

# FORWARD



## JULY IS "TELL ABOUT CURSILLO" MONTH

The month of July is the unofficial, mid-year counterpart of January's "Cursillo Sunday."

It's a great opportunity to connect with Cursillistas in your parish and to find candidates and sponsors for the next weekend.

### 14 ideas to help you plan a Cursillo Sunday

- Meet with your Rector and Parish Rep to pick the Sunday that works best.
- Have a Cursillista give a short testimony of what attending a Cursillo Weekend meant to them. A recent attendee is a great choice.
- Ask everyone who has attended a Cursillo to stand. It may surprise you!
- Host a Cursillo coffee hour the following....

Complete list on page 12

## *From our Cursillo President* **Jill Mora**

As President of the Cursillo Secretariat, I am pleased to report that Cursillo #149 held at the Pine Valley Bible Conference Center April 28-30 was a blessed Weekend through the light of the Holy Spirit. We thank Rectora Rosaura Medina for her leadership and the #149 Team for all the work and the love that went toward making the Weekend such a life transforming experience for all of us. We also thank our clergy, Fr. Carlos García of St. Phillip the Apostle, Fr. Roberto Maldonado of St. Matthews, and the Reverend Lilia Mendoza of St. Peter and St. Paul in El Centro for their spiritual guidance and inspirational instruction, as well as their offering of grace-filled sacraments. At the Clausura, Bishop Susan Brown Snook commissioned 12 new Cursillistas who are called to serve the Lord through this blessed ministry.

One of the unique aspects of the Cursillo #149 is that it was totally bilingual. Thanks to the new translation

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equipment that the Secretariat was able to procure through generous donations from the Cursillo community, the Team was able to provide simultaneous translation for Rollos and other activities on the Weekend. We were fortunate to have bilingual clergy and English-speaking and Spanish-speaking Team members and candidates, who together made the weekend an inspiring multicultural event. I am reminded of what we celebrate on Pentecost with these words from the book of the Acts of the Apostles 2:4, "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability." Our cross-cultural sharing included a skit prepared by the Candidates where we were all on our feet dancing the Hokey Pokey and the Macarena. This was a joyful celebration of the universality of Christianity and Cursillo as an expression of our unity in Christ's love.

The Secretariat also wants to inform our Cursillo community of recent developments that have propelled us into making some necessary changes in our Cursillo calendar. At our first Secretariat meeting this year in February, we voted not to commit to the October Cursillo #150 contract with the Pine Valley Bible Conference Center. This decision was taken reluctantly because the PVBCC management could not accommodate our Cursillo Weekend schedule for either our Weekend beginning on Thursday or a three-day Weekend model. Consequently, we decided that it would be necessary to search for a new venue for Cursillo #150 and beyond. Another factor in our decision is the cost of the Weekend and the ways we traditionally fund our Weekends so that Cursillo is self-sustaining, through donations and the funding we receive from the Diocese. We appointed a Venue Search Committee that has met and is making progress toward locating a new facility. The Servant Community led by Sunny Landry is also working on the search for an alternative site for the Cursillo Weekends. We have set our parameters for a new venue that can accommodate us while maintaining the Weekends' theological and spiritual integrity. We ask all members of the Cursillo community for your prayers and support in this endeavor. The Secretariat hopes to be able to announce the place and dates for Cursillo #150 in early 2024 as soon as possible.

*Jill Kerper Mora*



## The Chosen TV Series

The Chosen TV Series is a streamed multi-episode program that combines fiction with actual biblical events to tell the story of Jesus and his apostles. It is like a skillfully written historical novel based on the four gospels. The Chosen does two things very well:

It helps you see Jesus through the eyes of those around him, not through the interpretation of the Nicene creed. I strongly believe in the creed, but we have to remember that the people during the time of Jesus knew nothing of the creed. It was written about three hundred years after the time of Jesus. In *The Chosen* Jesus is interpreted by the Romans as a street preacher, by Jews as a rabbi, by Jesus's followers as a prophet, and gradually by some of his followers as the Messiah, and then finally, as the son of God.

