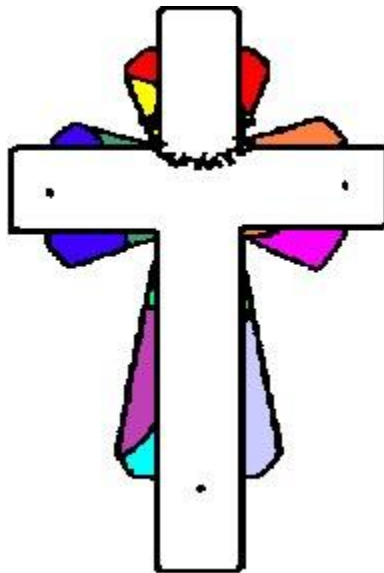


Vida Nueva

A Weekend for Teens

History of Vida Nueva



August 19, 2013

<http://www.vidanueva.net/>

**Vida Nueva International
A Weekend for Teens
History of Vida Nueva**

Cursillo de Christianidad began out of reunion groups being held on the island of Majorca, Spain, on August 23, 1944, by Eduardo Bonin and Monsignor Juan Hervas.

In January, 1949, Cursillo was officially sanctioned by the Catholic Church. In 1955 Cursillo migrated to South America and Mexico, and eventually 20 other Spanish speaking countries.

In 1957, the Spanish speaking Cursillo was brought to Waco, Texas by Spanish airmen training with the U.S. Air Force. In 1961, it was translated into English and the first English speaking Cursillo was held in Texas.

In 1963, the first French speaking Cursillo was held in Trois Rivieres, Quebec.

In 1970, the Episcopal Cursillo was started. In 1971, the first Protestant attended a Catholic Cursillo. He later became the first Tres Dias Rector.

In 1972, a group of Protestant Cursillistas met in Hopewell Junction, NY to form Tres Dias. Also in 1972, the Lutheran Cursillo was started.

On November 2-5, 1972, the first Tres Dias was held in Newburgh, NY.

In 1976, the first Mid-Hudson Vida Nueva was held at the Oblate House in Newburgh, NY.

Mid-Hudson Vida Nueva modified the TEC retreat so it would follow the Protestant traditions.

Since its origin, the VN Council (the ruling body of the organization) of the Mid-Hudson Vida Nueva has changed and modified this retreat to meet the needs of the youth. The early weekends started on Friday evening and ended on Monday afternoon and with the age 17 (Senior in High School) to 23 years old (The same guidelines that TEC used). Presently the weekends start on a Friday night and End Sunday evening and the age is Ninth Grade through 20 years old. The VN retreats have been held at many different locations in the Hudson Valley, New York area.

Mid-Hudson VN has helped other communities to set up and run their own Vida Nueva Weekends and has allowed those communities to use the name of Vida Nueva. These communities have helped other Vida Nueva communities to get started.

Mid-Hudson worked with the Chaplains at the West Point Military Academy. Members from both West Point and Mid-Hudson communities severed together on teams during the late '70's through the '80's to provide for over 20 West Point VN weekends which were held for both Young Men and Women West Point Cadets. The weekends were held off campus for the Cadets and this was the beginning of the Friday night - Sunday evening weekend format.

In 1979, Walk to Emmaus was started. Also by then, there were nine (9) Tres Dias communities. With the encouragement of Mid-Hudson Tres Dias, an ad hoc committee was established to form a National Secretariat.

In 1980, the Tres Dias Constitution and By-Laws, and Essentials were ratified in Poughkeepsie, NY.

By 1982, the Atlanta Christian Cursillo movement did not have room for the sudden increase of candidates, so Tres Dias of North Georgia was created.

In 1984, The Presbyterian Cursillo was born (now Great Banquet)

In 1985, Tres Dias became international as cadets from West Point began attending weekends. Graduating officers went to Germany and Korea, starting communities there.

In 1986, God laid a burden on the hearts of several people in the North Georgia Tres Dias community to start a weekend program for teenagers. From this burden, and with the assistance of the Emmaus, TEC, and Chrysallis communities, under the permission from Mid-Hudson Vida Nueva, North Georgia Vida Nueva was born.

In November, 1990, the first North Georgia Vida Nueva weekends were held at the Church of God Campground, in Doraville (Atlanta), Georgia.

In 1994, Georgia Mountains Vida Nueva held its first weekends.

In 1998, Central Georgia Vida Nueva held its first weekends.

In 2002, the first VN All Community Meeting was held at the Camp of Colors, near Atlanta, GA. At that meeting, John and Marilyn Bauerle, David and Glenda Watson, and Anson and Becki Fields were asked to be "VN International" and ensure that the NGVN model stayed true to what had been approved by Mid-Hudson Vida Nueva.

In 2003, Vida Nueva of Tampa Bay held its first weekends.

In 2004, Central Tennessee Vida Nueva held its first weekends.

In 2006, Birmingham Vida Nueva and Vida Nueva Ukraine held their first weekends.

In 2009, Coastal Georgia Vida Nueva held its first weekends.

In 2013, Montego Bay Vida Nueva held its first weekends.

For several years, VN International took a laissez-faire approach. With the number of communities growing, and the number of issues facing those communities growing, VN International was called upon to take a more formal approach.

July 2013 – the second VN All Community meeting was held at the Camp of Colors, near Atlanta, GA.