

## Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

### NLS 2010 Annual Meeting: July 22 — 25, 2010 Hosted by Minnesota

#### **“Let your light shine....” Matthew 5:16**

Your Minnesota NLS Host Committee is entering the last stretch of planning for this year’s annual meeting, July 22-25, 2010. Though we were unable to book Garrison Keillor for the keynote speech, Ole and Lena will be visiting during our Minnesota-based theme meal. (We’re trying to talk Lena out of bringing the lutefisk, but have said “okay” to the lufse.) Discussions are continuing with the Mosquito Union to keep all their members away from the meeting – keep your fingers crossed here. And we have received a guarantee from the weather service that there will be no snow while you’re all visiting us, so for transportation around the campus we decided to go with golf carts instead of snowmobiles....

Seriously, though, your host committee is meeting regularly and hammering out the details of our get-together at Northwestern College in Roseville, MN. We are all psyched for your visit to Minnesota for a memorable experience in Christian community and worship.

Here is some old and *new information* since our last newsletter article:

**Please submit your registration and transportation forms as soon as possible**, to aid us in planning for this meeting. Registration after June 15 will include a late fee of \$25.

Northwestern College is a smoke and alcohol free campus. Grape juice will be served for communion.

**Snacks:** because of Northwestern’s contract with their food service, our Via de Cristo community will not be able to stock snack tables of palanca items during the meeting. All delegates will receive a ‘hospitality’ bag of wrapped snacks upon arrival, and the food service will be providing trays of fruit, veggies and cookies at certain points during the meeting.

Are you arriving on Wednesday? Since dinner at Northwestern is not covered that night in your registration fee, one option is to plan to meet at 6pm in the residence hall lobby to journey to a nearby restaurant with other early arrivals and several of your host committee members. Thursday’s breakfast is also not included.

**Location:** Northwestern College ([www.nwc.edu](http://www.nwc.edu)) is located on the wooded shores of Lake Johanna, in Roseville, a northern suburb of St. Paul. Nestled among the trees and surrounded by a mile of lake shore, Northwestern’s 107-acre campus provides a serene setting for the annual meeting, fellowship, and meditation. Housing accommodations will be in Knutson Hall – each room is air conditioned, has a private bath and a small kitchen with stove, sink and refrigerator.

Continue on page three



#### CONEXIONES

**VP of Outreach Report**

Page 3

**NLSAM Minutes & Distribution Update**

Pages 4

**Registration Form**

Page 5

**Transportation Form**

Page 6

**Basic NLSAM Schedule**

Page 7

**President & S.D.’s Reports**

Page 8

**Palanca Weekend Dates**

Pages 9

**NLSAM 2010 Pictures**

Throughout publication

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**National Lutheran Secretariat**  
**Conexiones-on-the-web**  
**E-Mail Notification Request Form**

**E-Mail Notification - [bhigh922@aol.com](mailto:bhigh922@aol.com)**

**Please notify me by E-Mail when the latest edition of Conexiones has been posted on the NLS Web Page**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: & State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Secretariate: \_\_\_\_\_

Position on Secretariate: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

*Write in large letters - be very clear, computers rely on EXACT information*

Connecting National and Local Secretariats



Volume 28  
 Number 2  
 May 2010

**Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC**

CONEXIONES is the official publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, a national association of the Via de Cristo (Way of Christ) movement, representing over 92,100 who have participated in 47 movements across the U.S. Via de Cristo is a Lutheran expression of Cursillo®, a renewal movement developed within the Roman Catholic Church in the late 1940s. The Lutheran movement had its beginning in Florida and Iowa in 1972. The purpose of this publication is to inform all members of each NLS affiliated secretariat, Lutheran Bishops and District Presidents about the activities of the National Lutheran Secretariat and its affiliated secretariats. Subscriptions to the above named positions are free. If you know one of the above is not receiving CONEXIONES, call a member of the board at the numbers listed on the side.