The Chosen uses fictional situations and characters to be a commentary that brings out the meaning of historical events recorded in the Biblical texts. For example, the script writers have imagined situations and conversations that the Pharisee Nicodemus would likely be engaged in. While the situations and conversations are fiction, the content of the conversations reflects what the historical Nicodemus would be

advocating. Through the fiction, we get to see an accurate picture of Nicodemus. This fictional commentary method is used skillfully to explain the personalities, motivations, and theology of Jesus's apostles and others around him. I strongly encourage you to watch *The Chosen*. The first episode may seem boring and confusing as new characters are being introduced, but by the second episode things become clearer and the story becomes very compelling.

You can find Season 1 of *The Chosen* on Netflix, Season 2 on Amazon Prime, and Season 3 on Apple TV.

I know from years of theological study that many of the things represented by the fictional situations are historically and theologically accurate. For example, a little detail, Jewish men wore beards and Roman men were clean shaven. In *The Chosen* Matthew is clean shaven showing that he is a Roman sympathizer who would be a pariah among his fellow Jews. When Jesus invites Matthew to follow him, he is taking a big risk. It shows how far Jesus would go to help someone follow him.

Your friend in Christ,

*Father George*

*¡Aquí estoy, Señor! - Here I am Lord,  
send me!*

**Martin Ayala St. Philip the Apostle - Lemon Grove**

**Alejandra Benitez St. Philip the Apostle - Lemon Grove**

**Iviy Castellanos St. Philip the Apostle - Lemon Grove**

**Neenie Castner St. Bartholomew's - Poway**

**Dee Garner St. Bartholomew's - Poway**

**Luis Ituarte St. Philip the Apostle - Lemon Grove**

**Faith Much St. Francis - Pauma Valley**

**Yanira Nuñez St. Philip the Apostle - Lemon Grove**

**Brian Petersen Holy Cross - Carlsbad**

**Lety Ramírez-Figueroa St. Matthew's - National City**

**Joshua Reyes St. Philip the Apostle - Lemon Grove**

**Allysson Sánchez St. Philip the Apostle - Lemon Grove**



*We're not sure who  
this is, but it looks  
like they're  
having fun!*



# *Finding Gold*

by Yanira Nuñez



Hello, I am Yanira Nunez, a member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church. I wish to share with all of you my lived experience of the bilingual Cursillo #149, in Pine Valley, Ca. during the dates of April 27th to 30th.

I can begin by telling you that it was a beautiful place where I immediately felt close to God. His Holy Spirit accompanied us from the start and during the entire weekend. I knew I came in search of something else for my life; that I'd find a code or a key, or a message from God, something would be there for me.

Brothers in Christ, believe me, I found gold. I didn't have to get my hands dirty, dig through dirt, nor remove rocks; none of that was necessary. The Cursillo acted as a treasure, with which we could take different jewels and in each one discover for ourselves the grace of God. I only needed to open my eyes; ears, mind and heart, and the Holy Spirit proceeded with the rest. However, I do not want it simply for myself; I would like to share it with all of you. I now know that God touches each of us in distinctive ways, he gives us talents and gifts.

I learned to once again believe in my talents and accept the gifts the grace of God gives us and I now wish to practice these in my church and in my community. I have returned to my work in community service which helps families in need. I plan to include myself and find my place within my church as well as invite people to the church and discuss God, as mentioned in the Cursillo, "Make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ". I plan on continuing my prayer group, where we pray for a series of issues in and out of our lives. The Cursillo shows us the way to become a good leader in and out of our communities.

I wish with all my heart that in many of you curiosity will rise for the opportunity to experience this spiritual journey, from love of God, of our brothers and ourselves. At the next Cursillo, #150, which I hope to attend as a server, I hope to see many of you present and see you live and feel the grace of God in your lives.

