



Via de Cristo of Ohio Newsletter  
Affiliated with the National Lutheran Secretariat

# De Colores!

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 2

February 7, 2015

## Lord Jesus Christ!

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
from this day on, a conscious and growing member of your Mystical Body, your Church, with the help of your grace, will contribute my Idealism, my self-surrender, my spirit of charity, to make your Kingdom more effective in me, and in all my sisters and brothers.

*[From the front of the service card we all dedicated in the chapel on our weekend]*

*God loves you and so do I,*

*Warren (Butch) Seeley # 28  
Lay Director*

SEE LEADERS' SCHOOL INFORMATION ON LAST PAGE

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Contact Butch for info @ open positions.

Secretariat Meetings are held the third Saturday each month. You are welcome to attend. Contact any member for place and time of the monthly meeting.

**God loves you and so do we!**

### *Here's a Faith Story from "Santa" Ron*

I made my weekend a few years ago at the OH Men's VDC #7. I am retired now and I live in southern Indiana. You asked us to share ways we share our call to action for Christ. I feel that I have a unique opportunity to witness for Christ with many children every year.

I have a long white beard and I wear a red suit as I have been serving as Santa Claus for the last several years at a local photo studio and at several elementary schools in this area. I usually see about 900 to 1100 children every year and some of them for multiple years. Here's one thing I try to always do. When they have been to visit Santa or have had their picture made with Santa and are ready to leave I always remind each of them that *Jesus is the Reason for the Season*. I tell them that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of our Savior and not just a time to see how many gifts they can get. Almost all of the children are open and want to learn about Jesus and it only takes a moment to tell them.

I am always surprised by some of the kids who have never heard of Jesus but want to know how they can help others to understand Christmas better.

**'SANTA' RON BRAND**

So what is one way you share your faith? Please share your story with all of us. (Address below)

### **ULTREYA NEWS**

An Ultreya is coming on Saturday, February 21 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kent. It will be at 4:30 pm at 600 S. Water Street, and potluck will be included. For more information, please call Dave Lann, 330-296-6929, or Pr. Doug Fidler, 330-673-5445.

Cincinnati Ultreyas are usually the first Saturday of each month at 4:30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Healthy. Address is 1553 Kinney Avenue, Cincinnati 45231. For questions, please call Kevin Hoch, 513-931-8797.

Bellville Ultreya will be the second Sundays of January, April, July and October at 3:00pm, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church Street, Bellville 44813. Worship and Holy Communion are followed by Potluck, table service and drinks provided. Call Ken and Josie Riling with questions, 419-886-2437, or Paul and Vicky Sakala, 419-884-1573.

The North Dayton Ultreyas are usually the third Saturdays of every month, at 7pm at the United Christian Church, 8611 Hoke Rd, Clayton OH 45315. (Bring snack to share.) For Questions, please call Wes Scoates at [937 533-7605](tel:937-533-7605).

*Please share with us any information you have about Ultreya near you.* Send the information about any 4<sup>th</sup> Day Group Ultreyas to [vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com](mailto:vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com) or to Editor Nancy Martin at 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813 or 419-886-4420.

<b>Men's Weekend #74</b> <b>April 23-26, 2015, Columbus</b> <b>Rector Kevin Hoch</b>	<b>Women's Weekend #78</b> <b>May 14-17, 2015, Columbus</b> <b>Rector Lisa Bacu</b>
<b>Co-ed Weekend</b> is coming in mid-summer, 2015. Exact date and location TBA. Rector Dave Lann	<b>Clergy Experience #2</b> is Monday – Thursday, October 5 – 8, 2015 at St. Peter and Paul Retreat Center. Rector Chuck Fahnstock

#### From the Rector of Men's Weekend # 74

It is an honor to serve as rector for the upcoming men's weekend in April. The team formation process is well underway, and with the way time flies, team meetings will begin before we know it. As the preparations for this weekend unfold, I need your help. First of all, the team needs your prayers. Please pray that our team meetings will prepare us to be ready to serve God and the pilgrims. We also need your help by signing up for prayer times on the 72 hour prayer chart and providing other palanca for the pilgrims. And, we need your help in sponsoring pilgrims for the weekend. I encourage you to speak to God about your friend and whether God is calling you to invite that friend to this weekend. I promise, we will take good care of them. Thanks to all of you for your support.

