

Connecting National and Local Secretariats

CONEXIONES

Volume 27
Number 3
Sept. 2009

Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

NLS 2008 Annual Meeting: July 23 — 26, 2009
THANK YOU ~ Secretariats of Florida



What a *Spirit-filled* weekend in Florida as we learned about God's provision for all are one in the Son! This culminated at the Saturday's evening meal when we were surrounded by the cloud of witnesses during the serenade. The Florida community was led by Joy Gilliford who enthusiastically lead our VdC community in song as we praised God for what he has done through this movement.

If you were unable to be with us this year, the articles and pictures in the daily newsletter (found on the web) will give you an idea of who came, what we learned and our hopes for the future. I know many of you use this information to share in your renewal groups, at Ultreyas and in your secretariat meetings. A big *Thank You* to all of the Florida Cursillistas for your hospitality, graciousness, and giving us this time to be refreshed and renewed through this movement we call Via de Cristo.



NLS FLORIDA 2009



CONEXIONES

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

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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.

WELCOME- Newly Elected NLS Board

My name is **Steve Gielda** and I made my weekend in 1998, Men's Rainbow #33 where I sat at the table of Matthew. I worship at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Clifton, Virginia with my wife, Sherry and our daughter, Kayla. Sherry and I have been married for 22 years and our 19 year old daughter Kayla, is a sophomore at James Madison University. My wife and I are active in our church and support local mission work with the homeless.



Professionally, my wife and I own our own company that provides sales training to Fortune 1000 companies. We have had the great pleasure of working with many medical device companies like Medtronic and Boston Scientific which have provided me access into the operating room where I have had the opportunity to see some amazing surgeries. I know it's not for everyone, but I must admit, watching a hip be replaced is pretty cool!

In regards to my participation with Via de Cristo, I have served on many teams in varying roles. I served as Rector for Men's Rainbow #43 and have also served as Lay Director from 2004 – 2008. When I retired from the Rainbow Secretariat, God provided me an opportunity to help start the new Journey in Faith community in Reading, Pennsylvania. Without knowing it, God was preparing me for my new role as VP of Outreach for the NLS.

I have a passion for serving God and I look forward to following where God leads. I ask for your prayers as I step into this new role of VP of Outreach. I ask that we all remain focused on His will...not our own. As stated in Romans 12:11- *Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.* Know that I am here to help you reach out and bring others closer to Christ through Via de Cristo.

God loves you and so do I!
DeColores
Steve Gielda

NLS BOARD NEWS

At the 2009 NLSAM Tracy Schmidlin (President) and Katie Sistar (Secretary) were both reelected to serve in their current positions and we welcome Steve Gielda as our new Vice President of Outreach. Bob Northrup remains as the Treasurer and Pastor Doug Givan as the NLS Spiritual Director. David Erdman completed four years at the Vice President of Outreach and we thank him for his service to the board and our community.

During the NLSAM Tracy read a portion of an e-mail received from Nu Helgager, NLS VP of Administration, stating that after much consideration and prayer, she requested that she resign her service on the NLS Board. The board met and through a prayerful discussion accepted her resignation. Tracy expressed our heartfelt thanks for the work Nu has done over the past years. As noted in the board minutes, the board also has decided not to fill her position at this time. The Vice President of Administration position will be up for election at the 2010 NLSAM in Minnesota. All appointed positions were renewed for the next year. The board requests that the Via de Cristo communities continue to hold them up in prayer throughout this next year.



**BANNER for
OUTREACH**



NLS Board Minutes — NLS Annual Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Present: Tracy Schmidlin, Dave Erdman, Doug Givan, Bob Northrup, Katie Sistar, Judy Laabs-Foss, Diane Purcell, Ron Millard and Host Co-chair, Don Armbrust (first part of meeting), and later Larry Conway. **Absent:** Nu Helgager.

Tracy opened the meeting at 1:35 p.m. at Barry University. Doug read Psalm 100 and led in prayer.

The board discussed the daily schedules and last minute details getting ready for the Annual Meeting to begin the next day, including meals, housing having enough rooms for everyone, room changes for group meetings, location of the business meetings and technical needs.

Discussed computer usage on campus and the need for sound equipment to be set up with power point. Both chapels will be open for people to pray till Sat. at 5:00 p.m.

Discussed introductions to be made and announcements needed.

Discussed commissioning guidelines. The Host Guidelines state the Host Committee may hold a commissioning in June, but it can be whenever the Host Committee wants it. Tracy has continued updating the Host Document; it is dated 2009.

Discussed seating of the delegates.

Group shared health and activities going on. Dave and his wife, Linda, will be attending the Latvia weekend for a Swedish Via de Cristo. We will send a banner with them.

Don was excused from the rest of this meeting. Board took a break from 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Board met at 4:15 p.m. More discussions concerning the Annual Meeting, including seminars, committee work, and explaining nominations from the floor.

Discussed ways to be fair with stipends and paid expenses for appointed board members when they are required to attend the Annual Meeting.

Power Point slides will be used to facilitate information at the meeting. Each day the Conexiones will be available in three places.

All past Host Committee participants will be asked to stand at the business

meeting to be recognized.

Minnesota's request to host was formally accepted last year.

Larry Conway joined the board meeting at 4:55 p.m. He went over several possible changes to the website. It was decided to have the delegates vote on the top two designs we selected. Larry agreed to set up a static page on the website. We discussed what would be on it and ways to make it work. He explained the static website and "blogging" idea to us, and we will present them to the body.

The Board discussed the need for Lay Delegates from each secretariat to find their history. Important historical dates to remember are these: First Lutheran weekends were held in 1972 in Florida and Iowa. Colorado will host the 40th anniversary of that beginning in 2012.

The First National Lutheran Secretariat Meeting was held in Atlanta, GA in 1981. North Carolina will host the 30th Anniversary of that first National Meeting in 2011. We would like to especially invite people who were early workers in their movements to help with the history and to give us some thoughtful or memorable quotes to make big posters for the events.



Meeting recessed at 5:40 p.m. for supper. Board met again at 6:40 p.m.

Discussed the Visioning committee: What will we look like in years to come? We need a facilitator for this committee. Dave will ask Mary and Dick Link to facilitate this year.

Dave went over possible questions for the small groups to discuss over the three days. There will be twelve groups with approximately 10-15 in each group.

Discussed Region to Region. How can we help struggling secretariats? How can we encourage more delegates to attend NLSAM? We have about 50% of the possible delegates registered this year. We need to let them know why the national meeting is a

good thing and why it is relevant to them. We need to have more prayer palanca for this.

Larry agreed to set up a static page on the website. We discussed what would be on it and ways to make it work.

Tracy will suggest that the Lay Delegates read the book, The Starfish and the Spider to help understand different ways of organization and how that affects what happens in their secretariats. She will also be presenting this book to the Lay directors in the Lay director Dialogue with a study sheet available for all attendees.

Discussed the need to meet with the Minnesota Host Team on Saturday afternoon.

