



# The Taste

Newsletter for the  
**Taste of Grace VIA DE CRISTO**  
Community

*Check out our website at [www. tasteofgrace.org](http://www.tasteofgrace.org) (coming Jan 2003)*

## Secretariat announces scheduled dates and names of Rector/ Rectora for Weekend #1

Dates have been set for the first Taste of Grace Via de Cristo weekend which will be held at Camp Manitoqua located in Frankfort, Illinois. The decision comes following much research, many phone calls, planning meetings and an enormous amount of prayer.

Lay Director, Simon Prior, says, "Despite many internet searches and phone calls nothing showed up. Suddenly one of Pastor Kathy Flores' parishioners mentioned to her a camp site out in Frankfort and it's perfect for our needs." A special thank you goes out to everyone who spent many hours narrowing down sites for us to pick from.

Once the location was confirmed and the dates were set, and after prayerful consideration the secretariat asked Dick Volker to be Rector for Men's Weekend #1 and Jan Curry to be Rectora for Women's Weekend #1. We are happy to announce that both people have accepted our invitation to serve.

Much work is still to be done, and now we begin calling the servants. Satan will be right there along the way to try to stop this cursillo movement from moving forward. We ask for your prayers that God will continue to guide us and make His plans known as the weekends approach.

### Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Weekend #1 Dates

Men's Weekend #1	April 24 – 27, 2003
Women's Weekend #1	May 1 – 4, 2003
Team Training (locations to be announced soon):	
Feb. 22	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
March 8	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
March 22	8:30 am – 3:30 pm
April 4 & 5	7:00 pm – 3:30 pm Mens Overnight
April 11 & 12	7:00 pm – 3:30 pm Womens Overnight

## Taste of Grace VDC Ultreya held at Abundant Life Church

Abundant Life Church in Plainfield was the location for the November Taste of Grace VDC Ultreya. Approximately 30 people took part in the Potluck Dinner which followed the Saturday night Worship Service. Food was plentiful as usual and the fellowship was fun for all. Christina Spiros was the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Speaker and the evening concluded with a wonderful songfest. Our numbers may still be small but we continue to grow in spirit!

## From the Lay Director

*"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed" but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." - James 2:14 – 17*

Dear Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Community,

Well, we have finally located a site for our first weekend, have dates set and selected a rector and rectora! I must admit I was getting a little worried – I forgot the scripture verse that says, "But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him." - Jeremiah 7:17 As soon as I let go and said, "Lord – help!" there it was.

After months of hard work we are ready to ask you, the Via de Cristo community to accompany your faith with works and volunteer to be on team for Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Weekend #1. If you haven't served on team I promise you lots of work, little sleep, sore feet and at the end of the weekend, a heart singing with joy. Over the next few weeks please pray and ask the Lord to guide your decision about serving on team. Team application forms are enclosed in this newsletter or can be located on our website in January.

Sadly Larry Nichols has resigned from the secretariat due to pressures from work and other areas of service. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Larry for all his hard work and support over the past months. The secretariat will miss Larry and his contribution. The Pre-Weekend position has been filled by Harry Benner. We welcome Harry to our secretariat and know that God has chosen him to fill our need.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 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." - Phillipians 1:3-6

God loves you all and so do I.

Simon Prior  
Lay Director  
Taste of Grace Via de Cristo

## Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Secretariat

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Pre-Weekend Coord. 815-942-1751	Harry Benner bennerhj@theramp.net
Weekend Coordinator 630-820-8777	Tim Mulder f.r.o.g.man@juno.com
Post-Weekend Coord. 815-254-0198	Ed Walter edward.walter@attbi.com

**"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him."  
- Psalm 34:8**



## Food for Thought from our Spiritual Directors

### “IT ISN’T ME... IT’S HIM!”

Where the Spirit of the Lord is... there is glory for Christ.