**Subscriptions** for the general public are \$6.00 per year, and are available by sending your name, complete mailing address, and phone numbers to CONEXIONES Treasurer, Bob Northrup, 284 Brooks Lane, Southern Pines, NC 28387; 919-272-6560 (H)

**Material for CONEXIONES:** If you have information for CONEXIONES, items, requests and/or information, address corrections, changes or additions - even inspirational bits - send them to the CONEXIONES Editor at the address on the side. DEADLINES: January 15th, April 15th, August 15th, and November 15th.

Continued from page one.....

**Registration: Registration and travel forms are included in this newsletter**, and we encourage early registration – registration after June 15, 2010 will include a late fee of \$25. Please note:  
The registration fee this year is \$178.00.

Please indicate any special accommodations you require, whether food (lactose, gluten, etc.), medical or physical (use of a wheelchair, etc.). If you tell us about it, we'll work with you on your needs!

If you wish to arrive Wednesday, rooms are available for an additional fee, based on occupancy - Triple=\$25, Double=\$35, Single=\$45. Note that this does not include meals for Wednesday night or Thursday breakfast.

If you will be flying into Minnesota, please fill out and return the Travel Information Form as soon as you know your flight arrangements. Minneapolis-St Paul Airport is located approximately 30 minutes from Northwestern College, and we want to be there to greet each of you when you arrive.

Consider extending your stay in Minnesota either before or after the Annual Meeting – whether it's getting in some fishing time on one of our 10,000 lakes, shopping at the Mall of America, watching the Minnesota Twins in their NEW ballpark (home games only BEFORE the meeting), or journeying up to the scenic north shore of Lake Superior; Minnesota has something for everyone. Of special note: the Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit at the Minnesota Science Museum ([www.smm.org/scrolls](http://www.smm.org/scrolls)). For more information, go to [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com) – or contact the Host Committee for recommendations and ideas. We love our state, and have plenty of ideas!

The Minnesota Host Committee is drawing from its 15,000+ Cursillistas base to form worship and hospitality teams. We have some incredible musicians in Minnesota, and we are intending to showcase talent from the north, south and Metro areas. We've also received offers of help from some of our border states, so it'll be a true Midwestern experience. Please come, and let your *light shine* in Minnesota!

Questions and comments – please contact the MN Host Chairs, Tom and Deb, at [tgsales1@aol.com](mailto:tgsales1@aol.com).

Expect some construction going on at Northwestern during our NLSAM



### The Spirit is Moving

I pray this message finds each of you doing well. The cold winds of winter are behind us, the spring flowers are in bloom and we as Christians know that our Lord is Risen, He has Risen Indeed! As your VP of Outreach, I have been keeping very busy with inquiries about starting new communities. I have heard from people in Virginia Beach to Northern California and from Kenya to Papua New Guinea. In addition, I have been working with new start up communities in Oregon as well as a few troubled communities across the country. There is definitely no rest for the weary.

As I speak with dozens of people each month, I hear a consistent theme amongst the strongest communities as well as those which are struggling. The ongoing challenge is reaching out within your geographic area, finding those Pastors that are not familiar with Via de Cristo and sharing with them the wonderful gift God has brought to them. I have heard a number of great ideas that some communities have implemented to grow their communities and have had great success.

Here are a few of those ideas:

Enlist your active Spiritual Advisors (those active in VdC) to have a purposeful conversation with other pastors in their area about how VdC has helped their congregation.

Schedule 'temple talks' at a church where there may only be one or two people in VdC or maybe at a church where no one has attended a VdC weekend.

When you schedule your Ultreyas be sure you place an announcement in every local church bulletin. You may be surprised how many people have attended a VdC type of weekend, but didn't know anyone was hosting an Ultreya.

Establish Outreach Coordinators at any church where you have someone who has made a VdC weekend.

They would be your representative for VdC. They should post Ultreya and weekend announcements around the church, then have plenty of Pilgrim Applications and be the 'go-to' person for your local VdC Community.