I leave with the promise of praying every day for; our church, all of you, for my family and for every person who made it possible for Cursillo #149, to happen.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"

Philippians 4:13

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# Cursillo Calendar

For the most current information - visit [sdcursillo.org](http://sdcursillo.org) - *Calendar*

Date	Event	Place	Contact	Time
06/01/23	Quarterly Meeting of Servant Community	St. Alban's	Sunny Landry	5:00 - 6:00 PM
06/01/23	Secretariat Meeting (preceded by Brown Bag at 6 PM)	St. Alban's	Jill Mora	6:30 - 8:30 PM
06/04/23	Group by Zoom	Online	Jill Mora	4:00 - 5:15 PM
07/01/23	Tell About Cursillo	ALL CHURCHES	Jill Mora	ALL MONTH
07/02/23	Group by Zoom	Online	Craig Noble	4:00 - 5:15 PM
07/20/23	Secretariat Meeting (preceded by Brown Bag at 6 PM)	St. Alban's	Jill Mora	6:30 - 8:30 PM
07/24/23	Forward Deadline		News Letter Editor	All Day

## From the Palanca Coordinator

Kit Chevalier, Palanca Chair



As I have become more involved in Cursillo, I realize the power of Prayer Palanca. We know the Palanca of prayer begins months before the actual weekend. Keeping the rector, the team and the candidates in prayer is a vital part of the pre-weekend. Everyone in the Cursillo Community can participate and incorporate this into our daily prayer time. \_

Blessings,

Kit Chevalier

Please keep the following weekends in prayer:

- |   |  |                                |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| June 1-4 Coventry, UK                   | July 6 New Zealand                                       | August 1 Diocese of Texas      |
| June 8-11 Canterbury, UK                | July 13-17 Springfield, IL                               | August 18 Lincoln, UK          |
| June 11-13 Southwell and Nottingham, UK | July 20-23 SE Florida, FL                                | August 17(M) and 31(W)         |
| June 15-18 St David's, UK               | July 21 Anglican Bahama's (W)                            | Newcastle Anglican , Australia |
|   | July 21-23 Niagara Huron Anglican Cursillo, Ont., Canada |                                |



**Phil 4:13**

**I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST  
WHO STRENGTHENS ME.**

As our Cursillo #149 comes to a close, let us not forget the theme of that weekend... doing all things through Christ, making a friend, being a friend and bringing that friend to...Christ!

We welcome our new Cursillistas and pray for the future leaders of this community to help them find their way to a group near their location. Sponsors and any Cursillista can help them along their journey. Welcome them when you attend Ultreyas and Grand Ultreyas. Assist these new members also in finding their place in the Cursillo community. We all have special talents and what they can bring to our community will be blessings. They are an important part of the community. This Cursillo #149 as other weekends in the past is one of the reasons our Servant community will thrive.

“Bring that friend to...what?” You can put many words in that final statement besides the word Christ. Such as, Grouping, Ultreya, church, lunch, coffee or even a movie! Stepping out of your comfort zone is trusting in Jesus to guide your heart. Inviting people to do things is including them on your journey as well as their own. Walking with Jesus is the daily objective. Remember, Piety, Study and Action! This is the important part of knowing how to be a Christian in today’s world. Many tools are given to us at a Cursillo weekend. Do you remember that feeling, that gift, that element of surprise when the Holy Spirit awakened and went from your head to your heart? Just keep that fire burning EVERYDAY! Change the environment everywhere you go for the better! Whether you are at work or at home, at rest or at play, the environment can be yours. Bring Jesus with you, because he is already there! Join a group!

Here is a call for Parish representatives! What is a Parish Representative you may ask. They are an important part of our Ministry. They have direct communications with members of the Secretariat. They convey to the many parishes of the Episcopal and Lutheran churches in San Diego County the upcoming events of Cursillo. There are some parishes that are not familiar with our ministry. If you have that special gift of bringing the good news to other parishes than your own, you may be a perfect fit to travel to them and witness to them. It’s like inviting people to a party! Tell them about Cursillo! Contact me or any Secretariat member for more information.

Moving on to the future of our Cursillo community, the Servant Community has been tasked with using the rest of this year to prepare ourselves for the next weekend in Spring of 2024, and future weekends. *(continued on next page)*

First of all, we needed to find a new location to have Cursillo Weekends. A committee has been busy finding a new location and may very well have one by the time you read this.