*Oh, there is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not be presenting his own ideas; he will be telling you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by revealing to you whatever he receives from me.*  
- John 16:12-14

Young Arturo Toscanini set out to become a cellist and was living out his dream until at the age of nineteen, while on tour with the orchestra in Rio de Janeiro, he was called on to fill in for the conductor. He proceeded to perform Verdi's *Aida* from memory, and the world of music discovered a genius. He is praised most for his interpretation of Verdi's work and the symphonies of Beethoven, and those who know say he could get from the musicians more than any other conductor. On many, many occasions, when he had raised the orchestra's performance of Beethoven to heights they didn't think they could attain, the artists would rise to their feet and applaud the master, until embarrassed with the length and fervor of the tribute, he had to beg them to cease. "You must see, gentlemen," he'd say, "it isn't me; it's Beethoven."

As the recent women's weekend (#26) at Living Water VdC unfolded, I was again reminded by the powerful rollos. . .it's not about us. . .it's about Him. Jesus Christ is at the center of all. I remember, as an intern at Abundant Life, one of my favorite songs was "Worthy is the Lamb". It is a powerful song about the sovereignty and centrality of Jesus.

We hear the quiet breathing of the Holy Spirit on every page of Holy Scripture, but when we listen to what he's whispering, there is only one name on his lips — *Jesus*. If we pay attention to his way of working, we, too, will have only one name on our lips and one thing to say: "Worthy is the Lamb."

May the Spirit ceaselessly remind us, "It isn't you; it's the Lord Christ! There is no other name, no other heart, no other face — there is only Him!" As we accomplish all we are led by the Spirit of God to do, we discover that Christ is glorified. If it happens that people applaud us, let us always, without fanfare or self-importance—in humility—direct their eyes to the Lord Christ himself.

*Now, the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, he gives freedom. And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.* 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

Peace and joy in your journeys,  
Pastor Kathy Flores  
Spiritual Director, Taste of Grace VDC

### “ONE ORCHESTRA, ONE CONDUCT”

This is such an exciting time as we go about starting up this new community of Taste of Grace. I don't think there can be too many Via de Cristo communities in the world today. Our world is so disjointed, isn't it? It's like a huge orchestra that seems to be out of tune, not together. And we all belong to the orchestra, you know, and we make harmony by playing our particular part of the score on the instrument that God has given to us.

In First Corinthians 12:18-20, we read, "But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body."

And so we are called and gifted to do specific things in this orchestra that we call the world, and in the body of Christ, as we live out lives of grace. As we start up this marvelous new community that we have been called and equipped by God to do, we all have certain abilities that can contribute to the effectiveness of Taste of Grace. It is my prayer that as the word gets out more and more about this wonderful happening that even more people will come forward and contribute their gift to this orchestra that God is putting in place.

The other part of this orchestra is of course to recognize that I am probably not gifted by God to play every instrument, just one, or maybe two. There are times that I have wished that I could play a guitar or a piano, but I can't and I've never made any effort to do so. As a result, I've had to learn to leave the playing of those (and any other instrument) to people that have been so gifted and sacrificed their time to learn to play. And that's a good thing, because that gives me even more time to do the things that God has called and equipped me to do specifically.

I've heard this many times on Via de Cristo weekends – "God doesn't call the equipped – God equips the called." What is God calling you to do to further expand our Lord's kingdom on this earth – in your church and in Via de Cristo – in the workplace and in your family – on the roadways and in the supermarket? God has called you and God has equipped you to be an integral part of the orchestra. I hope you'll play!

Lord God, as we continue to build this new community, as we continue to live out lives of grace through our churches and families, as we look forward to the celebration of the arrival of the Christ child again, help us all to do our part in your kingdom and depend on others to do their part. Amen.

PS – A blessed and meaningful Christmas to you all!  
Shalom, Pastor John  
Spiritual Director, Taste of Grace Via de Cristo

*“Life on earth is just a brief encounter on our journey to wider fields of usefulness where we can work together forever in the vineyard of the Lord.” -Helen Steiner Rice*

## From our Rector

This is the Advent season. “He is coming” is the meaning of the word Advent. At this time we are all hurrying and scurrying around preparing for the big day – Christmas, the birthday of our Saviour. Advent also marks the beginning of a new year in the church’s calendar. There is a beautiful significance in this fact, for it reminds us that Jesus, whose coming we now commemorate, should come first into our hearts and lives in this new year of God’s grace.