Ask each member of your community to prayerfully consider making a pledge to sponsor at least one person this year. It's shocking to think about how many people have attended a weekend, but have never followed up with *Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring a Friend to Christ*.

It is my prayer that each of you allow God to fill your hearts and minds with new ways to strengthen and expand your communities. Sometimes it just takes a new approach a new set of ideas to make things work. I am here for you to support your efforts.

God loves you and so do I,  
 Steve Gielda,  
 VP of Outreach



## NLS Board Minutes — February Tele-conference Minutes

The teleconference opened at 7:05 p.m. on **February 8, 2010**. Present: Tracy Schmidlin, Katie Sistar, Doug Givan, Steve Gielda, Diane Purcell, Judy Laabs-Foss. Absent: Bob Northrup, Larry Conway.

Secretary's Report: Katie stated that the minutes from the Mid-Year meeting in Minnesota are on the web, and they will also be included in the upcoming Conexiones.

The Annual Survey for 2009 week-ends has been e-mailed to 46 Secretariats. Secretariat Leaders are also being sent a signature form for reaffirming their affiliation with NLS and agreeing to abide by the essentials of National Lutheran Secretariat as stated in the constitution.

Treasurer's Report: Bob received a check for the proceeds from NLSAM 2009 treasurer in Florida in the amount of \$2912.84. The checking balance is \$3601 and the Thrivent balance is \$34,323.

Vice President Outreach Report: Steve reported that on Sunday, January 31, he and Tracy hosted an Ultreya with Heart of Florida in Orlando. Katie Sistar and Ron Millard also attended. This is part of the Outreach effort to renew a struggling secretariat. It went well, and the attendees were encouraged to set up regular Ultreyas and be faithful in their reunion groups. *Katie moved that we offer the cost of storage up to \$250 for up to 6 months. Bob seconded. Motion carried.*

Steve reported on the Fourth Day Movement meeting in Florida that Steve Gielda and Tracy Schmidlin attended on January 29 & 30, 2010. The sharing that was done among the groups participating was very informative. The director, Victor Lugo, has offered to teach the leadership of the groups attending more about the origins of the Cursillo Movement when they meet next year in Texas. *Doug moved that those attendees from NLS invited to the Fourth Day Movement in 2011 be allotted the funds to stay an extra day for an educational opportunity with Victor Lugo who worked closely with Eduardo Bonnin. Katie seconded. Motion carried.*

Tracy stated that secretariats using the name Cursillo in their documents

are encouraged to change their name due to the change in the contract with the Catholic Cursillo Movement and their copyrighted trademark.

The Board discussed a group in Michigan's request to affiliate as Living Word. They have rewritten their constitution and are requesting the Board to reconsider their request. *Steve moved that the Board revisit a request to affiliate with NLS by Living Word in Michigan. Katie seconded. Motion carried.* Then another motion was made. *Bob moved that if we cannot resolve the issues, we proceed with discussions regarding use of Via de Cristo materials but not the name Via de Cristo. Steve seconded. Motion carried.*

Old business: Tracy stated that the need for a National Coordinator has never been more evident for continuity in plans and direction. It was suggested that we may need to approach the body as a whole for direction and leadership in this effort.

The Board discussed how speakers at Nationals are paid. They are not paid an honorarium but are paid for expenses and mileage if requested.

The Board did not finish agenda items and agreed to continue next week by teleconference.

Doug closed with prayer. Meeting recessed at 9:05 p.m.

**February 18, 2010** -Teleconference continued

Present: Tracy Schmidlin, Steve Gielda, Doug Givan, Katie Sistar, Bob Northrup, Judy Laabs-Foss. Absent: Diane Purcell, Larry Conway

The meeting opened at 8:00 p.m. The Board met in executive session for an hour to discuss upcoming challenges for NLS.

Tracy updated the Board on Minnesota's progress in planning for the 2010 National Meeting in July.