Each Secretariat represented will take home a DVD on Sponsorship Training. Since so many secretariats are stating this may be an area of concern, it was felt prudent by the board to purchase one copy for each Secretariat as a resource to use locally. It will also be run as a loop in Andreas Hall.

Ron will do a history piece at the business meeting.

All the proceeds from Joe Nilsen's book, Lost and Found will go to the National Coordinator Fund. He has a table set up to sell the books here.

Discussed again stipends for appointed positions and the need to come up with a reasonable policy. No motions or solutions.

Discussed need for reinforcement of the policy for travel costs for speakers at NLSAM.

Discussed dues structure that secretariats pay into the National organization.

Larry moved that we adjourn. Katie seconded. Motion passed.

Board adjourned at 9:55 p.m. with a closing prayer by Pr. Larry Conway.

Thursday, July 23, 2009

The Board met at Barry University at 10:30 a.m.

Present: Tracy Schmidlin, Dave Erdman, Bob Northrup, Katie Sistar, Doug Givan, Judy Laabs-Foss, Diane Purcell, Larry Conway, and Ron Millard.

Discussed the duties of the Archivist

to include Historian. We need to encourage delegates to turn in their names to Ron on the 3x5 cards that will be on the tables if they would like to help gather the history of our organization. A Region representative to help Ron with this project would be helpful.

Discussed the possibility of stipends for travel to or registration for NLSAM for the appointed positions.

The executive board met after the appointed members were excused. In a closed session, the board continued to discuss several issues including reimbursement for appointed board members in attendance at the Annual Meeting.

Bob Northrup moved that appointed board members who attend the Annual Meeting at the request of the board will be reimbursed registration and reasonable travel costs. Other appointed board members who attend the National Meeting may request reimbursement of expenses up to \$200. Dave Erdman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Katie Sistar moved that the expense policy just approved be applied to the 2009 Annual Meeting. Doug Givan seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, Business meeting:

Tracy called the 32nd NLSAM business meeting to order at 2:55 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2009.

She welcomed all and led us in the "Come Holy Spirit" prayer. She recognized the Host Team and introduced the Executive Board and the appointed Board members. The Board members present were Tracy Schmidlin, Dave Erdman, Pr. Doug Givan, Bob Northrup, and Katie Sistar. Absent: Nu Helgager. Appointed members present were Diane Purcell also serving as a Lay Delegate and as Parliamentarian, Larry Conway, also serving as a Clergy Delegate, Judy Laabs-Foss, John Bradford and Ron Millard. Absent: Lucy Hightower and Paul Sabatier-Smith.



The secretary, Katie Sistar, seated the 89 delegates from 33 secretariats and stated that there were 14 secretariats that did not send delegates.

Tracy requested that delegates check

to see if their personal information in the notebooks was correct. They were to use 3x5 cards that were placed on the tables with any corrected information on them. She emphasized that the notebooks they received had much important information in them.

Tracy recognized past National officers attending and the many people who have attended past National meetings.

She informed the delegates that elections for President, VP Outreach and Secretary were to be voted on this year. Dave Erdman as Vice President Outreach has served 2 terms. The President and Secretary are eligible to hold another 2 year term. Nominations would be accepted from the floor on Friday morning and that process was explained. Judy Mowery from the nominating committee recommended that Steve Gielda be nominated for VP Outreach and that Tracy Schmidlin for President and Katie Sistar for Secretary each be nominated for their second 2 year term. Judy explained that the bios are in the notebooks. Any other nominations from the floor would need to fill out bios for the body to review by tomorrow with elections on Saturday.

Board members were asked to give their reports, and delegates were told that each report could be found in the notebooks. Tracy identified a correction in Nu Helgager VP Administration's report that the Host Document to be used currently is dated June, 09.

Ron Millard will be working as Archivist/Historian. Much of our early historical documents were destroyed in a transit accident, so Ron has asked secretariats to begin working on reports of their history and requested those who would like to help with this to sign their names on 3x5 cards with "History" on them and their access information.

Vice President of Outreach stated that he would be attending a Via de Cristo the next week in Latvia. Latvia has now sponsored a weekend in Sweden.

National Spiritual Director Pastor Doug Givan discussed the need for prayer. He wants to expand the prayer database and encourage fellow pastors to be more active in Via de Cristo.

Secretary Katie Sistar explained the

importance of the annual survey data that is requested every year from each secretariat. The number of weekends held and the number of new lay and clergy candidates is collected each spring to be collated in chart form. The 2008 totals are in the handout which can be placed next to the Secretary report in the notebook.

Website Coordinator Larry Conway

requested the delegates to vote on a new look for the Web Page by choosing one of the 2 sample designs posted on the wall. He also explained the possibility of a blog from the Spiritual Director and static sites on our web for those communities that have not yet built a web page or cannot afford one at this time.



Financial Adviser Diane Purcell gave her background as a resource person and gave information about filing 501(c)(3). She stated that she was available to answer tax and other financial questions from the secretariats.

Treasurer Bob Northrup used handouts to explain the Treasurer's report. He pointed out that the monies left over from the NLSAM meetings in Indiana and Arizona were about \$12,000 and were received by the Board. This amount is to be used by the Board as needed to aid future hosting of NLSAM. *Barbara Marthens (CA) moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Nancy Peterson (MN) seconded. Motion passed.*

Vice President of Outreach Dave Erdman explained how to find the small group meeting places by matching the picture on the nametags with the picture and location in the notebook. Some room corrections were made. The purpose is to get to know people from other Secretariats and share ideas from around the country. The Region to Region map was shown on the screen, and delegates were to see which region applied to them and note where they would meet. It is an opportunity to get to know people in secretariats that are nearer and see how they can work together to multiply and help each other.

We are looking for an oral and written report from each Region. The written report needs to be given to Katie Sistar, the secretary. Judy Mowery noted that Alabama is meeting with the Tennessee Region now. Delegates and visitors are

encouraged to participate in the scheduled activities.

Newsletter Editor Judy Laabs- Foss announced the places where everyone could pick up the Daily Conexiones.

Dottie Schwartz and Don Armbrust gave some emergency information.

Tracy announced that the First Timers photo would be changed to immediately follow the keynote speaker and announced some room changes. She called attention to Joe Nilsen as the author of Lost and Found. He is donating all the proceeds of the book sales to NLS for the National Coordinator position.

Ed Broestl, Chair of the campaign fund for the National Coordinator position, will clarify what is going on with that committee on Friday. Tracy explained the seminars and forum.

Bruce Rasmussen (ENC) moved to adjourn the meeting for now. Gina Ford (FL) seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Friday, Business meeting:

Tracy called the second business meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in Andreas Hall. Pr. Betts Huntley opened with prayer.

Dottie Schwartz made announcements regarding keys, posters to be signed, prayer chapel, the shower trailer that had been built for a Florida secretariat, pool hours, events room, vendors, Distribution Center and T-shirts. Don Armbrust invited people to attend the evening hospitality and Jam Session that will take place after worship in the evenings.

Larry Conway requested delegates to vote on which web page design they liked best.