Many of us are excited about another beginning which is currently taking place. The formation of Taste of Grace Via de Cristo. I feel very honored and awed to have been asked to serve as Rector of Taste of Grace VDC Men’s Weekend #1. I am excited about the challenge and very much aware of the awesome responsibility in organizing a weekend, especially a first Weekend. I am thankful that the Lord and the Taste of Grace Secretariat have placed confidence in me to be their servant on this Weekend. I pray daily that the Lord’s will be done and to His glory as we begin team selection.

My wife, Loretta, and I have had the opportunity and grace to assist with the formation of three Via de Cristo organizations – Living Water, Heart of Illinois and now Taste of Grace. For our friends and new friends we will be making, I will tell you this true story. Many years ago while we had much disruption in our lives, Loretta prayed to God for guidance. One early morning while asleep, God visited her in a dream and answered her prayer with, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” - Isaiah 40:3. After much soul-searching and her questioning me and several of our friends, it became apparent that she was to lead her husband in evangelizing for Christ. We were to go forth introducing people to a spiritual renewal program, which we attended and became involved with – Cursillo, Via de Cristo, Tres Dias. This instruction came in a vision.

I personally experienced an eye-opening, thought-provoking, soul-searching Cursillo Weekend where it hit me that my priorities were not in the proper order. I have been a Lutheran all my life and prior to my Cursillo felt comfortable with my spiritual life. After the Cursillo I realized there was much more for me to do to be Christ-centered.

With God’s blessing we will be prayerfully considering team selection soon. I ask for your prayers and encouragement as we prepare His way within this new Secretariat.

God’s grace be with you!  
Dick Volker, Rector  
Taste of Grace VDC Men’s Weekend #1

## From our Rectora

Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, and unto us a Son is given. “ What powerful words those are, “ For unto us!” Just think this was done just for me and for you. How many of us never knew, or felt that our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ, was born and died, so that we could have this wonderful relationship with Him.

This is the time of the year that we celebrate the birth of Jesus. What an exciting time. All of the preparations that have been made, all of the planning, decorating, shopping, hopefully, in anticipation of the birth of Jesus. This Christmas will be especially meaningful for me. My two-year-old grandson is now old enough to sing “Happy Birthday to Baby Jesus”, and I eagerly await the birth of a new granddaughter in February.

There is another new birth that I am so excited about; the birth of “Taste of Grace.”

When I think about this new community, it’s like the birth of a child. How long ago did the discussion start about the possibility of a new child in the Via de Cristo family? Now days you have family planning, back in my day it was called “chance”. The talk of a new addition started some time ago, first it was just talk, then it grew more serious, committees got together and finally conception! Now we are awaiting this birth.

When I received a call to be head of the delivery room, Rectora, I went into shock. The first words out of my mouth were, “Oh My God”, the reply was, “Yes, He’ll help you.” To accept the awesome position took prayer, more prayer and much more prayer. Then I remembered Isaiah 6:8 “Whom shall I send? And I said, “Here I am, send me!”

When I first heard there might be a new community starting I volunteered my services My sponsor was involved in getting Living Water started and I’ve often wondered where I’d be today if that group of people hadn’t persevered.

I’m asking that each and everyone of you pray daily for the role you will play in this birth, #1 Taste of Grace. Are you being called to be part of this team? Are you being called to sponsor a candidate? Remember; pray to God about \_\_\_\_\_before you ask \_\_\_\_\_about God. I’m also asking you to pray for me, and your Rector as we go to our “Lamaze” classes in preparation of this wonderful, joyous birth.

GLY&SDI  
Jan Curry, Rectora  
Taste of Grace VDC Women’s Weekend #1

## Evangelism - Outreach

I am excited about the opportunity to help launch another Via de Cristo organization. It is long overdue in north-central Illinois. Five years ago I sent out a "feeler" to Cursillistas ranging from Princeton, Illinois to Morris, Illinois and on into the "butbs attempting to get a reading on their feelings about organizing a new group in order to cut down on mileage. This had been done before by our friends in the Rochelle, Illinois area who formed Tres Dias, based out of the Presbyterian church at Rochelle, Illinois and had extreme success with touching the lives of many people from Princeton, Illinois on up to Rockford, Illinois and across through DeKalb, Illinois.

