

2021 Region 7 Annual Report

I am thrilled to serve the NLS as Regional Coordinator for Region 7. This is something that God has been nudging me to consider for quite a while now. I have a great support system in my family and groupies and look forward to serving God and our community in this capacity.



Since just becoming Region 7 Coordinator less than 2 months ago, I really have not yet had a chance to get acquainted with the leadership of the other 5 secretariats in Florida other than the one which I am a part (Sonshine North VdC). So looking back at this past year, I can only report on what it's been like for us.

If the pandemic affected the other Florida secretariats like it did Sonshine North, I can say that just about everything came to an abrupt halt in early March, 2020. We only had one team meeting for our Men's & Women's #65 weekends and had to make the gut wrenching but necessary decision to postpone them until the Spring of 2021. Then by the time Fall came, we once again made the same decision to postpone our Coed #12 weekend until 2021. Our secretariat continued to meet virtually, then as folks became vaccinated, we were able to meet face to face; still abiding by the social distancing guidelines. Even with vaccinations being available, however, we postponed the Men's & Women's #65 weekends again until 2022. We had an Ultreya in April, 2021 with a little over 30 participants in attendance. Our folks, like I'm sure the rest of the VdC community feels, have been itching to get back to our routines of monthly Ultreyas and weekends to further the growth of leaders for our local churches. We have missed our gatherings and it's been very difficult to try to balance our desire for fellowship with caution to stay healthy and well.

If there is one thing that I've learned from the past year's pandemic, it's to not take anything for granted. Sometimes we just become complacent and expect that something like we've experienced over the past 16+ months is meant for science fiction and not reality. Time is precious and the time we've lost with our family, friends and community can never be recovered.

As we look ahead to the coming year, Sonshine North VdC is moving forward with our plans to have our Coed #12 weekend this Fall, plan several more Ultreyas and finally have Men's & Women's #65 weekends in the Spring of 2022. For me personally, I look forward to getting to know the leadership of the other 5 secretariats in Florida, to offer assistance when and where needed and to encourage them as we all strive to get back to "normal".

God loves you and so do I,
Sylvia Meister
Region 7 Coordinator

Region7@viadecristo.org