The secretariat recognized a need for more training for those serving on weekends, from the Servidores to the Rector. As we welcome more and more men and women to serve our community after they attend a weekend, reproducing an authentic weekend becomes a challenge. Changes of locations, facilities, and personnel have affected this continuity. Our procedures and manuals have not kept up with these changes so the Servant Community has been tasked with coming up with a plan and a program to bring our training for weekends back to where they have been in the past and even improve on that. We could better define the roles of all team positions, such as Servidores, Table Leaders, and the Core Team and also improve the quality and scope of the team meetings. We need to rework the lists of everything that needs to be done, purchased and prepared in advance of a weekend and define which activities are optional and which are essential on a weekend. There is plenty to do! If you want to help in on of these areas and have some insight and experience to share, please join us.

When it comes to participating on a team weekend, every person has a story to tell. In our day to day lives we come across many opportunities to witness. We witness to many things. We are all on the same path to Christ, just at different times of our lives. You are a living witness of the wonders and marvelous works of our God. All of the talks on the weekend are designed to teach and show how easy it is to be a witness. The examples of how Piety, Study and Action in our lives is the best witness. In order for these testimonies to be validated they must be shared. I get it, speaking to an audience is not everyone's forte. With practice and training we all become better at sharing your love for the works he is doing in your life, the stories of hope, love and faith that is in all of us.

Our future leaders are already here. The baton is being passed on to every servant/saint in the community. It is always there for anyone to carry across the finish line. We look forward to this summer's activities. God Bless, Sunny Landry





## *Utreya! Welcome Back St. Luke!*

by Debbie Kistler



St. Luke's noon Utreya on Saturday was such a blessing in so many ways. Their Fergusson Hall is spacious, well designed and so welcoming. Bob Bauer, Ruth Japtok, and Fr. Colin Mathewson, all from St. Luke, stepped forward to present for the Witness, Echo, and Spiritual Response talks.

Bob reflected on how answering his call to the healing ministries has brought his awareness of the ways God works in and through his life to a much clearer and humbling level. Ruth shared an experience that reflected about how prayer is of value in not only connecting us across continents but in opening our eyes as well as hearts to noticing that God really does listen. Then Fr. Colin wrapped it up by reminding us of how important it is to share our stories or truths about our journeys as we travel with God, the Holy Spirit, and Christ Jesus.

There were 7 amazing musicians up front whose playing inspired us throughout the Utreya. There were lyrics to two new songs on the tables that we had fun singing and clapping along with. You could see and feel Alex's love of music as you looked around the room witnessing ALL participating with smiles, singing loudly, swaying, clapping along, and even laughter in-between.

People braved the parking dilemma (common with several of our churches in this diocese) to attend, others quickly arrived after attending other important morning commitments, and then there were our precious 'regulars' who find ways to attend Utreyas no matter what. I had counted 27 early in the afternoon with others arriving as time went by.

What a blessing this Utreya was in so many ways...yes the Holy Spirit was alive and palpable this afternoon.

Debbie Kistler  
Secretariat Member



# CURSILLO SECRETARIAT CONTACTS

Contact a Secretariat member by email - visit [sdcursillo.org](http://sdcursillo.org) - [Contacts](#)

## Officers

		Term
Jill Mora	President -2023	2024
Ginny Rodriguez	President Elect - 2024	2023
Judy Brown	Treasurer, Facilities	
Rhonda Muir	Secretary, Parish Rep Network	

## Lay

Nancy Calvert	3-Day Weekends	2023
Kit Chevalier	Database, Palanca	2023
Miguel Cosio	Community Partners	2023
Bob Halleck	4th Day, Parish Rep Network	2025
Debbie Kistler	Pre-Cursillo, Sponsorship	2024
Susan Miller	Communications, Website	2025
Tim Storey	Music Coordinator, Sponsorship	2025
Jeanna Timan	Assoc. Webmaster, Lutheran Partners	2024

## Clergy

Rev. George Calvert	Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Communications	Appt'd
Rev. Carlos Garcia	ECMC Representative, Community Partners	Appt'd
Rev. Canon Nancy Holland	Asst. Spiritual Advisor, 4th Day	2025
Rev. Roberto Maldonado	Asst. Spiritual Advisor, Pre-Cursillo	2023
Rev. Peter Sickels	Asst. Spiritual Advisor, 3-Day Weekends	2024

