



SONBEAM

VIA DE CRISTO

Training Christian Leaders  
in West-Central Florida

VOLUME 39 ISSUE 1

November 2018

## Message from the Director

### DEVELOPING A FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR SONBEAM VDC

At this year's national VdC Annual Gathering, one of the main topics was about developing a five-year plan. NLS completed theirs and challenged each Secretariat to create one, if they did not have one in place.

Building a five-year plan is a lot like a navigation problem. Oddly enough, the first thing you have to figure out is not where we are going—it's where we are. Most people focus on where they want to go, but you can't build a path if you don't know your starting point.

So here is our starting point:

- Over the last three years we have had low turnout for number of candidates
- We've had to cancel one weekend for lack of candidates
- Our funding is lower than it's been in years
- Our community is aging
- Active involvement is at an all-time low

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We then start by assessing our strengths and weaknesses, so we can better understand where we are. One of our strengths is we now have almost a complete Secretariat board for the first time in 3 years. We have some strong individuals in key positions that should help us move forward in the proper direction. Secretariat will be holding a workshop in early 2019 to begin establishing Sonbeam's 5-year plan. We are asking all the community to come and be involved in planning our future.

God Loves you and so do I

Tom Henderson  
Secretariat Director  
Sonbeam Via de Cristo

The Secretariat wishes to thank Michael Schriener for his tireless service as our webmaster. For over 18 years he has worked diligently behind the scenes keeping our website and email groups up to date and looking great! He is stepping down for a long overdue break.





## Spiritual Directors' Exhortation

**Matthew 5:6 (KJV) “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”**

We have and use the three pillars for our 4<sup>th</sup> day walk but there is more to our piety and study that is understood but seldom mentioned. Realizing we are sinners and our walk is by Grace is freeing to the soul! Jesus touches on this in his revelation on the mountainside in the Galilee when he fed the five thousand.

To hunger and thirst after righteousness is a personal experience and an essential attitude for each of us. Only God can satisfy the longing soul and we need to long for His standard of righteousness. The world would have us accept any level of morality, but God’s word is God’s standard. We are to love all and encourage all, but the concept of righteousness has been lost in the understanding of most folks we meet on the street. This has caused untold damage to the psyche of the young and immature and those who choose to follow deviant paths of “enlightenment”.

We have been called to be light and salt in this world to help those seeking to know and follow the truth. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me.” When we choose to follow Christ, we cannot have any other equal to His direction, guidance or standard of conduct. He has promised to fill us with Him, not just some code or some philosophy. He is a personal God who died for our redemption! Our walk with God the Holy Spirit will continue to reveal Jesus the Person of Creation as long as we continue to pursue His person.

Like a friend, He is closer than a brother and will never leave nor forsake us! What a thrilling life awaits us who wait upon the LORD! God loves us all but reveals Himself to those who earnestly seek Him, faithfully.

**John 6:35-37 (KJV)**

**“And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. <sup>36</sup> But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. <sup>37</sup> All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”**

***God loves you, my brothers and sisters and so do I!***

***Pastor Dick White***

## Assistant Director Thoughts



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is my honor and privilege to serve Sonbeam Via de Cristo as Assistant Director. God gave me the gift of Via de Cristo in October 1999 when I attended women’s Gold Coast Via de Cristo weekend #59 where I sat at the table of Ruth. I worship our Savior at RiverLife church in Bradenton with my husband John and our daughter Kayla.

In January my family and I relocated to Bradenton from Fort Pierce on the east coast of Florida. We were very much involved in Gold Coast Via de Cristo and starting looking to get involved in Sonbeam right away. We were welcomed with open arms and my husband and I both served on the first Co-ed weekend.

It is a true joy to serve with other Christian servant leaders on Sonbeam Secretariat. I served on the Secretariat with Gold Coast and it was a true blessing and I know I will be blessed beyond measure serving on Sonbeam.

I look forward to getting to know each and everyone of you in the Sonbeam community.

I ask for your prayers that God would bless Sonbeam Via de Cristo with a vision that keeps Christ at the center of all we do.

Jesus loves you and so do I!

Tammy Egan  
Assistant Director



## From The Secretary's Pen

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God." Philippians 4:6

Prayer – it is a common practice among Christians. We give thanks for our blessings and ask for guidance in our lives. And many times we have specific requests for help as life throws obstacles in our way.

When was the last time you prayed for your Sonbeam Via de Cristo organization? If you have not seen the obvious signs, we are struggling to remain a vibrant, active, growing movement. Please pray now and during the coming year for:

- The Sonbeam Via de Cristo community
- Your Secretariat Board
- Volunteers to fill open positions on the Board
- Sonbeam's financial stability and strength
- Volunteers to coordinate 'sub' committees as goals for 2019 are established
- Individuals to sponsor candidates for full weekends
- Sponsors to reach out to their pilgrims to make sure they are active in a reunion group
- Reunion groups to remain strong and involved
- Sonbeam's continued presence in the Tampa Bay area



Without your prayers and support, Sonbeam will fade away, no longer touching the lives of people in our churches, neighborhoods and communities. Are you willing to let this happen? Pray, pray often and pray specifically. Then listen as God guides you. God loves you and so do !!