Tracy opened nominations from the floor for the office of President. There were none. *Donna Gough (OH) moved the nominations be closed. Charles Tucker (FL) seconded. Motion passed.*

Tracy opened nominations from the floor for Vice President of Outreach. There were none. *Steve Barnett (PA) moved nominations be closed. Mark Carson (MD) seconded. Motion passed.*

Tracy opened nominations from the floor for Secretary. There were none. *Barbara Marthens (CA) moved that nominations be closed. Russell Mar-*

tins (SC) seconded. Motion passed.



Donna Gough (OH) moved that we elect the committee's nominees for the three positions by acclamation. Dick Link (INKY) seconded. Motion passed.

Tracy thanked Dave Erdman for his service as VP of Outreach for the past four years and introduced Steve Gielda as the newly elected VP of Outreach.

Ed Broestl spoke about the Campaign Fund for the National Coordinator position. He explained why we need a campaign to raise \$1.5 million dollars and the importance of that amount to get the position endowed. The need for this position has been discussed since 1994. In 2004 the committee developed a job description and recommended the funding of this full time position as soon as financially possible, and Tracy stated that in 2007 the delegates voted to hire a National Coordinator once the position is funded. He sent letters to all the Lay Directors/Presidents asking for prayer and other help with the campaign. He invited interested parties to attend his committee meeting Friday and Saturday.

Larry Conway spoke about the website and Internet usage and discussed blogging which would be constantly monitored for inappropriate material. He stated that the website will have links for each secretariat to show dates of upcoming weekends. He plans for the site to be very user friendly.

Tracy explained committee work. Delegates are to take home the information they get here. Mary and Dick Link agreed to lead the Visioning Committee. She asked delegates to consider hosting the 2013 Annual Meeting.

Dave Erdman asked the Region to Region groups to write down how many attend and make a written report to turn in to the secretary.

Tracy Schmidlin supplied a handout and gave a summary of the book, The Starfish and the Spider. It is about organization – centralized and decentral-

ized. Via de Cristo is an organization of small groups independently working within the same ideology, not a top down hierarchy. When we all believe in the ideology, working together is the “body of Christ.” She encouraged everyone to read the book.

Chris Rasmussen (E.NC) moved to adjourn. Charlie Tucker (FL) seconded. Motion passed.

Pr. Nate Lundgren led a closing prayer. The business meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katie Sistar

FLORIDA HOST TEAM



NLS Music CD

Were you blessed by the music at NLS 2009? Did you know there's a CD available for purchase? The core team which led all of our worship services, plus other singers from Gold Coast, recorded seven of the Saturday worship songs, which includes our 2009 theme song, “One In The Son”, composed by music director Janet Cunningham.

You can purchase a CD at the “Symbols” vending table for \$5 while at the NLSAM, or order one from Janet by emailing: jmcse-lah@aol.com



NLS Board Minutes — NLS Annual Meeting Minutes - Continued

Saturday - July 25, 2009

Business Meeting:

Tracy opened the third business meeting at 10:30 a.m. Pr. Joe Nilsen led in prayer.

Tracy announced that Susan Jolley-Shannon from Sonshine North Via de Cristo was replacing Lay Delegate Tom Culverwell who was injured and needed to go home.

Evaluation forms will be distributed to be filled out and turned in this afternoon.

Don and Judy Armbrust made announcements regarding checkout procedures. Tracy asked the Host Team to stand and be recognized for outstanding service. There was much applause.

Tracy announced that Saturday night dinner time and location were changed to 6:00 p.m. in the gym. Worship will begin at 7:45 p.m. at which time there will be an offering taken for outreach and the elected officers will be installed.

Joe Nilsen has 45 books left. After those sell, they will be available by mail from Joe or at Amazon or Barnes and Noble Book Stores for \$15.00. All profits will go to NLS National Coordinator Campaign Fund.

The Spiritual Director brochures are available to be picked up.

Copies of the budget will be available at this afternoon business meeting.

Our materials are copyrighted. The Vendor and Logo Policies, in writing, will be available at this afternoon's business meeting.

A/OK has stepped up to host the 2013 NLSAM. *Alice Allison (N.TX) moved that A/OK Lutheran Secretariat be accepted as Host of the 2013 NLSAM. Ruth Barthel (WI) seconded. Motion passed.* Tracy asked the upcoming Host Secretariats to stay for a brief meeting after the business meeting recesses.

The Campaign Fund Committee will meet again at 2:15 p.m. and have a report this afternoon. Ed Broestl invited others to join him.

Region to Region reports began with Carolyn Hawkins (TN) reporting for Region #6. They agreed all would travel around the region to strengthen,

train and pray. What they need to be more effective is prayer and engaging more pastors. There was discussion of different ways to do this. They had an overnight retreat in April but now their primary goal is to support each other in prayer and to rally together as all secretariats in the region help Western North Carolina in preparing for the NLSAM to be held in Charlotte in 2011. They included some of their history in their report. Region #6 currently includes GA, SC, NC, and TN. They would like to include Alabama and Mississippi in their region.

Region #3 John Harris (TX) reported for this region. Areas present were A/OK, N. Texas and Texas VdC. They felt they needed all team members present at all team meetings for team building reasons. They would be willing to travel as they have done in the past to help other secretariats. No churches are large enough for their weekends so they are held at a camp or retreat center. They value the prayer teams who are on-site. They have no problem with being ecumenical. One group has books on sale from a local Christian book store for the use of the Pilgrims after the Study Rollo.



Tracy read a portion of an e-mail received yesterday from Nu Helgager, NLS VP of Administration, stating that after much consideration and prayer, she would like to request that she resign her service on the NLS Board. Nu stated that she is thankful for all that she has learned over the past 4-5 years and that she will miss everyone. It has been a pleasure to serve an awesome ministry that has a desire to serve our Lord. Tracy expressed our heartfelt thanks for the work Nu has done over the past years. The Executive Committee will take her request under advisement at the next Board Meeting.

Dick Link (INKY) moved that we recess till 3:30 p.m. Russell Hawkins

(W.NC) seconded. Motion passed. Meeting recessed at 11:05 a.m.

Saturday, Business meeting:

Tracy called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Ginny Esch opened with prayer.

Secretariats that brought banners were thanked and reminded they needed to take them with them at the end of the business meeting. Handouts not yet in their notebooks were passed out: Proposed Budget, Comparative Statement of Financial Position, Visioning Committee report, NLS Attendees Roster, NLS Delegates Roster, Trademark and Logo policy, Banner/Palanca Committee Report.

Tracy called on the committees and regions to give their reports.

Banner – Ruth Barthel (WI) A committee of eight led by Lois Witham completed three banners as an outreach. One of these will be taken to Latvia for the Swedish Via de Cristo. Everyone prayed for the pilgrims who will view these banners that their eyes and ears will be opened and their hearts filled with fire and love.

Hosting – Don Armbrust (FL) met with twenty folks from MN, NC, and CO to discuss the experience of hosting an annual meeting. The seven secretariats situation in Florida might be similar to the three regions of Minnesota in the challenge of coordinating input across communities. They discussed the need for representative staffing from all areas and the critically important relationship that exists between the Host Committee and the NLSEB. This is described clearly in the "Hosting is Honorable Serving" letter. There is a lot to share about the process and the Florida Host Team will be glad to share with the future host teams what they have learned over the past 2 and half years.

