

National Lutheran Secretariat

2020 Executive Directors Annual Report



God's peace and blessings to you all!! My report this year will be a bit different since my year has consisted of about 6 weeks serving you as the Executive Director of our National Via de Cristo. I want to take this opportunity to tell you some things I want to focus on as we move forward with this important ministry. There are 3 key ones:

Bridge Building: John 3:16 states, *"God so loved the world, he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life"*. Jesus is the ultimate bridge that connects us to God. As we are called to walk in His way, so too do we need to be bridges that connect us as the body of Christ and the Via de Cristo community. We need to be bridges within our home secretariats, bridges between secretariats and regions, and bridges across the country and into Canada to maximize the impact of our ministry. While the purpose of Via de Cristo is to build Christian leaders to go out in their communities and advance Christ's mission here on Earth, we all have a common experience through our weekends that connects us. In addition to the work we do in our churches and communities, we should also celebrate and strengthen our connection through Via de Cristo. I don't have the answers, but I hope you all will join me in figuring it out. I believe **communication** is a fundamental building block of building bridges and something I am working on now with the National Leadership to help improve. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at my contact info below with any thoughts, ideas, or concerns you have.

Fourth Day Living: My current reunion group fits me like a glove...and it has really a significant impact on my life. There have been times where I have not focused on fourth day living, and it is not a good place to be. We have a heavy focus on the weekends as we should, He has called us to be "fishers of people". However, following a life of **Piety, Study, and Action** in conjunction with having loving brothers and sisters to help hold us accountable is the life blood of this ministry. Again, don't have the answers, but want to figure out how we drive a bit more of a balanced approach.

Making a friend, Being a friend, Bringing more friends to Christ: My weekend was a fundamental life and faith changing moment for me. Without my sponsor, I would not have had that experience and would not be writing this report today. Covid 19 impact aside, we have been holding less weekends, having lighter attendance, and in some instances have had secretariats shut down completely. **Reinvigorating sponsorship** is a big piece of bringing more friends to Christ...and something I want to focus on. We need to understand who is sponsoring and do what we can to help support them, who has stopped sponsoring and see what we can do to reignite that, and promote sponsorship with those who haven't. You can probably guess...just as with the other 2 imperatives, don't have the answers 😊, but I hope we can figure it out together.

I am in a firm believer in "He who gives you the day, will give you what you need for the day". I believe Christ gave me Via de Cristo in my life to give me a roadmap to follow on how to get through whatever the days throw at me. With what is happening in our country and the world today, I want to use my position to share that Via de Cristo roadmap with as many people as we can, and reignite that within our community. Thank you for your time, and do not hesitate to reach out to me at the contact info below if you have questions, ideas, concerns, ect...

In His service,

Brian Schwarz

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