Lynn Conlen-Henderson  
Secretary

## The Treasurer's Two Cents...

Thanks - Giving

Thanksgiving – a time honored day to gather with our friends and family to give thanks for all the blessings in our lives. Also, it's a time we eat too much food, overload on sports and yes, run ourselves ragged from cooking and cleaning all day!

While Christmas seems to be the expected time to 'give', have you ever thought about 'giving' on Thanksgiving in response to your blessings? When you think of Via de Cristo, do you feel blessed? Blessed because you are a part of a loving community that has become your family ... blessed because your faith journey has grown by leaps and bounds ... blessed because you now serve your church in ways you never thought possible ... all because of your walk with Via de Cristo.

If you are able, making a special donation to your organization would be a grateful response. Candidate and team fees cover camp fees and food – nothing extra. Green palanca at an ultreya covers the donation made to the host church. Additional green palanca at team meetings help cover scholarship requests for team fees as well as offset team meeting expenses.

It wasn't until I took over the position as your Treasurer that I realized there were many other fees and expenses during the year that must be paid – fees for business filing, CCLI (music) license, business insurance, mail box renewal and mailings to name a few. These bills can only be paid through the generosity of VdC members.

Our funds are low. We need your financial support. As you prepare for Thanksgiving this year, pray for the financial stability of our Sonbeam movement and then give as you are able with a tax-deductible donation.

God loves you and so do !!

Michele Conlen Spears  
Sonbeam Treasurer

Make check payable to: Sonbeam Via de Cristo, Inc.  
Mail to: P.O. Box 2582, Pinellas Park, FL 33782



## Upcoming Events

Men's Weekend (at Rotary Camp Florida) Nov 8-11, 2018

Women's Weekend (at Rotary Camp Florida) Nov 15-18, 2018

Post Ultreya (at First Baptist Church – St. Petersburg) Dec 1, 2018

Ultreya (at St. Timothy Lutheran) Jan 19, 2019

CoEd Weekend (at Rotary Camp Florida) May 2-5, 2019

## Prayer Works!

- Rector Hal Feininger and the Men's team
- Rectora Patty Burroughs and the Women's team
- Sonbeam Five Year Plan and the Secretariat members as they seek God's will for the community
- Pastor Jan and many other community Members experiencing illness
- Those who are going through a season of grief, particularly that associated with the loss of a loved one
- Those who were impacted by Hurricane Michael, and those who are working in the recovery effort
- Those who are walking the difficult road of recovery from addiction

*Please add these things to your prayers, as the Spirit leads you*

### NOVEMBER 2018

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### DECEMBER 2018

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30	31					

### JANUARY 2019

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27	28	29	30	31		

## Church Ambassadors Needed!!

We are looking for one person (or a couple) to step forward from each of the churches represented in our community. These individuals will serve as a point of contact within each church to help provide information to and feedback from our community members who may not be able to attend Ultreyas. Here is the list, so far:

- First United Methodist, Pinellas Park – Janice Todd**
- Grace Connection – Monna Jones**
- Northside Christian – Pastor Dick White**

- Oak Grove Church of God – Pastor Jan Foster**
- Prince of Peace Lutheran – Lynn Conlen Henderson**
- St. Timothy Lutheran – Chris Klafs**

If you are willing to serve in this capacity or would like more information, please contact Bobbi Lind at 727-748-6061 or [bobbilind@outlook.com](mailto:bobbilind@outlook.com)

## Speaking of Change...

Well, It's just about time to change our clocks back, signaling the change in season to winter. I'm certain most of us have experienced many other changes in our lives in the many days since the last newsletter.

If you haven't already, you're going to notice that we have made a few changes. We are working to make everything you see that is connected to Sonbeam Via de Cristo look the same. This means the website, newsletter, emails, and Facebook will all look the same. Our goal is to make sure that when we send something to you, you know where it came from.

One of the most noticeable changes will be in our email correspondence. We've had many folks tell us that they have had problems getting into and posting on Yahoo groups. So, we are making a change. We have signed up with a new email server called MailChimp. We already sent out information on how to join, but if you missed out, you can go to the newsletter page on the website: [www.sonbeamvdc.org/newsletters/](http://www.sonbeamvdc.org/newsletters/). On the right side of the page it says "Email List". Fill in the boxes and click "Subscribe". This new server is very strict in making sure to not send SPAM, so we MUST have you add your name to the list, we can't do it for you.

We look forward to helping the Community communicate better! God Loves You and So do WE!

Bobbi & David Lind