

Summer 2018

From The President
Brazos Valley Tres Dias

To: Pescadores in local churches

Re: Perceptions

How is Tres Dias perceived by members of your church who have not attended? What about your pastor? I'm sure all of you share my frustration with false assumptions and perceptions held by some fellow church members who have never attended a Tres Dias event. As part of the community, you have seen firsthand the way God works through the weekends to change lives and restore the broken. What a privilege to play a small part in that process! So why do we sometimes encounter suspicion or hostility toward Tres Dias from fellow believers? Are we part of the problem?

Let me remind you of some of the things you have heard at each weekend closing ceremony.

The mission of Tres Dias is to train Christian servant-leaders for the local church.

Notice the order of those words, "servant-leader". The order is important because this is the model our Lord left us of true leadership. Until you become a servant, you cannot become an effective leader in the Kingdom of God.

Being a servant does not come naturally to most of us. It has to be taught and practiced. *The purpose of this weekend was to model Christian servanthood so you can go back to your family and church and practice it.*

Are we demonstrating this kind of servanthood in our churches? If we were, would others have a different opinion of Tres Dias? We will never eliminate all negative opinions or opposition, afterall, Tres Dias is not for everyone. And it is understandable that some in church leadership are opposed simply because a weekend takes many of their people out of places of responsibility four weekends out of the year. However, we can make it worse if, in an attempt to make our church more like a Tres Dias weekend, we run roughshod over those

who may not be ready for that. The best thing we can do is practice the things we learned over the weekend: piety, study, and action, which means find a way to serve in your church if you are not already. If others see us doing that with joy and humility, then it will cast a positive light on the whole community.

What Tres Dias is not:

Tres Dias is NOT a church!

Tres Dias is part of THE CHURCH, however, it is not a substitute for your active participation in your local church.

Tres Dias is NOT a Secret Society.

Do not exclude people in your church because they have not attended a Tres Dias weekend.

Do not tell people they "need" to attend a weekend. Instead, tell them they *deserve* a Tres Dias weekend.

Don't be secretive. Tell them there are talks, chapel meditations, singing, fellowship, testimonies and even comedy. Answer any questions they may have. They will not know to ask about serenade and the other special surprises throughout the weekend. Be honest, but don't spoil the surprises.

Do Not tell people what Tres Dias did for you.

Tres Dias is simply a tool that Jesus Christ uses to change people. Tres Dias doesn't change anyone, Jesus does.

Please accept these reminders in the spirit in which they are intended: to build unity and fellowship in our local churches. If you encounter someone who does not understand Tres Dias, remember that you didn't either until you attended. Don't be afraid to tell them whatever they want to know about your experience. Our community exists to *compliment* the local church, not *compete* with it. It is up to us to make that distinction.

Thank you for your service and willingness to sacrifice to make our community strong. Let's be sure we demonstrate that same sacrificial love to our church families.

Des Colores,
Don Bodenhamer