

# SONBEAM

*Via de Cristo Newsletter*

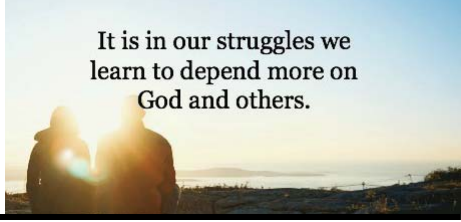
Volume 37, Issue #4

October - December 2016

By: Boyd Bailey, author of Wisdom Hunters Devotionals, [wisdomhunters.com](http://wisdomhunters.com)

## Strengths and Struggles

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. Romans 12:6a*



It is in our struggles we  
learn to depend more on  
God and others.

Know and understand your strengths, for it is best to behave how God created you. By God's grace, He places within you giftedness to carry out His plan. This is called your core competency. You may be a gifted leader, so lead. You may be a gifted coach, so coach. You may be a gifted counselor, so counsel. You may be a gifted administrator, so administrate. You may be a gifted networker, so network. You may be a gifted writer, so write. You may be a gifted teacher, so teach. You may be a gifted servant, so serve. You may be a gifted artist, so create. You may be a gifted communicator, so communicate. There is a long menu of gifts, and you probably represent several of them. Study your gifts, and you will discover your strengths.

Become comfortable with and accept the one thing you do naturally. It is effortless because God has engineered you for this. He gave you the skills and abilities to innovate, create, and produce these desired outcomes. However, make sure you do not confuse passion with strength. If you have the passion to speak, it is imperative you at least have the raw skill for speaking. Many of the technicalities of communication can be learned, but don't try to make yourself become someone you're not. Synergy for life and work come as you align passions and strengths. Take the time to understand what you do best and where you have the most energy, and then position your responsibilities at home and work to mirror that ideal. Do not be afraid to change and try new things.

Ask others to validate what you do best. Ask those who know you well to affirm where they see your passion displayed. Then, prayerfully align around both. You can know and understand your strengths by taking a spiritual gifts test, as this helps you define your God-given disposition. Take a personality assessment, for this helps you understand your temperament. Lastly, consider taking a psychological test, because this reveals your emotional intelligence and your leadership style. Be who God has made you to be, and you will be free.

Furthermore, embrace and celebrate your struggles. They keep you humble. Do not resist accepting your struggles; embrace them instead. Make your challenges your servant by allowing others to do much better at what you can't do. It is okay not to like details, but value them and those who manage them well. Your struggles beg the need for a team. It is in your struggle that you depend more on God and others. So, be honest with yourself about what you don't do well. Accept the fact that even though you want to do something, you don't need to if others can do it better. They can free you to do what only you can do. Release your areas of mediocre effectiveness, as this gives others opportunities for excellence. Laugh at yourself, for this frees you from the tension of unrealistic expectations, and allows you to enjoy life.

You are a valued member in the Body of Christ. "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body..." (1 Corinthians 12:12-13a).

Prayer: Heavenly Father, use my strengths for Your glory and my struggles to grow my dependence on You.

By: Boyd Bailey, author of Wisdom Hunters Devotionals, [wisdomhunters.com](http://wisdomhunters.com)

# Men's Via de Cristo Weekend #67

November 10-13, 2016



## To All Our Mighty Warriors, Thank You for Your Service!

We live in a blessed country. The freedoms bestowed upon us from our Heavenly Father are unprecedented in the world that men and women volunteer to put their lives on the line to defend them, every day. Their sacrifice is honored and many take the time when they see a veteran to shake a hand and say, "Thank you for your service."

### Servant Soldiers

While we are citizens of the United States, we are first and foremost citizens of Heaven. And, we too have an army – the body of Christ. We may not have Kevlar vest and helmets, rifles and grenades; but we do have a belt of truth, a breastplate of righteousness, a shield of faith and the sword of the Holy Spirit. While the world would prefer a manly description for warriors (soldiers), we prefer a simpler, humbler word. We are simply known as – SERVANTS.

When we take the time to serve another, we do battle against heavenly foes. You see, Satan doesn't play by the rules; therefore, cynicism, anger, bitterness and selfishness are his MO (modus operandi). However, when you and I slow down to share a smile, to listen to concerns, open a door, give a hug, feed the hungry, and pray with and for someone feeling hopeless, we help change lives. People notice kindness and caring; and let me tell you, it's a game changer!