Tracy will be asking a nominating committee in preparation for the election of the vacant position of Vice President of Administration and for the office of Treasurer. Bob Northrup has agreed to run again.

Katie stated that the National Lutheran Secretariat Affirmation and Affiliation forms have been mailed to the secretariats to be signed and returned.

Steve reported that Oregon has satisfactorily completed their Constitution and By-Laws and have signed the National Constitution as Oregon Via de Cristo. They are ready to be affiliated at the National meeting in July. Doug moved that the Board approve up to \$500.00 to reimburse Oregon as a new secretariat to send 2 people to the Annual Meeting in July. Katie seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor Doug closed with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Katie Sistar  
Secretary



The NLS Website Order Form is working again after some months of being down. To order items such as Pilgrim Guides and Spiritual Director Manuals go to [www.viadecristo.org](http://www.viadecristo.org) then click "For Secretariats" then click "Order NLS Supplies then click "Order Form" and then finally click "Go To Order Form". The form will be sent to me when you complete it. I will reply to you with an e-mail message telling you that I have received your order and when I will ship. There is also an "Items" page on the web site where there are images, descriptions and prices of each item we offer. Note: we do not sell crosses or chains.

**N.L.S Distribution Center**  
John & Carol Bradford  
6992 South 160 East  
Midvale, UT 84047



# Travel Information Form

## National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting 2010

Thursday, July 22 through Sunday, July 25, 2010

Northwestern College, St. Paul, Minnesota

Hosted by Lutheran Via de Cristo of Minnesota

**One form per person attending.**

Name - First	Last	Male / Female	Name for Nametag
Address		City, State, Zip	

Home Phone	Cell Phone
Work Phone	Fax
email address	

Travel to NLS Annual Meeting will be by Auto \_\_\_\_ Air \_\_\_\_ . I will need pick up. Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
 Host committee will arrange pick up from Mpls./St. Paul International Airport (Lindberg & Humphrey terminals).  
 (approx. 20-40 minutes to the Northwestern College)

Any changes to your travel arrangements after you send this form, please email [steve.grans@mnstatefair.org](mailto:steve.grans@mnstatefair.org)  
 Please send a map with driving directions to Northwestern College \_\_\_\_\_  
 What day will you be leaving the annual meeting? Saturday pm \_\_\_\_ Sunday by noon \_\_\_\_.

My flight information is as follows:

**Arrival**      **Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time** \_\_\_\_\_ **Airline** \_\_\_\_\_ **Flight Number** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people traveling in with you on this flight \_\_\_\_\_  
 Names \_\_\_\_\_

**Departure**      **Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time** \_\_\_\_\_ **Airline** \_\_\_\_\_ **Flight Number** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people traveling out with you on this flight \_\_\_\_\_  
 Names \_\_\_\_\_

**Return with your completed registration form or send separately to the following address**

NLS Annual Meeting 2010

Steve Grans

1391 Simpson St.

St. Paul, MN 55108

e-mail: [steve.grans@mnstatefair.org](mailto:steve.grans@mnstatefair.org)

Phone: (651) 249-8022



## Meeting and Registration Form National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting 2010

Thursday July 22 through July 25, 2010  
Northwestern College, Roseville, Minnesota  
Hosted by Lutheran Via de Cristo of Minnesota

**ONE FORM PER PERSON ATTENDING\*\*\*PLEASE PRINT\*\*\*PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY FORM**

<b>Name</b> <i>first</i> _____ <i>last</i> _____	<b>Male/ Female</b>	<b>Name for Nametag</b>
--	-------------------------	-------------------------

<b>Address</b>	<b>City, State, Zip</b>
Home phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____
e-mail address _____	Fax _____
Home Secretariat _____	Position on Secretariat _____

Please circle all that apply	NLS Board Member Lay Visitor	Speaker Clergy Delegate	Lay Delegate Visiting Clergy
First Time attending NLS Annual Meeting Yes/No _____ If no, please indicate last year attended ----- _____ Position attended as _____			
I require special accommodations for the following: Medical _____ Dietary _____ Physical _____ Please explain _____			
Travel to NLS Annual Meeting will be by Auto _____ Air _____ I will need to be picked up: Yes/No _____			
What day will you be leaving the annual meeting: Saturday pm _____ Sunday by noon _____.			