Peace and God's Blessings.  
Kevin Hoch

PS If you need application forms or have any questions about the registration process, just let me know. My e-mail is [khoch@cinci.rr.com](mailto:khoch@cinci.rr.com) and phone is 513-931-8797. Please mail completed application forms to me at 22691 Altura Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45239. (I'm also the VdC Registrar.) I wish you all a great 2015. God's Blessings - Kevin

#### A Message from our Spiritual Director

The Lenten season begins February 18, which is Ash Wednesday. Lent is six weeks, not counting Sundays and ends with the celebration of Easter.

That reminds me of a story. A man died and appeared before St. Peter. Apparently he had not been all that regular in attending worship. So St. Peter said, "Let me ask you some questions. One question was, "What is Lent?" The man thought for a moment and blurted, "Oh, I know that one. Lent is when Jesus comes out of the tomb and if he sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of Lent."

Seriously, Lent is a time for us to pray, meditate, and reflect on the events that led to the crucifixion of Jesus. There are special days such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday on which we gather for worship. Many congregations set aside time for mid-week Lenten services that center on specific aspects of the Passion.

Lent is a good time for us to connect more intentionally with Christ and the church. It can be a time for us to give more of ourselves simply to be in the presence of Jesus.

Remember, it is when the groundhog sees his shadow there will be six more weeks of Lent. May you take the time to have a blessed Lent.

*God loves you and so do I*

Pastor G. Karl Gaston, Spiritual Director, Via de Cristo of Ohio

## KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL

Kairos is an outgrowth of the Cursillo, Via de Cristo, and other similar movements. In 1975 there was a meeting, held in Atlanta, of Cursillo leaders from several denominations, although it was heavily Lutheran. One participant was a man named Tom Johnson, a Roman Catholic from Florida who had been thinking of taking the Cursillo weekend to prison. Another participant was Gene Hermeier, a Lutheran pastor from Iowa, who was planning a prison weekend that fall. He invited Tom to come to the weekend, which he did. Tom then organized a Kairos weekend at the Union Correctional Institute of Florida in the fall of 1976. This weekend is considered to be the beginning of Kairos. Kairos has now grown to be active in 37 states and 9 foreign countries, with thousands of volunteers across the globe.

The purpose of the Kairos weekend is to build Christian communities within prison walls. For that reason, early weekends were held only in prisons where the residents (which is what the inmates are called in Kairos) would be incarcerated for longer periods of time.

Kairos is called a ministry because it is bringing the gospel of God's love to persons who may or may not have any prior knowledge of Christ or the Church. It is not a ministry of conversion in that no one is asked to make a decision for Christ. The purpose, instead, is to bring God's love into the prison and let the Holy Spirit do the rest. That does not mean that some residents don't have conversion experiences on the weekend, but that is not the purpose of the weekend. As with Via de Cristo, the primary reason for the weekend is to create Prayer and Share groups, but within the prison walls. These groups have the same purpose as Reunion Groups, which is to support one another in living Christ-like lives in their environments in the Fourth Day.

Over the years the Kairos Inside (prison) weekend format has been changed to better reflect the needs of the residents. For instance, the Ideal talk is now Choices. The residents know that they have made bad choices in their lives—in fact that is why they are incarcerated. There is general agape (palanca) and personal agape. They learn that God wants a relationship with them and wants them to share this with others in their environment. Several key phrases are also taught, for instance, "We are the Church" and "Make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend to Christ". Forgiveness is an important part of the weekend. Saturday evening there is a Forgiveness Service in which the residents put the list of people they need to forgive in a bowl of water or a fire and watch the list disappear. The closing is similar to the VDC closings, and those who want to attend fill out a Closing Application and a background check is done by the institution. Some prisons have the Closing Application on line at Kairos Ohio.org. This has been a very successful ministry. The rate of Kairos graduates reoffending is statically less than those who have not participated in a weekend, even if all they did was attend the weekend. The more active the person was in Kairos activities, the lower the rate of returning to prison. Those of us who have been active in Kairos have seen lives change. I am now on FaceBook with a number of Kairos graduates who are back in the community and doing well, and that is a joy. Kairos is a positive, successful, fulfilling ministry. After only one weekend at the Ohio Reformatory for Women, Warden Money said, "This is the most effective program we have ever had in this institution."