Internet – Larry Conway (IL/IA) gave the report on the Internet. The selected web design is on the website. You can sign up for a prayer on line too.

Lay Director – Alice Allison (N.TX) The group of about 32 delegates and visitors from many states participated in the forum that was facilitated by Tracy Schmidlin. Tracy shared aspects

of organization in the book The Starfish and the Spider by Ori Brafman.

It was noted that our movement is about grace and the Sunday Rollo's are the heart of the weekend. Suggestions were made to make sure a prospective team member is connected in small groups and Ultreyas. Tracy shared information on all the documents that can be found on the National website.



We need to be proactive in heading off discord by using a tool to evaluate each weekend to make sure nothing creeps in to disrupt the weekend. Another tool is setting goals for the Secretariat each year. When secretariats are struggling, examine the training being done, see if the fundamentals are being taught, followed and lived, and always check the attitudes: is there a servant's heart or a personal agenda?

Weekend numbers are down for some and up for others for various reasons. The ups and downs are normal and in part due to natural cycles.

The NLS would like to publish new articles in some Lutheran magazines.

The Distribution Center has many items, brochures, and special needs guides available.

Don't let communion become an issue. Communities need to be considerate in serving communion. Those attending do not have to take communion, and it needs to be clearly stated.

The use of power point on the weekends is used by some communities. Make sure that is practical and doesn't distract from the purpose of the weekend. Again, it's attitude.

Most areas pay the licensing fees for music, and many produce their own songbooks that are reused weekend to weekend, for Ultreyas and other 4th day events.

Challenge for regions: Who are the secretariats around you? Who is not here from your region? How can you encourage them to come to the next NLSAM?

Newsletter – Judy Laabs-Foss (MN) had an informal discussion with three participants showing them how she cre-

ates a newsletter. She is available to assist Secretariats and welcomes articles to publish in the quarterly Conexiones.

Spiritual Director Dialogue – Pr. Doug Givan (INKY) facilitated the meeting with pastors gathered from at least seven states and discussed ways to get pastors more involved. Each of the clergy recorded a brief statement in order to create a DVD to share with pastors who have not made a weekend.

Visioning – Dick Link (INKY) met with a group that first had questions about training methods and using the same essentials, how to approach international requests, materials in other languages, candidates' qualifications to attend, and youth and younger adults involvement.

Dreams 3-5 Years from now: Expand and involve younger adults, Prayer Palanca teams can include homebound and others, reach individuals with special needs and involve them, use coed weekends and renewal to get people involved again, balance the coed, men's and women's weekends, use DVD presentations, formal and informal outreach to other churches, pastors and members, have a "tie" with other groups, and seek National Spiritual Director's assistance.

Finance and Budget – Bob Northrup went over the three financial handouts. One page shows the dues paid by the secretariats. There may need to be a dues increase. One was the Comparative Statement of Financial Position for the past two years. He went over the proposed budget for June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010. He explained paying the travel of the Board to the Mid-Year meeting and stated the new policy regarding expenses pay for appointed Board members attending Board meetings. *Bill Thompson moved to approve the budget from June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010 as presented by the financial Committee. (No second needed) There was discussion.*

This year's budget shows a negative result of \$5425.25. There was discussion concerning the shortfall. Diane Purcell, Financial Adviser, helped to answer questions. It was approved last year that undesignated funds can be used if necessary.

Gerry Olsen moved to amend the

motion. He moved that if the undesignated funds used for the endowment fundraising are needed to fund a deficit budget next year, they may be used. Also all undesignated funds will be returned at the conclusion of the endowment fund raising campaign. Woody Barthel seconded. Discussion followed. The vote was 51 to 24 opposed to the amendment to the motion. Motion failed. Delegates then voted on the original motion to approve the budget from June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010 as presented by the financial committee. Motion passed.

Tracy asked delegates to use the 3x5 cards in front of them to list possible speakers for next year, to request changing regions or anything else to be brought before the Board.

National Coordinator Campaign - Ed Broestl made a report after meeting two days with about 20 people. He made three comments: Don't start yet; there are more questions to ask and answer; and more education is needed. We need to be ready to launch our campaign when the economy begins to turn around to have a reasonable chance of success. More questions need to be answered by our "capital campaign adviser." On top of the list is the need for a point of contact within each secretariat for the endowment campaign. Each secretariat needs to appoint a person to work with the campaign. He will e-mail information on the position and the campaign to the Lay Directors/Presidents soon.

Carolyn Hawkins (W.NC) moved that the board address the fees amount that the secretariats pay. Pr. Larry Bowman seconded. Motion passed.



Carolyn Karl (TN) moved to support the National Coordinator Campaign by allowing them to release the attendees' names and information to the National Campaign Committee for their purposes. Steve Barnett (PA) seconded. There was much discussion for and against that idea. Pr. Dave Shockey moved to amend the motion to read that the ones that wanted their name included could give their names; otherwise the names would

not be used. Mark Carson (MD) seconded. Discussion concerning the security of the information followed. Ed assured the delegates that as a past security cop for the Air Force, the personal information would be secure. Gerry Olsen (FL) moved to table the motion. Linda Erdman (INKY) seconded. A voice vote was not clear. The written vote counted by Larry Witham and Steve Gielda was 43 to table the motion and 41 against tabling it. Motion to table the motion passed. Dick Link (INKY) moved that the ballots be destroyed. Mark Carson (MD) seconded. Motion passed.

Ed Broestl prayed for all of us because we all want to do the right thing for the right reasons, and we give praise and glory to God. He will get more information to secretariats and a job description of the person that would be needed to fill the position of National Coordinator.

Pr. Dave Shockey spoke about bringing Via de Cristo to Germany and wants our prayers.

The other Region reports were made.

Region #1 Barbara Marthens (S.CA) indicated she would be willing to coordinate and head Region 1 efforts. This is a large region with AZ, CA, CO, MT, NV, OR, UT, and WA. Communication is a challenge and some solutions are internet phone conferences, and telecommunication. They had a dialogue on sponsorship, terminology, training, coed/mixed weekends, secretariat oversight and Fourth Day.

Their vocabulary is similar though different but share the same concept. They will share their information describing weekends and job descriptions of the teams. They plan a Mid-Year meeting, Jan. 29-31 in Las Vegas for further coordination. Larry is setting up a regional folder on the NLS website to allow a central contact and review of information. Kay Brown will coordinate their on-line information. They plan to take their original dialogue and discuss them via e-mail every two months to keep the communication going.

Region #2 Nancy Peterson (MN) Three secretariats from WI and MN covered a recap of the Regional meeting held in April. They brainstormed about training issues and challenges, team selection processes, co-ed weekend structures and 4th Day responsibilities with sponsoring, and pastoral support. They discussed making songbooks.

They discussed organizing Western WI and MN and need to see what to do next. They discussed having a regional meeting during the year and possibly utilizing a conference call format for more frequent contact.