## Servant Community

***OPEN***	Forward Editor	
Rob Constantine	Photographer	
Mike Jewett	Hospitality Coordinator, 3-Day Weekend	
Sunny Landry	Servant Community Convener, Parish Rep Network	
Chris McKellar	KAIROS Liaison	
Craig Noble	ECM Liaison, Grouping Central	
Ruben Rodriguez	Ultreya Coordinator	

## *Grand Ultreya at St. Phillips, Lemon Grove*

by Ruben Rodriguez, 4th Day Chair



A small but enthusiastic crowd of Cursillistas gathered on the Saturday evening of May 20, 2023, at St. Philip's for fellowship, prayer, food, music and song, and inspiring witness talks. The Ultreya was blessed with a sumptuous potluck that was readily consumed by the hungry horde following Grace given by Fr. Carlos. There were no complaints.

The music led by Alex Tuttle reflected the bilingual throng, started off with "You Are Worthy of My Praise," "Amor, Poder," and "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light." It was capped with "Paso a Paso," "Trading My Sorrows," and "Jesus, My Lord." As an integral part of the Ultreya, a Group Reunion was experienced by all in their Table Groups. The special sound of sharing and laughter filled the room for half an hour or so.

Joe Gamboa gave a witness talk that featured the importance of peace and rest in sharing Jesus with others. He admitted that he neglected to take rest to the point that he became burnt out and was overwhelmed by life events. Taking time for peace and rest increased his piety and recharged him for action.

Yahaira Garcia in her Echo Talk shared how she became inspired by the news as she observed of the plight of immigrants: she took action to help provide for the obvious needs of the immigrants. She pointed out that she was very grateful for how she could live her life and felt called to express that gratitude by helping others to improve their lives. Both talks were expressed from the heart and were impactful.

Fr. Carlos gave a scriptural response based on Jesus' passage set forth in Matthew 25. After inquiring whether anyone else wished to comment, Ruben shared that the talks showed that love is an action verb and that it is expressed by not focusing on yourself, but by willing to benefit others.

The Ultreya concluded with the joining of hands and the singing of The Lord's Prayer.

Blessings,  
Ruben Rodriguez

*If you would like to host an Ultreya at your parish contact Ruben by email or send a message through [sd cursillo.org](http://sd cursillo.org) - Contacts*

# July is "Tell About Cursillo" Month!

(continued from p. 1)

## Ideas to help you plan a Cursillo Sunday

- Meet with your Rector and Parish Rep to pick a Sunday that will work best.
- Announce it in your Sunday bulletin, your parish newsletter and/or include in your parish email.
- Make that Sunday's service SPECIAL.
- Request ahead of time for a "Cursillo" song to be included in the worship.
- Have a Cursillista give a short testimony of what attending a Cursillo Weekend meant to them. A recent attendee is a great choice.
- Contact the secretariat if you would like a "guest speaker" from another parish.
- Ask everyone who has attended a Cursillo to stand. It may surprise you!
- Encourage Cursillistas to wear their baloneys to church on that Sunday.
- During announcements, ask the rector to encourage people to visit the Cursillo table on the patio to learn more about Cursillo.
- Set up the table with a sign-up sheet, brochures, bookmarks, Palanca, and something sweet.
- Ask those who are interested in attending or getting involved again or serving on the weekend to leave their names and contact information.
- Follow-up (make a phone call) with anyone interested in attending a weekend, sponsoring someone, or who has more questions.
- Host a Cursillo coffee hour the following Sunday to meet other Cursillistas in your church.

This is a great opportunity to find candidates and sponsors and team members for Weekends and to connect with the Cursillistas in your parish.

Use as many of these ideas as you want and if you have more ideas, please share them.



## 2023 Pastoral Plan of San Diego Episcopal Cursillo Ministry

### Preamble

The purpose of Episcopal Cursillo in the United States of America is to bring Christ into our environments and thereby change the world for Christ, using the proven strategies and methods of Cursillo.

### Strategy

To achieve this purpose, we will use Pre-Cursillo to identify active Christians having the potential to influence their environments, sending them to Three-Day weekends to renew their Christian commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptismal Covenant and to teach the Cursillo Method; and we will use Fourth Day programs to encourage Cursillistas who have completed Three-Day weekends to carry out apostolic witness in their environments.