There are two other Kairos programs: Kairos Outside and Torch. Kairos Outside is for the female relatives or support persons of those who are incarcerated or who have been incarcerated. One Kairos Outside in Ohio is inside Marion Correctional for the female support persons of Kairos grads in that prison. The other is Kairos Outside Community that is open to support persons for inmates from any prison in the state. I participated in a Kairos Outside weekends also and saw lives changed through this ministry. Torch is a program for juvenile offenders that includes a six month mentoring program. This is also active in Ohio.

Kairos Inside is now in 28 prisons in Ohio. Governor Kasich would like Kairos in every institution in the state because it is so successful reducing reincarceration. This is not possible because there are not enough volunteers. I encourage you to join a Kairos Inside, Kairos Outside or Torch team and see for yourselves what a blessing it is to be a Kairos volunteer.

For more information you can go to Kairos of Ohio.org or myKairos.org.

Karen Schneider

### A Message from VdC Ohio Music Advisor Jen Briner

Graham Kendrick, the author of "Shine Jesus Shine" (a.k.a. Lord the Light of Your Love), is a British singer/songwriter whose work began in the late 1960's. Together with two friends, he started the "March for Jesus" movement in 1987, which is an interdenominational event in which Christians gather together to march through several towns and cities. (Last US walk was in 2000 but this continues still in many other countries.) It was also in 1987 that Graham wrote "Shine Jesus Shine". He wrote the song as a prayer for revival. The following is from his website, describing the circumstances behind the writing of the song.

*"I had been thinking for some time about the holiness of God, and how that as a community of believers and as individuals, His desire is for us to live continually in His presence. My longing for revival in the Churches and spiritual awakening in the nation was growing, but also a recognition that we cannot stand in God's presence without 'clean hands and a pure heart'. So I wrote the three verses and 'road tested' it in my home church. Though there was clearly merit to the song, it seemed incomplete, so as I was unable at the time to take it any further, I put it back in the file. Several months later I was asked to submit new songs for a conference songbook, and as I reviewed this three verse song I realized that it needed a chorus. I remember standing in my music room with guitar slung round my neck trying different approaches. The line 'Shine Jesus Shine' came to mind, and within about half an hour I had finished the chorus, all but some 'polishing'. Though I felt an excitement in my spirit at the time, I had no inkling at all that it would become so widely used!"*

Kendrick still lives in the UK and "Shine Jesus Shine" continues to be his most well-known and loved work.

GLYASDI.  
Jen Briner

## Rediscover and Recommit

It's a one-day outreach event of the VdC National Lutheran Secretariat. One will be on Saturday, February 21, at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, 5631 N Adams, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304.

Purpose of Our Day:

- This is an interactive/experiential workshop to help Rediscover the power and purpose of the VdC ministry.
- It has been developed for presentation to all of the 44 secretariats in the United States.
- It has been developed to help each community Recommit to the essentials of the ministry.
- It is a dialogue opportunity to identify blessings and barriers a community shares...to look in a mirror and identify both the healthy and unhealthy parts of the community.
- It is a gathering to share ideas that support both our personal walk with Christ and to then build an Action Plan to help strengthen ourselves and the local communities.

We will ask for participation in small group discussions, answering questions that may challenge one personally as well as stimulate the Via de Cristo community to grow stronger.

It is our prayer that we provide a starting point for personal reflection and the opportunity to put some actions into place to strengthen your personal walk with Christ and your community's ability to share that love of Christ with others.

It is our intention for the community to gather together again in a few weeks and put a plan in place which enables you to Rediscover and Recommit yourself and your community to the mission of Via de Cristo.