They plan to talk with Iowa, Nebraska and S. Dakota regarding their involvement in the region and with NLS.

MN is hosting 2010 NLS in July next year and other secretariats have expressed interest in collaboration and they are thankful for that.

Region #4 Linda Erdman (INKY) Eight people from three Secretariats from IL and INKY agreed they were willing to travel and pray to help each other. They plan to communicate by e-mail or website usage. They will review the DVD on sponsorship and share it. INKY produced two trifolds – one for clergy and one for laity containing weekend dates, information about the weekends and who to contact. They plan to contact secretariats in their region that were not at the NLS meeting. A goal would be to develop a common mission that would energize their region that they could share.

They discussed alternating NLS with regional Ultreyas, using former rectors for training, post weekend surveys, use of resources, management of calling a team, swapping clergy, travel pay for swapping people, educating communities about NLS, passing information to other groups and developing a companion secretariat.

Region #5 Donna Gough (OH) The region was attended by members of five secretariats from MD, MI, OH, VA, and PA and facilitated by Steve Gielda. The consensus was that a shared vision was a primary necessity to be more effective. They discussed steps that had been taken in the past to fulfill the goals of creating small groups and transforming the environment. They have used team building exercises for the team members and a 30-60-90 day contract where table leaders contact candidates/pilgrims at those intervals to help them get connected to the movement.

Last year's plan was to help Journey in Faith get started. The secretariat still needs assistance so immediate plans are to facilitate the growth and

grounding of this new group. They need team members and possibly funding to aid travelers to go to the area. Journey in Faith has a Facebook account to provide information. Other plans were made to assist them.

Region #7 Peggy McCoy (FL) Betts Huntley facilitated the first session with 35 attending from all over FL. The group unanimously said they would be willing to travel around the region to strengthen, train and pray for secretariats, but then they realized that travel time, distance and other commitments made traveling to help secretariats difficult.

Some possible solutions they came up with were to offer combined training sessions for nearby secretariats, to communicate within the region the times and locations of training sessions, to better utilize e-mail to communicate events, to make conference calls between role alike positions, and to utilize Facebook. They voted to try several different methodologies to see what might work best.

To be more effective they could seek a common site in Florida to save on expenses for weekends but a concern was that some secretariats have sites booked 2 years ahead. They could send candidates to another secretariat if numbers are too small to host but there was concern about a difference in experience when returning to the home community. They would like continued prayer from NLS and other regions.

The past two years and especially this year were spent working hard to prepare to host Nationals which was fun and rewarding and a joy watching the secretariats draw together to serve. FL also held a Grand Ultreya for all the FL secretariats and plan to do so again.

They plan for growth but need to examine their practices to see why there might be a loss of enthusiasm for sponsoring. They might need to communicate better with their respective communities, to utilize e-mail and prayer chains, to try fasting during team formation or when choosing a rector/a, to seek the Lord as they serve, to emphasize the responsibility of sponsorship and train for it, and to involve more pastors as Spiritual Directors and have the Spiritual Director of the Secretariat assist with the selection of the Spiritual Directors for the weekends.

Each secretariat was charged with getting a written history to NLS.

Tim McCoy facilitated the second

session. They discussed problems that two secretariats were having. Plans are being made to assist Emerald Coast in getting started. The other one needs to get back to the essentials and has a divided community. It was suggested that they send sponsored candidates to other secretariats for a weekend to start building a nucleus again. They are requesting prayers for Heart of Florida from all NLS secretariats.

Pr. Gerry Olsen volunteered to be coordinator for Region 7 this year, and Gold Coast VdC volunteered to host the Grand Ultreya in late February or early March.

Tracy ended the reports by telling the group that each Lay Director present was given a sponsorship DVD from the Board. If your secretariat did not have a Lay director attending, a delegate should request one from John Bradford to take back with them.

The Board presented a wooden cross, hand carved by Bill Sistar, to Dave Erdman in recognition of his service on the Board.

Tracy went over reasons for the Vendor policy and requested delegates and visitors to complete evaluation forms while Minnesota prepared their presentation.

Our next Annual meeting will be at Northwestern College on July 22-25, 2010. Their theme will be Matthew 5:16 about letting our light shine. Merle Waldron and the Host Team presented a warm invitation using some of the expressions that Minnesotans use like "Ya, shu-er, ya betcha." Merle indicated that some of the Dead Sea Scrolls would be in the area next year and there are many places of interest to visit. A slide show of the College showed the facility we will use and the beautiful surrounding area. We received small snowmen that had melted in the Florida heat and bags of information from the Minnesota Delegates.

Everyone was reminded to turn in their dorm key in the brown envelope. *Wayne Baker (FL) moved we adjourn the 32nd Annual meeting. Mark Carson (A/OK) seconded. Motion passed.*

Pr. Melinda Harlow closed the last NLSAM business meeting of 2009 with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Saturday, Board meeting:

Tracy called the meeting to order with prayer at 10:10 p.m.

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

Tracy thanked Dave for his past service and welcomed Steve Gielda to the Executive Board. Each one gave an introduction.

Judy updated the letterhead with new information for names, addresses and phone numbers.

The time was set for the Mid-Year Meeting with Minnesota Host Committee: November 6-8, 2009.

The conference call schedule was set up for Sundays at 7:30 p.m. ET: Sept. 13, 2009, Jan. 24, 2010, Mar. 21, 2010, and May 23, 2010.

Newsletter deadlines: Aug. 15, 2009, Nov. 15, 2009, Jan. 15, 2010, Apr. 15, 2010.

Doug explained that the video by pastors that he did was to help in recruiting new pastors.

At the Mid-Year meeting, the board will meet with the Host Committee, visit the site at Northwestern College and set the agenda for 2010. The board discussed who needed to be there and the time frame. It was discussed that the Lay directors signed the bid to host the NLSAM and then were responsible for delegating the responsibilities to the Host Committee.

Bob Northrup moved that the board accept Nanette Helgager's resignation from the office of Vice President Administration with regret. Katie Sistar seconded. Motion passed. After discussion concerning the vacancy, the board has chosen not to fill the VPA position at this time with the intention of filling the position at the 2010 annual meeting when the position is up for election.

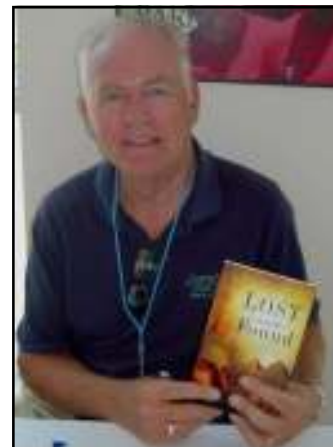
Bob Northrup moved that we adjourn. Katie seconded. Motion passed.

The board closed with prayer at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katie Sistar



NATIONAL COORDINATOR POSITION - FUNDING OPPORTUNITY



Pastor Joe Nilsen, former NLS Spiritual Director has written a book and is graciously contributing all of the proceeds toward funding NLS National Coordinator position. The book is entitled Lost and Found and was first available during the NLSAM. Joe states, "Many people would like to write a book sometime during their life." Joe goes on to say, "I wrote the book: 1) for fun, 2) hopefully to be entertaining to those who read it, 3) so that I wouldn't be embarrassed to have it read by my children and grandchildren and 4) so that the non-believers would encounter a main character who is spiritual and moral, but at the same time, very human."