\$178.00	<b>Registration fee includes meals, housing, material Thursday 11:00 A.M thru Sunday 11:00 AM</b>
_____	Late fee of \$25.00 if registering after June 15, 2010
_____	Single Room requested, additional fee of \$45.00 (\$15.00 per day)
_____	Double Room requested, additional fee of \$15.00 per person ( \$5.00 per day per person)
_____	<u>Names of individuals</u>
_____	Triple Room
_____	<u>Names of individuals</u>
_____	Extra night on Wed. - Per person – Triple \$25.00 Double \$35.00 Single \$45.00 (does not include meals)
_____	Pre-order annual meeting T-shirt \$10 (circle one) M L XL 2X 3X
_____	<b>TOTAL</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>*** MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NLS 2010 AM</b></span>

**Refunds (less \$25.00) will only be considered if postmarked or e-mailed no later than July 1, 2010**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Seminars</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please indicate 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> choice</p> <p>_____ Seminar 1 Reigniting Your 4<sup>th</sup> Day</p> <p>_____ Seminar 2 Outreach for YOUR Community</p> <p>_____ Seminar 3 Finance Information A Must</p>	<p>Complete form and mail with check to:</p> <p>Dianne Erickson 2078 Dorothy Avenue White Bear Lake, MN 55110</p> <p>e-mail:queenzydaco@aol.com Phone: 651-429-6004</p>
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## National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting 2010

### DRAFT Basic Schedule

#### THURSDAY

11:30 am Orientation  
 12:15 pm Lunch  
 1:30 pm Opening Worship with Communion  
 3:00 pm Keynote  
 4:00 pm Business Meeting # 1  
 5:30 pm Dinner  
 7:00 pm Small Group Breakouts  
 8:15 pm Worship  
       "First timers" Photo  
       Hospitality to follow

#### **FRIDAY**

7:15 am Breakfast  
 8:30 am Worship with Communion  
 9:45 am Business Meeting # 2  
 11:00 am Seminars 1 – 3 / Optional videos  
 12:15 pm Lunch  
 1:15 pm Forum  
 2:15 pm Small Group Breakout Time  
 3:45 pm Committee Work, S.D. Dialog, L.D. dialog  
       Hosting a National Meeting  
  
 5:30 pm Dinner  
 6:30 pm Region to Region  
 8:15 pm Worship  
       Hospitality to follow

#### **SATURDAY**

7:15 am Breakfast  
 8:15 am Worship with Communion  
 9:30 am Business Meeting # 3  
 10:15 am Seminars 1 – 3 Repeated from Friday  
 11:15 am Seminars 1 – 3 Repeated  
 12:15 pm Lunch  
 1:15 pm Region to Region  
 2:15 pm Small Groups  
       2011 Host Committee Meeting with Board  
       Committee continuation if needed  
  
 3:30 pm Business Meeting # 4  
 6:00 pm Banquet Dinner  
 8:00 pm Worship and Installation of officers (*offering taken for outreach*)  
       Hospitality to follow

#### **SUNDAY**

7:15 am Breakfast  
 8:15 am Worship with Communion  
 9:45 am Board Meeting  
 11:00 am Check out

## NLS President's Report

### Are We A Parachurch?

The term parachurch has gained notoriety as a shorthand description for the many faith-based organizations, which work outside of or across religious and denominational lines; groups such as Navigators, Campus Crusade for Christ, Full Gospel Businessmen, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, etc. It may appear to be an apt description of the Via de Cristo (VdC); but I would like us to look a little closer.