So as we approach this November, readying our hearts and minds to do battle for God and defending the candidates who enter our gates, it's so very apropos that it starts on the Marine Corps birthday (November 10<sup>th</sup>) and runs through Veteran's Day, the 11<sup>th</sup>. We take our place next to those great defenders of our freedoms as we do battle with perseverance, kindness, faithfulness and much love. It's all for His glory and for the candidates.

Oh, and by the way... thank you for your service! JLYASDI

# Women's Via de Cristo Weekend #67

November 17-20, 2016



It is such an honor to be called to serve as Rectora for weekend #67. *God's People Transformed* is the perfect theme for this team as we are already experiencing and seeing many transformations, starting with the Rectora!

The Lord has blessed me with the most amazing Core Team

Lead Spiritual Director, Mary Ashcraft; Back Up Rectora, Kristen Beiler; Head Computer Cha, Michele Conlen; Assistant Head Cha, Patty Burrows; Head Music Cha, Sheri Meilus; Head Cha, Lannie Kremin, and Head Prayer Cha, Christy Wilson.

Our team meetings have started and we are becoming the Body of Christ to serve the women God will choose to bring for the weekend. Please join us in praying for the candidates NOW in preparation for the weekend. Please talk to God before you talk to man about making the weekend. Being a sponsor is not something to be taken lightly.

Thank you for your continued prayers for both the men's and women's team for Weekend #67. Prayer is the greatest Palanca we can give to the candidates and one another!

To God Be the Glory!

Ruthie McConnell, Rectora

Romans 12:2

## SECRETARIAT & STAFF

### Lay Director

Tom Henderson

[thenderson@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:thenderson@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Asst. Lay Director

Jim Ryan

[jryan@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:jryan@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Secretary

Lynn Conlen

[lconlen@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:lconlen@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Treasurer

Bobbi Lind

[blind@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:blind@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Pre VdC

David Lind

[dlind@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:dlind@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Post VdC

Vacant Position

### Communications

Sue Miller-Cinelli

[scinelli@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:scinelli@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Outreach

Chris Klafs

[cklafs@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:cklafs@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Leaders

Leslie Le Fleur

[llefleur@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:llefleur@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Physical Arrangements

Ricky Neal, Ray Stichler, Daniel Galbreath

[rneal@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:rneal@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Purchasing Agent

Jerry Brown

[jbrown@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:jbrown@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Local Palanca

Denise Bentley

[dbentley@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:dbentley@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Extended Palanca

Kim Stauder

[kstauder@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:kstauder@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Prayer Line Coordinator

Wendy Kinka

[wkinka@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:wkinka@sonbeamvdc.org)

### At-Large

Sue Neal

[sneal@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:sneal@sonbeamvdc.org)

### At-Large

Vacant Position

### Spiritual Directors

Pastor John Foster

[johnfoster@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:johnfoster@sonbeamvdc.org)

Pastor Richard White

[rwhite@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:rwhite@sonbeamvdc.org)

Pastor Mary Ashcraft

[mashcraft@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:mashcraft@sonbeamvdc.org)

### Newsletter Editor

Karen Allen

### Webmaster

Michael Schreiner

[mschreiner@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:mschreiner@sonbeamvdc.org)



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER, 2016 – MARCH, 2017

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2016**

#### **FALL ULTREYA & TEAM COMMISSIONING**

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

455 Missouri Avenue North, Largo, FL 33770

5 pm – Bring a covered dish to share

### **THURSDAY, NOV, 10 – SUNDAY, NOV, 13, 2016**

#### **MEN'S FALL WEEKEND #67**

Rotary Camp, Brandon, FL

Thursday - set up 9 am

Sunday – 4pm – Apostles Lutheran Church

### **THURSDAY, NOV, 17–SUNDAY, NOV, 20, 2016**

#### **WOMEN'S FALL WEEKEND #67**

Same locations and times as above

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2016**

#### **ULTREYA**

Lutheran Church of the Cross

4545 Chancellor Street, N.E., S.P., FL 33703

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016**

#### **DEADLINE FOR JANUARY – MARCH NEWSLETTER**

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2017**

#### **ULTREYA**

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

812 E. Tarpon Avenue, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

### **SATURDAY, March (TBD), 2017**

#### **ULTREYA**

St. David's Episcopal Church

145 E. Edgewood Drive, Lakeland, FL 33803

## 2016 National Gathering in Sylvania, OH - July 21-24, 2016



Chris Klafs and I, Katie Sistar, represented Sonbeam VdC as Lay Delegates. There were about 200 people from all around the U.S.A. attending as delegates, visitors and community for a successful weekend that included a business meeting. The theme was "Reaching the Far Away."