You can also purchase the book for **\$15.00** at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. Copies are also available through Joe at joenils@frontiernet.net.

Please consider buying Joe's book since you and the NLS both will gain from your purchase!



Annual Report From The NLS Archivist

There is not much to report from your archivist. The only items being archived are the Conexiones magazine. I feel strongly there are other items out there, some that may be quite old, that are probably good candidates for archiving our history, but I have no way of knowing what those might be and who has them. So I have to rely on others to forward items to me to include in our NLS archive. If anyone has anything they feel might be worthwhile toward preserving our history, please contact me and let's discuss.

During the annual NLS meeting just held, I was questioned by the NLS Board on what the role of Archivist should be. I felt this position should be more of a support function to the NLS Board; when they may need some information from the past that I should be able to produce for them in a timely fashion. It was decided that the Archivist position be expanded and the title to be changed to Archivist/Historian.

I addressed the assembly and asked for their help in coming up with the history of each movement; when formed, which movement(s) "birthed" or helped them, names of their first secretariat officers, when first ultreyas and weekends were held, etc. This information may already exist in part but I would like to make it complete. Cards were passed out and attendees encouraged to give me whatever information they could at that time, and to give me names of those I should contact. For those reading this that was not present, please compile whatever information you have and send it to me.

I'm the first to admit I'm far from being a "historian" for Via de Cristo. Some names come to mind of those who are rich in early VdC knowledge: Randy Mullin, Luther Piel, Doug Burrows, and many others. But I feel that all of us working together can produce a good historical background of our roots. In other words, I need your help!

Also, thinking ahead toward NLS 2011, it is anticipated an updated small history booklet will be produced, just as it was back (I believe it was in Minnesota in 2001) a few years ago. I would like others to be thinking about items to add, perhaps even some pieces from Cursillo and Eduardo Bonin in light of his death last year. I can't do this myself, so I'll have to rely on the VdC community to contribute anything that might be appropriate over the next year and a half.

Report submitted by Ron Millard
309-444-4225
Ron_norma_millard@verizon.net



SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

"How wonderful are the feet of those who bring good news!" We gathered in Miami at Barry University and had an outstanding weekend. We did the business of course, but also we laughed, rejoiced, and enjoyed the Lord in our midst. The highlight for me was the outstanding praise band

and the work of the worship team of bringing us inspirational worship services and wonderful preaching by local pastors. It was tremendous and I so highly recommend to everyone reading this that YOU, yes YOU, must come to Minnesota and experience a national weekend in 2010. The dates are elsewhere here in the newsletter, save the dates, and mark your calendars. Come as a visitor and just enjoy the encouragement and growth that God will use for your own secretariat as you return.

In my sermon on Sunday morning I issued a call for revival! For this body of believers we will call upon the

Lord in fervent prayer to continue to bless our ministry. We pray for the fresh wind of the Spirit all around the country and to efforts to host a weekend in Germany! We pray for the fresh wind of the Spirit for Secretariat's that are struggling. We pray for lay leaders to come and attend a weekend wherever they live...(hey, pray for new and newly existing secretariats as well)!

In Paul's letter to the church in Thessalonica he writes "pray without ceasing" (1 Th. 5:17). I sometimes wonder, what does that mean? Pray without ceasing? It means, to me, that prayer pulls us outside of our box and that prayer is more than 1 minute with hands folded and eyes shut tightly! It is everything we see and all that we do!

In Spiritual Direction we say "Seek God in everything and everyone everyday of your life!" Seek God in your prayers for your local ministry, pastors and lay people. Are you prayed up? If not, jump in! As you all know, God has already answered our every need with Jesus Christ our Lord! Rejoice and be glad,

Pastor Doug Givan
National Spiritual Director

NLS President's Report

De Colores!

What a great meeting in Florida! We worked, played, worshipped, praised, ate, hugged, laughed and spent time together in a wonderful place called Barry University. The graciousness of the host communities under direction of the host committee made the Miami trip one we will long remember!!! **To God be the glory!**

We welcomed Steve Gielda to the board as the Vice President of Outreach and thanked both Dave Erdman and Nu Helgager for all they contributed to this Board and the NLS. We pray that they will continue to shine for the Lord in all they do and wish them well as the Lord leads them forward.

Our tasks ahead include: keeping you informed of the progress of the national campaign to fund the coordinators position; to continue working on a devotional based on the service card; to reach out to Secretariats across the nation; and to look at starting up new Secretariats in areas of the country where none exist. A heavy burden if viewed only from human imagination but a pleasant yoke when infused with the Lord's inspiration.

I encourage you to go to www.viadecristo.org and see the new face of our website (voted on by the body in attendance at the NLS). While you are at the site look around and check out what else we have available for you in the way of resources. Also, if your Secretariat does not have a web site or web page, please consider contacting Larry Conway via the NLS web site. Larry can add a "static" page for your Secretariat, to promote who you are and where you are located. We offer this simple tool to help move you into cyberspace.

One of the concerns I hear every year from Secretariats, is that their fourth day needs a boost. Pilgrims are just not staying involved. This concern is not only country wide for us; but is voiced by other fourth day movements as well (Emmaus, Tres Dias, Cursillo, Kairos, etc.).

Just how do we keep people involved? You may not like my answer. Allow me to suggest that in the question lies the seed of the problem – WE cannot KEEP people involved. The mission is the evangelization of the world, one person at a time. WE provide a renewal method and trust God do the rest... and trust God to do the rest.

Leaders are renewed and sent back to their home environments, their home churches and we trust God to determine those who will be called back to the leadership of VdC. The Holy Spirit will raise us up to fulfill God's plans. We need to trust God and stay true to the method which was revealed so many years ago in Majorca, Spain. Stay true to the ideology of the movement. And I can hear some saying, "yeah, but..." and here is my answer: When the passion of the Lord burns in the hearts of His people, He **will** lead them, and all will be well! AND all does come into being as the Lord has desired. Only have 7 pilgrims for the next weekend? Feeling dejected? Who are you working for? One of those 7 may just be a future evangelist, a future NLS president, a lay person called now to the role of clergy, the latest addition to the Sunday school staff or who knows, the next Bishop. It happens time and again. We must fight the urge to "grade" our success on numbers. So, what is your job? Stay true to the God who has given us such a marvelous tool to build His kingdom, stay true to the method, the essentials, the GRACE and never, never go a day without the lever of palanca.

ULTREYA! TO GOD BE THE GLORY, FOREVER!
God Loves You and So Do I!

Tracy Schmidlin



Rev. George C. Kahl enters his Fifth Day



On Tuesday morning the 11th day of August 2009 Pastor George C. Kahl was called home to be with the Lord. George is survived by his wife Rachel and 4 children and their families.