Loretta and I, along with many other Living Water Via de Cristo people, were happy to serve on some of the early Tres Dias Weekends conducted at Bishop Lane Retreat Center near Rockford, Illinois. The response I received back five years ago, from those who did reply, was that it would be a good idea but the people were comfortable with the friends they had made on their Weekend or served on teams with.

The fire of the Holy Spirit caught aflame in several energetic and enthusiastic Cursillistas after having experienced Living Water VDC Weekends and with the encouragement of other Cursillistas a new secretariat, reaching into the Chicago suburbs has been chartered with the appetite whetting name of "Taste of Grace". I love the name. Our granddaughter's name is Grace.

Rev. John Bradford has asked me several times, "Dick, how many miles and hours have you given to Via de Cristo?" My response is, "Only God knows! Loretta and I have a vision for this program to be extended to as large an area as possible so as to touch the lives of as many people in those areas as possible. We believe in the Christian spiritual renewal method and if in any way we can be servants of Christ we are ready. Besides, we both believe in the Jabez Prayer – to reach out and extend ourselves as the "skin of Christ" here on earth, expanding our territories, again."

We lived in Lombard, Illinois prior to moving to Princeton and love the Chicago area. In my sales work I am in and out of many suburbs and see the many Lutheran churches in the 'burbs which I am anxiously awaiting to "reach out" to and tell the people the Via de Cristo story and invite them to "taste the grace".

Dick Volker  
Evangelism-Outreach Chair

**Team and Candidate Applications  
Available Now  
for Taste of Grace VDC Weekend #1**

## Holiday Traditions

*"...do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them."*

- Deuteronomy 4:9

Some of the Taste of Grace Secretariat would like to share with you the different traditions that keep their holidays "Christ-centered."

**Koniewicz household:** We attempt to keep our Christmas Christ centered by keeping the commercial Santa out and by celebrating Epiphany with the closest members of our Christian family.

**Mulder household:** Every year, when we prepare Christmas dinner, we make sure that there is enough food for at least one extra person. Lthen we set the dinner table with one extra setting. In our prayer we invite Christ to join us. He appears to us in so many ways and as we may be the only Christ someone may every see, we make sure that there is room at His birthday celebration for Him to work. We've had that "empty" place filled in some really interesting ways. One year a couple who doesn't have children and didn't have a place to be, joined us. What a Christ filled experience. This year our extra place will be filled by a sailor from Great Lakes Naval Base through the Adopt-a-Sailor program.

**Prior household:** We talk to the children about the nativity as we set out the nativity scene and attend church on Christmas Eve. And we never use Xmas (ugh!).

**Bradford household:** We like to celebrate Advent, which is the time of hope-filled waiting for the Christ child. Over the years we've lost a lot of the significance of Advent to the commercialism of Christmas. While we don't have a problem with Christmas being advertised a lot, we think that we as Christians need to focus more on preparing for its arrival by lighting an Advent candle every evening and sharing a devotional that helps us keep tuned into the real meaning of what is coming on Christmas day.

**Spiros household:** We make sure that reading the Christmas story in Luke is a part of each holiday at our home.

More [Holiday Traditions](#) on page 10.

## Calendar of Events

### Taste of Grace VDC Grand Ultreya

January 11, 2003  
Good Shepherd Church  
1310 Shepherd Drive  
Naperville, IL  
630-961-9220  
12:00 noon - Potluck (bring dish to pass)  
1:30 p.m. - Worship Service

### Upcoming Weekends

03/06/03 Living Water VDC Men's Weekend #27  
03/13/03 Living Water VDC Women's Weekend #27  
Palanca – Tim & Theresa Oloffson  
122 E. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Box 207  
Wyanet, IL 61379

04/24/03 Taste of Grace VDC Men's Weekend #1  
05/01/03 Taste of Grace VDC Womens Weekend #1  
Palanca – Christina Spiros  
1101 Highland Avenue  
Joliet, IL 60435

### Fall Weekends

9/30/03 – Taste of Grace Men's Weekend #2  
10/7/03 – Taste of Grace Women's Weekend #2  
Palanca – Christina Spiros  
1101 Highland Avenue  
Joliet, IL 60435

### Secretariat Meetings

December 28, 2002 – 6:00 p.m.  
at Abundant Life Church, Plainfield

January 11, 2003 – following Grand Ultreya  
at Simon and Amy Prior's home

January 26, 2003 – 5:30 p.m.  
at Peace Lutheran Church, Morris



Check out our website beginning Jan 2003...