We came together for impressive worship services, inspiring speakers, with small group discussions afterwards, beautiful singing, and fellowship times with good food and enthusiastic Christian friends.

To me the most impressive testimony that was shared was given by David who grew up in Iran and has become a living witness for Christ. You can read about it in The Conexiones on the National Lutheran Secretariat Via de Cristo website.

Florida has six secretariats and we are planning on hosting the National Gathering in July, 2018.

Next year we will meet at Wake Forest University in NC, July 27-30, 2017. It would be great to have a large group from Sonbeam and other Florida secretariats attending to see what goes on at the National Gathering and to see how we can participate and help host when it comes again to Florida the following year.

It takes two years to fully plan hosting this important meeting. We need possible ideas for a theme and to be thinking of fundraising ideas to help with hosting.

It is wonderful to be part of this National Grand Ultreya each year. Via de Cristo members can attend as delegates and as visitors. Plan ahead and put it on your calendars.

Katie Sistar

# WORDS FROM A SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR



*“Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.”* John 20:21 AV

(Unfortunately, this verse is mislabeled in our ‘Piety’ card as Verse 31)

The truth is that what it says is of utmost importance to our lives on a daily basis. Like the other legs of the Piety principles, it has a foundation on Christ and His work in our lives. We are called to Action; Not just activity. We are to do what is directed by God, just as Jesus obeyed His Father, we too are to obey the will of our Heavenly Father!

In this day of flagrant rebellion by the world we are to be radically different from what we were before we came to Christ. We are to obey as Christ obeyed.

*How does one do what is so different from what we did before and so different than the average person on the street?*

The answer is not inherently understood. We must realize that what we are naturally is not what God wants! Yes, He loves us as we are, but Jesus came to set us free from the chains of the world and re-create us, into His image, reflecting the love and grace of God and not the self-centered, selfish person we are by nature.

The only way that is possible is by Study, Piety and Action! The missing elements are time and consistency. This will not happen by being involved in a reunion group, church or Bible study alone. No, this has to be focused and intentional by personally relating with Jesus Christ, Himself. Jesus wants to send us. He wants to send us prepared. Prepared to do the Father’s will, NOT, our own. He will never bless our desires! It is His glory that is involved and we are to reverence Him and His purpose. God is preparing us to ACT for Him in this world.

*“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;”*  
Hebrews 5:8

We are not better than Christ and we have been called to ACT as He did. Our lives are the laboratory of our creation and if Christ suffered to learn should we expect to be exempted from the trials and defeats of life? I think not. I have learned more by trial and failure than by any other means.

Christ has called us to walk with Him, to serve with Him and to glorify Him in our daily living. We are to be conformed to His image. Leave friends, loved ones and activities that draw us away from our heavenly calling and be with Jesus outside the camp, where He lives and waits for us to join Him.

**God Loves You, my brothers and sisters, And So Do I!**

Pastor Richard White

# NEWS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

## TREASURER & ACTING CO-ASST. LAY DIRECTOR

I wanted to take just a few lines to offer some thanks and appreciation where it is due. As everyone has heard by now, Michael Marquart, our Lay Director, resigned earlier this summer due to the need to devote some much needed time to his growing family. On that note, congratulations to the Marquarts on the addition of little Natalie! Such an amazing gift from God! I'd like to make sure to publicly thank Michael and Dana for all of their diligent work on behalf of this community. Many worthwhile projects were completed during Michael's two terms!