Wikipedia, while not always accurate, can be useful in understanding how a phrase is being used in contemporary society. To quote Wikipedia:

**"Parachurch organizations** are Christian faith-based organizations which work outside of and across denominations to engage in social welfare and evangelism, usually independent of church oversight. These bodies can be businesses, non-profit corporations, or private associations. Most parachurch organizations, at least those which are normally called *parachurch*, are Protestant and Evangelical. Some of these organizations cater to a defined spectrum among evangelical beliefs, but most are self-consciously interdenominational and many are ecumenical."

Is this VdC? At first glance it may seem so, but stay with me a little longer to take a second look. There are two phrases which are particularly telling: "which work outside of and across denominations to engage in social welfare and evangelism" and "usually independent of church oversight."

VdC neither works outside the church, nor does it engage in evangelism or social welfare per se. We are a *movement within* the church universal. We teach and practice a *method* for keeping an individual's faith vital. We in VdC do find joy and comfort in the way Christ works in the lives of our fellow participants and do promote the use of the method through reunion group, Ultreya and the weekends. However, we never intend to function outside the church, over the church or worse yet to be a church. We have often stated that the weekend experience is not for new believers (that would make the weekend evangelistic), but is intended for renewal in the church. We make a friend, be a friend, and introduce our friends to Jesus via our own congregational faith tradition (here is the evangelism). Our piety is practiced in light of our own congregational experience and theology. We do not speak in specifics on matters of theology and we have no intention of proselytizing people away from their Christian roots. We desire to revitalize them. We encourage people to always approach their own pastors with their questions.

It is certainly true that many parachurch organizations have accomplished much commendable work through their ministries; yet, many churches have clear doctrinal statements that reject them. Parachurches often inspire a separatist attitude giving an impression of being better than church. Many create a worshipful atmosphere that competes with the local churches. Most significantly they often teach a doctrine that is contrary to a church's expressed doctrine. A parachurch may in subtle ways imply that people should "join us" in a new and correct family of God. And while it is true that on every weekend we gain newly inspired

members of the family of God, it is not true that we would ever want them to break away and become a new separate church.

The VdC method has proven effective across denominational lines partially because it never attempts to be more than a movement within the church. Much to our chagrin, some have turned VdC into an idol, actually trying to create VdC churches just for pilgrims. Via de Cristo's core purpose is to send people back to their own environments, their own churches to find God's will for their lives there. "Bloom where you are planted!" (sounding familiar?:)

And so, I caution anyone who uses "parachurch" as a way to define VdC. Why? Because while it may at first seem harmless to let the parachurch label hang on Via de Cristo, it causes angst and argument. Why would we want to use a term that might bring heartache, confusion and debate unnecessarily? While some could argue that parachurch may be the "right" term technically, being "right" is not always being right at all. Let's build up the family of God (Hebrews 10). When something can affect people's hearts, minds, and spirits and distract them from the gospel I will go with St. Paul in Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 8.

We are a *movement* within the church, teaching a *method* for renewal.

God Loves You and So Do !!

Tracy Schmidlin



## SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### PEACE BE WITH YOU! AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I SEND

My son Joel and I went on spring break to our local bowling alley. When I was younger in my teens I was a really good bowler and I even was on my college bowling team. Man, 30 years later and I cannot bowl the same! Old age!

But what I could do was play Laser Tag! I'd never played it before but you go in this large darkish room with columns and dividers and little hide-away. We were two separate teams he had a red vest and I had a yellow one. You put on a vest which "reads" your laser shots and you have your "gun" where you can shoot laser lights at someone else. I think everyone should play with a ten year old! Joel was so fascinated by the gun noise and red dots he could shoot that he just continually shot his gun! I hid and could hear him coming and just shot him every time! Now, that game I won, but the bowling....ahh well, let's skip that!

The funny thing was when you got hit with a

Continue on page nine

# Palanca!!!

## Future weekends

Weekends for the next five months will be printed in this section. Check the Web for more updated information.