**[www.tasteofgrace.com](http://www.tasteofgrace.com)**

## From our Menu

### PIETY STUDY ACTION

Each issue will feature an article based on the Via De Cristo "tripod" ....remember back to your weekend?!

*"Therefore I will praise you among the nations, O Lord; I will sing praises to your name." - Psalm 18:45.*

During the holiday season, music is such a large part of our holiday celebration. Churches have their Christmas cantata's, schools have their Christmas pageants, people go caroling and the malls are filled with joyful music. It seems like a great time to talk about the importance of music in the lives of Christians.

Even before God gave us His written word, people would sing psalms, praising God and encouraging one another with stories of God's power and presence among His people. Contemporary praise and worship songs continue in this great tradition by setting God's word to music, proclaiming His strength and comfort, and in the process, lifting our hearts into God's very presence.

Did God touch your heart through the lyrics and music of the praise songs on your weekend? Maybe your Via de Cristo weekend was the first time you experienced "praise songs." All of us have a special time that we feel closest to God and for some of us it is through music. Whether it is when we're listening to a Christian radio station, our favorite CD, singing with the church choir or making a "joyful noise" in the shower, we can use God's word through music to lift us into an awe-inspiring presence of God – a place we'll never want to leave.

Music fits right in to the Via de Cristo tripod...

Study: We can relate songs to scripture or use as part of our daily devotions. (ie. Song = Lord, I Lift Your Name on High, Scripture = "Let them praise the name of the Lord: for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven." - Psalm 148:13)

Piety: Believers are told to "teach one another with... spiritual songs" - Colossians 3:16. Songs that are crafted from the Spirit of God are powerful tools that bring God's word directly to His people.

Action: Sing in your church choir, participate in the bell choir or attend a Christian concert and take along a friend!

Over the last few months I have come across some great books that can be used to take your love of music one step further and make it a part of your daily walk with Jesus. (continued on page 10)

## PRAYERS & PRAISES

✝ Prayers of healing for Karen Peterson, Margaret Tallman and Diane Strohm.

✝ Please pray for Ronald Harkala who is waiting for a heart transplant.

✝ Please pray for 5 year-old Ashley Carro and her family as she suffers with an inoperable brain tumor.

✝ Please pray for 4 year-old Sarah Ande and her family as she was recently diagnosed with leukemia.

✝ Remember the poor, lonely and depressed during this holiday season. Pray that they would know the HOPE that God has to offer.

✝ Continued prayers for our country, people in the military, our president and all of the leaders in our continuing fight against terrorism.

✝ Please continue to keep Living Water Via de Cristo Weekend #27 rector/rectora and team members in your prayers. Also, the sponsors and candidates – that God will call those who need to be there.

✝ Please keep Taste of Grace Via de Cristo in your prayers, for our first weekend, the rector, rectora, spiritual directors, the team and those of God's children who have yet to taste His grace.

**REMEMBER TO PRAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, LAST AND ALWAYS**

### BANNERS NEEDED

Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Weekend #1 is fast approaching. If anyone is interested in creating banners to be used for the weekend, please fill out the Banner Form in this newsletter or contact Christina Spiros.

phone: 815-740-6369 or  
e-mail: [cspiros1101@attbi.com](mailto:cspiros1101@attbi.com)

**“Give thanks to the Lord  
for He is good.”**



### Coming Soon... Need a New Recipe?

Recipes are still needed for the Taste of Grace Via de Cristo cookbook. Deadline has been extended until January 30, 2003. Use the recipe form enclosed with the newsletter to send us your recipe today!

It takes a lot of funds to start up a new secretariat and host a weekend, so one of our first fundraisers will be a personalized cookbook with all profits going to Taste of Grace Via de Cristo. The beautiful spiral bound cookbook will feature recipes from the Via de Cristo community nationwide. Each recipe will feature the donor's name, weekend # and favorite scripture verse. The books will be approximately \$8.00 and will be available in time for Taste of Grace Weekend #1 (March 2003).