I'd also like to thank the community for accepting Lynn Conlen and me as acting co-assistant lay directors. Wow, such a mouthful. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and willingness to help as we transitioned into the election. I am especially thankful for the wonderful souls who stepped up to join us as incoming Secretariat. Some are relatively new to our community (Jim Ryan), while others are well known to us (Tom, Denise & Kimberly). I am truly looking forward to this next chapter under Tom and Jim's leadership. God certainly has many exciting new things in store for us!

As you will hear echoed throughout this newsletter, please remain diligent in prayer for both the men's and women's teams and for the candidates that God has chosen for this weekend!

On a related note, the treasurer (hee hee) asked me to let you know that the scholarship fund is running a bit low. We were blessed to have enough funds to cover more than eight people this weekend (candidates and team alike). However, we will not be able to offer any scholarships this next set of weekends without the funds being made available. Please consider sending in a gift of any amount toward this fund. Bobbi Lind

## LOCAL PALANCA

Sign up lists for Palanca are now available at the Men's and Women's team meetings and at Ultreya. Please pray about what you can do to glorify God for the coming set of weekends.

There are many types of palanca to consider. First, is prayer! What specific time can you commit to prayer during the weekend. Also, don't forget to pray often prior to and during the weekends.

There is the palanca of helping to set up and tear down the camp on Thursday of the Men's weekend and Sunday of the Women's weekend. There is the palanca of working during the weekend as community. This is fun, a good time to get to know more of your brothers and sisters in Christ and fellowship with old friends.

There is the palanca of donating cookies and cakes (homemade ones are especially appreciated). There is the palanca of paying for certain food items or supplies for the weekend and "good old" green palanca (cash) is always a help.

Of course, there is the palanca of sponsoring a candidate for the weekend. What is God putting on your heart to do? Shirley Phillips & Clo Molloy, outgoing Local Palanca

## PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS

We are still looking for a backup person with a truck which is large enough to transport the trailer. It must have a proper hitch. Please contact me to discuss.

We appreciate all of the community help you give for setting up and tearing down the camp. We couldn't get it done without you. Rick Neal

## PRE-VDC

As we approach Weekends #67 (Men – Nov 10-13; Women – Nov 17-20), I pray that everyone is prayerfully considering who they should sponsor. The teams are preparing and studying to show themselves approved, workmen (and women) that do not need to be ashamed. The coming weekends are in the forefront of their minds; however, they are not the only ones that should be sponsoring candidates. The entire community should be looking at the friends they have already made and asking God which one(s) they should sponsor. We look forward to having full weekends in November so that we may once again be thrilled to be used by the Holy Spirit to show God's love to the candidates as they come to learn how best to serve in their churches. I can't wait to see you at the respective send-offs with your candidates! - GLYASDI – David Lind

## ELECTED FOR 2-YEAR TERM 2016-18

**Lay Director** – Tom Henderson

**Assistant Lay Director** – Jim Ryan

**Extended Palanca** – Kimberly Stauder

**Local Palanca** – Denise Bentley

**Physical Arrangements Team** - Rick Neal, Ray Stitchler & Dennis Galbreath

## OPEN POSITIONS:

**Post Vdc Positon - Vacant**

**At-Large Position - Vacant**

**Outreach** – Chris Klafs\*

**Leaders** – Leslie Le Fleur\*

**Purchasing Agent** – Jerry Brown\*

**Prayer Line Coordinator** – Wendy Kinka\*

\*These four have fulfilled their terms and served in their positions 4 years or more, but have agreed to continue so these positions are filled.



**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.

**Help us save printing and postage costs!** If you have an email account and can receive this newsletter exclusively electronically, let us remove you from the printed mailing list. If you would like to help with the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter, send Green Palanca donations to:

**Sonbeam Via de Cristo, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 2582**  
**Pinellas Park, FL 33780-2582**

*Sonbeam Via de Cristo, Inc., is recognized as a 501(c) (3) organization by the IRS. As such, donations are deductible to the fullest extent allowed by current tax codes. allowed by current tax codes.*

## Newsletter Policy

We publish our newsletter four (4) 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 4 of this publication.

Please choose to read the newsletter online and save on the cost of mailing by e-mailing: [johnfoster@sonbeamvdc.org](mailto:johnfoster@sonbeamvdc.org)

**<http://www.sonbeamvdc.org>**

This Newsletter and its contents are  
 ©copyrighted: SONBEAM VDC, INC. 2014