### 2010 WEEKENDS:

June 2010 - Texas: **Texas Lutheran VdC**, Coed #79: June 10-13, Send palanca to: Ken Handley 509 Gaslight Blvd. Lufkin, TX 78154

June 2010 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #548: June 17-20, & Women #549: June 24-27 Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825

July 2010 - California: **Lutheran Cursillo of Southern CA**, Men #128: July 15-18, & Women's #129: July 22-25, Send palanca to: Carol LaVeche 10371 Lassen St. Los Alamitos, CA 90720

July 2010 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC of So. FL**, Men #104: July 15-18, Send palanca to: Bonny Freese 1150 Wren Ave. Miami Springs, FL 33166

July 2010 - Wisconsin: **Wisconsin Sonrise VdC**, Men #71: July 15-18, & Women's #72: July 22-25, Send palanca to: Joe Eder N7316 Lost Nation Elkhorn, WI 53121

July 2010 - Illinois: **Prairie Sonshine VdC of Central Illinois**, Men #10: July 22-25, Send palanca to: Greg & Anna Bergschneider 127 Westminster Jacksonville, IL 62650

July/Aug. 2010 - Colorado: **Colorado VdC**, Men #32: July 29-August 1 & Women #32: August 5-8, Send palanca to: Audrey Hupp-Ellis 2755 Lavarie Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80917

July/Aug. 2010 - Ohio: **Ohio Lutheran VdC**, Women #69: July 29-August 1; Send palanca to: Paul Swinehart 2303 Colfax Ave. Columbus OH 43224

Aug. 2010 - Texas: **Lutheran VdC of Northern Texas**, Coed #81: August 5-8, Send palanca to: Barb Guinn 2832 Mimosa Park Dr. Richland Hills, TX 76118

Aug. 2010 - IN KY: **Indiana-Kentucky VdC**, Coed #12: August 26-29, Send palanca to: Tami White 2615 Zhale Smith Rd. LaGrange, KY 40031

Aug./Sept. 2010 - Georgia: **Atlanta VdC**, Men #57: Aug. 26-29, & Women #55:

Sept. 9-12, Send palanca to: John & Agnes Nelson 2859 Appling Dr. Chamblee, GA 30341

Sept. 2010 - NC: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #72: Sept. 9-12, Send palanca to: Martha Yount 745 Acorn Oaks Dr. Salisbury, NC 28146

Sept. 2010 - NC: **Western NC VDC**, Mixed #30: Sept. 16-19, Send palanca to: Judy Zander 3047 Amity Circle Belmont, NC 28012

Sept. 2010 - Florida: **Sonshine No. VDC**, Women #102: Sept. 23-26, Send palanca to: John Klein 2346 Stafford Dr. Orange Park, FL 32073

Sept. 2010 - NC: **Western NC VDC**, Women #65: Sept. 23-26, Send palanca to: Judy Zander 3047 Amity Circle Belmont, NC 28012

Sept. 2010 - Nevada: **Light in the Desert VDC**, Coed #14: Sept 23-26, Send palanca to: Mary Eichler 290 E. Delamar Dr. Henderson, NV 89015

Sept./Oct. 2010 - California: **Lutheran Cursillo of Southern CA**, Men #130: Sept. 30-Oct.3, & Women's #131: Oct. 7-10, Send palanca to: Carol LaVeche 10371 Lassen St. Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Sept. 2010 - Florida: **Sonshine No. VDC**, Women #55: Sept. 30-Oct.3, Send palanca to: John Klein 2346 Stafford Dr. Orange Park, FL 32073

Sept. 2010 - Tennessee: **Notes of Grace VdC**, Coed: Sept. 30-Oct.3, Send palanca to: Stephen Manasco 8492 Timber Creek Dr. Cordova, TN 38018