**RESERVE** your copy of our Taste of Grace Via de Cristo “Potluck & Prayers Cookbook” NOW!  
For more information contact Donna Weaver: Phone (815) 941-4693 or send an e-mail to [donna\\_a\\_weaver@hotmail.com](mailto:donna_a_weaver@hotmail.com)

TASTE OF GRACE VIA DE CRISTO  
"Potluck and Prayers" Cookbook Recipe  
*Please PRINT all information clearly*

RECIPE TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM THE KITCHEN OF \_\_\_\_\_  
Your name

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Your weekend (ie. Living Water VDC #22)*      *Home Phone # (include area code)*

YOUR FAVORIE SCRIPTURE VERSE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(ie. "Taste and see that the Lord is good." - Psalm 34:8)*

**INGREDIENTS:**

**RECIPE INSTRUCTIONS:**

Send recipe to: Donna Weaver, 1320 Butler Street, Morris, IL 60450 or e-mail to: donna\_a\_weaver@hotmail.com

**TASTE OF GRACE VIA DE CRISTO  
PALANCA BANNER FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Weekend \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Banner Description**

Scripture/ Saying \_\_\_\_\_

Main background color of banner \_\_\_\_\_

**Finished size of all banners should be 3' x 5' (vertical) and have a 2 inch rod pocket at the top.**

**Scripture/ Saying Ideas:**

- "Meet me at the cross anytime. All is forgiven. I love you." – Your Father in Heaven.
- You may be the only Gospel someone reads.
- "I can do all things thru Him who strengthens me." – Philippians 4:13
- "Apart from Me you can do nothing." – John 6:44, John 15:5
- "My grace is sufficient for you for My power is made perfect in weakness." – 1 Corinthians 6:1
- "Ask and it will be given." – Matthew 7:7-8
- "For I know the plans I have for you." – Jeremiah 29:11
- "I will be with you always." – "Matthew 28:20
- We are not generating our own light but reflecting the light of Christ.
- P-U-S-H Pray until something happens.
- Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend toward Christ.
- Without Christ I am nothing, but Christ & I are an overwhelming majority.
- Pray first, last and always.
- "Be still and know I am God." – Psalm 46:10
- It is in serving others that Jesus is met.
- Seek ye first the kingdom of God.
- Our God Reigns

Send form to Christian Spiros at: 1101 Highland Avenue, Joliet, IL 60435 or e-mail to: [cspiros1101@attbi.com](mailto:cspiros1101@attbi.com)

## From our Menu

(cont. from page 2)

### **Book Resources:**

#### OUR GOD REIGNS

By Phil Christensen & Shari MacDonald

The stories behind your favorite praise and worship songs... the book invites you, the worshiper, to meet first hand the songwriters who God has used to touch our lives.

#### SONGS 4 WORSHIP PRESENTS THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

By Lindsay Terry

A book for anyone who has ever been touched by the right song at the right time. Each story begins with a scripture verse that corresponds to the song and is followed by the inspiring story that tells how some of the songs were written out of a personal tragedy by the songwriter while others arose from personal devotions or unique experiences.

#### SONGS 4 WORSHIP PRESENTS OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART

Written by Debbie Carsten

This book is set up as daily devotions using a song as the inspiration, followed by a corresponding scripture verse and ending with a prayer. The songs are taken from 90 of the greatest praise and worship songs of all times. Each daily devotion also includes the words of the song for that day.

### **Quotes Selected from Books Referenced:**

Song: "Lord, Be Glorified"

- Bob Kilpatrick

Kilpatrick compares the five notes of "Lord, Be Glorified" to the five loaves a little boy brought the Lord. "When placed in the hands of Jesus, the fed multiplied thousands."

Song: "Holy Ground"

- Geron Davis

"When we come into God's presence, we're all on level ground. And it's holy ground."

Song: "The Battle Belongs to the Lord"

- Jamie Owen Collins

"When we lift up the name of the Lord and we invite Him to rule in a situation, then He can come in and do His thing."

