

Years ago I was able to visit Muir Woods in California and walk among the magnificent Redwood trees. The Sequoia Redwood trees tower above all other trees, sometimes reaching over 367 feet tall! I found out that these huge trees do not have a taproot that grows deep into the ground like most trees; rather their roots are shallow and intertwine among all the other redwoods that surround them. The support of the surrounding trees helps these giant trees to withstand the winds and the storms that come their way.

I love that word picture when it comes to the Christian Church...we are able to stand tall because of the faithful believers that surround us. When the storms come, and they do, we may sway and bend, but if our roots are intertwined with other believers, we can withstand the trial with their encouragement.

This past year as I have served, I have had a good support team that surrounded and upheld me. Jo-Ann Bush hardly missed a Secuela or a Secretariat the past two years as she loyally and ably served as Secretary. The Hartenburgs kept the large Tres Dias Inventory organized and up to date since 2010. Bob Barnes who faithfully served as Vice President this year will lead Cleveland Tres Dias this coming year. Those who supported me this past year and will continue to serve are Lisa Corwin, our treasurer, who does a fantastic job keeping all the finances in order and oversees our 301-C status. Devoted Melanie Garrett will continue to serve another two years as our Ass't. Treasurer. Bruce Szczepinski and Lisa Pringle have done and will continue to do an outstanding job as Fourth Day Co-Chairs. Sy Mougrabi, our resident web expert, will continue fine-tuning our Tres Dias website. Each of these people have made my job as President easier, and I am very grateful for their service. That is not to mention the many other community people who regularly attended the Secretariat meetings and helped to cast a vision for our community and actively made the behind the scenes decisions. I thank them as well. Lastly, I would like to thank my dear husband, Jim, who was my go-to guy answering my many questions and offering valuable insights to me. He steadfastly attended each Secretariat with me, even though he missed his Monday night Bible Study meeting. You're the best, Jim...how I love and appreciate you.

May each of us reach out and lock arms with those around us, to encourage, implore and support other believers as they walk through life. You may be the only one who can help them through their storm. As someone wisely said, "Love generously, care deeply, speak kindly and leave the rest to God".

Thank you for the privilege of serving. judi