Please plan to join us--and RSVP to Phil Meuser at [laydirector@gnvdc.org](mailto:laydirector@gnvdc.org) or Penny Jongeward [postweekendchair@gnvdc.org](mailto:postweekendchair@gnvdc.org)

**VIA de CRISTO/CURSILLO/KAİROS WEEKENDS around the USA and the WORLD**

Feb. 5-8, 2015 Men's #877 (Spanish) Phoenix, AZ  
 Feb. 5-8, 2015 Men's #347 Burnsville, MN  
 Feb. 5-8, 2015 Women's #559 Yuma, AZ  
 Feb. 5-8, 2015 Cursillo de Cursillos, Fort Worth, TX  
 Feb. 5-8, 2015 Women's Cursillo Chatham, ON, CANADA  
 Feb. 5-8, 2015 Men's #684 (Spanish) New York, NY  
 Feb. 5-8, 2015 Men's #304 (Spanish) Mayagüez,, PUERTO RICO  
 Feb. 5-8, 2015 Women's #389 Oxford, MI  
 Feb. 5-8, 2015 Men's #122 Dancyville, TN  
 Feb. 5-8, 2015 Men's #113 Vienna, GA  
 Cursillo Movement – Maringa Archdiocese, Parana – BRAZIL  
 #166 Cursillo Male March 20 – March 22, 2015  
 Sunrise Via de Cristo of Wisconsin  
 Men's #91 – Feb. 26 – March 1, 2015  
 Women's #92 – March 5 – March 8, 2015  
 Carson City OTF – Keryx (formerly Kairos of Michigan) Keryx means a Herald that proclaims  
 the unaltered word of the King. #25 Feb. 13 – 16, 2015

Secretariat Palanca Cha Sherry  
 Patterson  
 Shares the news of Fourth Day  
 movement  
 Weekends around the world so  
 that you may consider praying for  
 them as you pray for our VdC  
 Ohio Weekends.

Blessings to all,

As I send the listings for upcoming weekends for the newsletter; I would like to let all know of the wonderful devotional on 'youversonbible' by Jennie Allen called RESTLESS that I just finished; it was about how Joseph was being content in the PLACE where God had placed him in Egypt to save his people and family from the famine – and it helped me to see after five years of widowhood, that the PLACE that God wants me to be for now is in Marion, Ohio at St. Paul Lutheran in the Park! Being on church council and getting involved with GOOD NEWS + AMEN! , which is part of the NWOHio Synod missional program and being your Palanca coordinator for VdC of Ohio secretariat. Please pray for me as I begin to prepare a Mission Focus for the Marion, Morrow and Crawford counties to explore opportunities to introduce Via de Cristo to Pastors and Congregations.

Love in Christ, Sherryl Patterson

If you're looking for a good summer vacation idea, consider this! More information will come in subsequent Newsletters about the Quad Cities area and other things to do there.



## National Via de Cristo Gathering 2015

Thursday, July 23 through Sunday, July 26, 2015

Historic Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill.

Hosted by Living Water Via de Cristo

'The theme for this years gathering will be: "Gather at the River: Centered in Christ "

"...everyone who thirsts, come to the waters." Isaiah 55:1

If you know someone who has changed their street address or email address or telephone number, please send the new information to Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin at [vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com](mailto:vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com) or 419-886-4420 or 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813.

If you know someone who does not get the VdC Ohio Newsletter but would like to, please send the contact information to Nancy.



**Via de Cristo of Ohio is now on Facebook!**

We hope you will "like" our new Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/viadecristooh> !

Our new VdC Ohio website is "under construction." Log on to see how it's coming along. Check out the other two as well.

Get on the Web – Ohio Via de Cristo [www.viadecristooh.org](http://www.viadecristooh.org)

National Via de Cristo Website [www.viadecristo.org](http://www.viadecristo.org)

Kairos Website [www.kairosohio.org](http://www.kairosohio.org)

**(Our VdCOhio website is currently under re-construction. Look for the new site soon.)**

### LEADERS' SCHOOL

There will be a Leaders' School on February 21 - St. Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church Street, Bellville, OH 44813. Doors will open at 8:30 AM and we begin at 9:00 AM. Lunch about 12 noon and we're done between 3:00 and 3:30 PM. Cost is \$10.00 which covers materials and lunch. It is open to anyone who has attended a Via de Cristo Weekend. You may go for the first time or you may go again to review what you learned before. Attending a VdC Leaders' School makes you eligible to serve on a Weekend.

Fred Schneider is the contact person and would like contact from prospective attendees so that the appropriate numbers of materials can be on hand. Please email Fred at [fschneider@fuse.net](mailto:fschneider@fuse.net) or phone him at 513-729-0945 or mail the registration form below.

### LEADERS'SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Payment of \$10.00 Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (You may pay on arrival)

Mail to: Fred Schneider, 8643 Empire Court, Cincinnati, OH 45231