### Method

Cursillo empowers Cursillistas to bring Christ to the world and, through a continued commitment of a Rule of Life including Piety, Study, Action, Group Reunion, and Ultreya enables them to persevere in the Fourth Day as Ambassadors for Christ in their environments.

### Pastoral Plan

To discern God's will for the place and vision of the Cursillo Ministry in The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego, the Secretariat members of the ministry will work under the direction of the Bishop Susan Brown Snook to undertake the following for a period of one year from this date:

Study our own environment:

How are we implementing the Cursillo Method?

How are we encouraging our members to live out their Fourth Day and bring Christ to their environments?

How can we attract younger participants?

How can we attract cross-cultural participants?

Plan and carry out our ministry in these ways:

Promote visible Cursillo support and servanthood in the Diocese and the greater community.

Continue to lead and support Ecumenical Ultreyas.

Pledge \$1,440 to the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry.

Support at least one outreach project each year.

Submit articles to be included in the Diocesan Messenger.

Hospitality Support for the Annual Leadership Academy and Diocesan Convention.

Continue to Recruit and Train Parish Representatives  
Continue the goal of eight Ultreyas per year.

Encourage all Cursillistas to promote Cursillo by wearing nametags and being prepared to talk about the Cursillo Ministry on Cursillo Sunday.

Encourage participation in Cursillo activities of Group Reunion and Ultreyas.  
Encourage participation in our servant community.

Encourage people to attend Cursillo Weekends, especially people in the following categories:

People in the age group of 18-49

Post-newcomers (1-3 years in a church).

Cross-cultural candidates.

Brothers and Sisters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Cursillo promotes small group ministry and Cursillo enables multi-cultural inclusion.

The Bishop will send a letter to all clergy encouraging them to attend a Cursillo weekend if they have not done so and if they have attended a Cursillo weekend to let the Secretariat know that they are Cursillistas.

New website and features fully implemented before year end.

Continue to utilize social media as a method to promote the Cursillo ministry, including online Ultreyas on YouTube.

The Bishop will encourage Clergy to attend our Weekends.

The next Cursillo Sunday will be January 21, 2024 (third Sunday).

Signed this date: May 30, 2023

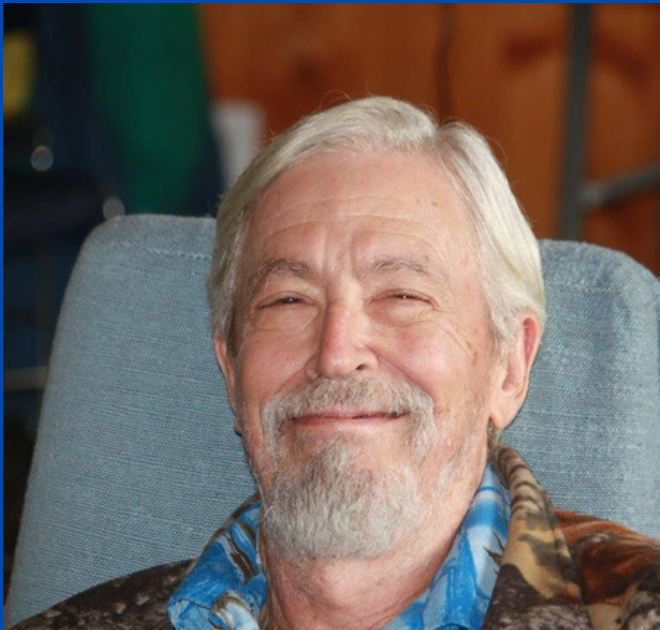
The Rt. Rev. Susan Brown Snook

The Right Reverend Susan Brown Snook  
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

Jill Mora  
Jill Mora, President of the Secretariat

George M. Calvert  
The Rev. George M. Calvert, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor

*Coming in the August Issue*



## *A Tribute to Elery Grass*

Elery was a long-time Cursillista and friend to so many of us. Several have written about his impact in their lives. If you would like to write something about him for the next Forward, please send it to the FORWARD Editor by July 24. Email can be found at [sd cursillo.org\\_Contacts](mailto:sd cursillo.org_Contacts)



## De Colores!

MAKE A FRIEND, BE A FRIEND,.....



.....BRING A FRIEND TO CHRIST