Put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the world's rulers, of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Therefore, take to yourselves the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Therefore stand, having your loins girded about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

Above all, take the shield of faith, with which you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching to this very thing with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

This article was submitted by Assistant Lay Director, Steve Colkmire. Steve grew up in Tampa, Florida, where he attended the Buffalo Avenue Church of God and graduated from Hillsborough High School. He went on to graduate from Lee College (nka Lee University) in Cleveland, Tennessee, with a degree in chemistry. It was during his sophomore year that Steve made a decision to live for Christ. After graduation, Steve taught chemistry at Pinellas Park High School for about 34 years. Steve worships at Aldersgate United Methodist Church where he has learned and experienced what the Grace of God is all about--that God accepts us no matter what we have done.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

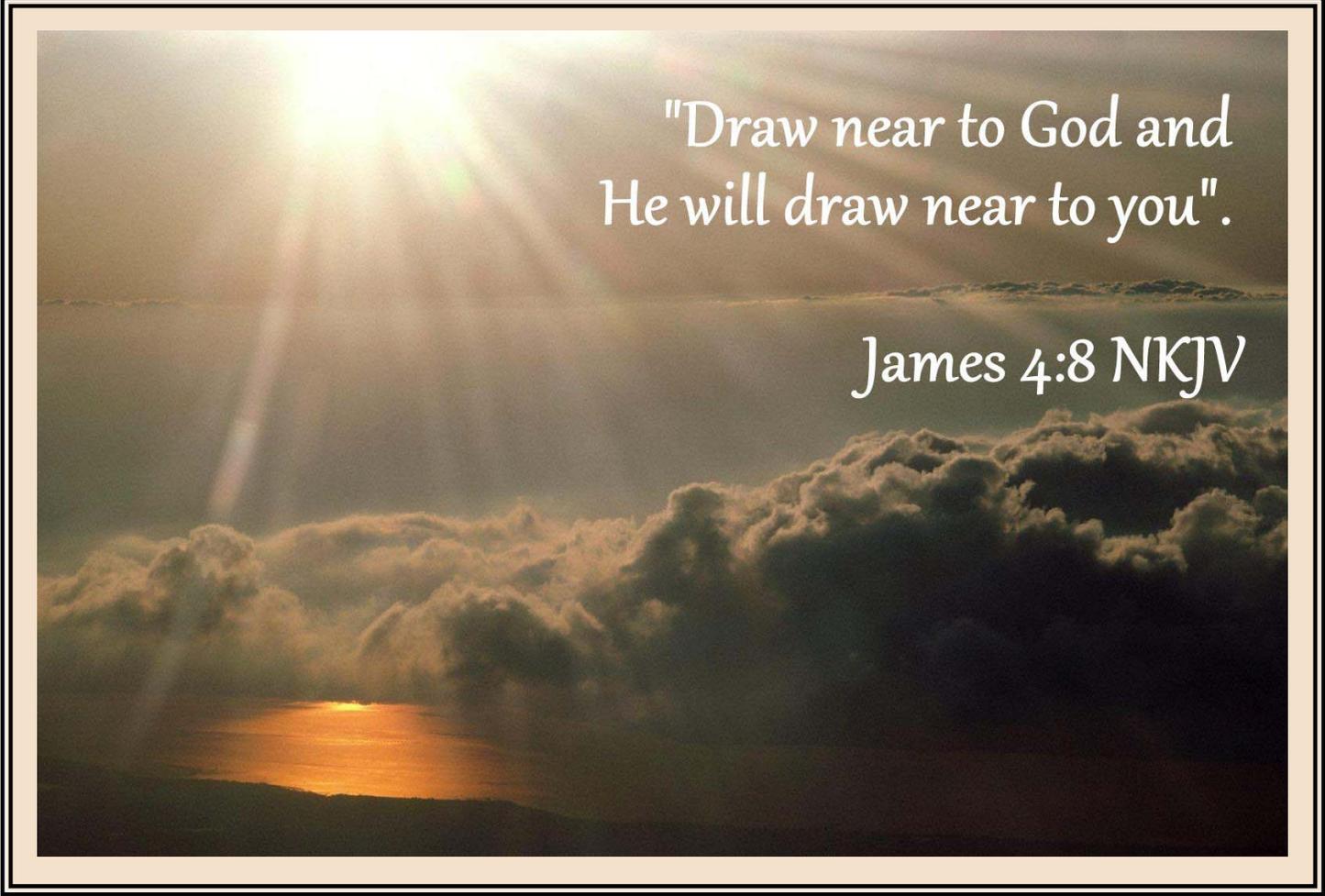
Sonbeam Via de Cristo

April/May, 2015

05/02/2015	Commissioning Ultreya	Lake Palms Community Church 380 Fulton Drive Largo, FL
5/14-5/17 2015	MEN'S SPRING WEEKEND #64	Rotary Camp* 1915 Camp Florida Road Brandon, FL 33570
05/14/2015	Set Up - Thursday 9 am	Team & Community
05/16/2015	Serenade - Saturday 6 pm	Community [Ladies]
05/17/2015	Tear Down - Sunday afternoon	Team & Community
	Closing Ceremony - 4:30 pm	Apostles Lutheran Church* 200 Kingsway Rd., Brandon, FL
5/21-5/24 2015	WOMEN'S SPRING WEEKEND #64	Rotary Camp* 1915 Camp Florida Road Brandon, FL 33570
05/21/2015	Set Up - Thursday 9 am	Team & Community
05/23/2015	Serenade - Saturday 6 pm	Community [Gentlemen]
05/24/2015	Tear Down - Sunday afternoon	Team & Community
	Closing Ceremony - 4:30 pm	Apostles Lutheran Church* 200 Kingsway Rd., Brandon, FL
05/30/2015	Post VdC Ultreya Tables Meet 4pm Dinner 5pm	Faith Community Church 11501 Walker Avenue North Seminole, FL 33772
06/10/2015	Deadline Newsletter Articles	July/August Newsletter (VdC Website)

*Directions available on VdC website

Updated 04/01/2015



"Draw near to God and
He will draw near to you".

James 4:8 NKJV

God's salvation is His blessing. God blessed the creatures of the sea, the birds of the air, and the man and woman whom He had created. He told them to be fruitful and multiply. An added blessing to the man and woman was to fill the earth and subdue it. They were given stewardship over the rest of God's creation. Saved persons are stewards of God's blessings.

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We publish our newsletter six (6) times a year online with two (2) of those mailed before each numbered set of weekends. All articles are subject to editing and will be reviewed when submitted. Publication and deadline dates are listed in the
Community Calendar
on both our website and page 9 of this publication.

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