Kathie and I were privileged to attend the family service at the grave site and spend the evening at the home of George and Rachel. The family shared their stories and memories of husband, father and grandfather. They laughed and teased with each other giving thanks to God for such a man. He was truly loved and they reflected his love for God and for them. I can only wish that all families would be so blessed.

George was truly a man of God. He served as a military Chaplain and retired a Lt. Colonel after 20 years of service that found him in the invasion of the Philippines during WWII and in the Vietnam conflict. After retirement from his country's service he was Pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Brevard NC. Following his retirement from his work as a Pastor, George continued his service to the Lord by serving the Via de Cristo movement. Because of his daughter being employed by one of the airlines he was able to move easily about the country on a standby basis and work weekends in many places. In total he served on about 150 weekends in Via de Cristo, Kairos, Tech, Tres Dias, Presbyterian

Cursillo and Epiphany. His service to the 4th day movements took him to North and South Carolina, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Florida, Tennessee and Virginia. He served on weekend #1 in Tennessee and in South Carolina. His interest and support of Via de Cristo found him at the national gatherings of the NLS doing what he could to support this movement. He, Peter Setzer and I made the trip to Finland to begin the Via de Cristo there. George was truly a faithful servant of the Lord.

Not only did George serve in this work of the Lord but he was constantly bringing humor to the people around him. Many were the times when he would stop and strike up a conversation with a total stranger that led to the question. What church do you attend? As long as I knew George he always had something good to say about every person. He was always seeking the good in people and giving encouragement to them in their walk in life. He may have taken the time to ask a cashier for change for a penny or he may have said to a person with hair that "If you didn't take so much hair there may have been some left for me!" but it always brought a good response and he followed with sharing Christ.

We will miss George but I know he is finally singing on key and in tune with the Lord. "Too bad he didn't do as much for us!! :)" What he did do for us is Love Christ and loved us. He wanted all to know the joy of Christ and he will be missed dearly. May we all take a page from his life and love our neighbor as God first loved us.

God loves you George and so do we.
Doug & Kathie Burrows

Let Your Light Shine!

The Via de Cristo community of Minnesota wishes to extend a warm, "Minnesota Nice!" invitation to the 2010 NLSAM meeting in the Twin Cities! The wooded and serene campus of Northwestern College, situated midway between Minneapolis and St. Paul, will provide the background for a weekend of fellowship, worship and our business meeting, July 22-25, 2010. Check out their website for more information, www.nwc.edu

Our theme verse for the weekend, Matthew 5:16 – "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" – is the basis for the planning the host committee has undertaken to make your time at the NLSAM beneficial, productive and enjoyable. The buildings at Northwestern date back to the 1920's, and an early president was Billy Graham, so it's a location where the light of Christ has been shining for many years. And, with a Lutheran church on 'every corner in Minnesota,' we have a rich community of Cursillistas we are drawing from to make this NLSAM a time of grace and peace for all delegates.

Minnesota is wonderful in the summertime – plan to come early or stay after the meeting. Ideas include: time at the Mall of America, with its indoor amusement park, aquarium, and shopping galore; at the new MN Twins outdoor baseball stadium, which will have just opened; viewing the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Science Museum of MN; going north to see the scenic beauty of Duluth and the north shore of Lake Superior. Opportunities for hiking, kayaking, canoeing and camping abound. Let us know if you want suggestions – we have plenty! Or check out; www.ExploreMinnesota.com

Look for more information in upcoming issues of the Conexiones. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns about the 2010 NLSAM, please direct them to Tom and Deb Gryzinski, the MN Host Committee Chairs, at tgsales1@aol.com. Yah, sure, you betcha – we'll see you in Minnesota!

NLS Treasurer's Report

Greeting my sisters and brothers In Christ,



God has truly blessed our various expressions of Via de Cristo and the National Lutheran Secretariat. It is amazing what God can do with the combined resources that God first gave us.

As we look forward to the coming year we continue to develop our plan for endowing the National Coordinator position. Also, we continue our long history combining our resources to develop materials and share resources to strengthen Via de Cristo and God's Kingdom. This past year almost every Secretariat was able to bring their dues current - that is wonderful! I keep you in my prayers each day and ask that you do the same for me.

To donate to the NLS, please send a check made out to "National Lutheran Secretariat" and send to Bob Northrup (address below). To designate your gift please write in the memo one of the following; 1) General Fund, 2) Outreach Fund, 3) Coordinator Fund Raising Fund, and 4) Coordinator Fund.

Your brother In Christ,
Bob Northrup, NLS Treasurer
21 Dewberry Drive, Whispering Pines, NC 28327
bobnorthrup@mindspring.com



PALANCA

Pray - Why? How? When?

Why pray? How should I pray? When do I pray? These may be questions you have been asked or possibly you have asked. In my personal reading time, lately I have come across these questions and been guided to an assortment of responses to each.

Why Pray? The responses tend to be polar – driven by attitude – either negative drowned in frustration and indifference or positive fueled by faith. Attitude is a choice and for me, I choose positive. Prayer for a faithful and obedient Christian is like breathing. It is easier to do it than not doing it. A lack of prayer might indicate a lack of faith or trust in God's Word. We pray out of obedience to God's commandment to do so (Philippians 4:6-7). When we pray for His will to be done, our prayers are used as the levers (palanca) to effect His purposes.

How should I pray? It seems we sometimes get caught up wondering if where, what body position, eyes open or closed, hands open - closed, folded, held up or down – along with other variations are important or required for effective prayers. Any and all of these are ok, however, if we look to His Word – in 1 John 5:14-15 we are given a firm guidance – that if we come to Him in confidence in prayer, knowing He hears us and will grant whatever we ask as long as it is in His will. Additionally in John 14:13-14 Jesus tells us “Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.” (NASB) So how should we pray? Philippians 4:6-7 tells us to pray without being anxious, to pray about everything, and to pray with thankful hearts. In summary, we are to be confident, assured, peaceful and thankful to Him when we come in prayer. It is all about attitude not posture or place.

When do I pray? The simple answer is anytime and always. In the Word, there are several verses that can open our eyes and minds. In the first part of Luke 18 Jesus teaches thru parables about prayer - 18:1 “...at all times they ought to pray and not lose heart.” (NASB) In Ephesians 6:18 Paul explains “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” (NIV) In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 Paul instructs “pray without ceasing,” (NASB)

As we read thru the many verses concerning prayer, it all comes to this – God's desire is for prayer to be a real and personal connection between Himself and us. For me, my prayers are my side of the conversation with my Saviour and Lord – my best friend.

The Palanca Calendar for 2009 continues to grow with weekend activities. There are more than 140 Weekends scheduled this year as of 8/17/2009. Weekends for 2010 are now being scheduled and submitted for publication. Updates may be provided by utilizing the button on the web page (www.viadecristo.org/palanca/index.htm). They will also be accepted by email or snail mail (US Postal). Early scheduling and posting of dates also allows local Secretariats plenty of time to provide Palanca and begin to pray unceasingly.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support and prayers, but I would especially like to thank the Palanca Coordinators of the Secretariats. They have made my job so much easier and have always been willing to help. I thank and praise God for the opportunity to serve our community in this small way.