Oct. 2010 - Arizona: **Lutheran Cursillo of Arizona**, Men #127: Oct. 7-10, & Women #551: Oct. 21-24 Send palanca to: Del Ellis 7833 W. Ludlow Dr. Peoria, AZ 85381

Oct. 2010 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC of So. FL**, Women #103: Oct. 14-17, Send palanca to: Bonny Freese 1150 Wren Ave. Miami Springs, FL 33166

Oct. 2010 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #550: Oct. 7-10, & Men #552: Oct. 21-24, & Women #551: Oct. 14-17, & Women #553: Oct. 28-31 Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825

Oct. 2010 - Tennessee: **Tennessee**, Mixed #25: Oct. 21-24, Send palanca to: Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Circle Fairfield Glade, TN 39558

Oct./Nov 2010 - Ohio: **Ohio Lutheran VdC**, Men #670 Oct. 21-24, & Women #70: Nov. 11-14, Send palanca to: Paul Swinehart 2303 Colfax Ave. Columbus OH 43224

**See NLS Palanca Web page for current information of 2010 weekends.**

laser a recorded voice said "You've been hit" and it took about 15 seconds to get back up and running. Every so often whether you knew it or not, you would hear the words from your "vest box" that you'd been hit.

Isn't life that way? Every so often we get hit....with more than laser lights...we get hit with difficult medical news, financial and/or job problems, marital difficulties, pain that can't be managed, an accident that happens, a relationship gone bad and on and on goes the list.

Together we "play the game" all on the same team! No one after someone else, no one trying to win or lose, no yellow versus red teams...we are in this together. And, like laser tag, when one of us gets hurt "You've been hit" then we come together to support, nurture, care, and love and pray.

We will do that when we gather in July and I encourage you all to come and be a part of our National gathering in Minnesota. The good folks God has called to plan and prepare are busy getting everything ready for worship, fellowship and the work of our ministry together.

I feel the Fresh Wind of the Spirit blowing in our midst and in this Easter Spring season it is time to "play" and renew. This is the year to continue to lift up the Gospel and the building of Christian leaders in the Via De Cristo. I call on all of us to be in fervent prayer for our ministry locally, regionally and nationally. And then and always before, during and after the game the peace of Christ is with us. When we gather for worship in Word and Sacrament, the peace of Christ is with us. When we put on weekends and invite friends and members of our congregation to come and take part in the three days with the Lord, the peace of Christ is present. That peace is ours because we've been "hit" not with lasers but with grace, love, hope and more joy than we can handle!

Peace be with you,  
Pastor Doug Givan  
National Spiritual Director

P.S. If I can be of any help to your local ministry please contact me!  
[pastordoug@comcast.net](mailto:pastordoug@comcast.net)

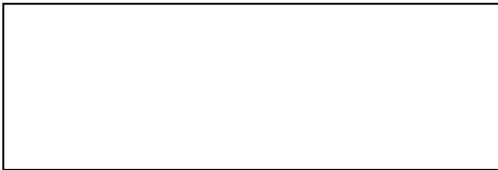


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**Annual Meeting Items Available**  
All the material that was available at the 2009 Annual Meeting along with video tapes can be obtained from the Distribution Center. Order forms for all NLS materials can be found on the web page.

**Conexiones Subscription / Order Forms**

In this newsletter you will not find order forms for our NLS materials or tapes and the numerous crosses from Symbols, Inc. Those forms can be found on the web and can be downloaded as needed. A smaller version of the email request on page two is a reminder to sign up, but that too can be downloaded off the web. This change has been done to continue to be good stewards of our resources, since it will save us and you time and money in printing costs. We are aware that not everyone has access to the web and email services. If you are in need of either form, we encourage you to talk to someone in your secretariat who can obtain a copy of that form for you. Don't hesitate to contact the board members with any of your questions. Their address, phone numbers and email addresses is on page two.

Visited our *New Web Site Lately?*



***www.viadecristo.org***

*Webmaster: Larry Conway*

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