### **MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE & PRAISE THE LORD**

Donna Weaver  
LWVDC #22

## something to think about!

### SMALL THINGS

Great things happen when small things are done with purpose, care and persistence. Few people can make a big positive impact on the first attempt, yet anyone can have a small impact, and then another and another.

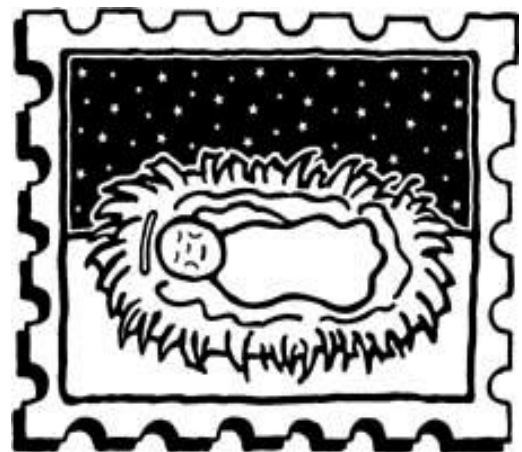
The small things matter, because they join together to become big things. Every moment is your opportunity to do the small things that can surely and steadily bring about big results.

Those who sit and wait for a big break rarely every get one, and wonder why life has been so cruel and unfair. Those who do what they can, when they can, with what they have, will get precisely where they intend to go.

Today is your chance to do what you can. It may seem small, but focus and persistence will, over time, make it into something big. Meaningful, lasting value is something that is built, effort upon effort, day after day, moment by moment. Step forward at every opportunity, be willing to do the small things, and you'll be making the big things happen.

- Ralph Marston

*(article submitted by Harry Benner, Pre-Weekend Coordinator)*



**Take Christ with you,  
don't leave Him in the Manger!**

**Coming January 2003**  
 be sure to check out our  
 Taste of Grace website  
[www.tasteofgraceviadecristo.com](http://www.tasteofgraceviadecristo.com)

## Holiday Traditions

(cont. from page 5)

**Flores household:** The Poor Star was always on top of our tree--it was a star my mother made in the late 1940s, when all we had to spare was a little tin foil and some cardboard. She covered the star and told me the story of the first Christmas. We put the star up on the wall because we had not tree that year. Well, as the story goes, my dad worked all day; made extra money; brought home a small tree and one string of lights. When I woke up Christmas morning, there was the Poor Star (a hole poked in the center, and big white bulb poked through) shining on the top of that tiny tree. Each Christmas after, we would put the Poor Star on top of our tree and remember that 1940s Christmas when we had the least, but it meant the most.

**Weaver household:** Our family started a new tradition last holiday season and look forward to continuing with it again this year. A local restaurant serves free meals to the needy and those that may be alone on Christmas Day. After the little ones open their gifts on Christmas morning, we all bundle up and head to the restaurant to help serve the meals, hand out gifts and spread holiday cheer. Even the little ones have their jobs to do. Upon returning home, the true meaning of Christmas can be seen on each family members face and felt in each ones heart.

**January 15<sup>th</sup> is the  
 deadline for February  
 newsletter items.**

## Message from the Editor

As 2002 comes to a close let us keep in mind the following quote from Lucie Christopher, " Christ is the one true Light that burns undimmed at the heart of Christmas. Santa Claus, Christmas trees, family gatherings, are all lesser planets that circle the one Star. They shine with bright beauty only when they reflect His light."

My wish for you in 2003 is an abundance of grace, a "taste" of grace for you and your families. May the Lord keep us always mindful of all we have been given and ready to be generous with the resources He has entrusted to us. And may you look forward to the opportunities He provides for us to share this unending grace with others. May each day be filled with His Spirit that we may enrich our lives and the lives around us.

I hope you have enjoyed our Holiday Issue of "The Taste." Our theme was "music" and our hearts should always be filled with praises to our "Awesome God." With our first Taste of Grace VDC weekend fast approaching there was much information that we needed to pass along. This issue has been packed full (and maybe over-packed), but I hope you have taken the time to enjoy the articles and feel the need to share the information with a friend in Christ. Each issue will strive to meet the continually changing needs of the Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Community. Any feedback or suggestions will be greatly appreciated.



*Shalom,*

Donna Weaver, Editor

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