Blessings,
In His Service,
Paul Sabatier-Smith <)))><
NLS Palanca Coordinator



Palanca!!!

Future weekends

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

2009 WEEKENDS:

- Sept. 2009 - North Carolina: **Eastern North Carolina VdC**, Mixed #68: Sept. 10-13, Send palanca to: Martha Yount 745 Acorn Oaks Dr. Salisbury, NC 28146
- Sept. 2009 - North Carolina: **Western North Carolina VdC**, Men #63, Sept. 17-20, & Women #63: Sept. 24-27, Send palanca to: Judy Zander 304 Amity Circle Belmont, NC 28012-9523
- Sept. 2009 - South Carolina: **South Carolina VdC**, Coed #10: Sept. 24-27, Send palanca to: Sherry Fowler 870 White Pt. Blvd., Charleston, SC 29412
- Sept./Oct. 2009 - Florida: **Gold Coast VDC of South Florida**, Men #79: Sept. 17-20, & Women #79: Oct. 15-18, Send palanca to: Janet Pusins 3160 NW 67 Court Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309
- Sept./Oct. 2009 - New York: **Damascus Rd. VdC**, Men #10: Sept. 17-20, and Women #10: Oct. 8-11, Send palanca to: Ken Haven 4871 Thornwood Dr. Liverpool, NY 13088
- Sept./Oct. 2009 - Florida: **Indian River VDC**, Men #52: Sept. 24-27 & Women #52: Oct. 22-25, Send palanca to: Joan Borsari 1308 Japonica Lane Cocoa, FL 32922
- Oct. 2009 - Tennessee: **Notes of Grace VdC**, Mixed #8 Oct. 1-4, Send palanca to: Stephen Manasco 8492 Timber Creek Dr. Cordova, TN 38018
- Oct. 2009 - Arizona: **Lutheran Cursillo of Arizona**, Men #123, Oct. 8-11, & Women #124: Oct. 22-25, Send palanca to: Dell Ellis 7833 West Ludlow Dr. Peoria, AZ 85381
- Oct. 2009 - Florida: **Lighthouse VdC**, Men #35, Oct. 8-11, & Women #35: Oct. 15-18, Send palanca to: Catherine & John-Paul Pearson PO Box 628 New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170
- Oct. 2009 - Illinois: **Heart of Illinois VDC**, Men #24: Oct. 8-11, & Women #25: Oct. 15-18, Send palanca to: Joyce Zobrist 1326 Amanda Dr. Metamora, IL 61548
- Oct. 2009 - Michigan/Ohio: **Good News VdC**, Men #45: Oct. 8-11, & Women

- #45: Oct. 15-18, Send palanca to: Karen Warsop 5633 E Grand River Ave. Howell, MI 48843
- Oct./Nov. 2009 - Ohio: **Ohio Lutheran VdC**, Men #67: Oct. 8-11, & Women #67: Oct. 29-Nov.1, Send palanca to: Paul Swinehart 2303 Colfax Ave. Columbus OH 43224
- Oct. 2009 - AR-OK: **A-OK VdC**, Coed #24: Oct 15-18, Send palanca to: Becky Del Rio 18115 Fawn Tree Dr. Little Rock, AR 72210
- Oct. 2009 - Arizona: **Southern Arizona VdC**, Coed #27: Oct 15-18, Send palanca to: Cindy Stein 7449 N Clemens Way Tucson, AZ 85743
- Oct. 2009 - California: **VdC of Southern CA & Central Valley**, Coed #37: Oct 15-18, Send palanca to: Barbara Marthens 10815 Academy Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93312
- Oct. 2009 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC of So. FL**, Women's #101: Oct 15-18, Send palanca to: Bonny Freese 1150 Wren Ave. Miami Springs, FL 33166
- Oct. 2009 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men #532 & Men #534: Oct 15-18, and Women #533 & Women #535: Oct. 22-25, Send palanca to: Lenore Jesness 899 Sherwood Ave. St. Paul, MN 55106-1825
- Oct. 2009 - Nevada: **Light in the Desert VDC**, Coed #12: Oct 15-18, Send palanca to: Michelle Eichler 290 E. Delamar Dr. Henderson, NV 89015
- Oct. 2009 - Utah: **Utah VdC**, Men #45: Oct 15-18, & Women #46: Oct. 22-25, Send palanca to: Glenice Coward 2426 Creek Rd. Sandy, UT 84093
- Oct. 2009 - Wisconsin: **Wisconsin Sunrise VdC**, Men #69: Oct 15-18, & Women #70: Oct. 22-25, Send palanca to: Joe Eder N7316 Lost Nation Elkhorn, WI 53121
- Oct. 2009 - Tennessee: **Tennessee VdC**, Coed #23: Oct. 22-25, Send palanca to: Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Circle Fairfield Glade, TN 38558
- Oct. 2009 - Missouri/Illinois: **River's Edge VDC**, Women #13 Oct. 20-Nov. 1, Send palanca to: Laurie Dunnette 2720 Stone Valley Dr. Maryville, IL 62062
- Oct./Nov. 2009 - Pennsylvania: **Journey in Faith VDC**, Men #1 Oct. 30-Nov. 1 & Women #1: Nov. 12-15, Send palanca to: Patti Kline 43-2 Azalea Dr. Reading, PA 19606
- Oct./Nov. 2009 - Wisconsin/Michigan: **Northern Light VdC of WI & Upper MI**, Men #13: Oct. 30-Nov. 1 & Women #14: Nov. 5-8, Send palanca to: Richard Neitzel 18189 Hwy.41 W, Campion, MI 49814

- Nov. 2009 - Illinois: **Prairie Sunshine VdC of Central IL**, Men #9: Nov. 5-8, Send palanca to: Greg & Anna Bergschneider 127 Westminster, Jacksonville IL 62650
- Nov. 2009 - INKY: **Indian-Kentucky VdC**, Coed South #8 Nov. 5-8, Send palanca to: Tami White 2615 Zhale Smith Rd. LaGrange, KY 40031
- Nov. 2009 - North Carolina: **Western North Carolina VdC**, Mixed #69, Nov. 5-8, Send palanca to: Judy Zander 304 Amity Circle Belmont, NC 28012-9523
- Nov. 2009 - Florida: **Sonbeam VdC**, Men #54, Nov. 12-15, & Women #54: Nov. 19-22, Send palanca to: Carole Moskowitz 4711 Trout Ave. Sebring, FL 32170
- Nov. 2009 - North Carolina: **Eastern North Carolina VdC**, Mixed #69: Nov. 12-15, Send palanca to: Martha Yount 745 Acorn Oaks Dr. Salisbury, NC 28146
- Nov. 2009 - Texas: **Northern Texas VdC**, Coed #79: Nov. 12-15, Send palanca to: Barb Guinn 2832 Mimosa Park Dr. Richland Hills, TX 76118

See NLS Palanca Web page for most current information of 2009 weekends. Please continue to help us update your information and send in your 2010 weekends.





Judy Laabs-Foss
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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.

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